

**MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE
WORKING GROUP ON YOUNG IRRIGATION PROFESSIONALS FORUM (WG-YPF)
Beijing, China
11 September 2005 : 09.00 – 12.30 hours**

Members Present: (1) Dr. Ali Reza Salamat, Chairman (Iran); (2) Ms. Nepveu de Villemarceau au Audrey, Secretary (France) represented by Ms. Sara Fernandez; (3) Mr. Megat Johari Megat Mohd. Zoor (Malaysia) represented by Mr. Kalaiselvam; (4) Mr. Jong Min Park (Korea) represented by Mr. Haeng Woo, Lee; (5) Ms. Jianxin Mu (China); (6) Mr. Bennie Grové (South Africa) represented by Mr. Manju Sunil Varghese; (7) Mr. Koji Inosaka (Japan) represented Mr. Takao Nakagiri.

Observers: (1) Stephan Piotronshi (Germany); (2) Kulesza Vincent (France); (3) Mehrzad Ehsani (Iran); (4) Sizwe Mkhize (South Africa); (5) Sonia Gadoury (Canada); (6) Homan Khaledi (Iran); (7) Huan Wang (China); (8) Katsuyuki Shimizu (Japan); (9) Sangare Adama (Mali); (10) Hamid Reza Rahimi (Iran); (11) Sonia Tato (Spain).

Member Honoraire : John Hennessy (UK), President Hon., ICID.

Item 1 : Confirmation of minutes of the 10th meeting of the WG-YPF

Draft minutes of the 10th meeting held in Moscow, Russia were circulated. As no comments were received, the minutes were confirmed.

Item 2 : Review the membership of the Working Group

Since the nomination of Mrs. Sc. Bojana Horvat from the Croatian National Committee as a member of the WG-YPF was deferred many times. As neither Mrs. Bojana nor her representative was present, the Working Group decided to leave her name out until ICID receives a reasonable response from her or the Croatian National Committee.

Mr. Fulazzaky, Vice-Chairman of the Working Group is now over 40 years old. The Chairman suggested that a New Vice Chairman for the Working Group may be selected.

Dr. Salamat proposed Mr. Sanjay Belsare as the New Vice Chairman and the members supported the idea. So Mr. Sanjay Belsare was elected as the Vice Chairman of the Working Group. Mr. Sanjay Belsare will assist the Chairman in the activities concerning WG-YPF.

A. CONTINUING ITEMS

Item 3 : Review of progress made by the National Committees in establishing Young Professionals Forum (YPF)

23 countries have established their Young Professionals Forum. Mr. Salamat as the Chairman of the Working Group has contacted National Committees of Canada, Pakistan and Ghana to establish their YPFs (as they have already expressed their interest) but so far no feedback has been received.

Dr. Salamat will once again follow it up with the representatives of these countries during the meeting in Beijing.

Dr. Salamat will also send an email to all National Committees, which have not established their YPFs, inviting them to send their interest to establish the YPF to ICID headquarters.

The Russian National Committee had also expressed its interest to establish YPF but Mr. Shamsutdinov was not present to report on the progress made in this respect. The Chair will also contact the Russian National Committee in this respect.

Item 4 : Review of the progress of preparation of a directory of Young Professionals

The Indian National Committee is updating its YPF directory. The directory was supposed to be presented during the Beijing meeting of YPF. Since neither Mr. Sanjay Belsare nor his representative was present in the meeting, the Chairman took the responsibility to follow up the action.

All YPF members have been invited to update their directories and have them sent to the Chairman (either electronically or hardcopies) so that the entire directory can be compiled. A copy of the updated directory will then be sent to ICID headquarters.

Item 5 : Establishment of a Network of Young Professionals

Mr. Salamat demonstrated the updated YPF homepage and briefed the members of the Working Group on different parts of the homepage. He also pointed out that the contacts of the members had been updated but there were a few members who had not yet sent their new contacts and their photos to be included in the membership. All members were requested to send the above-mentioned information with a scanned photo via e-mail.

The website now includes Newsletters 2004 and 2005, the proceedings of the international workshop (which will be held by YPF on Monday, 12 September), agenda of the present meeting and the minutes of the last meeting held, etc.

The members suggested the following points for promoting of the website.

- (a) To include procedure for becoming a member of the Working Group
- (b) To include all minutes of the meetings held so far.
- (c) To have the capacity of sharing information among the members
- (d) To include a section for news provided by the YPFs of other countries.

The Chairman will consider all the above mentioned suggestions.

Item 6 : Dissemination of ICID Publications to various National and International Institutes

All young professionals have well responded to this item. This item will be excluded from the next year's agenda.

Items 7 : How to activate YPF

7.1 All YPF members were encouraged to be a member of at least one Working Group of ICID. Some have already sent their willingness but others have not responded yet. Others have been invited to inform the Chairman about the Working Group they are interested to become members. Comments received from President Hon. John Hennesy are as follows:

- To propose considering a YPF member in each ICID Working Group in addition to the member from the same country. This item should be presented in the PCTA for approval. Since there is a limitation of having one member from each country this item needs suitable amendment, if necessary.
- To encourage YPFs to be involved in their National Committees. President Hon. John Hennesy pointed out UK as a successful case.

7.2 Other ways of increasing the number of YPF members in ICID annual meetings were discussed. The Chairman pointed out that regular discounts on the registration fees for the Young Professionals attending ICID

meetings during the past four years Montreal (Canada), Montpellier (France), Moscow (Russia) and Beijing (China) were available.

The representative from Malaysia stated that the Malaysian National Committee had also considered 50 percent discount on the registration fee for the young professionals.

Item 8 : Time targeted plan of the Group activities

The time targeted plan is continuously being followed up. The members have been requested to provide the Chair with new proposals to be considered in the mandate of the Working Group. As stated by Mr. Salamat the International Workshop on "Use of Water and Land for Food and Environmental Sustainability – Role of Young Professionals" has been one of the new activities proposed by the members of the Working Group two years ago. The YPF has now organized the workshop to be held on Monday , 12 September 2005.

Item 9 : Translation of outcomes of various current activities

The Chairman pointed out that the YPF of the Iranian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (IRNCID) has translated the two following new publications published by FAO and ICID respectively:

- (a) Unlocking the Water Potential
- (b) Application of the Geo-synthetic in Irrigation and Drainage

Ms. Jianxin Mu (China) mentioned that the YPF of the Chinese National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (CNCID) has also initiated translation of ICID publications. She promised to send news relevant to this activity for publication in the YPF Newsletter, 2006.

Other members of the Working Group were also requested to send similar information to the Chairman so that he could include it in both the YPF Website and Newsletter.

All members were invited to send a copy of the publications translated to ICID Headquarters to be kept in the archive.

Item 10 : Greater efforts by YPF members to evolve a permanent mechanism in their countries for encouraging the potential authors to prepare and submit papers for ICID Journal

The Chairman invited all YPFs to contribute their scientific papers for publication in the ICID Journal. Authors have to follow specific guidelines for preparing the papers .The guidelines have been fully explained in the ICID Website.

So far, we have had several papers included in ICID Journal but this has to be increased.

Item 11 : YPF Irrigation Group

The Chairman explained about YPF Website which can now be accessed on the following address:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ICID_irrigation_YPF/database

All YPF members were invited to register in this Group for receiving shared information on different Conferences, Seminars, Workshops, etc. held by relevant organizations active in the field of Irrigation and Drainage.

Item 12 : YPF Workshop

The International Workshop on "Use of Land and Water for Food and Environmental Sustainability-Role of Young Professionals" will be held in Beijing, China, on 12 September 2005. The Chairman briefed the participants on the hard work done by the YPF Working Group for organizing this event. Mr. Salamat also deeply thanked Mr. Gao Zhanyi, Secretary General, CNCID and Mr. Sanjay Belsare, a member of the Working Group who have seriously followed the procedure step by step in assisting the Chair to organize this event.

As stated by Mr. Salamat, thirteen scientific papers have been accepted for oral presentations in this workshop. A citation along with a small gift will be presented to the best author to acknowledge his/her work. This gift has been provided by the Chinese National Committee.

Item 13 : YPF Newsletter

Mr. Salamat, Chairman of WG-YPF distributed Newsletter, 2005 to the members of the Working Group requesting them to send news related to the YPF of their country or new events carried out by their National Committees which are related to the YPF. The Chair stated that goal of WG-YPF is to increase the issues of the Newsletter from once to twice in a year, but this will need more information to be provided by the members of the Working Group.

Item 14 : Any other business

The following items were proposed, discussed and decided by the members of the Working Group:

- The 4th Asian Regional Conference and 10th International Seminar on Participatory Irrigation Management will be held in Tehran, Iran, from 25 May 2007. The first announcement and call for papers were presented during the meeting and Young Professionals were encouraged to prepare scientific papers to be presented during this event. The brochure will be disseminated during the exhibition. Mr. Salamat mentioned that special facilities had been considered for the YPF's to participate in this International event.
- Ms. Sara Fernandez representing Ms. Nepveu de Villemarceau au Audrey, Secretary, WG-YPF briefed the participants on IPTRID as an International Organization. She stated that IPTRID is an international multi-donor programme co-managed by partners organizations, created in 1990 at the request of ICID. Its Secretariat is hosted by FAO since 1998, in its Land and Water Development Division, as a special programme. IPTRID aims to support capacity development for sustainable water management and increased water productivity in agriculture in developing countries and countries in transition. A central focus is on technology transfer and the uptake of research results. IPTRID acts as a facilitator, mobilizing the expertise of a worldwide network of leading institutions in the field of irrigation, drainage and water resources management. Part of the IPTRID activities deals with awareness and communication on issues linked to these fields. Different types of publications are produced for this, one of them being the Grid magazine and the issue papers. Copies of the last Grid issue (number 23) and the last issue paper (number 5) were distributed to the participants of the Working Group. The participants were invited to propose articles that could fit with the type of information provided by Grid magazine informing on the activities of IPTRID and its partners.
- President Hon. John Hennesy mentioned that ICID WatSave Award is presented every year for the best work carried out in the field of Irrigation and Drainage and the Young professionals will have the chance to present their innovative works for the WatSave awards. Young professionals are encouraged to present their works by meeting the criteria defined by ICID in the coming years.