



From Secretary General's Desk...

Dear Colleagues,

This year the World Water Day will be organized under the theme "Water and Sustainable Development" on 22 March. This is the occasion for water professionals to raise the awareness of the policy makers and decision makers who will be meeting in September to set the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of the future development agenda that the humanity will be setting for itself. Agriculture sector, with its potential to layout the framework of happiness and well-being, through provision of livelihood, food, nutrition is largely dependent on the natural resources: land, water and climate and there is a need to make use of these resources sustainable.

Water is the key element running through the various aspects of development and ensuring water security plays a crucial role in sustainable development. Being the largest consumer of water, agriculture and how water is managed therein has the potential to ensure overall water security. ICID community has the responsibility to present agriculture water management perspective to the debate on sustainable development. I appeal to my National Committee colleagues to take a leading role in this debate.



The shift from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires a paradigm shift to green actions, a new perspective from different development players. ICID realizes this need and has taken up the task to review its strategic direction. As informed in the last edition of the News UPDATE the exercise to develop ICID Vision 2030 has already started and the Consultative Group set up by the President has started seeking inputs from NCs, NC members and WG experts through a questionnaire circulated by e-mail.

ICID in its various events and conferences addresses various issues that facilitates the sustainable development. The 26th European Regional Conference at Montpellier during 11-16 October 2015, France, will focus on the main theme "Innovate to improve irrigation performance". The conference will also be accompanied by a number of International Workshops on the themes: Ecosystem Services, Flood Risk Management, Precision Irrigation and History. This issue of the News UPDATE once again reminds our patrons of Call for Papers to these important events.

At the same time preparations for the Second World Irrigation Forum (WIF2) scheduled to be held from 6-13, November 2016 in Chiang Mai, Thailand, have been initiated by our hosts Thai National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (THAICID). We held discussions with a delegation from THAICID that visited the Central Office, to review the preparations. Like the WIF1, we will be setting up an

International Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) with our international partners and invite all the stakeholders to join us at the WIF2 to address the issues of "Role of Irrigation in Sustainable Food Production". Through this message I extend open invitation to all the stakeholders engaged in agriculture water management to use this platform to address all possible aspects of irrigation and drainage.

As part of our efforts to prepare our members to face these new challenges, ICID is sponsoring its members to participate in various trainings programs and online courses such as 'Green Economy' and 'Rethinking Infrastructure Design for Multiuse Water Services' in integrated management of water, soil and waste being organized by UNU-FLORES. Members will be kept informed of such opportunities both presented by ICID as well as its partners from time to time and request patrons to make full use of these opportunities.

I close this communication once again with the request to provide us your valuable feedback on the services being provided by the Central Office. We are always eager to improve and deliver to your satisfaction.

Best regards,

Avinash C. Tyagi
Secretary General



International World Water Day is celebrated annually on 22 March as means of focusing attention on the important of freshwater and advocating the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

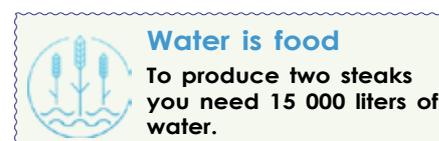
This year, the theme of the World Water Day 2015 is "Water and Sustainable Development" and is coordinated by the UNDP with the support of WWP, UNESCO, HABITAT, UNEP, The World Bank and UN-DESA on behalf of UN-Water. It provides an important opportunity to consolidate and build upon the previous Water Days to highlight water's role in the

Water and Sustainable Development

sustainable development agenda. For more information, please visit at www.unwater.org/worldwaterday/

In order to understand the role of Water in Sustainable Development it is important to keep in mind the areas of development that are impacted by management of water. For the benefit of the readers, excerpts from the Outcome Document "Future we want" are presented here to incorporate them in the World Water Day 2015 deliberations.

Excerpts of the outcome of the Rio+20 are provided inside, that will help National Committees draw the messages that are relevant for their stakeholders. In addition, outcomes of the 22nd ICID Congress, 2014 <http://www.icid.org/decl_gwangju.html>



First World Irrigation Forum, 2013 (WIF1) <http://www.icid.org/decl_mardin.html>, and 12th International Drainage Workshop, 2014 <http://www.icid.org/conf_idw.html> would also be very useful.

All National Committees are requested to promote this activity at their end by organizing seminars/workshops/consultations/brainstorming sessions etc. and send a brief write-up with the high resolution photographs for its due coverage in subsequent News Update and Annual Report.

Future we want: Outcomes of RIO+20

Some Excerpts

One of the main outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, was the agreement by Member States to launch a process to develop a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs). The Open Working Group was established on 22nd of January 2013 by decision 67/555 (see A/67/L.48/rev.1) of the General Assembly < <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/futurewewant.html>>. Following are the excerpts:

- “108. We reaffirm our commitments regarding the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger. We acknowledge that food security and nutrition has become a pressing global challenge and.....
109. We recognize that a significant portion of the world's poor live in rural areas, and that rural communities play an important role in the economic development of many countries....
110. Noting the diversity of agricultural conditions and systems, we resolve to increase sustainable agricultural production and productivity globally.....
119. We recognize that water is at the core of sustainable development as it is closely linked to a number of key global challenges. We therefore reiterate the importance of integrating water in sustainable development.....
122. We recognize the key role that ecosystems play in maintaining water quantity and.....
123. We underline the need to adopt measures to address floods, droughts and water scarcity, addressing the balance between water supply and demand, including, where appropriate, non-conventional water resources.....
124. We stress the need to adopt measures to significantly reduce water pollution and increase water quality, significantly improve wastewater treatment and water efficiency and reduce water losses. In order to achieve this, we stress the need for international assistance and cooperation.
190. We reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and we express profound alarm that emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally.... including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development.
209. We reiterate the need for cooperation through the sharing of climate and weather information and forecasting and early warning systems related to desertification, land degradation and drought.....
269. We emphasize the importance of technology transfer to developing countries and recall the provisions on technology transfer, finance, access to information and intellectual property rights as agreed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.....
270. We stress the importance of access by all countries to environmentally sound technologies, new knowledge, know-how and expertise. We further stress the importance of cooperative action on technology innovation, research and development.....
271. We underline the need for enabling environments for the development, adaptation, dissemination and transfer of environmentally sound technologies.....
272. We recognize the importance of strengthened national, scientific and technological capacities for sustainable development.....
275. We recognize the importance of strengthening international, regional and national capacities in research and technology assessment, especially in view of the rapid development and possible deployment of new technologies that may also have unintended negative impacts.....
276. We recognize the need to facilitate informed policy decision-making on sustainable development issues and, in this regard, to strengthen the science-policy interface.
277. We emphasize the need for enhanced capacity-building for sustainable development and, in this regard, we call for the strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.....”

2nd World Irrigation Forum

After the successful organization of the First World Irrigation Forum <http://www.icid.org/conf_wif.html> in Mardin, Turkey in September/October 2013, preparations for the Second World Irrigation Forum, scheduled to take place in the picturesque surroundings of the historical city of Chiang Mai, Thailand from 6-8 November 2016, have been initiated by the host Thai National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (THAICID).

A delegation of THAICID led by VPH Er. Chaiwat Prechawit, Senior Advisor and Dr. Somkiat Prajamwong, Secretary General of THAICID and others visited Central Office on 11-12 February 2015 to discuss the preparations of 2nd World Irrigation Forum (WIF2) scheduled to be held during 6-8 November 2016 at Chiang Mai, Thailand. WIF2 will be followed by 66th IEC meeting from 9-12 November 2016. The main issues discussed the First Preparatory meeting of WIF2 meeting were: Structure of various committees such as International Steering Committee, International Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC), National Organizing Committee; the

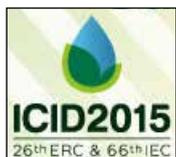


logistic arrangements such as the venue, accommodation and transportation; the financial arrangements within the overall framework approved by 65th IEC.

THAICID informed that Chiang Mai is well-connected by air from Bangkok and being a popular tourist destination delegates will not face any problems. The visa procedure to Thailand is also easy. They discussed issues related to allocation of budget for WIF2, arrangements of various meetings Side events, sponsoring ICID Awards and exhibition

as well as IEC and Workbody meetings. The ‘Summary Report’ of WIF1 was reviewed to emphasize on lessons learned from WIF1.

SG encouraged participation of academicians, farmers, students and people from other sectors in WIF2. He suggested to sponsor potential delegates, especially from Africa, together with young professionals. The meeting ended with determination to make the WIF2 more successful with participation from all sectors.



26th European Regional Conference 2015: Innovate to improve irrigation performance

Papers are invited for the 26th European Regional Conference with the main theme “Innovate to improve irrigation performance” and sub-themes (a) Innovations for smallholders in irrigation; (b) Wastewater use in agriculture and (c) Governance of surface water and groundwater. Scheduled for submission of Extended Abstracts:

- Submission of Extended Abstracts (max.300 words) – **28 February 2015**
- Notification of acceptance– **1st April 2015**

- Submission of full papers – **30th June 2015**

Online paper submission:

Authors are requested to create their account on <http://icid2015.sciencesconf.org/> and submit ‘Extended Abstracts’ / papers online at <http://icid2015.sciencesconf.org/submission/submit>

The 26th European Regional Conference (ERC) will be held along with ICID’s 66th International Executive Council (IEC) meeting and hosted by French National

Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (AFEID) in cooperation with the International Commission Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) during 11-16 October 2015 at Montpellier, France. The First Announcement of Call for Papers of 26th ERC (http://www.icid.org/call_for_paper_icid_2015.pdf) have been issued and widely circulated amongst ICID National Committees, Office-Bearers, Chairs & Members of Workbodies and International Organizations for further dissemination. Please visit to Conference website <http://icid2015.sciencesconf.org/?lang=en> for more information.

Call for Papers for International Workshops

International Workshops on ‘**Non-Structural Adaptations to Flood Management**’ and ‘**Ecosystem Services and Multi-Functionality of Irrigation and Drainage Systems**’ are being organized by ICID’s Working Groups during ICID’s upcoming 66th International Executive Council (IEC) Meeting and 26th European Regional Conference (ERC) from 11-16 October 2015 at Montpellier, France.

Authors are invited to contribute abstracts/papers in max. 300 words (in word file) to be submitted for acceptance by **15 April 2015** and full papers submitted: **31 July 2015**.

Formal requirements for the full papers are the same as for ICID Journal on “Irrigation and drainage” ([http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1531-0361](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1531-0361)). The best papers may be submitted to the journal for publication. Full papers will be published in the conference proceedings, and best papers will be forwarded to ICID’s Irrigation and Drainage journal for possible publication in a special issue.

International Workshop on ‘Ecosystem Services and Multi-Functionality of Irrigation and Drainage Systems’

The theme of the workshop is “Ecosystem Services and Multi-Functionality of Irrigation and Drainage Systems: Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives, Case Studies and Practical Prospects”. The workshop is expected to bring together experts from all over the world to discuss the concepts of ecosystem services and multifunctionality in irrigation and drainage systems, to discuss their theoretical foundations, to illustrate cases and applications from empirical works, and to contemplate practical prospects. Prof. Damien Jourdain (Asian Institute of Technology and CIRAD) will be presenting a keynote.

Authors are invited to contribute abstracts/papers on well-documented case studies covering the following topics:

- Irrigation return flow and river’s environmental flow
- One water, many uses
- Biodiversity and water habitats
- Flood reduction
- Hydro-morphological impacts of irrigation systems
- Social and economic impacts of irrigation systems
- Multiple and integrated production from irrigation systems
- Contribution of irrigation and drainage systems to landscaping and waterscaping; geomorphology
- Cultural, social and shared values of agricultural water systems
- Economic assessment of ecosystem services; methods, case studies, use and prospects
- Compensations and payment for ecosystem services: cases in agricultural water systems and catchment management

Selected contributors will be given a 10mn time slot for oral presentation, followed by 5mn discussion.

Date: 14 October 2015

Co-ordinators: Dr. Sylvain R. Perret, Workshop Chairman & Chairman, WG-ENV (E-mail: sylvain.perret@cirad.fr); and Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar, Workshop Coordinator and Director, ICID, (E-mail: icid@icid.org)

International Workshop on ‘Non-Structural Adaptations to Flood Management’

The European Union implemented, in 2007 a directive on the assessment and management of flood risks. This directive has to be incorporated in the national laws and under this directive the member states have to prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps and flood risk management plans until 2015. So, all member states of the European Union have been very active in preparing flood maps/plans. Different experiences in other regions of the world exist with different kind of flood mapping as an important tool to manage flood risks. The aim of the workshop is to share these experiences and to study the different solutions adopted worldwide.

Authors are invited to contribute abstracts/papers on the following sub-topics:

- Flood risk management as an adaptation tool
- Flood mapping: program and techniques
- Public awareness and participation in flood management activities
- Flood emergency and response activities
- Flood Insurance: Issues and challenges

Specific conditions of the case study such as topography, climate, population and legal framework may be briefly presented along with recommendations for other situations.

Date: 12 October 2015

Coordinators: Dr. Kamran Emami (Iran), Chairman of WG-CAFM (E-mail: kkemami@gmail.com); and Dr. Vijay K Labhsetwar, Workshop Coordinator and Director, ICID (E-mail: icid@icid.org)

WatSave Awards 2015 – Call for Nominations

Nominations are invited for the 'WatSave Awards 2015' from individuals/team through National Committees/Committee latest by **15 June 2015**. The WatSave Awards are given in four categories: (i) Technology; (ii) Innovative Water Management; (iii) Young Professional; and (iv) Farmers.

The idea of routing the nominations through the NC is to receive only one nomination per category per country after an initial scanning of the nominations for a sequential ordering based on merit and recommending only one nomination. ICID member country can also support one nomination from a non-member country, but every country should present only one candidate per category.

The award(s) is/are presented to an individual or a team for the outstanding contribution to water conservation / water saving for increasing the beneficial and/ or efficient use of water to develop and improve the sustainable use of the critical resource.

National Committees can nominate newly developed works of previous WatSave Award winners provided it is for a different innovation, as the purpose of the award is to identify successful water saving technologies and management techniques in practice among the ICID family and disseminate them across the world. The nomination could come on behalf of an individual or a team of named individuals, but not from an organization itself. An entry or innovation once rejected for the WatSave Award by ICID should not be re-nominated, even under a different category.

In order for the Jury to adjudicate the awards, which are highly dependent on the actual application of the technology in the field, the nominating National Committee/Committee has to play a crucial role since members of the Jury will often not have detailed first-hand knowledge of the situation in a particular country, and thus would not be in a position to judge the realism of individual submissions.

National Committees should undertake initial screening of the nominations, through a broad based National Screening Committee for WatSave Awards against the criterion laid down in this Scheme, and in the process recommending them, authenticating the research, the application cited in the nominated work and ensure that the nomination is for the original work carried out by the authors.

The awards will be presented at the 66th International Executive Council (IEC) meeting scheduled to be held during October 2015 at Montpellier, France. The last date for receipt of the entries from the National Committees along with a completed 'Nomination Form' etc. to the ICID Central Office, New Delhi is **15 June 2015**.

The nominations sent directly to the ICID Central Office cannot be entertained. The selection of the winners from amongst the nominations received will be made by an International Panel of Judges. National Committees are urged to give wide publicity to these awards in their country among persons actively engaged in water savings/conservation practices, particularly farming communities.

For more information, please visit <http://www.icid.org/awards_ws.html>.

Visits to Central Office

President Hon. Dr. Chandra A. Madramootoo (Canada)



President Hon. Dr. Chandra A. Madramootoo, President of the Canadian National Committee of ICID (CANCID) visited the ICID Central Office on 31st January 2015. Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar, Director welcomed Dr. Dr. Madramootoo and shown him the renovated ICID premises. Mr. Madhu Mohanan, Program Officer of ICID apprised him about the new initiatives taken by ICID like, Knowledge Management, use of social media, ICID Vision 2030, Virtual meetings of the workbodies, Register of Heritage Irrigation Structure (HIS), initiatives such as e-learning, support to young professionals.

PH Dr. Madramootoo was pleased to see the new developments taken place at Central Office and the new initiatives in pipeline to address future irrigation scenario.

President Hon. Dato' Ir. Hj. Keizrul bin Abdullah (Malaysia)



On invitation, President Hon. Dato' Ir. Hj. Keizrul bin Abdullah, Chairman of NARBO participated in a two-day workshop titled "Integrated Water Resources Management" during 2-3 February 2015 at Shangri-La Hotel, New Delhi, India. The workshop was jointly organized by Government of India (GoI), Central Water Commission (CWC), The World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB). PH Keizrul bin Abdullah made his presentation on "Institutional Experiences in RBOs across Asia" during the workshop.

PH Keizrul made use of the opportunity to visit Central Office and took stock of the new developments. Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar, Director, ICID welcomed him, shown the newly renovated premises. Mr. Madhu Mohanan, Program Officer, ICID explained the new initiatives taken up by ICID.

Virtual Workbody Meetings (WebEx)

ICID Working Groups are provided an opportunity to organize a video-conference in between two physical meetings at the IEC in order to enable the Group to take a review of the progress made on the activities undertaken by them. This online meeting would



enable those members who are unable to attend the working group meetings physically during the IEC meetings, to provide their inputs and help workbodies to achieve their mandate. The workbody Chairs/Vice Chairs/Secretaries of the following workbodies have taken up the initiative and informed Central Office their preferred time slot for the online meeting to be scheduled during January, February and March months of 2015. The following tables shows the status of the meetings-

Name of the Workbody	Chairman	Preferred dates
WG-ENV	Dr. Sylvain Roger Perret (France)	19 March 2015
WG-DROUGHT	VPH Franklin E. Dimick (USA)	Organized on 18 February 2015
ERWG	VPH Dr. Laszlo Hayde, (Hungary)	Organized on 30 January 2015

In case your workbody is not listed above, please seize the opportunity and inform Central Office to book a slot for your workbody's online meeting.

To join the video conference the only requirement is a computer with microphone; Internet connection; and a WebCam for video streaming (optional). Every notebook computer/Tablet contains all these features. We hope you will make use of this new platform established by the Central Office to organize your workbody video conference as decided at the 65th International Executive Council meeting held at Gwangju, September 2014.

THA 2015 International Conference on Climate Change and Water & Environment Management in Monsoon Asia 28-30 January 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

The objective of the conference was to provide a platform to researchers, scientists, practitioners, and policy makers from all parts of the world to share their views and present modern technologies, including their research findings, as well as experiences in disaster management of irrigation and water resources and special attention on ability and skill development relating to climate change, natural disasters, the participative water resources management, and management for sustainable environmental development relevant to irrigation and drainage during the conference.

During the Conference, five Sessions were held and are summarized as below:

Session A: Climate Change and Uncertainty in Hydrology and Meteorology

The climate change issue with uncertainty was highlighted to see the impact to water resources and irrigation systems and to raise understanding and awareness about its impact to variation of hydrology and meteorology. The comparisons of GCM data, the stochastic storm rainfall simulation were presented. The impact of climate change on basin water management, multipurpose dam operation and water resources policy framework were also discussed.

Session B: Participatory Management for Water and Irrigation Project

The participation of farmers in the irrigation management system is vital in the present



day. The relationship of irrigation water and farmer group in the levy system, the vulnerability of irrigation system according to water supply and demand were investigated. The studies on integrated water management and adaptation to climate change were also investigated such as changing of cropping pattern with consideration of ecosystem and economic. Besides the assessment of farmer participation in irrigation management in many countries such as Myanmar and Philippines were also presented.

Session C: Emerging Technologies in Water and Environment Management

New emerging technologies such as satellite data, GA technique, ENSO index, I/O Table were introduced in the water and irrigation management. The change of water use resulting from climate change was also estimated and simulated. Besides, the introduction of automated irrigation system was also presented to find the optimum operation in the system.

Session D: Water Related Disaster Management

Flood and drought are major threat to water resource management. Flood rule curve, flood plain management and flood monitoring using mathematical model and satellite data to reduce flood risk and flood damage were investigated. The drought monitoring using satellite data was also presented. In addition risk reduction of disaster was elaborated using monitoring system, institution and participation by stakeholder.

Session E: Parallel session of planning for Water related Disaster Project under Climate Change

As a parallel session, the ASEAN Academic Networking in Water & Disaster Management and Climate Change was successful. The objectives of establishing an academic network in ASEAN countries to encourage further collaboration in research and exchanging knowledge and technology pertaining to disaster warning, management and recovery. The establishment of the ASEAN Academic Network was formally announced under the adopted Bangkok statement. A website "aseanacademicnetwork.com" is being developed and will be used for sharing information sharing, disseminating knowledge and communicating across the network.

For more <http://www.tha2015.org/Home_list.asp>.

Online Courses in Integrated Management of Water, Soil and Waste

Based on the applications received in the CO in response to announcement for sponsoring of candidates from ICID member countries, ten candidates from Afghanistan, Brazil, Iran, India, Malawi, Thailand, Ukraine, and one from Central Office have been accepted for the Online UNU-FLORES Courses. They are being supported by sponsoring their course fee. The participants opted for the two courses on (1) Green economy and the life-cycle cost approach and (2) Rethinking infrastructure design for multiuse water services. These courses are being organized by the United Nations University Institute for the Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and Resources (UNU-FLORES) from 02 March to 22 May 2015. Hearty congratulations to the successful candidates!

Avail Scholarship for International Hydrology Courses

Fellowships are offered by Government of India for the following courses conducted by The Department of Hydrology (DoH) at The Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, (IITR) for the academic year 2015-16.

1. Post Graduate Diploma in Hydrology (One Year Course)
2. Master of Technology (M.Tech.) in Hydrology (Two Year Course)

Members of the National Committees of ICID are advised to avail this opportunity and encourage their colleagues to apply for these reputed courses. The interested candidates can apply through online <http://doh.org.in/admissions/>. The admission brochure which contains the application form (Annexure-2) and other details of the course can be downloaded from their website http://doh.org.in/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/DOHAddm.Broc_.2015Final.pdf. The last date for receipt of the application form in the prescribed format is 15 June 2015 at IITR. Please note that the applications are to be processed through Indian Embassy in your country.

New WWC Executive Director



Dr. Fraser MacLeod

The World Water Council (WWC) has appointed Dr. Fraser MacLeod as its new Executive Director. Dr. MacLeod took up his responsibilities with effect from 2nd February 2015.

Dr. MacLeod has more than 20 years of experience in sustainability, natural resources science, policy, and management in Europe and Australia. He has also experience as Executive Director with the Murray-Darling Basin Authority where he led the technical development of a major reform of river basin planning. Before joining WWC Dr. MacLeod was the Head Global Projects of Global Water Partnership where he was responsible for leading global initiatives, including the Global Dialogue on Water Security and Sustainable Growth.

New Perspectives on the Water-Energy-Food Nexus

A three-day OECD Global Forum on Environment was held during 27-28 November 2014 at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Paris, France. The main topic of the Forum was "New Perspectives on the Water-Energy-Food Nexus".

The Forum opened with a high-level meeting of the Global Dialogue on Water Security and Sustainable Growth. The Forum covered seven key sessions i.e. Water, Energy, Food: Risks and Trade-offs for sustainable growth, Integrating the nexus into national planning, Regional and local perspectives on the nexus, Understanding the long-term trends and interactions, Getting the incentives right for investment, Mainstreaming the nexus in investment and development and the nexus in the post-2015 development agenda.

T deliberations at the Forum focused on the key areas of (a) the need to understand long-term impacts of the nexus on growth; (b) ways to improve coherence between national, regional and local planning and priorities; (c) the importance of promoting private sector investment in the nexus; and (d) how to mainstream the nexus into the broader development agenda, particularly in the context of post-2015 discussions.

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) and Organization for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD) launched a Global Dialogue on Water Security and Sustainable Growth to demonstrate current situation in the World and alternatives of development based upon available water resources for countries. Special expert group created within this program is preparing a milestone report on 'Water Security and Sustainable Growth' will be presented during the 7th World Water Forum 2015 in South Korea.

For more information visit <http://www.gwp.org/en/CACENA/News/Global-Forum-on-Environment-New-Perspective-on-the-Water-Energy-Food-Nexus/>.

Droughts and Low Flows, including Groundwater

An International Symposium on 'Droughts and Low Flows, including Groundwater' was held on 24th October 2014 at Maastricht, The Netherlands, organized by Netherlands Hydrological Society in cooperation with the German Hydrological Society, Belgium National IHP National Committee, Deltares, German National Committee IHP-HWRP, German Federal Institute of Hydrology and World Meteorological Organization. More than 100 experts from all over the world attended the symposium.

The conference highlighted the wide range in scales of the drought-related problems. The socio-economic impacts of droughts was highlighted, among others, by revisiting historical droughts that have led to mass migration in South America, India and China. Hundreds of thousands of people have perished due to the drought conditions in the late 19th century alone.

The ongoing research projects at global, European and national level presented their outcomes, ranging from the remote-sensing supported Africa Drought Monitor via hydro-meteorological monitoring to economic and ecological damage models for crops and rare plant species. It was observed and concluded that problems for agriculture, water quality, energy and other sectors are expected to become more frequent due to increasing severity of droughts. The same held true for forests as was illustrated by high-quality long-term research in Northern Germany.

It was emphasized as to how droughts annul the expected positive effects of river restoration measures to improve the ecological status of European streams in relation to the Water Framework Directive of the European Commission. Even in the Netherlands a battle for water has started, rather than a battle against water. Environmental flow requirements often are not met, while historical Dutch water management practices have significantly reduced the resilience to droughts.

The final discussion was kicked-off by a major research institute with the observation that droughts and groundwater are dramatically neglected by the national governments. The importance of groundwater was shown once more with cases from impervious basins with thin soils. The subsequently presented underlying cause is the detrimental absence of water expertise, let alone hydrological expertise, at the national level of governmental policy-making. This statement was already supported by a large set of examples during the day both from the Netherlands and from international commitments where countries' governments do not deliver because they have no clue about the substance. Please visit <http://www.hydrology.nl/iheevents/462-droughts-and-low-flows-conference-presentations-available.html> to download the presentations at the Conference.

News from ICID National Committees

ABID (Brazil)

The Brazilian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (ABID) has created

its website and made it operational through the domain name <http://www.abid.org.br/>. The main highlights of the new website are: Information on ABID and ICID; Forthcoming events; Interesting links to visit; Information on Journal (ITEM); and information related to XXV CONIRD event; etc.

ENCID (Egypt)

The 18th International Water Technology Conference will be held from 12-14 March 2015 at Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt and organized by International Water Technology Association (IWTA) in cooperation with Mansoura University, Water Research Center, Egypt, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation. The Conference has covered five topics : (a) Water Resources Planning and Management; (b) Groundwater Flow; (c) Hydraulics and Hydraulic Structures; (d) Water Treatment Technology; and (e) Agricultural Issues. For more information, please visit to Conference website <<http://iwtc.info>>.

IRNCID (Iran)

New contact details of Iranian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (IRNCID) are:

Iranian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (IRNCID), No. 1, Shahrsaz St., Kargozar St., Dastgerdi St. (East Zafar) Postal Code: 1919839713, Tehran, Iran

Tel.: 0098 21 22257348 and Fax: 0098 21 22272285

USCID (USA)

The U.S. National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (USCID) will be organizing its Eighth International Conference on Irrigation and Drainage titled "Sustainable Basin Water Management - Challenges of Supply and Demand Management at the Basin Scale" from 2-5 June 2015 at Reno, Nevada, USA. The detailed information related to the Conference is available at <http://www.uscid.org/15nvconf.html>

New contact details of VPH Franklin E. Dimick (Chairman of ICID's Working Group on Water Management in Water Stressed Regions, WG-DROUGHT) are:

Dimick Water Resources Engineering 760 N 300 W, Monroe, Utah 84754-3562, Telephone: +435- 527-0925 (Office) and Fax # +435-527-4527.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE (ICID)

48 Nyaya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110021, India, Tel: 91-11-2611 5679, 91-11-2611 6837, 91-11-2467 9532 Fax: 91-11-2611 5962; E-mail: icid@icid.org; Website: <http://www.icid.org>; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/icidat>
Editor: Madhu Mohanan, Program Officer; Layout: K.D. Tanwar, DPA