

Agenda for the Third Meeting of the
WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENT (WG-ENV)
 Tehran, Iran
 16 October 2011: 09.00-12.30 hours
Strategy Theme: Basin

Year of Establishment: 2008

Completion of the Mandate: 2014

Mandate: To provide guidance to policy makers, planners, designers, and managers in the irrigation and drainage sector on the environmental aspects of drainage and irrigation systems. The environmental aspects are physical, chemical, ecological, socio-economic and cultural, as well as concerns to the effects on climate and human health. By looking at environmental aspects, the working group will aim for the management of a sustainable environment, maximizing positive and minimizing adverse effects of irrigation and drainage systems”.

Members: (1) Prof. Hu Heping, Chairman, 2005 (China, 2000); (2) Dr. Sylvain-Roger Perret, Vice Chairman, 2010 (France, 2009); (3) Dr. Michael van der Laan, Secretary (South Africa, 2010); (4) Mr. Barkat Hadid (Syria, 1991); (5) Prof. Yih-Chi Tan (Chinese Taipei, 1995); (6) Dr. Smiljan Juvan (Slovenia, 1995); (7) Dr. Shaden Abdel Gawad (Egypt, 1996); (8) VPH Dr. Eiko Lubbe (Germany, 1997); (9) Prof. Almeida Fernandez (Portugal, 1997); (10) Mr. Mohammad Kazem Siah (Iran, 2000); (11) Mr. Osmo Antero Purhonen (Finland, 2002); (12) Mr. Stefano Salbitani (Italy, 2003); (13) Dr. Choi, Joong-Dae (Korea, 2003); (14) Mr. Belguenani Hassane (Morocco, 2003); (15) Prof. Dr. Natha Hungspreug (Thailand, 2003); (16) VPH Dr. Jose A. Ortiz Fdz.-Urrutia (Spain, 2005); (17) Dr. Dennis Wichelns (USA, 2005); (18) VPH Dr. Illahi B. Shaikh (Pakistan, 2006); (19) Prof. Dr. N. Hatcho (Japan, 2006); (20) Mr. Taner Kimence (Turkey, 2006); (21) Mr. C.K. Agrawal (India, 2009); (22) Mr. Clarke Ballard (Australia, 2010); and (23) Secretary General, ICID.

Permanent Observers/ Observers: (i) FAO Representative; (ii) ICOLD Representative; (iii) World Bank Representative; (iv) Dr. D. Zimmer (France); (v) Mr. Primož Banovec (Slovenia); and (vi) VPH Dr. H. El-Atfy (Egypt).

Website: <<http://www.wg-env.icidonline.org>>

Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of 2nd meeting of the WG-ENV

The minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Working Group held at Yogyakarta in October 2010 will be confirmed.

Item 2 : Membership of the Working Group

In January 2011, Prof. Y.C. Tan (Chinese Taipei) informed the Central Office that he desires to resign from the post of 'Vice Chairman' but interested to continue working with the group. He is hopeful to attend the Tehran meeting in October 2011.

2.1 New nomination

The Italian National Committee (ITAL-ICID) nominated Dr. Anna Tedeschi (in place of Mr. Stefano Salbitani) for the membership of the Working Group. CV of Dr. Anna Tedeschi will be tabled at the Tehran meeting and the group will consider the nomination

2.2 Past nominations

The following nominations were deferred at Yogyakarta (2010) and New Delhi (2009) meetings due to non-attendance of the nominees:

- Mr. Javeed Iqbal Bokhary in place of Dr. Engr. I.B. Shaikh (Pakistan)

- Mr. Ahmed Aziz (Iraq)

If these nominees attend the Tehran meeting, the WG will consider their past nominations for the membership of the WG. The Central Office informed the respective National Committees (on 31 January 2011) of the WG's decision to confirm their nomination or nominate new professional with an assurance that the nominee would attend the Tehran meeting (2011) of WG-ENV. Nominations would then be discussed during the meeting. Responses from respective National Committees are still awaited.

Attendance of the members at the meetings of the WG-ENV held in 2009 and 2010 will be tabled at the Tehran meeting.

2.3 Non-attendance or contribution of the members

At Yogyakarta, the members present expressed their concern about the poor attendance of the members in the WG-ENV meetings. Among the current 22 WG-ENV members, 5 were neither present nor contributed to WG activities and meetings for the last 3 consecutive years. Further, 2 other memberships remain *de facto* vacant since nominees have failed to attend the last 2 meetings (2009, 2010). Finally, many members fail to attend 2 consecutive meetings, which alter greatly the opportunities and options for constructive and continuous activities of the group.

The group suggested reminding National Committees of their commitment to the WG-ENV, and, if current members are not in a position to fulfill their commitments in terms of participation and attendance, then the National Committees should nominate fresh members. Members are also urged to favor on-going communication with WG office bearers, in between meetings, to ensure continuity of activities. Options for continuous communication are discussed in item 11.

The following members were neither present nor contributed for the last three consecutive years:

- Dr. Smiljan Juvan (Slovenia)
- Dr. (Mrs.) Shaden Abdel Gawad (Egypt)
- Prof. Almeida Fernandez (Portugal)
- Mr. Belguenani Hassane (Morocco)
- Prof. Dr. Natha Hungspreug (Thailand)

The Central Office (CO) contacted (on 31 January 2011) the above NCs and requested to ensure respective member's participation in the Tehran meeting of WG-ENV, or to nominate a fresh professional who could contribute to the activities of the WG. The Slovenian National Committee (SINCID) had suggested putting Dr. Smiljan Juvan on probation for one year and during this period if he does not contribute/attend the WG meeting in Tehran, then they will propose another member for the WG. Responses from others are still awaited.

It must be noted that representation of a member of the working group by any other representative of the concerned national committee is not deemed to be a contribution by the member. ICID By-law 3.1.7 stipulates that members not contributing to the activities by attendance or correspondence for two consecutive years shall be replaced in consultation with their National Committees.

2.4 Election of Chair of the WG

At Yogyakarta, Prof Hu, Chair of the WG-ENV, informed the group that he would step down as Chair in October 2011 during the Tehran meeting. It is proposed to carry out the election of a new Chair during the meeting. Candidates will be requested to come forward, make a short self-introduction and present their views in brief on standpoint, vision regarding the Chair's position in WG-ENV and how they intend to steer the activities of the WG. Election/nomination will follow.

A CONTINUING ITEMS

Item 3 : The improvement of agricultural return flow and requirement of environmental flow

At Yogyakarta meeting (2010), Mr. Clarke Ballard (Australia) made a presentation on "*Water and nutrients in the Australian landscape*" during the WG-ENV open workshop. Since there was no other contribution or progress on

this topic, the group will discuss and decide whether the topic remains on the WG's agenda, and, if so, which directions and actions are to be taken, during the Tehran meeting?

Item 4 : Environmental aspects of irrigation and drainage projects

At Yogyakarta meeting (2010), Dr. Sylvain Perret (France) made a presentation on "*Introduction to life-cycle assessment and potential application for irrigation systems*" during the WG-ENV open workshop. Since there was no other contribution or progress on this topic, the group will discuss and decide whether the topic remains on the WG's agenda, and, if so, which directions and actions are to be taken, during the Tehran meeting?

Item 5 : Impacts of irrigation and drainage projects on human health, and

Item 6 : Management of a sustainable environment (maximizing positive and minimizing adverse effects of irrigation and drainage systems)

During Yogyakarta meeting, Prof Ray-Shyan Wu (Chinese Taipei) commented that the above-mentioned issues (Items 3,4,5,6) have actually not been addressed in the previous WG-ENV meetings, and formally requested members to volunteer and assume responsibility for one of these items, while recognizing that there might be overlap between certain items.

In response, Mr. Osmo Antero Purhonen (Finland) suggested that the Executive could play a role in identifying teams of four to six people to work on a particular item, potentially resulting in useful information for the next meeting.

Dr Gerhard Backeberg (South Africa) further proposed that the WG executives prepare a workplan and circulate this amongst members for comments. A workshop on the work completed can then be organized during the next meeting. The Vice Chair agreed that the WG executives would draft such a workplan and request feedback from members.

The Central Office contacted (21 April 2011) the Chairman and requested to identify and appoint a team (four to six people) to work on the above issues and develop a workplan so that some useful information/ results may be obtained. Response is awaited. Chairman may apprise further progress at the Tehran meeting.

WG executives suggest that all WG-ENV members spend some valuable time during the Tehran meeting to discuss each one of the above listed technical items (Items 3,4,5,6). WG may keep, merge or discard some of them and then agree on a process to address these items. It is also suggested that, during discussions, the WG-ENV considers potential deliverable linked to any of these technical items, so that concrete and practical options and directions are taken (on a given item: WG technical report, ICID position paper, collectively-written journal article based upon review or case-study based research, etc).

Item 7 : Website of WG-ENV

At Yogyakarta, Chairman Dr. Heping informed that the website was fully active and thanked those who had made contributions. The Chair also requested members to make further contributions to improve the range of information available on the website. The Central Office also requested (21 April 2011) all members of the group to provide relevant information viz. books, manuals, technical papers, proceedings of the national workshops, interesting pictures, useful links etc. for posting on website. Responses are awaited.

Vice Chairman Dr. Sylvain Perret has drafted (28 February 2011) a short introductory text and posted the same on the group's website. He also proposed to put some information on the WG-ENV LINKEDIN group.

Item 8 : WG-ENV members' questionnaire

During the meeting (2010), the Vice Chair suggested that a committee be set-up to draft a simple questionnaire to identify important issues and members be asked to contribute to it. Members agreed to the proposal. In April 2011, the Central Office requested Dr. Heping to set up a committee to draft a simple questionnaire.

WG-ENV Secretary, Dr. Michael van der Laan drafted the questionnaire, on the basis of a previous questionnaire circulated in early 2010 by previous WG secretary. The questionnaire has been disseminated to all members (15 August 2011). WG-ENV Secretary will report the feedbacks of the questionnaire during the Tehran meeting.

Inputs by members will be discussed to refine and focus WG priority topics and activities in future (see items 9 and 10).

Item 9 : ICID position paper of WG-ENV

At Yogyakarta, Chairman Dr. Heping queried whether it was possible to prepare ICID position paper for discussion during Tehran meeting in October 2011. Prof. Ray Shyan Wu stated that an outline or even a draft can be circulated among members for their contributions. This would be a very important deliverable for 2014 meeting.

However, the question regarding the topic of the position paper is still pending. WG members may discuss the topic of the position paper in relation with the technical topics (items 3,4,5,6) listed above.

The Central Office requested (21 April 2011) the Chairman to apprise further progress on the preparation of the paper. Response is awaited.

Item 10 : Work plan of the WG

A three-year work plan (2012-2014) needs to be prepared and responsibilities assigned in line with the ongoing activities of the Working Group. The group will discuss and finalize the work plan during Tehran meeting, based upon questionnaire results and discussions on position paper and technical topics (items 3, 4, 5, 6).

B NEW ITEMS

Item 11 : Freshwater Ecosystem Monitoring Working Group

During Yogyakarta meeting (2010), Chairman informed the members that information regarding this new workgroup has been circulated. The members were requested for their possible contributions.

The members were also requested to contribute to the WG-CLIMATE.

Chairman will apprise further progress at the meeting.

Item 12 : Invitation to join LinkedIn group

In January 2011, Dr. Sylvain Roger Perret invited the members of the group to join 'LINKEDIN' group to discuss and share information online. LINKEDIN is a networking platform which supports professional networking and suits to convey news, information, forum and discussions among members of professional groups. In this regard, the Central Office provided the updated contact details of the members to Dr. Perret to facilitate joining the group. Only few members have responded and joined the group before Tehran meeting.

In view of the poor registration rate so far, Dr. Perret will present again the 'LINKEDIN WG-ENV group' to members during Tehran meeting.

Dr. Perret suggested (1 July 2011) that LINKEDIN WG-ENV group could help in the following aspects of the WG's activities:

- Creation of members' registration to a LINKEDIN group to ease the continuous communication amongst members,
- Identifying issues of interest to members by filling up the survey form,
- Developing a work plan for the group etc.

Vice Chairman also encouraged all members to communicate with each other throughout the year, so that the meeting in Tehran is more fruitful.

Item 13 : Any other business
