



SANCOLD ANNUAL REPORT 2010

The year 2010 was devoted to the consolidation of the restructuring of SANCOLD undertaken in the previous year. New members were elected to the SANCOLD Management Committee at the previous Annual Meeting. Unfortunately no persons under the age of 35 years were elected and the Management Committee accordingly co-opted three such persons (Michelle van den Berg, Ivor Segers and Frank Denys) to meet with the Constitutional requirements. Ivor Segers was also co-opted on to the Executive Committee in view of his past experience as Assistant Secretary. It is pleasing to report that these younger members have participated actively in matters pertaining to the Management Committee.

The SANCOLD Management Committee is empowered in terms of the SANCOLD Constitution to effect changes to the Constitution via a democratic voting process. The following Constitutional amendments have been approved and the revised Constitution will soon be placed on the SANCOLD website:

- Two Management Committee positions to be set aside specifically for persons under the age of 35 years.
- Electronic or postal voting which will enable all members to participate and not only those who attend the Annual Meeting. The Management Committee to select the voting system in each year.

The SANCOLD Management Committee has decided that the 2010 elections will be conducted via an electronic nominating and voting process as it offers the wider membership an opportunity to participate. We will also implement the decision to reserve two positions for persons under 35 years of age for a three-year term of office. In addition to these two positions, there will be an additional position which has to be filled. Members are encouraged to participate in this new form of election. The election will proceed after the Annual Event.

Membership increased significantly during the year as follows:

Membership Class	2009	2010
Corporate	38	46
Individual	77	112

We hope to gain further membership following the well-attended 2010 Annual Event. Members are also requested to encourage colleagues and organisations to join SANCOLD.

SANCOLD focussed on a number of local matters during the year, the foremost being:

- Comments to the Department of Water Affairs on the draft regulations on dam safety;
- Formation of SANCOLD Working Groups related to ICOLD Committees on which SANCOLD has representation;
- Comments on the Water Research Commission Project on Freeboard for Dams. Once the WRC document has been finalised, SANCOLD will re-issue its Guideline on Freeboard for Dams;
- Newsletters and relevant information to members;

- Revision of SANCOLD's list of publications;
- Organisation of the 2010 SANCOLD Annual Event;
- Inputs to the SAICE Report card on the state of National Water Resources Infrastructure;
- Maintenance of the SANCOLD website by Dr Andre' Bester.

SANCOLD represents South Africa on the International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD). We have representation on 14 of ICOLD's 26 Committees. These Committees are a key activity of ICOLD and require much dedicated effort on the part of the participants.

The 2010 ICOLD Annual Meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam was attended by 17 South Africans. Vice-Chairperson, Peter Pyke, had the distinction of serving on the ICOLD Editorial Committee for the questions for the 24th ICOLD Congress to be held in Kyoto, Japan in 2012. The SANCOLD Secretary has circulated the call for papers (Abstracts to be submitted to the SANCOLD Secretariat before 31 October 2010). So far, no offers for papers have been received and you are encouraged to participate.

The Executive Meeting in Hanoi went off well and the highlight from South Africa's perspective was the offer to host the 2016 Annual Meeting in South Africa. South Africa hosted an Annual Meeting in 1978 (Cape Town) and a Congress in 1994 (Durban). A formal bid will be made in 2013. We have already received the in-principle support of the Department of Water Affairs for the matter. Mozambique was elected to ICOLD membership.

ICOLD is in the throes of changing its policy in regard to the sale of their publications (Bulletins) and the Executive Meeting decided to make them cheaper in order to increase dissemination of the information via the National Committees. Draft Bulletins will be made available at an earlier stage to enhance distribution. We await details from the ICOLD Central Office regarding the implementation of this decision.

The next ICOLD Annual Meeting will be held in Lucerne, Switzerland in June 2011. Details are available on the ICOLD website.

SANCOLD's finances are sound for the current level of activity, but will require supplementation probably via sponsorships should we host an ICOLD Annual Meeting.

Water matters have featured strongly in the media in recent months and concerns have been expressed about various issues such as water quality, lack of technical skills, maintenance of infrastructure and lack of water services. SANCOLD plays a role in the water management structure such as interchange of technical information and training in matters pertaining to dams. This role will become of increasing importance in the future as our water resources infrastructure ages and needs rehabilitation. Access to current international best practice will be a crucial resource.

Appreciation is expressed to my predecessor, Rob Williamson, for his effort in bringing SANCOLD to this point. Rob retires as former Chairperson from the Management Committee at the end of this year after many active years in SANCOLD. Appreciation is also expressed to retiring Management Committee members Alan Shelly, Chris Oosthuizen and Peter Pyke for their contributions to SANCOLD. Thanks are also added to my SANCOLD Colleagues for all of their inputs into this organisation.

DBBadenhond.

**Chairperson: SANCOLD
October 2010**