

Minutes of the Second Meeting of the
**WORKING GROUP ON 'IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE IN THE STATES UNDER
 SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION' (WG-IDSST)**
 Tehran, Iran
 16 October 2011: 13.30-17.00 hours

Year of Establishment: 2009

Completion of the Mandate 2015

Mandate:

- to develop and strengthen the network among the countries of transition;
- to organize monitoring and evaluation of common problems in the States that belong to transition economy;
- to create database and exchange of information about changing situation in Irrigation and Drainage in these States and to attract global and national attention to existing trends affecting global and national food security and wellbeing of rural population;
- to summarize the experiences in overcoming negative tendencies in organizing public-private partnerships, implementation of IWRM and broad-basing of stakeholder;
- to monitor the ecological situation in the transition states, including problems of closed basin (Aral Sea, Caspian Sea), salinization and water logging, etc.;
- development of appropriate advance irrigation and drainage technology in transition states and its dissemination through capacity building; and
- to promote farmer's training to create awareness about irrigated and drainage agriculture.

Members: (1) VPH Prof. Peter Kovalenko, Chairman (Ukraine, 2009); (2) VPH Dr. Victor A. Dukhovny, Deputy Chairman (Uzbekistan, 2009); (3) Prof. N. Hacho (Japan, 2009); (4) Acad. Boris Kizyaev (Russia, 2009) represented by Ms Bondarik.

Observers: (1) Yanko Yurii (Russia); (2) Kundius Vladimir Borisovich (Russia); (3) Kundius Valentina (Russia); (4) Mr. Aziz Ahmed (Iraq); (5) Mukhlis Zainol Abidin (Malaysia); (6) Mary Lou Smith (USA); (7) Mukhamedjanov Shukhrat; (8) Balgabaev Numlan (Kazakhstan).

Website: <<http://www.icwc-aral.uz>>

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

The minutes of the 1st meeting of the Working Group held at Yogyakarta in October 2010 were confirmed.

Item 2 : Review of the membership of the Working group

2.1 Nomination

The National Committee of Russian Federation (RUCID) nominated Mr. Vladimir B. Kundius as a member. He introduced himself and informed about his interests and experiences in irrigation and drainage. WG accepted his nomination.

The nomination of Mr. Ernazarov Nazimjon (Uzbekistan) as an Observer was deferred at Yogyakarta (2010) meeting due to his non-attendance. The Central Office requested (4 February 2011) Uzbekistan National Committee (UzNCID) to confirm the nomination for reconsideration at Tehran meeting or send a fresh nomination. UzNCID informed that the deputy chief Department of Water Resources Mr. Ravshan Mamutov will be nominated for the membership of the WG in due course.

2.2 Existing membership

During the Yogyakarta (2010) meeting, Chairman VPH Prof. Kovalenko proposed to involve all members who were in ST-ARAL to participate in the new group. During Yogyakarta meeting, Chairman also suggested to request for new nominations and proposed to use the ICID events for disseminating information of the group. It was proposed that the National Committees of Ukraine and Uzbekistan would prepare the necessary short information for publishing it in the ICID News and on the website of ICID.

The Central Office requested (21 April 2011) the National Committees of Ukraine and Uzbekistan to prepare a brief note towards inviting nominations for the membership of the group and circulate it among all NCs. Prof. Kovalenko vide his letter of 8 May 2011 requested the National Committees of, Estonia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Macedonia, Romania, Slovenia, Uzbekistan, Poland, Bulgaria, Russia and Georgia inviting applications for the membership of the WG. Response was received only from Russia. Prof. Kovalenko will repeat such request again. Representative from Kazakhstan promised to discuss this issue with his colleagues after his return to Kazakhstan.

Item 3 : Develop and strengthen the network among the countries of transition

At Yogyakarta (2010) meeting, the group discussed and proposed the following actions for the implementation of possible actions in the frame of WG-IDSST activities to develop and strengthen the network among the countries of transition:

- Forming a core executive team of the WG with its base in the Ukrainian and Uzbek National Committees of ICID. Such team had been established which included Prof. Kovalenko, Prof. Dukhovny, Ms. Katarina Shatevskaya, Ac. Kizayev and Dr. Mukhamedjanov from Uzbekistan;
- Establishing permanent communications between the Chairman, the Vice Chairman and the Secretary of the WG as well as with the most active members of the group for the strategic planning of WG activities. Such communication among Prof. Kovalenko and Dr. Mukhamedjanov together with Ac. Kizayev has resulted in preparation of a conceptual paper which had been reported to Tashkent Conference in May 2011;
- Establishing permanent communication links by email and an Internet portal between the WG members and other interested parties had been done between core group members;
- Exchanging information pertaining to the field of activities of members' organizations (viz. projects, activities, publications): EECCA INBO (Eastern European Caucus and Central Asia network INBO) has agreed to open a single webpage <http://www.eecca-water.net> for the convenience of all members The webpage had since been successfully operating and received 64 responses. The webpage had been only introduced in 2011 and the daily visitors to this webpage already exceed 100 persons per day.
- Analyzing and identification of common and specific problems in irrigation and drainage sphere by comparison of transformation processes and current situations in the countries which have already passed or still wee under the influence of social-economic transformation processes. With this goal in view, a questionnaire for monitoring and evaluation of the problems in the sphere of irrigation and drainage had been formulated (see item 4); and
- Developing a proposal for implementation of a small project with regard to the capacity building: The expected result of the project was to consolidate networking activities within the WG and drafting the proposal for a larger joint project. INBO IOW together with SIC ICWC introduced proposal for Capacity building for network members to use European Aid. After due discussion among stakeholders, the final result was expected in November 2011.

VPH Prof. Kovalenko wanted to submit a proposal to FAO titled "*To develop an integrated framework for adaptation of irrigated agriculture to the climate change and social-economical transformations in the countries under transition*". For applying to FAO division in Budapest, Prof. Kovalenko requested Dr. Ligetvari from the Hungarian National Committee for assistance. Prof. Kovalenko's preparatory work had not resulted in success, so far.

Item 4 : Monitoring and evaluation of common problems in States with transition economy

In March 2011, the Central Office requested the Chairman to finalize the draft format so that the same can be presented and discussed at WG workshop. In response, Chairman VPH Prof. Kovalenko informed that the document was being prepared on common and specific problems and their features in the countries under socio-economic transformation and was to be presented at the workshop of WG-IDSST during 25th European Regional Conference (May 2011). This proposal was not realized since the Chairman could not participate in the conference.

Item 5 : Create database on Irrigation and Drainage in the countries of transition

This database created was only for Central Asian states and particularly Caucasian. Implementation in other states will be discussed with Chairmen of other National Committees of ICID in the region.

Item 6 : Develop public-private partnerships and implementation of IWRM

Prof. Dukhovny introduced a presentation titled "*Implementation of IWRM in Central Asia*" where he demonstrated experiences of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in creation of public participation/ involvement in operation and management of irrigated systems on an area of almost half a million hectares. Now, SIC ICWC together with IWMI and three national teams finalized a vision document for development of IWRM in three states for approval by the respective Governments.

Item 7 : Identify and monitor problems (ecological situation) of closed basins

During the Yogyakarta (2010) meeting, Chairman Prof. Kovalenko proposed to use the Aral basin countries' experience as background information for starting discussions on the problems in different closed basins which were the objects of national or international importance in different European and Asiatic countries. The above mentioned format of water management issues could help to indentify the possible hot spots and promote the discussions on the ecological problems typical for the closed basins. Chairman proposed to use this format to start such a discussion. Later on, one could see whether we should organize a separate project for formulating policy messages on this subject or make some joint publications on this issue in frame of a separate small project. Chairman also informed that he had a great chance to cooperate with another big initiative at the European level called "Europe INBO".

Item 8 : Development of appropriate advanced irrigation and drainage technologies

At Yogyakarta (2010) meeting, the following strategic questions were proposed:

- innovations in water and energy saving technologies;
- integration of GIS, modeling and land survey in new type of DSS for water management in irrigation and drainage and evaluation of its efficiency;
- technologies for intensive and extensive irrigation; and
- advanced constructions, materials and technologies for irrigation.

Chairman proposed to get in contact with the other WGs of ICID to accumulate all available knowledge and experiences on development and implementation of innovations in the sphere of irrigation and drainage research and practical work. In this case, he would try to develop the matrix of innovative products that can be recommended for implementation in the countries in the course of different tasks solving. Unfortunately 14 National Committees, to whom Chairman applied, didn't respond.

Item 9 : Create awareness about irrigated (drained) agriculture (capacity building)

Prof. Kovalenko informed that he gathered information from Central Asia and some European states. The compilation of this information will be completed in first half of 2012.

Prof. Dukhovny in his speech underlined the importance of this work and took responsibility to contact all National Committees of ICID.

Item 10 : Any other business

Certificate of advance studies (CAS), 2011-2012, Switzerland.

The members noted the information.
