Dear Colleagues,

ICID is making preparations for its upcoming 75th International Executive Council Meeting and 9th Asian Regional Conference being organised from 1-7 September 2024 at Sydney, Australia and the details are available at https://irrigationconference2024.com.au/. The Call for Papers for the 9th Asian Regional Conference on the theme “Irrigation’s role in delivering economically viable food security and sustainable urban green spaces in an increasingly unpredictable climate” was released. I encourage you all to participate in the event to discuss and deliberate on the conference theme. More details are provided on page 8.

Indian Water Resources Society (IWRS), Roorkee has instituted Life Time Achievement Award in the year 2016 to honour an outstanding professional for the contribution in the field of water resources at national and international levels by the achievements in academic/industry/social sector and making imprint of changes towards the prosperity in water sector and significant contributions to the society. Based on rigorous considerations, Secretary General, Er. Ashwin B. Pandya has been awarded the Life Time Achievement Award 2021 in the field of water resources development and management. A Memento and a Citation was presented on the occasion of the International Conference on “Future of Water Resources” scheduled from 18-20 January 2024 organized by IWRS and Dept. of Water Resources Development and Management (WRD&M) at IIT Roorkee. Secretary General also made a presentation on the topic “Integrated Flood Management strategies at the conference”.

PH Prof Dr. Ragab Ragab visited to Tadipudi Reservoir on 10 November 2023 during the 25th ICID International Congress and 74th International Executive Council Meeting held from 1-8 November, 2023, at Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India. Thatipudi Reservoir was constructed on the River Gosthani in Andhra Pradesh State, India between 1963 and 1968 with a cost of Rs. 20.43 million. The main objectives of the project are to provide drinking water to Visakhapatnam city @ 11 Mgd and to irrigate 15366 Acres in Gantyada, S. Kota and Jami Mandals in the Vizianagaram District. The reservoir storage capacity is 3.325 TMC. The annual irrigation demand is 1817 Mct and the annual drinking water demand is 643.00 Mct. More details are available in the News Update.

Hon’ble Minister Mr. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, presented the “Best Consultancy Award 2023 – 2024” to Mr. R.K Agarwal, CMD, WAPCOS Limited, at the annual award ceremony of Water Digest held at New Delhi. Secretary General, Er. Ashwin B. Pandya acted as a jury member for evaluating awardees for various categories. During the month prominent persons like Mr. Kang First Secretary – Political Section Republic of Korea; H.E. Mr. Choe Hui Chol, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) Ambassador and INSPIRE delegates visited ICID Central Office and had a meeting with Secretary General, Er. Ashwin B. Pandya.

Moving forward, several other major ICID events are lined up for the upcoming year. The First Middle East Regional Conference on Irrigation and Drainage on the theme “Integrated Irrigation Sector Management for Sustainable Development” will be hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 26-28 February, 2024 in Riyadh and organised by Saudi Irrigation Organisation (SIO) and Saudi Committee of Irrigation and Drainage (SACID) in partnership with ICID. For more details visit at https://sacid2024.sio.gov.sa/En. The 14th International Drainage Workshop on the topic “Modernization of irrigation and drainage systems for adaptation to climate change and sustainable development” will be organised in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan from 30 May to 1 June 2024. For more details visit https://tajicid.tj/

I look forward to meeting you during the above events and thank you for your continued support.

With warm regards

A.B. Pandya
Secretary General
reservoir is used for domestic water supply.

- Encouraging farmers to adopt water-saving practices by implementing Drip Irrigation and Sprinkler Irrigation.

- To involve universities/ engineering colleges to encourage students for field trips to the Reservoir. Many PhD and MSc research projects could be conducted using the reservoir’s data. One of these studies could be on climate change impact, water saving on rice cultivation, and more.

- The existing Project site location is suitable for tourism and hence necessary steps have to be taken to develop the same as a tourist spot which in turn will generate resources for additional maintenance for the project.

- Necessary measures have to be taken up periodically to ensure that the project is in a healthy condition.

Thatipudi Reservoir was constructed on the River Gosthani in Andhra Pradesh State, India between 1963 and 1968 with a cost of Rs. 20.43 million. The main objectives of the project are to provide drinking water to Visakhapatnam city @ 11 Mgd and to irrigate 15366 Acres in Gantyada, S. Kota and Jami Mandal in the Vizianagaram District. The reservoir storage capacity is 3.325 TMC. The annual irrigation demand is 1817 Mcft and the annual drinking water demand is 643.00 Mcft.

The competent authorities of the project are:

1. Mr. S. Sugunakar Rao, Chief Engineer, North Coast, Visakhapatnam
2. Mr. K. Suryakumar, Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, Visakhapatnam
3. Mr. M.A. Seetharama Naidu, Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division, Vizianagaram
4. Mr. S. Pandu, Deputy Executive Engineer, A.R. Sub Division, Gajapathinagaram
5. Mr. V. Tamminaidu, Assistant Executive Engineer, Thatipudi Section, Thatipudi

The following points were derived from the ICID President’s technical briefing:

- The location of the Tadipudi reservoir is picturesque and the large water body with clean water gives a very pleasant look and begs for more development to make full use of such a unique location with an extraordinary landscape.

- The reservoir project could be a good study material for students and research scholars in terms of hydrology, reservoir design, operation and maintenance and management, water quality, climate change impact and flood routing studies.

- Suggested to establish automatic and continuous Stage Level Recorder and water quality (as part of this water is used for drinking) at the dam site. This will also require building an office on site equipped with high performance computers to receive the automatically recorded data and produce real-time observation series.

- Water quality parameters must be observed very closely as the surrounding agricultural activity and use of agro-chemical (e.g., Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, etc.) could affect the suitability of water for drinking.

- As most of the irrigation water was delivered to paddy fields, the President suggested rethinking the way the Rice is cultivated and adopting more water saving practices such as dry rice cultivation and drip irrigated rice which proved to save a significant amount of water, produced more yield, and prevent mosquitos and Malaria disease. Mrs. Reddy who is specialized in plant breeding and biotechnology and took part in the visit confirmed the possibility of using different rice varieties for non-paddy cultivation.

- The President appreciated that the original design of the reservoir considered a possible 20% extra storage to accommodate above-average runoff flow to the reservoir due to extreme events and possible flooding.
climate change impact. This was a smart thinking ahead of time.

• The president also investigated the location and operation of the spillway. He appreciated the location as it is far away from any downstream community housing who are usually the victim of the sudden release of spillway due to extreme events.

• Given the reservoir is a "beauty spot", the President suggested the site be developed further to allow, water sports, tourism (boat site seeing), swimming training, school and university visits and promote the region including the site nationally and internationally as a holiday destination. The development will of course be accompanied by establishing facilities for food, drinks, waste disposal/collection and sanitation which will attract investors to pay for the construction and will at the same time be a "job creation" process for the locals.

At the end, the ICID delegations including the President, thanked the staff for their hospitality and their explanation of all aspects of the reservoir from design to spillway operation to stage measurement to water source and use and more. We cannot thank them enough for their efforts, friendly discussions, and professionalism.

Secretary General A.B Pandya Received Life Achievements Awards, 18 January 2024

Indian Water Resources Society (IWRS), Roorkee presented the Life Time Achievement Award 2021 to Secretary General, Er. Ashwin B. Pandya for his contribution in the field of water resources development and management at national and global level. The award presented at the occasion of the International Conference on “Future of Water Resources” held from 18 -20 January 2024 organized by IWRS and Dept. of Water Resources Development and Management (WRD&M) at IIT Roorkee. Indian Water Resources Society (IWRS), Roorkee has instituted the Life Time Achievement Award in the year 2016 to honour an outstanding professional for his/her contribution in the field of water resources on national and international levels by their achievements in academic/industry/social sector and making imprint of changes towards the prosperity in water sector and significant contributions to the society.

For the Life Time Achievement Award, a search committee would be constituted by the Executive Vice President (HQ), IWRS. The search committee submits its recommendation to the IWRS for formal approval of the Executive Vice President (HQ), IWRS.
and stakeholder collaboration. Water managers, policy-makers, researchers, and water users are facing an overarching question: How to ensure adequate amount and quality of water for all sectors and all regions at the desired times? To secure safe and timely water supply for present and future generations, a comprehensive understanding of water resources is crucial. The conference on “Future of Water Resources” aims to bring together all stakeholders to dwell upon the pressing issues related to water resources and discuss potential solutions. The current status and future challenges in water availability from traditional sources like surface water and groundwater, and alternative sources like recycled water and virtual water would be discussed. Constraints and innovations in water supply and demand management would be explored. Water resources management in the face of stressors and shocks such as natural disasters would be discussed. In addition, considering the role of participatory approach in effective water resources management at the community level, emphasis would be placed on the approaches of integrating socio-economic and cultural dimensions into the technical water research. Lastly, the hinderance in water research due to data scarcity and poor data-based management, and the opportunities for expanding research horizons due to advances in data science and information technology would be discussed. Overall, the conference provided a common platform to share knowledge and facilitate interaction among different stakeholders in the water sector.

WAPCOS Conferred with “Best Consultancy Award 2023 -2024”

Hon’ble Minister Mr. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, presented the “Best Consultancy Award 2023 – 24” to Mr. R.K Agarwal, CMD, WAPCOS Limited, in a ceremony held at New Delhi recently. The award is instituted by Water Digest in partnership with UNESCO and WAPCOS. As WAPCOS is direct member of the ICID, Secretary General, Er. Ashwin B. Pandya also attended the ceremony.

WAPCOS Limited is a “MINI RATNA-I” Public Sector Enterprise under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Water Resources, Ganga Rejuvenation & River Development. Incorporated on June 26th, 1969 under the Companies Act, 1956; WAPCOS has been providing consultancy services in all facets of Water Resources, Power and Infrastructure Sectors in India and Abroad. WAPCOS Limited is also a Direct Member of ICID.

WAPCOS, a conglomerate in public sector enterprise under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, is a technology driven consultancy and engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) organization. The company has provided the engineering solution in more than 50 countries and has developed global presence, particularly in South Asia and across Africa, for development projects in the areas of water, power, and infrastructure sectors.

First Secretary, Republic of Korea Visits ICID Central Office, 10 January 2024

Mr. Kang 1st Secretary in political section, Republic of Korea visited ICID Central Office on 10 January 2024. Secretary General, Er. Ashwin B. Pandya and other staff of ICID welcomed Mr. Kang. Mr. Pandya had varied discussions with Mr. Kang about the ICID and the role of Korean National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage in the filled of agriculture and water development.
DPRK Ambassador visits ICID Central Office on 3 January 2024

H.E. Mr. Choe Hui Chol, DPRK Ambassador visited ICID Central Office on 3 January 2024. Secretary General, Er. Ashwin B. Pandya and Executive Director Mr. H.K Varma welcomed the delegates team from Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK). Secretary General A B Pandya highlighted about the ICID, which cover the more than 90 percent irrigated area of the world, and its role in Agriculture, food security and water management. Secretary General Pandya invited Mr. Choe Hui Chol and his team for the upcoming ICID events and also thanked him for following up membership of the ICID.

INSPIRE delegates visits ICID Central Office, 29 January 2024

Ms. Sara Ahmed Founder Director, Living Water Museum and Mr. Francesco Fioretti from Italy have visited the ICID Central Office on 29 January 2024. Secretary General, Er. Ashwin B. Pandya and Er. Harish Kumar Varma, Executive Director, ICID welcomed the delegates. They discussed in detailed about the World Heritage Irrigation Structures (WHIS) and World Water System Heritage (WSH). During the discussions Secretary General Pandya delivered a presentation on the WHIS Structure, which comprises the background, nomination submission process, 159 WHIS Structures Recognized by ICID (2014 – 2023) their historic and present importance in agriculture and water management. and the details of the WHIS structures recognized 2023 during the 74th International Executive Council (IEC) Meeting at Visakhapatnam, India. Also discussed on World Water System Heritage (WSH) and its background, scope and its 2018 award was discussed in detailed.

India’s highest civilian honor Bharat Ratna to Dr. M.S Swaminathan

In a historic announcement the Government of India has conferred the prestigious Bharat Ratna award upon Dr. Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan, in honour of his unparalleled contributions to Indian agriculture and farmers’ welfare.

The award, which is India’s highest civilian honor, posthumously recognises Dr. Swaminathan’s instrumental role in ushering in the Green Revolution and steering the country towards self-sufficiency in food production. Born on August 7, 1925, in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu, Dr. Swaminathan’s journey in agriculture began after witnessing the devastating Bengal famine of 1943.

Swaminathan’s research took him to educational institutions in Europe and the US, and in 1954, he started working at the Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, on transferring genes for fertiliser response from Japonica varieties to Indica varieties. He described this as “The first attempt to develop high yielding varieties which can respond to good soil fertility and good water management.”

His decision to focus on ensuring India’s food security led him to become a key figure in the Green Revolution of the 1960s, which transformed India from a food-deficient nation to one of the world’s leading agricultural producers. His collaboration with Nobel laureate Norman Borlaug introduced high-yielding varieties of wheat and
The United Nations General Assembly has designated 10 February as World Pulses Day to recognize the importance of pulse crops like chickpeas, dry beans and lentils as a global food. Pulses are the edible seeds of leguminous plants cultivated for both food and feed. Beans, chickpeas and peas are the most well-known and commonly consumed types of pulses, but there are several more types of pulses from around the world, all with great benefits for food security, nutrition, health, climate change and biodiversity. The Day provides an opportunity to raise awareness about the nutritional benefits of pulses as part of sustainable food production with the aim of enhancing food security and nutrition.

“Pulses: nourishing soils and people.” World Pulses Day 2024. Soil health is the foundation of food security and a key component of sustainable agrifood systems. This year’s celebration, under the theme Pulses: nourishing soils and people, will be an opportunity to highlight how pulses help increase soil microbial activity and how that benefits people. Their roots foster the growth of organisms that are responsible for enhancing soil structure and nutrient availability. The resulting high soil biodiversity therefore provides ecosystems with greater resistance and resilience against disturbance and stress. Thus, the inclusion of pulses in crop production systems can contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year, the campaign will raise awareness about pulses as key to healthy soils and people with the theme “Pulses: nourishing soils and people”. Production of the people’s food relies on soils. Healthy soils not only provide the basis of food security but also provide the minerals needed to avoid malnutrition, growth stunting and other nutrient deficiency related illness such as anaemia. Therefore, pulses not only provide food for humankind but also keep soils healthy. It also marks the role of pulses as a sustainable option for diversification of agricultural production systems contributing to healthy soils, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems in a changing climate and environment. With the help of governments, the private sector, Members, partners and the general public, let’s celebrate, recognize and support the production and consumption of pulses as part of sustainable food systems and healthy diets. https://www.internationaldays.org/
challenges posed by climate change on irrigation and drainage systems.

In order to facilitate this event a Steering Committee and a Scientific Committee have been established. These committees comprise seasoned experts and practitioners, responsible for meticulously designing the workshop's structure, content including papers to be presented, and direction.

The 14th International Drainage Workshop extends an earnest call for scholarly contributions that encompass the spectrum of modernization in irrigation and drainage, with a specific focus new technologies and strategies for climate change adaptation, and including pumping stations, canal and gravity pipe systems, control technologies and management. Authors are encouraged to send in their papers that discuss innovative research, modern technologies, and sustainable methods related to these important subjects.

All accepted papers will be published in the event's proceedings, giving recognition to the authors. This helps others learn from their work and experience and builds a helpful network of shared knowledge. Authors of selected papers of particular merit/interest/relevance will be invited to present their papers during the workshop.

To ensure a coherent and streamlined submission process, a Steering Committee and a Scientific Committee of the 14th International Drainage Workshop have formulated the following submission guidelines. Authors are required to adhere to these guidelines:

**General Guidelines**

1. The title of the paper should be as brief as possible, preferably not exceeding 70 characters and spaces.
2. The length of the paper should not exceed 4,000 words (i.e., equivalent to 10 pages of A-4 size including tables and figures).
3. The language of the paper should be English.
4. The paper must be written in third person.
5. The data and numerical information should be given in metric units.
6. Detailed references should be given at the end of the text of the paper.
8. The general text to be in Arial with font size 10.

**Abstract:** The abstract provides a brief overview of the article, summarizing its key points and findings. It should not exceed 300 words and should encapsulate the essence of the entire article.

**Introduction:** The introduction sets the stage for the article by introducing the topic and its relevance. It outlines the main objectives and scope of the article, giving readers a clear understanding of what to expect.

**Body:** The body of the article is where you delve into the main content. It is typically divided into several sections, each addressing a specific aspect of the topic. Use clear headings and subheadings to enhance readability and organization. Present facts, evidence, literature review and arguments logically, and ensure a smooth flow of information between sections.

**Analysis:** In this section, you can delve deeper into the subject matter by providing an in-depth analysis of data, theories, or concepts. Present different viewpoints, offer comparisons, and provide insights that contribute to the reader’s understanding.

Table, Charts, Graphs, Pictures, etc.: Visual aids such as tables, charts, graphs, and pictures can enhance the reader’s comprehension of the content. Ensure these visuals are relevant, properly labeled, and referred to in the text.

**Conclusion:** The conclusion summarizes the main points discussed in the article and reiterates the significance of the findings. It should provide a sense of closure and leave the reader with a clear understanding of the key takeaways.

**Citation:** Accurate and consistent citation is crucial to acknowledge sources and provide readers with the means to access further information. Use a recognized citation style APA and ensure that all sources cited in the text are included in the reference list.

**Size and Formatting:** Ensure that your article does not exceed 10 pages, considering the inclusion of tables, charts, graphs, pictures, etc. Page size A4 (Width 21 cms, Height 29.7 cms) with Top Margin 3 cms, Bottom Margin 3 cms, Left and Right Margins 3.8 cms. The general text to be in Arial with font size 10.

**Submission:** Before submitting, carefully review your article for grammatical errors, clarity, and coherence. Ensure that all required sections are present, appropriately formatted and submit.

**Schedule for Submission of Abstracts / Full Papers**

The schedule is given below:

1. Submission of abstracts (max. 300 words): by 29 Feb 2024
2. Notification of acceptance: by 15 March 2024
3. Submission of full papers (max. 10 pages): by 15 April 2024
4. Notification of acceptance of full papers for (i) publication, and/or (ii) presentation during the workshop: by 30 April 2024

For more information and detailed submission guidelines, kindly visit the official workshop website or contact a member of our dedicated committee:

- Website: [www.tajncid.tj](http://www.tajncid.tj)
- **Scientific Committee contact:** Dr. Mohamed Wahba, mswahba@gmail.com
- **Steering Committee contact:** Dr. Willem F. Vlotman, vlotmanwf@gmail.com
- **Secretariat of the event:** secretariat@tajncid.tj
- **Secretariat of NCID Tajikistan contact:** tajncid@bk.ru
Call for Abstracts
The Asian Regional Working Group of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage and Irrigation Australia’s Committee on Irrigation and Drainage are pleased to invite submission of abstracts for the combined 9th Asian Regional Conference (ARC9) and Australian National Conference, to be held in Sydney from 01 to 07 September 2024.

Conference Theme: Irrigation’s Role In Delivering Economically Viable Food Security and Sustainable Urban Green Spaces in an Increasingly Unpredictable Climate

Sub-Themes
Governance – identifying and addressing structural and policy impediments to the adoption of better irrigation practices
While the best of our farmers will adopt better/best irrigation practices.

Investment – fit-for-purpose and cost-effective technologies which support end users to implement sustainable irrigation practices (Environmental, Social, Governance and Triple Bottom Line).

Capacity development – ensuring that end users can access and adapt knowledge and systems to support sustainable irrigation practices.

Important Deadlines
• Authors advised of the result of their submissions - 1 March 2024
• Acceptance from authors available to present - 5 April 2024
• Submission of final poster presentations* (PowerPoint template) - 29 June 2024
• Submission of final oral presentations (PowerPoint template) - 27 July 2024
• Submission of final keynote presentations (PowerPoint template) - 27 July 2024
• Present at 9th Asia Regional Conference - 1 September 2024

Contact: David Cameron; <dave.cameron@irrigation.org.au>. Website: https://irrigationconference2024.com.au/

ICID Forthcoming Events

77th IEC & 26th ICID Congress, Marseille, France, 12-18 October 2024 on the Theme: “Agriculture and climate change: stakes and levers for irrigation and drainage.”

8th India Water Week - The Ministry of Jal Shakti is organizing India Water Week-2024 from 17-21 September 2024. The event will serve as a global platform to elicit ideas and opinions from global level decision-makers, politicians, researchers, experts, planners, innovators, students and stakeholders in the field of water resources from across the world, focusing on "Partnerships and Cooperation for Inclusive Water Development and Management".

Theme: Partnerships and Cooperation for Inclusive Water Development and Management

Contact: India Water Week Secretariat, National Water Development Agency (NWDA), New Delhi-110066, Email: connect@indiawaterweek.in Web: https://iww.icidevents.org/

Other Events

76th IEC Meeting & 4th World Irrigation Forum, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 7-13 September 2025 on the Theme: Challenges and Future Needs in Modernization of Irrigation for Food Security and Sustainability; Contact: mancidmalaysia@gmail.com, mancid.org@gmail.com

11th International Micro Irrigation Conference, Baghdad, Iraq, 2025. NC Contact: Eng. Nisreen Sami Tarkhan, Secretary, Iraqi National Committee of Irrigation and Drainage (IRQCID), Planning and Follow up Directorate, Ministry of Water Resources, Palestine Street, Baghdad

77th IEC & 26th ICID Congress, Marseille, France, 12-18 October 2024 on the Theme: "Agriculture and climate change: stakes and levers for irrigation and drainage."

78th IEC & 5th World Irrigation Forum (WIF5), at Guoce International Conference & Exhibition Center, Beijing, China, 2027


8th India Water Week - The Ministry of Jal Shakti is organizing India Water Week-2024 from 17-21 September 2024. The event will serve as a global platform to elicit ideas and opinions from global level decision-makers, politicians, researchers, experts, planners, innovators, students and stakeholders in the field of water resources from across the world, focusing on “Partnerships and Cooperation for Inclusive Water Development and Management”.

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