

Minutes of the Eighteenth Meeting of the
ASIAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ASRWG)
 Tehran, Iran
 16 October 2011: 13.30-17.00 hours

Year of Establishment: 1996

Mandate: To focus on common topics and issues; to enhance the transfer of appropriate technology in irrigation and drainage to and from the Asian Region; and to encourage membership and coordinate activities in the region.

Members: (1) VPH Dr. Karim Shiati, Chairman, 2006 (Iran, 1997); (2) Prof. Tai-Cheol Kim, Vice Chairman, 2007 (Korea, 2006); (3) Mr. Khem Raj Sharma (Nepal, 1997) represented by Mr. Uttam Raj Timilsina; (4) Dr. Siripong Hungspreug (Thailand, 1998) represented by Arthon Suttigarn; (5) Mr. Kuo, Sheng-Feng (Chinese-Taipei, 2001) represented by Ray-Shyan Wu; (6) Mr. Taner Kimence (Turkey, 2006) represented by Ahmed Seren; (7) VP Shinsuke Ota (Japan, 2006); (8) Mr. Wang Xiodong (China, 2008) represented by VPH Gao Zhanyi; (9) Mr. Mohd Abdul Nassir bin Bidin (Malaysia, 2007) represented by Mohd Amin Mohd Soom.

Members Honoraire Present: Mr. Chaiwat Prechawit, Vice President, ICID (Thailand); Dr. Willem Vlotman, Vice President, ICID (Australia).

Observers: (1) Ms. Hsiao-Wen Wang (Taiwan); (2) Lihui Gao (China); (3) Pao-Shan Yu (Taiwan); (4) Mr. Naito Kunihiko (Japan); (5) Dong-Koun Youn (Korea); (6) Sun-Ju An (Korea); (7) Sung Hee Lee (Korea); (8) Ms. Hayati bt. Zainal (Malaysia); (9) Kuang- Ming Chuang (Chinese Taipei); (10) Hasan B. Yuksel (Turkey); (11) Ramazan Yucel (Turkey); (12) R.C. Kao (Taiwan); (13) Park SH (Korea); (14) Pei-Chun Ni (Taiwan); (15) Ian Atkinson (Australia); (16) S. Hosseini (Iran); (17) Suzuki Hiroyuki (Japan); (18) Ashkan Shokri (Iran); (19) Sylvain R. Perret (France); (20) Darush Bahredar (Iran); (21) Budi Wignyosukarto (Indonesia); (22) Watanabe Daisuke(Japan); (23) Joong Dae Chol (Korea); (24) Ping Chen (Taiwan); (25) Mohd Yazid Abdullah (Malaysia); (26) Gilchu-Shim (Korea); (27) Ardavan Azari (Iran); (28) Ali Binesh; (29) Moreza Yazdekhashti; (30) Abdul Ridho Mistah(Iraq); (31) Basil Irhayyim (Iraq); (32) Prof. Nobumasa Hatcho (Japan).

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

Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 17th meeting of ASRWG

The minutes of the 17th meeting of the Working Group held at Yogyakarta in October 2010 were confirmed.

Item 2 : Membership of the Working Group

2.1 New nominations

Following new nominations were received for the membership of the Working Group, they were present and accepted as the new members by the working group:

- Dr. Mohammad Amin in place of Mr. Mohd. Abdul Nassir bin Bidin (Malaysia)
- Mr. Uttam Raj Timilsina in place of Mr. Khem Raj Sharma (Nepal)

2.2 Deferred nominations

The nomination of Mr. Hanan Itzkovitch (Israel) was deferred due to his consecutive absence for past 3 years. The Central Office may invite fresh nomination from Israel.

The nomination of Dr. Tapas Kumar Biswas (Australia) and Dr. Kota Tirupataiah (India) were deferred till next meeting in Adelaide, Australia.

2.3 Non-attendance/contribution

WG member from Uzbekistan had neither been present nor contributed for past 3 consecutive years. Central Office should seek fresh nomination from this National Committee.

A. CONTINUING ITEMS

Item 3 : To discuss future Work Plan

3.1 New Country Membership in ICID

Out of 44 countries in the region, 26 are active members of the WG's, 9 countries had been liaised to become new members, 4 country memberships had been accepted but not paid the first subscription and 5 countries need to be reactivated.

It was decided that the concerned VP may follow up the necessary actions with the help of CO to liaise with the new country members.

3.2 Three-year rolling work plan

The ASRWG concentrated so far on the Asian Regional Task Force on climate change (ARTF-CC). It was proposed that after releasing the document on the subject at WWF6 in France in March 2012, new activities may commence. In the meeting new activities were discussed and the members approved the activities suggested by Prof. Kim. WG members agreed to establish a new work team (WT) for the purpose.

Seven members of WG were willing to join the new WT on voluntary basis. They were - Dr. Amin (Malaysia), Arthon (Thailand), Hassan (Turkey), Karim Shiati (Iran), Dr. Kim (Korea) as the chair of WT, Dr Ota (Japan) and Dr. Wu (Chinese Taipei).

The new WT could be jointly established in cooperation with FAO-RAP under the concept of "Rural Development in Asia". The topic and purpose of the WT will be discussed by e-mail and a detailed time schedule will be prepared for discussion at Adelaide 2012 meeting.

Item 4 : Website of ASRWG

The website of WG had been fully functional. Network linkages with the NC's of Australia, Chinese Taipei, India, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan and Thailand had been already established. Turkish National Committee to establish linkage of its NC's with ASRWG.

Item 5 : Work on the Basin-sharing Model for Mekong River

Work on the Basin-sharing model for Mekong river and other relevant documents were circulated by central office for comments/ suggestions. No suggestion or recommendation received so far.

Item 6 : Linkages with Regional and Transnational Organizations for Cooperation

6.1 International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

The recent and outstanding publication of IWMI entitled "Trends and Drivers of Asian Irrigation" was circulated to NC's for their feedback. The chairman recommended the WG members to review this valuable publication through the IWMI website.

6.2 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

FAO's regional workshop on "Analysis of Sustainable Water Resources use in the Asia-Pacific region" was held during December 2010 in Thailand. Group thanked Prof. Kim and Secretary General for their active participation in the workshop. Prof. Kim apprised the WG about main outcome of FAO workshop in Thailand.

6.3 UN – WATER

ICID joined the UN-Water task force on water and climate through its working group “WG-CLIMATE” and ARTF-CC, in which they contribute their findings for possible presentation in WWF6 in France 2012. Secretary General represented ICID in UN-Water meeting in Stockholm in August 2011.

6.4 ICID / UNW-DPC Cooperation on Capacity Development in Agricultural Water Management

Some of the recent activities of UNW-DPC in agricultural water management included two regional workshops convened at the Three- Gorges Dam (China) and another workshop at the Roorkee (India), both in April 2011.

The most outstanding cooperation of UNW-DPC/FAO/ICID was a two days workshop on “Improving Farm Management Strategies through Aqua Crop” held in Yogyakarta in 2010.

The new crop model “Aqua Crop” is an outstanding development in irrigation sector. The crop water requirement by this model will reduce considerably in comparison with “Cropwat” model. The Chairman and WG members provided their positive response to the “Aqua Crop” model.

6.5 IUCN Dialogue on ‘Sustainable Management of Trans-boundary Water Regimes in South Asia’

A Dialogue on “Sustainable Management of Trans-boundary Water Regimes in South Asia” had been launched by IUCN. Secretary General joined as a member at the regional level. Advisory committee meeting took place in Dhaka and in New Delhi. Secretary General was not available to apprise the WG about further developments.

6.6 ADB – ICID relationship

ADB sought cooperation of ICID in its effort to promote better water management in the region and the new initiative through global water. ADB organized a conference on “India water Dialogue” in July 2010 where Secretary General attended and made contribution on water use efficiency in Agriculture.

6.7 GWP workshop (associating IWMI) in Colombo (February 2011) on “Water for Food Security and Climate Change Challenges”

ICID joined the joint workshop of GWP and IWMI in Colombo in February 2011 and VPH Gao and Secretary General presented “ICID response to water for food security and climate change challenges”. The sessions concluded with a message “No more business as usual”. The Chairman recommended the WG members to review the full proceedings from GWP website (<http://www.gwp.org/Global/About%20GWP/Publications/Colombo%20Synthesis%20Report%20Climate%20Change%20Food%20and%20Water%20Security%20in%20South%20Asia,%20final.pdf>).

Item 7 : Possibilities of developing cooperative arrangements with International Society of Paddy and Water Environment Engineering (PAWEES) and International Network of Water Environment and Paddy Fields (INWEPF)

Contribution and dissemination of findings from these International Society and Network were one of the important activities in ASRWG agenda. MANCID/INWEPF symposium and 8th INWEPF steering committee will be held in early November 2011 in Penang, Malaysia to exchange knowledge and experience based on expertise among the INWEPF member Countries. Central Office circulated the final announcement of this event. The Chairman will attend this meeting and apprise the WG during next meeting.

Item 8 : Asian Regional Task Force on Climate Change and Irrigation (ARTF-CC)

Thanks to VP Dr. Ota, Chairman of ARTF- CC, the task force members and JNC-ICID for their hard work and timely preparation of the report. Dr. Ota presented the draft final report on the subject; the final report will be submitted and presented at WWF6 in France in 2012. Four country case studies were presented: VPH Dr. Gao (China), Dr. Wu (Chinese – Taipei), Mr. Timilsina (Nepal) and Dr. Arthon (Thailand). The discussion on the report by the WG members enriched the contents of the report.

Item 9 : Outcome of 6th Asian Regional Conference (2010)

Conclusions and recommendations emerged from the 6th ARC at Yogyakarta in 2010 can be accessed from the website <http://www.icid.org/decl.html#yogya_out>.

Item 10 : The 7th Asian Regional Conference

The 7th Asian Regional Conference under the theme of “*Regional Cooperation for water and food security*” will be held at Adelaide, Australia in June 2012. The Australian National Committee presented the new brochure of the event during the meeting.

B. NEW ITEM

Item 11 : The 8th Asian Regional Conference

The 8th Asian regional conference will be held in 2013 at Mardin in Turkey. The theme of conference will be “*Irrigation Management under Drought Conditions*”. Mr. Hassan Basri from Turkish National Committee presented a report on the preparation of the event.

Item 12 : Any other business

Information on (i) Asia 2012 in March 2012, Thailand; (ii) 2nd Asia-Pacific Regional Synthesis meeting, July 2011, Singapore; (iii) Japanese Water Forum Fund, 2011; (iv) Abu Dhabi Dialogue knowledge forum’s small Grant program; (v) Asia-Pacific Water Summit (2011) were noted by the members.
