

Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of the  
**WORKING GROUP ON MODERNIZATION OF IRRIGATION SERVICES (WG-MIS)**  
 Tehran, Iran  
 18 October 2011: 09.00-12.30 hours  
*Strategy Theme: Systems*

**Year of Establishment: 2007**

**Completion of the Mandate: 2012**

**Mandate:** To provide a continuing focus in ICID for sustainable improvement of irrigation service delivery through progressive modernization of infrastructure, management and institution.

**Members Present:** (1) Mr. Francois Brelle, Vice Chairman (France, 2007); (2) Mr. Ian Moorhouse, Secretary (Australia, 2010) represented by Mr. Ian Atkinson; (3) Mr. Lee, Tsong-Hwei (Chinese Taipei, 2007) represented by Y.F. Ho; (4) Dr. M.K. Siahi (Iran, 2007) represented by Mehrzad Ehsani; (5) Mr. Ian W Makin (UK, 2008); (6) Dr. Masayoshi Satoh (Japan, 2008).

**Apology:** Chairman Dr. Maurits Ertzen (The Netherlands), Mr. Ian Moorhouse, Secretary (Australia)

**Permanent Observers:** FAO representative (Ms. Robina Wahaj).

**Observers:** (1) Dr Mohamed (Oman); (2) Dr Sylvan Perret (France), (3) Chen Wen-Hsing (Chinese Taipei); (4) Dr Ehsan Alkanz; (5) Mr. Clarke Ballard (Australia); (6) Eng. Raphael Daluti (Tanzania); (7) Bassam Al Husein; (8) Masoud Eghbali (Iran); (9) Masoud Moalemi (Iran); (10) Hajime Tanji (Japan); (11) Shuichi Matsushima (Japan); (12) Ezzatollah Farhadi (Iran); (13) Azita Rumezani (Iran); (14) Sanaz Barnous; (15) Fabienne Latapie (France); (16) Mr. Aliou Bamba (Mali); (17) Mr. Shukhrat Mukhamedjanov (Uzbekistan); (18) Mr. Mohammad Sadegh Jafari (Iran); (19) Mr. Khaled Qassim Othman (Iraq); (20) Mr. Kadhim Chalooob (Iraq); (21) Mr. Adama Sangare (Mali); (22) Vahid Dasdar (Iran); (23) Hossein Nasher (Iran); (24) Dr N Ashok Raja (India); (25) Mr. Abdul Ridha Mistah (Iraq); (26) Mr. Basil Irhayin Marzoh (Iraq); (27) Mr. Waleed K Shlash (Iraq); (28) Mr. Moussa Amadou (Niger); (29) Eng. Othman S Omar (Tanzania); (30) Mr. Andre Roux (South Africa); (31) Mr. Uttam Raj Timilsina (Nepal); (32) Mr. Mohd Yazid Abdullah (Malaysia); (33) Dr. K. Yella Reddy (India); (34) Shizchin Baranchuluan (Mongolia).

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

*In absence of Chairman Dr. Ertzen, the meeting was chaired by Mr. Francois Brelle, Vice Chairman/ Mr. Ian Atkinson (Australia)*

**Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 4th meeting of the Working Group**

The minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> meeting held at Yogyakarta in October 2010 were tabled for review and approval. In absence of any comments, the minutes were approved as presented.

**Item 2 : Membership of the Group**

The Iranian National Committee (IRNCID) nominated Mr. Mehrzad Ehsani in place of Dr. M.K. Siahi for the membership of the Working Group. Mr. Ehsani gave a short presentation regarding his experience, interests and current work as DG of Irrigation Operations for the Iran National Irrigation Company.

Malaysia National Committee (MANCID) nominated Mohammad Yazd bin Abdullah for the membership of the group. Mr. Yazd bin Abdullah made a short statement of his involvement with the work of the WG-MIS and the application.

Both nominations were accepted. The Chair welcomed the new members to the working group.

A total of 6 WG-MIS members and 34 observers participated in the meeting.

**Item 3 : Website of the Group**

The Chair requested all the participants to provide information related to WG activities for posting to the website. He encouraged members to provide suitable case studies for inclusion.

**Item 4 : Internal Workshop of the WG**

A one page paper on progress of irrigation development and the role of PIM in India was submitted by Dr A Kumar (India). In absence of the author no discussion was held. No other papers were available so no further discussion took place.

**Item 5 : Work Plan of the Group for the period 2010-2012**

The Chair took a quick review of progress on the working groups agreed work plan:

**A. Application of the MASSCOTE approach to irrigation schemes selected by its members**

IRNCID is translating the MASSCOTE into Farsi. Mr. Mehrzad Ehsani (Iran) will prepare and make a presentation in Adelaide on application of MASSCOTE to the Dez Irrigation System.

Robina Wahaj (FAO) reported on progress of application of MASSCOTE, a regional workshop will be held in early 2012. Ms. Robina will also make a presentation on applications of MASCOTE at the next meeting in case FAO participates in Adelaide event.

Mr. Fazd (Malaysia) informed that the Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) as extension to previous application is continuing to apply MASSCOTE in Malaysian schemes and will make presentation at Adelaide meeting.

Dr Perrot (CIRADD, AIT) – may be able to present MASSCOTE application in Pakistan at the proposed Adelaide workshop.

Francoise Brelle (France) – noted that he was disappointed to see that no progress has been made on modernization of services relative to the focus on improving the infrastructure elements of the irrigation systems. Ms. Wahaj (FAO) reminded the participants that MASSCOTE does focus on services as the objective of modernization, noting that the focus is on large and medium scale systems. She noted the need to define desired water delivery service before the objectives of modernization can be implemented effectively – a working definition might be “right service for right cost to users”. So far FAO has undertaken rapid appraisal of 50 systems.

Ian Atkinson (Australia) reflected on experiences in Australia with the need to look more widely at services as part of modernization to avoid missing opportunities.

Dr Fazadi (Iran) reported the main problem in I&D is achieving effective O&M – he asked how to organize management systems to achieve the goals of I&D system suggesting that the future work program of the WG might focus on goals of irrigation management.

Dr Satoh (Japan) reminded that he reported a Japan case study in Yogyakarta and asked for comments on the approach followed in Japan, where construction cost is shared between Government and Users. After which, in general, system is fully transferred to WUA. Future O&M is covered by farmers. In case of large systems – main canal may be operated by government; and lower level canals by WUA. Decisions are made by farmers; Government does not manage the system but operates the system on the instructions of WUA.

**B. Cooperation with universities and other institutions and initiatives**

No information on potential of new workbodies on technical, legal and organizational aspects and options for improved irrigation service delivery were reported.

**C. Cooperation with the WG-HIST**

No progress on cooperation with WG-HIST to assess the lessons from earlier modernization activities was reported. No members of WG-HIST were present at the meeting.

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#### **D. Cooperation with WG-YPF**

No participants reported any progress on increasing cooperation with WG-YPF to assess training and capacity development needs. Additional effort to engage with WG-YPF is recommended.

#### **E. Looking to future program up to Adelaide 2012**

A short discussion was held on a proposal to hold a special session in Adelaide 2012 to bring together the findings of the WG and to conclude the current mandate. The publication will have to be on experiences with MASSCOTE given the lack of progress reported on the other items of the work plan. The publication could be a presentation of sample case studies and an over-view by the publication editors – possibly as a special edition of the ICID Journal.

Dr Satoh (Japan) noted the need to distinguish between upland and paddy irrigation systems; and also between single use surface water systems and those that operate with recharge and conjunctive use of ground and surface waters. An interesting question was raised about who pays for water diverted if only a proportion is consumed and the remainder enters the groundwater or other system for subsequent reuse?

Dr Shukhrat Mukhamedjanov (Uzbekistan) reported on 3 years experience with modernization of on-farm systems and noted the need to find ways to maximize the efficiency of translation of research to farmers and users.

The organization of the special session will be led by Dr. Maurits Ertsen, Chairman and Mr. François Brelle, Vice Chairman. Mr. Mohamed Yazd bin Abdullah (Malaysia) agreed to collaborate with the organizers to develop case studies. Dr Shukrat (Uzbekistan) also offered a case study.

Mr. Brelle (France) suggested the case studies could be presented as solutions at World Water Forum 6 in March 2012, if already completed.

Mr. Ian Makin (UK) informed the participants that Asian Development Bank will hold a forum on irrigation in the Asia Pacific in April 2012 to discuss financing priorities to achieve food security, with a focus on modernization of irrigation services.

#### **Item 6 : Special Session on ‘Modernization of Water Management Schemes’, October 2011, Tehran**

The Australian delegation presented a case study of modernization on 21 October including impacts on farmers, and Irrigation Company. The presentation will include the views of a leader of federal government on the investments being made in irrigation modernization in Australia.

Ms. Robina Wahaj of FAO informed that a full day FAO-ICID-IRNCID Special Session will be held on 20 October. And will include a key note and a panel session. All were encouraged to attend the session.

#### **Item 7 : Any other business**

With the permission of the Chair, Dr Masayoshi SATOH opened the meeting with a brief presentation on the Great East Earthquake 2011, including his personal experience of the event. After describing the major impacts of the earthquake and tsunami, Dr Satoh described the 3 stage plan for recovery and restoration of rural areas and livelihoods. The Chair thanked Dr Satoh and expressed the sympathy and good wishes of the participants to the people of Japan.

Dr Mehrzad Ehsani made a proposal for the working group to produce a new book on *Construction of Irrigation Canal*. He informed the WG that IRNCID is willing to prepare first draft of the book and then to work with volunteers to expand and refine for publication as a WG-MIS publication. Dr Brelle (France) noted that the tenure of the WG is only till 2012 and that the WG has not enough time to complete the proposed task in the remaining time. It was agreed that the IRNCID will prepare an annotated contents list for presentation in Adelaide for consideration of a new mandate and tenure for a WG to develop the proposed book and other items of work.

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