



BDS STRATEGY 2016-2025

**“BDS – a growing, inclusive and vibrant society;
sharing knowledge and improving reservoir safety”**

May 2016



Redefining BDS's vision and strategy

The British Dams Society (BDS) is an Associated Society of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE). It consists of individual and corporate members. It is open to anyone wanting to share experience or knowledge of all aspects of dams and reservoirs.

BDS Committee Members met between December 2015 and March 2016 to discuss future strategy, considering the period 2016 to 2025. This period was chosen, because children choosing a career in civil engineering now are likely to qualify in 2025. The aim was to review the current strategy and align it with that of the ICE strategy published in 2013.

The redefined BDS strategy recognises that the Society will continue to deliver many of the outputs that it has delivered throughout its history and is obliged to under the Constitution. BDS will continue to advance the education of the public and the profession and encourage improvements in the planning, design, construction, maintenance, operation and safety of dams, and to form the UK section of the International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD).

However, there is one other critical long term issue that must be addressed to maintain BDS's long term relevance. In a world in which dam and reservoir engineering solutions are delivered using multi-disciplinary teams:

“The Society should represent all disciplines and all professional grades of people who operate in the dams industry”

BDS Committee Members agreed a vision of how they want the dam engineering profession to be seen in the UK and where they would wish the Society to be in future years; noting that the safety of reservoirs should be the key driving force of the Society; and agreed a statement to reflect this vision:

*“BDS – a growing, inclusive and vibrant society;
sharing knowledge and improving reservoir safety”*



BDS's five strategic objectives

Five objectives will form the basis for BDS's detailed action plans over the next three years. These embrace the four main objectives of the Constitution and are linked to the five strands in the ICE strategy. Each objective includes a statement of why this is important to the Society and generally how it will be achieved:

Membership: *The BDS is open to all with an interest or qualifications in technical matters relating to some aspect of dam engineering*

The BDS should operate within the UK in support of its membership. The BDS should engage and liaise with the ICE Reservoirs Committee in support of professional qualifications related to dam engineering and legislative requirements.

Knowledge: *The BDS is a learned society; recognised for its technical excellence*

BDS members possess global knowledge in field of dams and reservoir engineering of high quality. Through its involvement with technical guidance and research in this field, the BDS should build on this to ensure they have the right knowledge in the right format to those who need it, wherever they are.

Professionalism: *The BDS is respected for its advice, because of members' commitment to provide ethical solutions to problems*

The BDS should be an organisation respected for its advice, because of the commitment members make to self-improvement to provide ethical, visionary and innovative solutions to dam engineering problems. This professional ethic should be valued by others. The Society should have a reputation as a modern-thinking, impartial and authoritative voice.

Education: *The BDS is passionate about inspiring the next generation*

The shortage of qualified dam engineers is potentially the most serious challenge facing the industry. The BDS should be at the forefront of an effective, diverse and inclusive strategy to enthuse the next generation of dam engineers and technicians. The BDS's Committee, and in particular, the Young Engineers' Forum will be the cornerstone of ensuring the success of this objective.



Informing opinion: *The BDS is an authoritative organisation on dam related issues; influencing and engaging the wider community on all matters related to dam engineering*

The BDS should maintain and strengthen relationships with government and other key organisations. The Society should inform members and the wider dam's community on current issues, ensuring the promotion of best practice and public understanding. The BDS should create a greater understanding of global dam engineering challenges; and they should actively influence and engage with the ICOLD family.

Detailed action plans

Detailed plans with actions and measures of success will be developed by members of the BDS Committee for each of the five strategic objectives, and these will be reviewed annually, to ensure members are working towards their goal to be a growing, inclusive and vibrant society; sharing knowledge and improving reservoir safety.

BRITISH DAM SOCIETY | BDS



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Registered charity number: 1113476