

Minutes of Meeting

Moderator: Now we will start the Steering Meeting. First we will have to elect the chairman and vice chairman. I'll call up our temporary chairman Dr. Hatcho.

Chair: Good afternoon. It's a pleasure. I'm Yoo Man Huh now representing ICID as the vice president. I was the former chairman of the first Tokyo meeting. Now I'm the temporary chairman. We have to elect the chairman and vice chairman now. Any comments or opinion?

Okay then, I'll make a recommendation. I would like to recommend Keizrul former ICID President. And would like to recommend Dr. Kim from Korea. Can you stand up?

This is my recommendation for chair and vice chair. Any other opinions? Then please give them a hand. Okay then I'll step down now.

Chair: Thank you. It was a very fast election. I hope the meeting is fast, too. The agenda has been sent out earlier. Item one is completed. Let's move on to item 2; adoption of Agenda. Is it okay? Shall we adopt it? Any proposals?

Philippines: I move for adoption of the agenda.

Floor: I second the motion.

Chair: Then let's move on to Reporting of INWEPF Activities during 2004~ 2005. I would like to invite the INWEPF Japan committee.

Japan: Thanks for giving me the chance to report on activities of INWEPF in 2004 ~2005. The first steering meeting was held in Tokyo November 1st when Japan was the secretariat. Let me announce the activities of INWEPF after the first steering meeting. Let's refer to the expected outcomes 2004 ~ 2005. First, a better understanding of water management in various contexts and of multiple roles of water in paddy fields including conservation of rice-based ecosystems. Second, a better understanding of governance of water use in paddy fields including participatory irrigation management and multi-stakeholder involvement. And third, development of good practices and facilitation of a common understanding in sustainable water use in paddy fields toward future international discussions on water including the 4th World Water Forum to be held in Mexico in March 2006. For these goals we have done the following. At the first steering meeting the Terms of Reference were discussed, the 2004~2005 action plan, and the three challenges endorsed at the Ministerial Meeting on Water for food and Agriculture on 21 March, 2003; Food Security and Poverty Alleviation, Sustainable Water Use, and Partnership. After the first steering meeting we promoted the importance of water and ecosystem in several conference and working groups. Also, we had four international conferences continuously presenting our message, and today, we are having

our second steering meeting. And we will set up a session in the 4th World Water Forum on sustainable water use in paddy field; environment conservation; and better governance of water use.

Other activities are newsletter, website, and virtual meeting as defined in our strategic action plan. For newsletter we have 8 issues to report activities of INWEPF and to share experience and information. We also have a website to report our activities. And thanks to Dr. Groenfeldt our chair, the virtual meeting held between 9/26~ 10/14 was a success.

So in conclusion, we have made a good start and further efforts must be made. Thank you for your attention.

Chair: Thank you. In one year many activities went on. Any questions or need for clarifications? It seems everyone is happy with the report.

Last night during dinner, we were reminded that yesterday was the first anniversary of INWEPF. When a human is one year old it can't do much, but for INWEPF we did many things. WE had many meetings and virtual meetings.

Japan: Thank you very much.

Chair: We can move to Item 4 which is to review the Terms of Reference review. We have a new clause which is 2.5 and modified clauses 3.6 and 4.3. Let's look at clause 2.5 first. Clause 2.5 talks about setting up an official website. We already have a website, so it is official now I guess. The clause requires each member to update to the secretariat. Can we accept this change to TOR? Everyone seems happy.

Next let's look at clause 3.6. It says, "When a local committee of the INWEPF is decided to host the Steering Meeting in the following year, its secretariat has to prepare the next meeting after the Steering Meeting in the reference year has been closed."

FAO: There's a word missing.

Sri Lanka: I think the word "for" is missing. As in "for the next meeting" in the second line.

Chair: It means once this meeting is finished. The secretariat of the next host will have to prepare for the next steering meeting. Any additional comments?

FAO: I want to ask for some clarification on "Local Committees." How are they founded? Are they recognized by someone? It's not very clear.

Chair: It's defined in 2.3. But your point is, its not very clear how they should be formed. Clause 2.3 says "in order to streamline local activities, it is desirable for each member to set up a local committee of the INWEPF."

FAO: That's correct in our program actions there is no reference to local activities. What kind of local activities do we have?

Chair: The local committee is to be a coordinating body for INWEPF local activities. So far though there are no reports. We need to be more active in local committees.

IWMI: Only when you're the host do you have a local committee.

Chair: I don't think so. In TOR clause 2.3 it encourages each member, "it is desirable for each member to set up a local committee."

Chair: Anyway clause 3.6 clarifies that the local committee will then prepare for the next steering committee meeting. It is to clarify so can we accept?

Cambodia: Maybe we can rephrase that to "a local committee of INWEPF decides to host the steering meeting."

Chair: Maybe the word should be "is selected."

Vice Chair: In a grammar sense it is better to delete "for."

Chair: So earlier the suggestion was to include "for", but "for" should be omitted is the new suggestion. English is not my mother tongue. Who speaks the best English? Can we have your opinion? Philippines?

Chair: "for" means preparing for it, but without "for", the secretariat has to make sure it is all completed. So let's leave out "for."

So it goes, "when a local committee of the INWEPF is selected to host the Steering Meeting in the following year, its secretariat has to prepare the next meeting after the Steering Meeting in the reference year has been closed."

Chair: So now clause 4.3. "The Virtual Meeting hosted by the Japan National Institute for Rural Engineering father will be maintained for the time being."
Maybe we could drop the word "farther"?

Philippines: What's the purpose here? Why the time being? Are there any plans to transfer to another organization?

IWMI: The virtual meeting "will be maintained until further notice." What about that?

FAO: There is no need for this really in the Terms of Reference. What is more important is whether this virtual meeting is continuous or temporary. For this purpose I need clarification? Is it continuous or closed?

Chair: This clause is to recognize that the virtual meeting is hosted by the Japan National Institute for Rural Engineering. We could say, "the virtual meeting is hosted by the Japan National Institute for Rural Engineering for the time being."

NIRE: Just a comment. Could you show the original word of this provision. Maybe we could put in "Initially hosted by?" So it is not obligatory but on our voluntary basis. Also, it was already held and passed so "hosted by NIRE will be maintained" could be better. And for the "for the time being" means that this was not an obligation base but voluntary base.

Chair: This is just to explain that the virtual meeting is hosted by NIRE and it is not a permanent commitment. "Time being" will extend to many world water forums I'm sure. Okay can we accept it? Or does anybody else want to host the virtual meeting? So everyone is happy with this.

Chair: The next item is 5. Strategic Action Plan. A draft has been proposed by Korean committee. So let's invite the Korean committee to present this item.

Korea: First of all I would like to briefly explain the purpose and background. The first clause outlines the direction of work of INWEPF. It is similar to the previous one. Second clause means why do we have to establish INWEPF? An international network has been established to resolve mutual problems among countries of paddy agriculture."

Third clause. What is the motivation of establishment of INWEPF? WWF3 ministerial recommendation motivated establishment. Fourth clause. What is the main purpose of INWEPF? Realizing the three challenges in the ministerial recommendation and creating synergy and strengthening cooperation in paddy agriculture meeting members. Fifth clause. What did INWEPF do last year? First it organized a steering meeting and inaugural symposium and participated in workshops and conference hosted by FAO and Netherlands. Also preparations for WWF4. Sixth clause. What will INWEPF do in the next one year? It will establish roles of INWEPF, build keen exchanges, and activate virtual meetings and working groups.

This is the end of the first part about purpose and background.

Now, for the second part; mission statement and vision. Seventh clause and eighth clause are exactly the same as the previous one. Nothing has changed. And expected outcomes for next year. Clause 9 means is also quite similar to the former year. No explanation needed.

Now, the third part; prioritized themes. Clause 10, 11, 12 are exactly same as the action plan of the former year. So I'll skip my explanation. In clause 12 three themes were selected. But we added a clause 13 to this. A new theme has been selected. And added to last year's theme is theme 4; promoting farmer's and other stakeholders' participation in policy formulation, decision making and project management. Previous themes plus this new theme will be the purpose selected for next year. This is prioritized themes.

The fourth part is "actions." This is for the next year. First of all we have the Steering meeting. Clause 14, 15 expresses the roles of the steering meeting.

And the host for the steering meeting. And “b. virtual meeting.” Clause 16. The host of the virtual meeting is the Japanese INWEPF committee. Then “c. workshop” Clause 17. Now the Korean committee intends to organize a workshop after WWF4. But no detailed plans are out yet. Nor the subject, period, or scale as well. Anyway, we have a complete plan to organize a workshop next year. Once fixed, we’ll give notification to all members of INWEPF. “D. open forum,” Clause 18. This year’s symposium was already held yesterday. And “e. ad-hoc working group,” clauses 19~21. The possibility of an ad-hoc working group is discussed, but no details yet. Some members suggested and agreed to constitute some ad-hoc group and then we’ll be able to organize one. Let’s see later. We made a numbering mistake, due to many changes in the document. This is wrong. Anyway, let’s look at the last one “f. website and newsletter,” clause 22. The website made by the Japan Committee will be used as official website of INWEPF. This was a brief explanation of the action plan for next year.

Chair: Thank you for the explanation on the strategic action plan. First in terms of themes. there was an additional theme added from last year. Theme 4; promoting farmers’ and other stakeholders’ participation in policy formulation, decision-making and project management. Then the Korean committee has set up activities to be carried out in 2005~2006. First the steering committee, which is now being done. Later we’ll have to choose the next host of the Steering Committee. Then there is the virtual meeting. Then thirdly, they propose to host a workshop to be organized after WWF4 to solicit follow-up action. Number four is the symposium which has been very successful yesterday. Then an ad-hoc group was proposed. And then six, website and newsletter will continue. Any suggestions for 2005~ 2006?

Korea: I would like to add some words to Mr. Cho. First the additional theme. Last year we had three themes. But we need to do more this year. So we thought we needed to continue work on three themes but we wanted one more theme. If anybody has another opinion let’s discuss. And second item, “workshop.” After WWF4 there must be something we can do. If we have to work on that, then we believe it is necessary to organize one more workshop. Anyway we’ll discuss that problem with the next steering meeting hosting country. If the next host wants to combine that role than it’s okay, but anyway we’ll discuss.

Chair: First is the proposal to include one more theme. Any comments on that?

FAO: I think it’s a good idea. But INWEPF should explain how they’re going to do it themselves. In this room we have engineers and resource managers. There are no farmers or environmentalists. I welcome the theme. But we want to see it effective in INWEPF’s own activities.

Chair: So the comment is, it’s good but we have to think about implementation. Any other comments? So I think we’re all happy about theme number four, but we do have to think about how we are going to implement it? Then on the action

plan. First, the workshop issue. I think it's good to have some meeting after WWF4 for future plans. Dr. Jung means is it depends on when the next steering meeting will be. So we'll have to see about the period. Maybe combine the both.

Korea: Yes I think so.

Chair: Any comments on action plan 2005~2006?

FAO: Please don't kick me out of the room. In the vision statement we have "development of good practices" which is basically TOR of INWEPF. And in outcomes of 2005 ~ 2006 we talk about development of good practices and common understanding. But how can the action plan actually help in development of good practices. Is this really what INWEPF wants to do? Are the working groups going to help in developing good practices? And second common understanding. In Dr. Lee's conclusion for the symposium there was a different understanding between developing and developed countries. This should be addressed by the action plan.

Chair: So this was a reminder on 2 areas. One is good practices. We need good practices for members to use. And the 2nd one is on common understanding. Any comments from Korea?

Korea: Good practice comes from active participation of each member. For making an ad-hoc working group, this is a request by the members. Everybody asked to have a working group. Also virtual meeting, newsletter, and website. With these tools we can communicate and change each others' opinion. That is active participation of each member which makes good practice. Is that a good answer?

FAO: In the symposium we had many presentations from different people. But we didn't have any discussions. We didn't discuss in the symposium about good practice or common understanding. So I think that is needed.

Chair: We take notes of your comments. In the symposium there were many good examples. But we didn't have time to discuss. We didn't come to an agreement on what good practice we should follow. So next symposium we need to restructure the time scheduling. This time we tried to put together many request. We had only 10 minutes for country reports. Not enough time to talk about presentations and discuss or draw lessons. In the future let's discuss and change. Any other comments on action plan? Activities for now and next year?

Egypt: There is a gap between potential and the national average of rice countries. Some countries use this gap and this is good practice. To decrease the gap between potential and national average. We must use this good example. For example, let's look at Australia and Egypt. They are good examples for other nations to follow. How can we achieve this goal? We need one example for others to follow.

Chair: This is a good topic for future meetings. Find a good practice so that all can learn from. Any further comments on action plan? If not, then let's accept it as proposed by the Korean committee. Nobody looks unhappy.

Next item on the agenda is Item 6; contribution to WWF4. This is about our message. We have an amended version of the message which was discussed at the earlier session. It's been corrected to reflect some of the views expressed earlier. Report back Dr. Hatcho.

Dr. Hatcho: I'll talk about how we did it and how we are going to do? We took comments as much possible during the break. And as discussed during the session, 1 2 3 4 is background and 5 is most important. Expression wise we can work it out because have points incorporated into message. Then our only native speaker can work on wording to make it more appealing. Then sort of a fast draft can take place. And then put it on a virtual meeting place and receive feedback. This is basic framework but we will receive feedback and finalize it. Virtual meeting is good place for feedback. That is our idea for the moment. What do members think?

Chair: We have the revised draft message. This will be re-edited to be made into something easier for people to understand. And then it will be put on the website to reach bigger audience. After on more test it will be taken to Mexico. Key messages are first multi-functionality of paddy farming, highlight experience of local communities, and we need highlight the need for input from government.

Japan: In the third one it looks like we are just asking for government subsidy or assistance. So for item three maybe some more talk is needed.

Chair: Anyway you'll see this on the website and you could put more ideas and comments on. I think that's a fair way of doing it. We can go into more details. But we have three key messages at the moment. We want to emphasize multi-functionality although we don't use the word multi-functionality. Second is to highlight experiences of local communities. And third although we need to re-word it, it is about governmental assistance and input. You people look either happy or tired.

Korea: I think it's a good idea. But on the website, when will it be up? And one more question I have on WWF4. We prepared this message. But are there any other preparations besides this message to do. If there is more work to be done, we have to discuss it here.

Chair: Two things. We need a timeframe of what is going to be happening. When will we upload and receive feedback of the message from the website. And what do we need to do for WWf4?

Japan: About the timeframe I have to talk to David. December 10th seems good at the moment to put on the website. And regarding the second question. Based on my knowledge. We want a session in WWF4. I think the ministry of agriculture in Japan will have session on multi-functionality and participation. How? We don't know yet. But we want to have a session. And together with this message will put together contributions for WWF4 and a session. That's the initial idea.

Chair: I know in the WWF4 process they are going through and accepting sessions. So with the help of Japan we will get session and get in. But the message to go in for the ministerial meeting maybe decided in December.

Japan: What kind of ministerial meeting are you talking about?

Chair: Ministerial conference likely in.... we need to check back. Japan is working on a regional document. By mid December 2 page summary will come out hopefully. So at least we have a time frame. This message will be revised, rewritten, scrutinized on the website. Any additional strong messages we can add later. Meantime look at document. Then we have to wait for sessions to be selected. And then take action. So we'll be part of the process for WWF4 and that is important. Okay anyone want to add to this item? Then let's move to item 7; the third steering meeting. Here I must ask the Malaysian Delegation.

Malaysia: Thank you. I don't know what to say, but Malaysia has the intention to host for the membership in 2006. Of course we'll need some time to prepare, but an additional term of reference has been given to us. With the help of two past hosts, hopefully the Malaysia meeting will be a success. Thank you.

Chair: So everyone accepts that Malaysia will host the 3rd steering meeting. November is the first anniversary so instead of September we'll have it in November. So when do you want September or November?

Korea: One time visit only?

Chair: Malaysia will host the 3rd meeting in 2006. Any other business? If you have anything for the members? Is there anything you want to say? Everyone wants to go off? So if there are no other matters, thank you all. We started late so we ended late, but it's been a good meeting. Lots of good information. I would like to thank the Korean committee for organizing this and thankfully the weather was good for us. Thank you so much.

Meeting is closed.

Korea: Before closing the second steering meeting of INWEPF I would like to say something on behalf of Korean committee. Thank you for coming to Korea and for your active participation and hard work, yesterday and today. You did not have rest because of the many presentations and discussions. This second

meeting gave us a lot of information and strengthened partnership among countries. And also this meeting is not finished until tomorrow. Tomorrow we have a visiting trip. This is the best season in Korea. Early November. When you visit the sites tomorrow, the rice is already harvested, but maybe late farmers will have rice on the paddy. But please enjoy the Korean landscape. Don't return directly home and stay another day and enjoy tomorrow's trip. Thank you for kind support and cooperation. Special thanks to the Japan committee for supporting this meeting. See you next year in Malaysia.

Korea: Field trip starts at 9:00 in front of the hotel. We invite you to come by at least by 8:30 down to the hotel lobby in front of hotel. The weather forecast says a little gloomy and maybe some rain in the South. But only in morning, so don't worry about the rain. The temperature will not be too cold. So don't worry about that. Two weeks ago it was cold. However, we will visit the mountain and lake so it could get a little bit chilly though. Thank you.