

**ICID STRATEGY THEME 'KNOWLEDGE'**  
**56<sup>th</sup> IEC Meeting, Beijing, China, 2005**  
**Vice President, ICID**

**Vice President Alain Vidal** started his power point presentation by reviewing the activities of various workbodies within the Strategy Theme 'Knowledge', viz. IPTRID Advisory Committee (AC-IPTRID), Working Group on Research and Development (WG-R&D), ICID Journal Editorial Board (EB-JOUR), Committee on Public Relations and Publications (C-PR&P), Working Group on Coordination of Dictionaries (WG-CD) and Working Group on History of Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control (WG-HIST).

Commenting on the work of AC-IPTRID, **Vice President Alain Vidal** said that the Committee had been advising the IPTRID Program ever since it was set up 16 years back. The Program had new Program Manager, Dr. Carlos Garces-Restrepo, who made a presentation on IPTRID's focus in the recently held meetings of CG-IPTRID and MC-IPTRID. Dr. Vidal informed that the mission statement of IPTRID seemed to have changed substantially, which needed to be reviewed to focus on regional mission statement, emphasizing research policy uptakes and exchange of technology developments in capacity development. He stressed on the need for closer cooperation between AC-IPTRID and WG-R&D and pointed out that IPTRID should be a Permanent Observer on Permanent Committee for Technical Activities (PCTA) so that the members will be benefited from information on the Program. Dr. Vidal said that a Special Session was held on 'Driving Research Change in Irrigation and Drainage Practices' with sponsorship from WG-R&D from which several key issues have emerged. One of the points mentioned was the gap in research and technology innovation in large systems and their operation and maintenance. There was a need to know R&D policies and to study mechanisms in developed and developing countries so as to have ideal research innovations suited for each one of them.

**Dr. Vidal** commented on the excellent progress made by the Irrigation and Drainage Journal for which he complimented the Editorial Board of the Journal. The improved position in citation index of the Journal is significant. He observed that a lot of workbodies were asking for special issues of the Journal and expected that the Editorial Board would make suitable recommendations to the workbodies in this regard. He observed that the publications of the ICID were an important way for information dissemination, which needed encouragement. One of the important publications was ICID's Multilingual Technical Dictionary (MTD), for which the 3rd Edition was proposed to be published in 2007. He asked the members to consider the choice of hard copy vis-à-vis CD version of the dictionary.

Continuing, **Dr. Vidal** commended the efforts of the WG-HIST and said that the Group was holding workshops regularly and published history volumes of various countries. He commented that in general, the workbodies could publish more and more information on their respective web pages so as to make the information available to all interested. He exhorted the chairs and members of the workbodies to use website as an effective way of dissemination of knowledge. He said that ICID workbodies generate, synthesize and disseminate knowledge. He suggested that we should ask ourselves about our service to the community and about the target frames. Dr. Vidal quoted President Keizrul to 'Look beyond Canals'. He said that the necessity for our farmers was to receive more income with the use of less water. Dr. Vidal suggested that our knowledge should be pledged in the service of farmers and practitioners. There were instances when innovations did not succeed in respect of managerial techniques. He, therefore, suggested to understand the reasons for failures and address them appropriately. He emphasized the need for sharing the knowledge, particularly on the recent researches being made in the fields of irrigation and drainage. A lot of innovations on knowledge regulation, etc. had taken place which were not widely known to the communities concerned. There was a need therefore to remedy the situation.

**Dr. Vidal** concluded his presentation by saying that we need to look at not only what we are producing in ICID, but also outside.

*(Applause....)*