

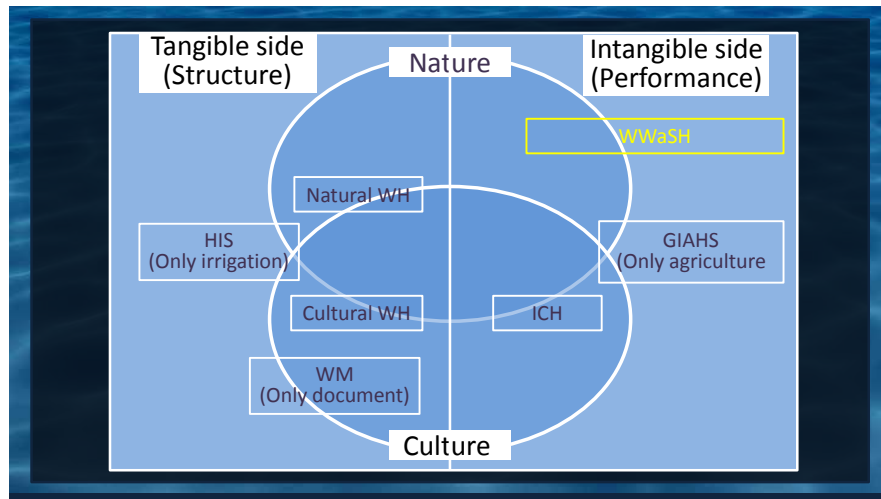
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World Water System Heritage (WWaSH)

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Background

- UNESCO has carried out
 - World Heritage (WH) program
 - Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) program
 - Memory of the World (MW) program
- FAO has carried out
 - Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) program
- ICID has newly launched
 - Heritage Irrigation Structure (HIS) program



Background

- Awards related to water
 - “Water for Life” Best Practices Award by UN-Water
 - Stockholm Water Prize by SIWI
 - King Hassan II Great World Water Prize by WWC and Government of Morocco
 - and so on.....
- However, none of the programs nor awards place a high value on people’s groups and organizations as well as regimes and rules, which have managed water systems for over generation, and protecting them as heritage

Proposal from President Gao to WWC

- **At the WWC 51st Board of Governors (Bog51) meeting: Gyeongju, Korea on 25-26 February 2014**

President Gao as a governor of WWC distributed a proposal document to create a "World Water System Heritage" program, which was being reviewed by the Communications Task Force and the Bureau within WWC.

- **At Bog52: Mexico city, Mexico on 25-26 June 2014**

The proposal was officially put on the agenda and President Gao made a presentation. It is regarded as a collaborative program for the recognition of WWaSH as a means for knowledge sharing based on historical expertise for sustainable water management across all sectors and geographical areas.

Systems/Institutional design for WWaSH

- Objectives

WWaSH is a global initiative to properly value the wisdom and energetic activities of **people centered groups/organizations** with their rules and practices contributing to peace keeping and socio-economic development in the region **through sustainable management of water systems for over generations.**

WWaSH aims at **i) protecting the water management system** encompassing people's groups/organizations, regimes, rules and related facilities as a heritage, **ii) providing ideas for creating a coexistent social system** for humanity and sound environment, and **iii) constructing similar social systems** by disseminating knowledge, wisdom and activities.

Systems/Institutional design for WWaSH

- Targets

WWaSH targets **intangible activities of people's groups/organizations**, regimes, rules and related facilities, which many stakeholders created together and have developed through collective activities for over generations.

WWaSH focuses on all possible water management systems regardless of regions and sectors;

- **Managing water use for** drinking, agriculture, industries, electric generation, navigation, preserving ecosystems, fisheries, and so on
- **Controlling water for** drainage, flood prevention, defending from storm surge, sanitation, and so on

Systems/Institutional design for WWaSH

- Framework and procedures

WWC in cooperation with UNESCO, FAO, ICID and other global institutions and authorities constitutes the **WWaSH Committee** and establishes the **Center for WWaSH** designated within the office of WWC as secretariat of WWaSH program.

Each country in cooperation with member of WWC in the country can establish **National Committee on WWaSH**. **The country/NC can submit a tentative list of candidates for registration** to the Center for WWaSH which further consults with WWaSH Committee.

The **WWaSH Committee** can request on-site survey and preliminary investigation to the related NC and respects its draft recommendations and **decides final recommendations to WWC** in order to officially register and publish the list of WWaSH sites.

Tentative criteria of registration

- Primary criteria – all are required
 - i. It has a people's group/organization managing water systems having demonstrated sustainable management for over generations
 - ii. It realized a sensible water management by creating a system bringing together people's wisdom in which it coordinates complicated customs for water management through building systems
 - iii. It has contributed to socio-economic development in the region through sustainable management of water system involving many stakeholders, thereby bringing peace and prosperity
- Secondary criteria – one or more
 - i. It has an outstanding historical background
 - ii. It has an outstanding system to overcome adverse natural and social conditions
 - iii. It has an indispensable element necessary for an outstanding culture, bio-diversity and socio-economic activities in the region
 - iv. It has outstanding universal value being common to humanity

Discussion among Governors

- Proceedings of BoG52

Z. Gao presented to the Board members a proposal to initiate a collaborative program for the recognition of World Water System Heritage as a means for knowledge sharing based on historical expertise for sustainable water management across all sectors and geographical areas. A. Szöllösi-Nagy encouraged the proposal for public awareness purposes and suggested involving the International Water History Association and UNESCO. K. Yamaoka proposed that WWC lead such an initiative in order to increase its membership outreach and popularity. He also mentioned that ICOMOS Netherlands would like to participate in this initiative and organize a specific event during the 7th world Water Forum under the theme dedicated to Water and Culture. J. Hai supported this proposal but asked to not duplicate existing initiatives carried out by UNESCO and suggested to work closely with the regional offices of FAO and ICID, since the Council does not benefit from such regional offices. T. Soo asked for clarifications on the institutional set-up to implement such a proposal and the topics to be studied. Z. Gao agreed to have the World Water System Heritage proposal become a WWC initiative and to involve organizations leading similar programs. He then added the need to create a Task Force to operate a selection process of relevant cases with clear indicators. President Braga suggested having WWC Bureau members further analyze with ICID the possibilities to develop such a proposal within the strategy of the Council.

Way forward (expected)

- Follow-up-discussion between Governors concerned
- Preliminarily selecting members of Task Force on WWaSH
- **Officially establishing TF at BoG53 in October 2014**
- TF's collecting information and data, elaborating institutional design for WWaSH program, promoting communication and coordination with relevant organizations (Nov. 2014 - Mar. 2015)
- **Holding special session or event for launching WWaSH program in conjunction with relevant organizations at the WWF7 in April 2015**
- Establishing the WWaSH Committee, Center for WWaSH and NCs (May - July 2015)
- Nominating candidates around the World (Aug. - Sep. 2015)
- Investigating and screening by WWaSH Committee (Oct. -Nov. 2015)
- **Awarding and publicizing the 1st List of WWaSH (Dec. 2015)**

Expected ends (advantage and benefit of ICID)

- ✓ ICID's initiative makes its presence strong within WWC
- ✓ Majority of potential WWaSH sites must exist in agricultural sector according to criteria
- ✓ ICID's NC system can supplement WWC formation
- ✓ Both systems of HIS and WWaSH encourages activities of ICID's NCs
- ✓ Strengthening ICID centered networks among water sectors

Contributions to publication by ICOMOS-Netherlands

- Publication is expected at the time of WWF7
- **Possible titles:**
 - “The relevance of Heritage for Water and Water for Heritage”
 - “Water Management and Cultural Heritage”
 - “Water for Heritage and Heritage for Water”
- **Purpose** is to credibly present the importance and value of heritage and historical experience for water and sustainable development, and vice versa, present the importance of water management for the protection of heritage.
- About 15 papers in part A will present a variety of perspectives on Water and Heritage from the Water angle and the Heritage angle.
- About 15 papers in Part B will present cases illustrating perspectives and collected from a wide range of countries.
- **“Process to World Water System Heritage (WWaSH) Program”** by Avinash Chand Tyagi and Kazumi Yamaoka for part A
- **“Heritage Described as Commons in Irrigation Management Systems -Case Studies of Living Farmers’ Collective Actions in Japan”** by JNCID for part B

Thank you / Merci