



13 August 2018 Newsletter

A **Pre-Conference tour of South Saskatchewan River Irrigation District** was held on 12 August 2018 of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage International Conference (ICID) and 69th International Executive Council (IEC) Meeting. Approximately forty conference delegates participated in this tour which included an overview of the various crops such as field peas, canola and lentils grown within this irrigation district in south-central Saskatchewan. Irrigation research, agronomy advancements, tools and technologies as well as, the many partnerships of the Canada-Saskatchewan Irrigation Diversification Centre (CSIDC) in Outlook, Saskatchewan were also highlighted.



CSIDC tour stop in Outlook, Saskatchewan

The Little Seed Potato Company's research farm highlighted the use of subsurface drainage in seed potato production. A stop at one of the rehabilitated irrigation channels within the irrigation district provided an opportunity to discuss improvements such as using membranes to reduce seepage and



Saskatchewan farmer demonstrating large-scale farm equipment being used for harvesting.

improve flow. Tour participants also had the opportunity to see large-scale farm equipment being used in Canada for crop production and a cattle farm that uses irrigation in order to increase herd size and productivity.

Over 510 delegates and approximately 50 accompanying persons representing forty-one countries have traveled to Saskatoon to participate in this year's ICID International Conference and IEC Meeting. Canada and the City of Saskatoon is honoured to host these delegates and we look forward to the many presentations and discussions in support of the conference theme of ***Innovative and Sustainable Water Management: Adapting to a Variable and Changing Climate.***



Delegates from forty-one countries at Opening Remarks this morning.



Dr. Chandra Madramootoo chairing the Opening Remarks this morning.

Opening Ceremonies

Dr. Chandra A. Madramootoo of McGill University and ICID President Honoraire chaired the Opening Ceremonies with the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness bringing remarks on behalf of the Government of Canada, the Honourable Dustin Duncan, Minister of Environment and Minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency representing the Government of Saskatchewan and his Worship Charlie Clarke, Mayor of Saskatoon welcoming conference delegates to Saskatoon.

International Conference Plenary Session

Dr. John Pomeroy, Director of the Global Water Futures Program of the University of Saskatchewan, kicked off the International Conference Plenary Session and provided an overview of some of the key challenges related to climate change including extreme floods and droughts. He suggested that a Canada water security strategy might be beneficial in being more prepared and to achieve greater resiliency in addressing these challenges. Dr. Peter McCornick, Executive Director of the Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska talked about challenges related to increasing food production for a growing world population and reflected on how effective water management is

needed in order to ensure a more productive and resilient agricultural sector. Maurice Molony, Executive Director and CEO of the Global Institute for Food Security discussed crop growth technology and productivity.

Six concurrent sessions were held on socio-economic value of irrigation, water-food-energy nexus, climate change and its impact on agriculture, irrigation and drainage, and water reuse and water quality management. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) also hosted a workshop on the Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Program being administered by AAFC. This workshop featured seven presenters who provided an overview of the various research efforts and studies being carried out under this program.



From left to right: Dr. Pomeroy, Dr. McCornick and Maurice Molony during Panel Discussion

International Executive Council Meeting Plenary Session

Numerous WatSave Awards were presented at the International Executive Council Meeting Plenary Session. The award recipients are as follows:

- **Technology Award** was presented to **Dr. John Hornbuckel**, **Janel Montgomery** and **Jamie Fleeshouwer** of Australia
- **Innovative Water Management Award** was presented to **Richard Phillips** of the Alberta Irrigation Management Model in Canada
- The **Young Professional Award** was awarded to **Fatemeh Mortazavi** and **Amirali Fatahi** of Iran



Front row from left to right: Dr. John Hornbuckel, representative on behalf of Fatemeh Mortazavi, ICID President Felix Reinders, Richard Phillips and CANSID President Roger Hohm

There were two **Best Paper Awards** as follows:

- Diagnosing Drainage Problems in Coastal Areas Using Machine-Learning and Geostatistical Models by **Abdullah Darzi-Naftchali**, **Fatemeh Karandish** and **Ahmad Asgari**
- The Benefit to Using Drainage Water of Fish Farms for Irrigation: Field and Modellig Study Using SALTMED Model by **Ramadan E. Abdelraouf** and **Ragab Ragab**.



ICID President Felix Reinders presenting Best Paper Award to Dr. Ragab Ragab



ICID President Felix Reinders presenting Best Paper Award to representative on behalf of Fatemeh Karandish

Recognition of the **World Heritage Irrigation Structures** were presented by VPH Mr. Bong Hoon Lee with the following recognitions:

- China – **Changpu (Bai Qi) Canal**, **Dujiangyan Irrigation System**, **Jiangziyan Irrigation System** and **Lingqu Canal**
- India – **Large Tank (Pedda Cheru)** and **Sadarmatt Anicut**



- Italy – the **Aqua Augusta Cistern: Piscina Mirabilis**
- Japan – **Kitadate Irrigation System, Gorobe Irrigation System, Shirakawa Irrigation System and Tsukidome Irrigation System**



Recipients representing China, India, Italy and Japan being recognized for World Heritage Irrigation Structures.

Evening Reception

Indonesia, who will be hosting the 3rd ICID World Irrigation Forum on 1-7 September 2019, held a very lively and entertaining reception tonight. Participants learned how to play the Angklung and were entertained by singing and dancing. Fun was had by all. Thank-you to the Indonesian delegation for your hospitality and we look forward to joining you in Bali next year. Tomorrow night Australia will be hosting its reception.



Conference delegates participating in tonight's Indonesian reception.

We look forward to all of the concurrent sessions, meetings and events on 14 August 2018. Please refer to the conference program for further details.