



Newsletter 7

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ICOLD On the frontline for capacity building and training in Dam professions



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ICOLD since its creation in 1958 has contributed to the development of the dams and water resources professions worldwide for the benefit of humankind by providing the capabilities and developing human resources for harnessing water and energy resources. ICOLD bulletins, handbooks, congress and congress proceedings are rich materials available for the profession, and specifically for young engineers and professionals. These last years with the increasing participation of member countries from less developed ones and regarding the weak development of water resources, energy sector, food production in these countries and the lack of suitable capacities, ICOLD decided to implement a capacity building and training program for professionals from countries. The Program started in 2006 with the support of ICS of Turkey who supports a training program of three years for duration of six months in Turkey for young professionals in Turkey. The first cohort and second cohort of 2007 members was realized successfully with the attendance of 25 trainees coming from 20 countries (Ghana, Mali, Morocco, South Africa, Jordan, Peru, Ecuador). The third session is scheduled for May 2008 for 20 trainees. A second program supported by the State Department for Hydraulics of the Kingdom of Morocco for training three young engineers per year for duration of three months in the Kingdom of Morocco is on the way. The first session will be held next year. In the same framework, ICOLD president, General Secretary participated at the Nigerian Commission on Large Dams first annual conference and the annual Conference of the Nigerian Society of Engineers held on December 2007. The ICOLD conference was devoted to human resources development in engineering field. During the Hydro 2007 conference held on October in Damascus in Syria. Mahdi al-Toufi and I shared the closing plenary debate on capacity building which is emerging as a critical issue in less developed countries but also progressively in the developed one.

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