

HISTORY OF IRRIGATION, DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL

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INTRODUCTION

I would introduce this session with two previous remarks:

- First of all, I would like to present ICID's objectives and activities
- Secondly, justify the interest of ICID concerning history of irrigation, drainage and flood control.

Objectives of ICID

As you can see on our web site (www.icid.org), the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) was established on 24 June, 1950 as a Scientific, Technical and Voluntary Not-for-profit Non-Governmental International Organization (NGO)

Our basic aim is: "The Commission is dedicated to enhancing the worldwide supply of food and fibre for all people by improving water and land management and the productivity of irrigated and drained lands"

Activities of ICID

These objectives must be provided by: "through appropriate management of water, environment and application of irrigation, drainage and flood management techniques"

WHY THE ICID'S INTEREST ON HISTORY?

As D. Miguel Cervantes said, the history must be a testimony of the past, but also a teacher and a guide for the future. In other words, let us learn from ancient success and especially from ancient failures, for avoiding new errors.

This is the reason of the existence in ICID of the Working Group on History of Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control and the reason of our Workshop.