

59th IEC MEETING AND
20th CONGRESS OF
ICID 2008



Initial Bulletin

*Pakistan National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage
Invites you to the 59th IEC Meeting and 20th Congress, which
will be held in October 2008 at Lahore, Pakistan.
Visit a Country that Embellishes History and Culture,
and Recognizes Progression and Technology*

Welcome to Pakistan

PAKISTAN ZINDABAD

October, 2008

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Host Country Profile

Pakistan, a land of many splendors and opportunities, and a repository of a unique blend of history and culture from both East and West. In that, Pakistan is the cradle of one of the oldest civilizations: the Indus Valley. Pakistan is the ninth most populous country of the world with a labor force of at least 125 million tough, conscientious and hard-working people in its arsenal; waiting to utilize their skills as they strive hard to enter into the 21st century. Furthermore, it enhances their chances to be equal partners and share common grounds with the developed nations. Pakistan is located between 23 and 37 degrees North latitude and 61 and 76 degrees East longitude. Surrounded by Iran and land-locked Afghanistan in the West, China and Central Asian Republics, in the North, with India on its East and the Arabian Sea on its South; Pakistan can rightly claim of having a substantial location advantage due to vast, tapped and untapped market of approximately 200 million people.



The Irrigation Network (Birth Place of Khosla and Lacey Theories)

The irrigation System of Pakistan is one of the largest Integrated Irrigation network in the world, serving 36 million acres of contiguous cultivated land. The system is fed by the waters of the Indus River and its tributaries. The salient features of the system are three major storage reservoirs, namely, Tarbela and Chashma on River Indus, and Mangla on River Jhelum; 19 Barrages; 12 inter-river link canals and 45 independent irrigation canal commands and 85 small dams. The total length of main canals alone is 61,000 km. Water courses comprise another 1,621,000 kms.



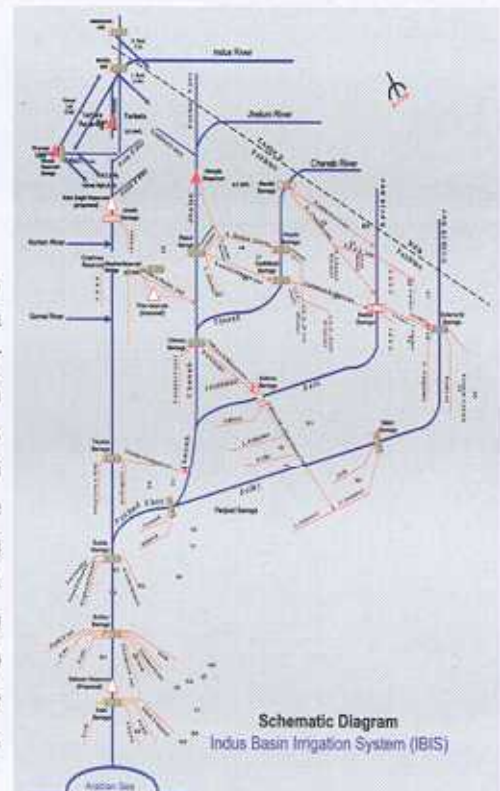
Diversion of river waters into off-taking canals is made through barrages which are gated diversion weirs. The main canals in turn deliver water to branch canals, distributaries and minors. The water courses get their share of water through outlets in the irrigation channels. Distribution of water from a water course is effected through a time-schedule of "warabandi" under which each farm gets water for a specified period once in a week or so. The time-share or "wari" is proportionate to the farm area owned by a farmer under the command of the water course.

The system draws an average of 106 MAF of surface water each year for irrigation. Supplemented by an annual groundwater pumpage of some 43 MAF, the average depth of water available at the farmgate is 0.93 meter per acre. Approximately 3 million individual farm with an average size of about 12 acres benefit from this system.



The Rivers

The Five main rivers, namely, The Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlaj flow through the country's plains. Aided by a number of secondary and tertiary rivers and streams, water bodies supply water to the entire Indus Basin Irrigation System. The rivers have their origin in the higher altitudes and derive their flows mainly from snow-melt and monsoon rains. The catchment area of Indus is most unique in the sense that it contains seven (7) of the world's highest ranking peaks, after Mount Everest. These include K-2 (8,614 meters), Nanga Parbat (8,110 meters), Rakaposhi (7,790 meters) etc. Likewise, barring the polar areas, seven (7) glaciers situated in the Indus catchment are amongst the largest in the world, namely, Siachin, Hispar, Biafo, Batura, Baltoro, Barpu and Hopper.



Lahore has been the traditional capital of Punjab for a thousand years. It had been the cultural center of Northern India extending from Peshawar to New Delhi. Lahore is the city of poets, artists, educational institutions and some of the finest gardens in the continent.

The city reached its peak of glory during the reign of Akbar the Great, who made it his capital. The last great Mughal Emperor, Aurangzeb (1707-1838) built Lahore's most famous monument, the great Badshahi Mosque. Within the walled city you may come across old Havelis or the spacious houses of the rich, which give you an inkling of the style of the rich and notables in the Mughal reign.



Lahore City is Waiting

Lahore is cultural, intellectual and artistic center of the nation. Its faded elegance, busy streets and bazaars, and wide variety of Islamic and British architecture make it a city full of atmosphere, contrast and surprise. The warm and receptive people of Lahore are known for their traditional hospitality. This is a city of vivid differences, of haunting nuances; where bustling bazaars, frenetic streets, glorious fading elegance, British Architecture and echoing atmosphere of city's mosques merge together into a history that is both dramatic and fascinating. Lahore is country's undisputed centre of Cultural life. When somebody is asked to define the particular charm of their city, Lahore are apt to shrug and respond with a laconic, "Lahore is Lahore".

Being the center of cultural and literary activities it may rightly be called the cultural capital of Pakistan.



Houses are a mixture of old and modern style of architecture. Houses are mostly built of bricks and concrete. Since independence many new residential colonies have been built in and around Lahore City.

Some important buildings, like the High Court, Government College, the Museums, the National College of Arts, Montgomery Hall, Tollinton Market, the Punjab University (Old Campus) and the Provincial Assembly were built during the British reign. Perhaps, the best places to see new buildings are the suburbs being developed by returning migrants, which are a happy blend of influences and styles from all over the world. Besides the number of places worth visiting within the city there are a number of other leisure areas developed in the suburbs and close vicinity.

