

Minutes of the Sixteenth Meeting of the
WORKING GROUP ON USE OF POOR QUALITY WATER FOR IRRIGATION (WG-PQW)
 Tehran, Iran
 18 October 2011: 09.00-12.30 hours
Strategy Theme: On-Farm

Year of Establishment: 1995

Completion of the Mandate: 2013

Mandate: To promote a safe and good management of poor quality water for irrigation, to minimize the negative impact on human health and the environment, to promote the multiple use of poor quality water, and to give consideration to the institutional and legislation aspects with regard to the use of poor quality waters.

Members Present: (1) VP Dr. Ragab Ragab, Chairman (UK, 1997); (2) VPH Dr. Gao Zhanyi (China, 1998); (3) VP Dr. Samia El- Guindy (Egypt, 1999); (4) Mr. Bernard Vicent (France, 2003); (5) Secretary General, ICID represented by Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar.

Observers: (1) Dr. Anna Tedeschi (Italy); (2) Dr. Magdi Abdel Hamid (Egypt); (3) Mary Jean Gabriel (South Africa); (4) Mukhlis Zainol Abidin (Malaysia); (5) Salah Zarad; (6) Michael van der Laan (South Africa); (7) Ahmed M. Aziz (Iraq); (8) Dr. Suhas P. Wani (India); (9) Awadis Arslan (Syria); (10) A. Khishigsuren; (11) Cheraghi Sam; (12) Jhaleh Vaziri; (13) Mr. Andre Roux (South Africa); (14) Sylvain Perret (France); (15) Yongduo Yu; (16) Balgabaw Hur Lan (Kazakhstan); (17) Karimov Akmal; (18) Dr. Takanori Nagano (Japan); (19) N. Asokaraja; (20) Sadjjad S. Hosseini; (21) Sadegh Jafari; (22) R. Davtalab (Iran); (23) Negar Sharifi Mood; (24) Sanaz Barnous.

Member Honoraire Present: (1) Mr. Peter S. Lee, President Hon., ICID (UK); (2) Eng. Hussein El-Atfy, Vice President Hon., ICID (Egypt).

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

Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 15th meeting of the Working Group

The minutes of the Working Group meeting held at Yogyakarta were approved.

Item 2 : Review of the membership of the Working Group

2.1 New nominations

Dr. Takaroni Nagano from Japan, Dr. Anna Tedeschi from Italy, Dr. Magdy Abdel Hamid, Egypt, attended the meeting and introduced themselves. The group appreciated their work and approved their nomination for the membership.

Dr. D. K. Sharma, nominee of INCID (India) didn't attend the meeting. The Chairman has asked INCID to ensure the attendance of Dr. Sharma at the next meeting of the WG so as to approve his membership.

2.2 New Chairman

The Management Board (MB) at its Tehran meeting nominated Chairman Dr. Ragab as the next Chairman of the Permanent Committee on Strategy and Organization (PCSO). Since the PCSO requires much more time and commitment, Dr. Ragab desired to step down as the Chairman of WG-PQW, but would like to continue as a member of the group. Dr. Ragab suggested Dr. Samia El-Gundy to take over as the next Chairperson of the WG. This was unanimously agreed by the group.

The WG thanked Dr. Ragab Ragab for his excellent leadership during the last 14 years. He has coordinated/organized many high level workshops and represented ICID at many international fora.

2.3 New Secretary

Dr. France Huibers, (the Netherlands) has retired from the position of Secretary of the WG. The group acknowledged and thanked him for his excellent contribution. Dr. Ragab requested Dr. Tedeschi (Italy) to take over the responsibility of the WG Secretary. Dr. Tedeschi agreed to serve the position. The group thanked Dr. Tedeschi for her cooperation.

2.4 Past nominations

Due to non-attendance of the past nominee, the group deferred their acceptance once again:

- Dr. Tapas Kumar Biswas (Australia)
- Dr. Jinzhong Yang to replace VPH Dr. Gao Zhanyi (China)
- Mr. Bekbayev Ussen (Kazakhstan)
- Mr. M. Sidhu to replace Mr. Maghmoom Muhammad Iqbal/ Dr. Ramzan Choudhry (Pakistan)

A. CONTINUING ITEMS

Item 3 : Cooperation with other Workbodies and International Organizations

3.1 Cooperation with ICID workbodies

Chairman Dr. Ragab as a member of WG-DROUGHT had contributed on the topic of non-conventional water resources to the document being prepared by the WG-DROUGHT as a joint activity between both Working Groups. The book chapter covers the use of poor quality water and its impact on environment

Dr. Ragab informed that he jointly with Dr. Sylvain Roger Perret, the Chairman of WG-ENV would coordinate the proposed workshop to be held during 63rd IEC meeting in Australia in 2012, in order to avoid any overlap of activities of the two WGs.

3.2 Cooperation with International Organizations

There is a good cooperation between the WG and the International Center for Bio-saline Agriculture (ICBA) in Dubai. The center is dealing with similar activities as the WG. The ICBA has an Observer status on the WG. The group receives ICBA Newsletters and other published research studies regularly.

Item 4 : Work Plan of the Group

4.1 New presentations

The WG proposed to make the following two presentations during the next meeting of the group in Australia:

- A case study from China "Problems of the use of saline water in an area in the NW of China" - by Dr. Tedeschi
- Impact of tsunami on the environment - by Dr. Takanori

4.2 Introduction of new topics

It was agreed to introduce the following new topics to WG activities:

- Pesticides use and its impact on the environment;
 - Use of sewage water for irrigation (policies, institutional development, guidelines, case studies); and
 - Impact of sea water rise and salt water intrusion on soil and vegetation (possibly in cooperation with WG on Environment).
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Item 5 : Presentations by members

The following two presentations as proposed at the Yogyakarta meeting in 2010 were made at the meeting:

- Use of brackish water for agriculture -- by VPH Dr. Gao Zhanyi (China)
- Management of pesticides contamination in drainage water by use of constructed wetlands -- by Mr. Bernard Vincent (France).

Both presentations were very interesting and generated good discussion. The presentations will be uploaded on the group's website.

Since Dr. Leon van Rensburg (South Africa) did not attend the meeting, his presentation on 'use of saline water for irrigation' was deferred to the next meeting of the WG in 2012.

Item 6 : Website of the working group

Chairman Dr. Ragab requested all members to visit the website and provide any additional studies or researches for their posting. Members can provide the documents/ news item in soft copies or their link to the Chairman or the Central Office, New Delhi.

Item 7 : Workshop of the working group

7.1 Water quality and irrigation

At Yogyakarta, it was agreed that in order to avoid overlap (with the Congress question 56.3) by holding a special session on the topic, the relevant papers be submitted to the 21st ICID Congress under question 56.3 "Productivity of low quality waters for irrigation uses". Accordingly, 13 papers were received under this question.

7.2 The proposed workshop to be held during the 63rd IEC, Australia June. 2012

Chairman Dr. Ragab emphasized the importance of organizing a workshop on the topic of water quality for irrigation at Adelaide; especially in view of Australia's rich experience in salinity management.

After discussion and consultations with the members, the following was suggested:

- Workshop theme: Water quality management
- Sub themes- key areas: impact, policies, measures, institutional aspects, case studies.\
- Last date for receiving abstract: 15 February 2012

Dr. Michael van der Laan, Secretary of WG-ENV suggested adding the topic: water quality changes between upstream and downstream as one of the sub themes. Dr. Ragab and Dr. Samia would further revise/ elaborate the proposed theme/ topics and forward it to Dr. Perret, Chairman, WG-ENV for consideration and comments.

Dr. Ragab mentioned that Organizing and Scientific Committees will be established soon.

7.3 Other workshop related to the group activities

Dr. Mohamed. Hassan Amer, Chairman of the ENCID (Egypt) who attended the WG meeting as an Observer, made a presentation about technical topics and logistic aspects of the 11th International Drainage Workshop to be held in Cairo in September 2012. The workshop includes - drainage water quality and its management as one of the topics. Mr. Bernard Vincent invited all participants at the meeting to join the workshop in Cairo.

Item 8 : Nomination of the Group for the Best Performing Workbody Award

The group agreed to submit its candidature for the Best Performing Workbody Award at the time of the next ICID Congress (2014). The members believed that group has made good achievements and can apply for the Award.

B. NEW ITEM

Item 9 : Impact of agrochemicals on irrigation water quality

Dr. Samia El-Guindy made a presentation on the contamination of surface and groundwater by pesticides. She explained the common problems associated with the use and miss-use of pesticides, their distribution in the environment and possible impact on water resources quality.

The group agreed to consider this issue as one of the group activities, and proposed to collect information from different countries having experience in this area to come out with a background paper.

Item 10 : Any other business

Dr. Ragab made a presentation on SALTMED model during the meeting and handed over a CD containing the model to the Central Office for posting on the WG webpage.
