



Water Storage and Hydropower Development For Africa - Marrakech, 14-16 March 2017

Under the high patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco

The second African conference devoted to "Water Storage and Hydropower Development for Africa" will open tomorrow March 13 in Marrakech. More than 600 participants from 65 countries are expected, for a three days' discussion. This will be another landmark showing that Africa is the new land for dam's development. For mastering its water resources and for answering the power needs.

Co-organized by ICOLD and Aqua-Media International (editor of the International Journal of Dams & Hydropower), the first conference took place under the auspices of the African Union, in Addis Ababa, in 2013, and was a tremendous success. (1)

The second edition promises to be another success, with more than 600 registered participants, coming from 65 countries, including 30 African countries. The largest African delegation is of course Morocco, but there is plenty of other smaller African delegations, and around 200 African people in total.

Among the **high-level people who will address the conference**: H.E. Mrs Charafat Afailil, Moroccan Minister responsible for water, H.E. Dr Iham Ibrahim, African Union Commissioner for Energy and Infrastructure, Prof-Dr Anton Schleiss, ICOLD President, Alison Bartle, Aqua Media International, etc.

During the conference, there will be **national and regional overviews** on the on-going projects in North, West, Central, East and Southern Africa.

Climate issues and outcomes from the COP 22 meeting, which took place also in Marrakech 6 months ago, will be discussed. Presentations from experts in various parts of Africa will reflect on the impacts of climate on water and food security (Algeria), on domestic water use (South Africa) and on hydropower development (Cameroon).

There will be also an update on the World Bank's recent report on Hydropower in Sub-Saharan Africa. High level representatives from the major financing institutions will review their activities, and there will be updates on the priority projects of PIDA, as well as a presentation on the African Development Bank's 'Light Up Africa' initiative. Case studies reflecting achievements in private sector development will be presented from various African countries.

On legal aspects, one speaker will look at the role of the offtaker in project-financed hydro schemes in Africa from a lawyer's perspective, and another will discuss legal reforms associated with electrifying Africa.

There will be strong emphasis on safety and risk, covering dams, power plants and gateworks. Topics will include: risks associated with gated spillways in developing countries, the impact of freeboard on the overtopping of embankment dams, and power plant security systems.

A special half-day session will be held on 'Essential elements of a dam safety programme'. A short briefing will be given on Oroville Dam's Spillway accident.

Many other sessions will be devoted to rural development, maintenance and rehabilitation, sediment management and hydropower machinery.

Last but not least, the conference will discuss **environmental and social aspects** of water storage projects, including protection of flora and fauna, integrated river basin development, and stakeholder communications.

For more information: http://www.hydropower-dams.com/AFRICA-2017.php?c_id=89

Media Contact:

- ▶ Aqua Media International : Alison Bartle, ab@hydropower-dams.com
- ▶ ICOLD : Emmanuel Grenier, emmanuel.grenier@icold-cigb.org

(1) Practical aspects of advancing hydropower and water resources development in Africa were discussed by more than 600 participants from 67 countries. The conference, with the patronage of Ethiopia's Minister of Water and Energy, brought together utility CEOs, officers of UNECA, leading experts from the IFIs, Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Secretaries of the water- and energy-related professional associations, eminent consultants, researchers, leading contractors and suppliers. Outcomes made a practical contribution to the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. A Final Declaration was widely disseminated globally.