



## Large Dams for Africa

### Large Dams for Africa

Africa is now the new land of opportunity for dams' development. After the **very successful ICOLD Annual Meeting in Johannesburg (South Africa)**, last June, ICOLD prepares **Africa 2017**, next March in Marrakech (Morocco).

Africa is now the new land of opportunity for dams' development and there are many signs for that, including inside ICOLD. First, ICOLD has elected an African President, Mr Adama Nombre, from Burkina Faso. He was president from 2012 to 2015. Second, ICOLD is developing with many new African countries joining ICOLD family, most recently Guinea Bissau. It has already co-organized with Aqua Media International the conference **Africa 2013** in **Addis-Ababa** and it will co-organize another one: **Africa 2017 in Marrakech**.

ICOLD played a key role in the dams' development in Africa, especially with the **World Declaration "Dams and Hydropower for Africa Sustainable Development"**. ICOLD initiated that Declaration and convinced important institutions to sign it: **African Union, World Energy Council, International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage and the Union of Producers, Transporters and Distributors of Electric Power in Africa and the International Hydropower Association**.

Everything that was said in that important declaration is still more valuable today. It ended thus :

*"It is now time to go for a significant development of dams and hydropower in Africa!  
Africa must seize this opportunity and the organizations signing this declaration pledge they will do their best to accompany this great continent in this endeavor."*

8 years later, much progress has been accomplished and many new dams are helping African Economic Development. Many others are being prepared, including the **giant Grand Inga project in Congo or the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance dam in Ethiopia**.

ICOLD has thus shown that it is not only a very important technical institution: all ICOLD officials have worked very hard to enable Africa to share the benefits of development through dams, including through capacity building.

During Johannesburg 84th Annual Meeting, May 18, members of Young Engineers Forum of ICOLD share their passion for **Dams and Development**.

### About ICOLD

**The International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD)** was founded in 1928 to provide a forum for **discussion** and for the **exchange of knowledge** and **experience** in Dam Engineering for engineers and others concerned with the development of Water Resources. Its objectives are to encourage improvements in Dam Engineering in all its aspects, and in all phases of the **Planning, Design, Construction and Operation of Dams and Associated Works**.

With a present total of **97 member countries**, ICOLD leads the profession in ensuring that dams are built and operated safely, efficiently, economically, and with a minimum environmental impact. **For more than 30 years**, ICOLD has been particularly concerned to **enhance the profession's awareness of the social and environmental aspects of dams and reservoirs, and to broadening its perspective in such a way that these aspects receive the same attention and conscientious treatment as the technical aspects**.

To reflect the **growing concern for the environment**, a **Committee on the Environment was formed in 1972** and has been renewed four times since. In June 1980, ICOLD published a comprehensive matrix in **Bulletin No. 35** as a guideline for the identification and evaluation of all conceivable effects of individual dams on the specific parts of their environment. In 1999, ICOLD published a **Position Paper on Dams and Environment**, which is available on its website.

ICOLD **maintain and intensifies activities to harmonize the development of water resources with the conservation of the environment** and **with regard for the people affected by a project**. It increases our understanding of environmental interactions and progress in the methods available to control them by the collection, analysis, evaluation and publication of actual experience, including the elaboration of guidelines based on such experience. It encourages the application of environment conscious criteria and objectives, as well as the establishment of an adequate legal and

institutional framework tailored to every country's specific conditions and needs. It provides its members with up-to-date information on the current norms of environmental care and the state-of-the-art in dealing with environmental issues.

ICOLD has published in **2012 a World Declaration on Water Storage for Sustainable Development**, jointly signed by ICID and IWRA. in 2008.