

Minutes of the Twenty Second Meeting of the
AFRICAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (AFRWG)
 Tehran, Iran
 17 October 2011: 09.00-12.30 hours

Year of Establishment: 1994

Mandate: To promote links and networking among the African countries as well as regional and international institutions for enhancing cooperation and coordination; and to support integrated river basin development, training and research issues and information system for African needs.

Members Present: (1) Mr. Adama Sangare, Chairman (Mali, 2009); (2) Dr. Andrew Sanewe, Vice Chairman (South Africa, 2009); (3) Vice President Dr. Samia El-Guindy (Egypt, 2010), and (4) Secretary General, ICID represented by Dr. S.A. Kulkarni.

Observers: (i) ARID Representative (Mr. Moussa Amadou); (ii) SARIA Representative;

Member Honoraire Present: Mr. Felix Reinders, Vice President Hon., ICID (South Africa)

Other observers: (i) Mr. Avinash C. Tyagi (WMO), SG-Designate; (ii) Dr. Magdi Tawfik Abdelhamid (Egypt); (iii) Dr. Yacob Beletse (South Africa); (iv) Dr. Tsugihiko Watanabe (Japan); (v) VPH Dr. Hussein El-Atfy (Egypt); (vi) Bamba Aliou (Mali); (vii) Mr. Maurice Roos; (viii) Eng. Raphael L Daluti (Tanzania); (ix) Eng. Othman S. Omar (Tanzania); (x) Puleng Mofokeng (South Africa).

Website: <<http://www.afrwg.icidonline.org>>

Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 21st meeting of the Working Group

The minutes of the 21st meeting of the AFRWG held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in October 2010 were confirmed.

Item 2 : Review of membership of the group, countries and permanent observers

2.1 Membership of the group

The Chairman read the mandate of the working group and the members agreed that the mandate was still relevant and appropriate. The working group discussed the membership. The Chairman noted that his term as Chairman of the AFRWG expires in Tehran and a new Chairman will be appointed. The working group decided to nominate Dr Andrew Sanewe as the Chairman of the AFRWG. Engr Aliou Bamba from Mali was elected as the Vice Chairman and Engr Raphael L. Daluti from Tanzania was elected as the Secretary of the AFRWG.

Engr Adriano de Vito was nominated for the membership by the Italian National Committee (ITAL-ICID). However, as Engr de Vito was not present at the meeting and nor his CV was available his nomination was deferred till next meeting in Australia in 2012.

2.2 Membership of African countries

Presently, there are 7 active member countries of Africa (including Tanzania) of AFRG. Sixteen countries are deemed inactive. Engr Raphael Daluti the Director of Irrigation and Technical Services Division, MAFC on behalf of Tanzanian National Committee made a payment for the 2011 membership subscription fee and has requested ICID to waive off the outstanding arrears. Tanzania has therefore been provisionally accepted for the membership of the AFRWG.

Mr Aliou Bamba, the Technical Advisor of the Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Mali visited New Delhi in December 2010. The Secretary General M. Gopalakrishnan also met with the Mali delegation and briefly discussed activities in the African Region.

The Minister of Agriculture from Zimbabwe visited Iran and he was encouraged to promote the reactivation of the Zimbabwe National Committee by ICID Central Office.

Although SARIA represents Southern Africa and ARID represents Western and Central Africa, there is no regional body that represents North Africa and East Africa. This needs to be considered by the AFRWG.

A proposal was made to link the AFRWG with AMCOW, NEPAD and the African Water Facility (AWF). It was noted that the AWF of the African Development Bank has funds to support agricultural water projects in Africa. It was proposed that the AWF be approached to support capacity building in agricultural water management in Africa. It was suggested that a proposal be submitted to the AWF through ICID Central Office for funding of capacity building programs.

Dr Samia El-Guindy (Egypt) informed that JICA (Japan) provides financial support for capacity building and training in Cairo (Egypt) every year. It was therefore decided to use the AFRWG as a platform to facilitate capacity building and training in Africa through donor funding organizations such as JICA, AWF and AMCOW.

Members agreed that the role of the working group needs to develop a capacity building and training strategy for Africa with the help of Dr. El-Guindy of ENCID, Mr Reinders of SANCID and Dr Sanewe, the new Chairman of AFRWG.

CONTINUING ITEMS

Item 3 : Progress on the implementation of the Action Program for Africa

3.1 Report of the SARIA Workshop, February 2011, Swaziland

The Vice Chairman, Dr Andrew Sanewe, informed members of the AFRWG about the activities of SARIA that took place in Swaziland. SARIA held its annual workshop at Maguga Lodge in Swaziland. Eleven of the fifteen SADC countries participated in the SARIA workshop held from 15-17 February 2011. The three day event consisted of a one day workshop on 'Poverty reduction and food security in SADC countries', a technical tour of irrigation schemes in Swaziland and the Steering Committee meeting of the SARIA members. A brief report of the SARIA workshop 2011 was published in the ICID annual report and copies the workshop CD was sent to ICID Central Office. ICID Central Office undertook to make additional copies of the CD and distribute them to AFRWG members.

3.2 3rd African Regional Conference, 29 November – 5 December 2011, Mali

The President of AMID, Mr. Adama Sangare, made a presentation about the forthcoming 3rd African Regional Conference which will be held in Bamako, Mali from 29 November to 5 December 2011. The theme of the conference is 'Food security in Africa and Climate Change: Improve irrigation and drainage contribution'. The papers will be presented in 3 sub-themes and there will be 3 special sessions and 2 panels of expert discussions. Mr. Sangare mentioned about the proposed special session by Ms Dominique Vallée of FAO on "Smallholder private irrigation - Supporting the trend in the face of climate change".

The organizers of the conference are expecting 200 participants; registration fees for non-Malians will be USD 300. Presentation of papers during the conference will take place from 30 November to 4 December 2011. A field trip and post conference tours are also planned. Mr Sangare distributed the third announcement of the Regional Conference during the meeting. Thirty-three papers were received for review, 98 registration forms have been completed so far and 16 exhibitors have requested space. The total budget for the conference is USD 407 537.00. The organizers of the conference are looking for keynote speakers and for experts to participate in the panel discussions.

3.3 11th International Drainage Workshop (IDW), 23-25 September 2012, Cairo

The 11th International Drainage Workshop (IDW) is hosted by ENCID and will be held in Cairo, Egypt from 23-25 September 2012. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 1st December 2011 and the deadline for the submission of full papers is 1st June 2012. There will be a one-day technical tour to either the drainage projects in the Delta area or to the Water Research Centre.

It was proposed that the 4th African Regional Conference be organized in conjunction with the International Drainage Workshop. This matter will be brought to the attention of ENCID and to ICID Central Office.

Item 4 : Three-year work plan of the group

The future plans of the working group were discussed. The working group will submit a three year plan to ICID Central Office that will include; the SARIA workshops for 2012, the 3rd African Regional Conference 2011, the SANCID symposium 2012, the ENCID International Drainage Workshop 2012 including a capacity building program for Africa to be drafted by Dr El-Guindy.

The working group agreed that there is a need to look at policies, institutions and training in relation to irrigation development. It was decided by the working group to focus its attention primarily on the broader topic of agricultural water management which includes irrigation development and water harvesting. The emphasis of the working group will be on poverty alleviation and food security in Africa. The working group will also place a special emphasis on assisting national committees that are seeking financing for irrigation development through donor support and on capacity building and training. These initiatives will be carried out in collaboration with ICID Central Office.

Item 5 : Cooperation with other working groups and international organizations**5.1 ICID working groups**

The Special Work Team on Lake Chad Basin (ST-LCB) has not been active for several years. Mr Sangare met with the Lake Chad Basin Commission and they promised to take part in the AFRWG meeting in Tehran. Unfortunately, none of the people concerned managed to attend the meeting. Dr. Tsugihiko Watanabe from Japan, who is working for the International Lakes Environmental Commission (ILEC) was nominated to be a member of the ST-LCB by the Japanese national committee. Dr Watanabe gave a brief description of his role in ILEC and how he could assist the ST-LCB. The members of the AFRWG decided that they were not in a position to discuss the issues regarding the Lake Chad Basin because none of those present at the meeting were from that area. It was agreed that the matter should only be discussed when the people that are knowledgeable about the issues regarding Lake Chad are present.

5.2 SANCID Symposium, November 2010

The SANCID symposium was held in November 2010 at the Desert Palace in Uppington, Northern Cape, South Africa. Twenty six papers were presented at the symposium. The SANCID symposium 2010 was reported in the ICID newsletter and in the ICID annual report.

5.3 Focus on Africa

The members of the AFRWG agreed that there is an urgent need to revitalize the national committees in Africa. ICID Central Office informed members that they are willing to support the development of national committees in Africa. Tanzania indicated that they will try to encourage Malawi and Kenya to become more active in ICID. Dr Samia El-Guindy of Egypt said that she would get in touch with the Arab Water Council to establish collaboration between the North African countries of Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt. The working group proposed that inactive members of ICID that have to pay outstanding amounts should pay for the current year membership fee if not of the previous years.

5.4 Agricultural Water Partnership (AgWA)

AgWA planned to organize its first general assembly in 2011 during the 3rd African Regional Conference in Bamako, Mali. Mr Sangare tried to communicate with the AgWA secretariat but he received no response from them. ICID Central Office offered to forward any communication from AMID to AgWA secretariat concerning the participation of AgWA in the 3rd African Regional Conference.

5.5 Other international announcements/ initiatives

The meeting took note of the following activities:

- Africa Water Atlas – The organizers of the 3rd African Regional Conference will invite UNEP to make a presentation of the Africa Water Atlas
 - African Journal of Agricultural Research
 - African Session of the 8th World Forum of Sustainable Development
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- Africa Public Private Partnership (APPP) 2011 – will be invited by the organizers of the 3rd African Regional Conference to make a presentation
- World Water Day, March 2012

Item 6 : Publicizing working group's activities through a Newsletter and other international publications

Members of the working group agreed that the AFRWG needs to develop a two page newsletter that will be published every 3 to 6 months. Mr Aliou Bamba of Mali accepted responsibility for the newsletter. AFRWG members will supply him with relevant information. Mr Bamba's email address is: bambaaliou@yahoo.fr.

Item 7 : Website of the AFRWG

Members of the working group were urged to contribute to the website.

Item 8 : Any other business

There was no other business.
