



# Newsletter 6

## THE DAMS NEWSLETTER

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### ICOLD ON THE FRONT LINE FOR DEVELOPMENT

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President, ICOLD

**As the opening of 2007, each nation strives to face up to challenges that** are outlined in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set by adopted in 2001. Different international agencies (including the private sector) are being asked to improve access to drinking water and food, sanitation, but there often are different definitions, and there are significant overlaps, mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa, where all types of actions have to be taken urgently.

The case of Africa is well known. Twenty per cent of the population lives in slums, with extreme consequences. For Egypt, The Great River, the Nile's Nile, and the Ethiopian. This situation continues with less than 7% of the hydroelectric potential is exploited in the region. Available in both the river basins and in a wide range of the (over 1000 km<sup>2</sup>) area.

Meeting the world's water and electricity problems is a multidisciplinary task, and it requires a wide range of expertise: civil, hydraulic, electrical, mechanical, and energy management. All these disciplines must work together to ensure efficient and sustainable development. Dam and reservoirs have a long history and have been used for many different purposes: irrigation, navigation, flood control, and electricity generation. The main reason for their construction is to provide water for agricultural and industrial purposes, and to generate electricity.

It is therefore the aim and mission of ICOLD to promote and develop ideas and techniques in the developing world. Africa being the priority. ICOLD and its 88 National Committees represent a great human strength, with more than 6000 professionals and experts in the field of dams. There are also 12 Technical Commissions, in which approximately 600 experts participate, regardless of the disciplinary field of the activities: civil, electrical, mechanical, and environmental studies or operations and maintenance. ICOLD, with its global, international organizations, governments and other stakeholders, to help achieve the sustainable development vision.

ICOLD should be able to assist in the development of the dam. This is why we are working together to improve ICOLD's activities and provide training for cooperation with United Nations organizations. On the global, national level, our main activities is to study water and to help to set up a world ICOLD network.

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ON THE DAMS

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