

## SANCOLD Conference November 2009

It is pleasing to report that we have received almost 50 offers for papers and that several of these are from other countries. The Conference promises to be of great relevance to water resources professionals.

The SANCOLD Conference and AGM details are on the SANCOLD website and also on [www.civeng.sun.ac.za/sancold/](http://www.civeng.sun.ac.za/sancold/). Please note that a block booking for accommodation has been made at the Alpine Heath Resort, but delegates must make their own reservations. The request for accommodation must be sent to Christel Roets, Banqueting Co-ordinator, Alpine Heath Resort, PO Box 112, Jagersrust, 3354 Tel: 036 438 8500, Direct line: 036 438 8576, Fax: 086 612 6774, Email: [info@alpineheath.co.za](mailto:info@alpineheath.co.za). Website: [www.alpineheath.co.za](http://www.alpineheath.co.za). If you try to make reservations via the reservation facility on the website, it will indicate that no accommodation is available for the first few days of the SANCOLD Conference (because of the blocked SANCOLD reservation). Please make your reservations early to avoid disappointment and also send in your registration form.

The SANCOLD Conference includes a Technical Exhibition and an invitation is extended to suppliers, consultants, contractors and dam owners to participate in the Exhibition. Refer to the above websites for further information.

## SANCOLD Annual Meeting

Notice is given in terms of the SANCOLD Constitution (Schedule 1, clause 2.2) that the SANCOLD Annual meeting will be held on Wednesday 4 November 2009 at 16h30 at the Alpine Heath Resort for the purpose of electing new members for the Management Committee. Nomination forms will be circulated soon.

## Outstanding membership fees

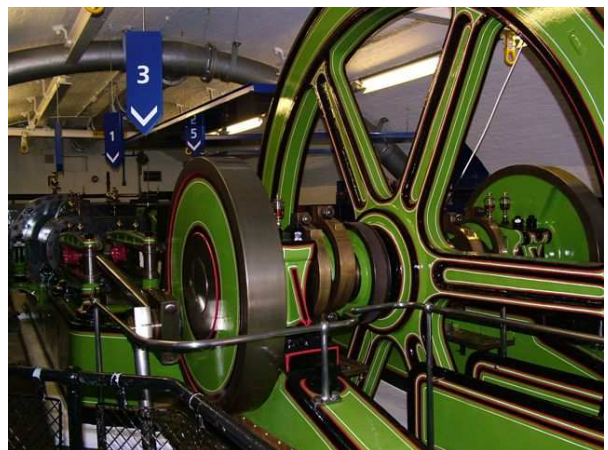
SANCOLD calls on members to pay their outstanding membership fees as soon as possible. Appreciation is expressed to those members who responded to the appeal for payment in the last Newsletter. Only paid-up members are entitled to nominate and vote at the AGM and also to receive SANCOLD membership discounts.

## Overseas travel and dams

My wife and I went to the UK (last time without a visa) during June/July primarily to attend a wedding of a nephew. This time I did not plan to visit any dams, but saw several interesting sights which relate indirectly to dams! We visited Tower Bridge and had a steep climb up to the walkway where they have an excellent exhibition. The bridge construction was started in 1886 following a competition on various designs. The Bridge was opened in 1894. We also visited the engine room with the wonderful steam engines which have now been replaced by a hydraulic system powered by electric motors. What impressed me was the care of the Victorian Engineers in the design and construction of this major work. Aesthetics and durability were obviously most important. The bridge has undergone reconditioning several times during its lifetime. Further detail is available on [www.towerbridge.org.uk](http://www.towerbridge.org.uk)



Tower Bridge: London's favourite landmark



Steam engine



100 year old Victorian cast iron pipe in London



Postlipp Tithe Barn dating back to 1 150 AD

During our walks around London we came across work by Thames Water on the replacement of 100-year old Victorian water distribution piping. The leakage levels are now too high and plastic pipe is being used as a replacement. I asked the workers (during their tea break!) whether the new pipe will have a similar lifetime or not and their reply was that it did not concern them as they would not be around! Finally we had a wonderful wedding reception in an 860 year old barn. The wooden trusses and stonework are still in excellent condition. The barn had clearly been maintained and renovated at various times.

You may well ask how these issues relate to dams. What struck me was firstly the pride past engineers and builders had in their work which is reflected in the aesthetic aspects of the structure and equipment. All of these items have had periodic maintenance and rehabilitation during their lifespan and dams are not different. I certainly hope that our modern dams will last as well as these three examples of engineering excellence. SANCOLD and ICOLD pay a lot of attention to the maintenance and rehabilitation of dams as well as safety aspects. We will be dealing with such issues at the forthcoming SANCOLD Conference.

### **International Symposium on Sedimentation September 2010**

An International Symposium on Sedimentation and Sustainable Use of River Systems will be held from 6 to 9 September 2010 in Stellenbosch. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is **30 November 2009**. Further detail is available on [www.civeng.sun.ac.za/isrs](http://www.civeng.sun.ac.za/isrs)

### **Features in the next SANCOLD News**

SANCOLD Conference and Annual Meeting.

Regards

Paul Roberts

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