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International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage

PRESS RELEASE

28th June 2012, Adelaide, Australia: Meeting just after four days of observing its 63rd foundation day on 24 June 2012 in the beautiful Adelaide Convention Centre, the 28 members of the International Executive Council decided to open the doors of ICID to the private companies, institutions and individuals. It may be recalled that presently the nucleus of ICID consists of the National Committee. It is hoped that the direct members will perform the function of ions that will act as catalyst to make ICID more active propelling ICID towards its objectives of enhancing supply of food and fibre for all people by improving land and water management.

To consolidate this step further the Council decided to organize World Irrigation Forums in a triennial cycle starting the year 2013. The Forum will bring all the stakeholders in the irrigation and drainage sectors that will aim at making irrigation, part of the 'green economic' development process and help the world move closer to its MDGs and efforts to eradicate hunger thereby ensuring peace in the world. It may be recalled that ICID was appointed by the then Secretary General of UN as the Peace Messenger way back in 1985. ICID invites all its traditional partners who have worked over the years with ICID and invites new partners to pursue their goals of food and water security together and in collaboration with ICID by joining the World Irrigation Forum.

President of ICID, Dr Gao Zhanyi from China, reiterated "the world needs strong ICID, which is based on the strength of the National Committees with the involvement of all irrigation and drainage professionals, especially young professionals". Secretary General of ICID, Mr Avinash C Tyagi said that the International Executive Council of ICID at its 63rd meeting has taken certain path-breaking decisions to engage various stakeholders in water and land management working for food and water security. These efforts will go a long way in supporting green economy and the decisions taken by the world leaders just last week in Rio+20 to achieve the "Future we want", he added.

The Council also took a number of far reaching decisions to streamline its working to make the efforts of ICID more inclusive, multi-disciplinary, and make the green revolution a reality for all those countries that missed the bus in the first round. The Council decided to review the construct of its technical working groups in order to draw make them more effective and productive.

The Council elected Mr. Laurie Tollefson from Canada, Dr. Hüseyin GÜNDÖĞDU from Turkey and Mr. François Brelle from France as the three new Vice-presidents of the Commission. They join the six other vice-presidents elected during the last two years representing UK, Pakistan, Thailand, Korea, Mali and South Africa. The Council welcomed the National Committees of Chad and Morocco as active members of ICID.

International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage is a Technical and Voluntary not-for-profit, non-Government International Organization with a network of 110 countries.
