

SUMMARY OF MAJOR DECISIONS

Forty Sixth Meeting, Rome, Italy

22-23 October 2009

Chair: John Skerritt

BOARD MATTERS:

CGIAR Change Management Process

The Board went through the working draft joint declaration and agreed on several observations and key suggestions for changes for inclusion in the Board's formal response.

Recommendation

The Board endorsed the Joint Declaration subject to Board comments.

The Board reviewed the role/responsibilities of the IWMI Board vis a vis the Consortium Board and the Consortium Constitution, and discussed the existing IWMI governance functions that may have to be conceded to the Consortium Board.

Recommendation

The IWMI Board expressed its unanimous in-principle support to join the Consortium subject to clarification on a number of issues raised by the Board.

The DG presented the SRF and the seven inter-related Mega Programs (MP) clarifying the approach and process followed to develop the SRF and derive the proposed MPs. He also explained the rationale for the MPs and that they are designed to address some major challenges facing the world's poorest regions.

Recommendation

The Board endorsed the approach used to develop the Strategy and Results Framework and derive the initial set of Mega Programs and agreed on several points to be conveyed by the Chair and the DG to the Alliance Meeting at the end of October 2009.

CGIAR Performance Indicators

In regard to CG Performance Indicator 5-A-21 the Board noted the need to ensure that an orientation program is held and this could be done at the next meeting.

Recommendation

An orientation program for new board members to be held at the next meeting

Regarding CG Performance Indicator 5A-22 Governance on CCERs, it was suggested that a matrix should be computed for the board, and noted that the Board was thin on science. John suggested that this be put down as action arising under 'prospective CCERs.'

Recommendation

CCERs plan as action arising under 'prospective CCERs.'

Report of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee Chair briefly reported on the Audit Committee proceedings and presented the following recommendations for Board approval.

Recommendation

The Audit Committee recommends the adoption of the report from the CGIAR internal Audit. The Committee further recommends the approval of the medium term internal audit plan as presented with Pakistan audit replacing the Hyderabad office audit in the 2010 CGIAU plan.

Recommendation

The Audit Committee recommends that the Board approves the appointment of KPMG as IWMI's internal auditors for the year 2010.

Recommendation

The Audit Committee recommends that the Board approves the appointment of Ernst & Young as IWMI's external auditors for the year 2010 subject to confirmation based on evaluation of the auditors at the annual meeting.

Recommendation

The Audit Committee recommends approval of external audit plan for 2009.

Recommendation

The Audit Committee recommends the Board to approve the changes to the investment policy subject to a few proposed changes in sections 4.1.2 and 4.1.7.

Recommendation

The Audit committee recommends the adoption of the annual Risk management Statement by the Board subject to adding a statement on formation of risk management team and inclusion of regional offices in the risk assessment framework.

Report of the Nominating and Human Resources Committee

The Nominating and Human Resources Committee (NHRC) Chair briefly summarized the NHRC deliberations and presented the following recommendations for Board approval.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that Asger Kej be appointed as the Board's Vice Chair effective 1 January 2010.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends the appointment of Isher Judge Ahluwalia as a member of the Audit Committee effective 1 January 2010.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends the implementation of several action points proposed by Management based on the final outcomes and analysis of the IRS/RRS Compensation Survey, provided that the additional cost to the Institute does not exceed US\$ 400K for 2010.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends full Board endorsement of the Succession Management Policy.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends the full Board completing the Board Self-Assessment when available on-line.

Recommendation

The Board approved the International Duty Travel Policy for staff.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed Budget for 2010 focusing on the key points considered in developing the budget including the uncertainties associated with the outcome of the change management process, the impact of the MPs, and the major risks and mitigates in achieving the budget.

Recommendation

The Board approved the Proposed 2010 Budget

The Board discussed the budgeted increase in staff costs in view of proposed new recruitments and the DG said that informed estimates would precede all recruitment decisions.

Recommendation

The Board endorsed a cautious recruitment program provided the confirmation of the magnitude and timeline of unrestricted funding anticipated is at budgeted level.

PROGRAM MATTERS:

Sri Lanka Program

The Board welcomed Management's efforts in revitalizing the Sri Lanka program and discussed the opportunities Sri Lanka presents for both short and long term water related research and development and impact through sound scientific evidence.

Recommendation

The Board endorsed IWMI's directions in Sri Lanka.

Revised Africa Strategy

The Board reviewed and discussed the revised strategy for Africa and the business development plan covering the period 2009-2013.

Recommendation

The Board agreed for an internal review of IWMI's work on wetlands, soil erosion (Theme 2) and environmental services (Theme 3) in Africa to be completed in time for the next meeting.

Recommendation

For the time being IWMI maintain a small presence in Ouagadougou to meet commitments to the USAID irrigation project and to explore opportunities for further work in Francophone West Africa in regard to the possible establishment of a more formal office in the region.

Recommendation

The Board will further consider the suggestions in the Africa Strategy document when there is more clarity on future Mega Programs.

Center-Commissioned External Reviews Update

At the Mar'09 meeting the Board reviewed and endorsed the findings of the impact study on 'Research on Gender' and requested that the report be upgraded to a CCER through additional inputs from the consultant. The Board reviewed the upgraded report and accepted same as a CCER.

Recommendation

The Board accepted the Center Commissioned External Review on 'Gender on Research'.

ALL RECOMMENDATIONS WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD