Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends, Dear ICOLD Family

Warm greetings. As you all know, the world has been in a turmoil this year due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, which took global proportions. For the first time during peace, all the events, even the Olympic Games, have been postponed, including our ICOLD 2020 Annual Meeting in New Delhi, which has been postponed twice.

With the Secretary General, Michel de VIVO, and the Vice-Presidents, we support and thank the efforts done by the Indian Organizing Committee for making sure that the Annual Meeting & Symposium will take place without risks in New Delhi in 2020, Nov 28 - Dec 3.

I remind you of the important Symposium prepared by our Indian friends on “Sustainable Development of Dams and River Basins” with a new deadline for submitting abstracts & full papers on 2020, Aug 31.

While we continue to hope for the best that our conference will take place as planned, the ICOLD Board is also planning for the worst. If the health situation prevents us from organizing our Annual Meeting this year, we would hold the important 88th General Assembly by videoconference and postpone our Annual Meeting in New Delhi to another year. The details of the virtual General Assembly Meeting and disposition of conference papers will be provided later, if needed. I expect a final decision at our next virtual ICOLD Board Meeting in early September.

In the meantime, we encourage all National Committees to start planning for our next Congress in Marseille in 2021, June 4-11.
The French Organizing Committee is working hard to make this a wonderful and safe event.

I remind you that the deadline for sending reports for the Questions of the 2021 Congress is 2020, October 5 and deadline for nomination papers for the ICOLD Innovation Award is 2020, October 15.

I would like to ask that all National Committees kindly circulate and strongly promote our ICOLD World Declaration on Dam Safety, which is more relevant than ever after the recent dam failures. Through this declaration, ICOLD is playing a crucial role in awareness in this matter of dam safety. You will find copies of the Declaration attached to this message.

I also encourage the Technical Committees, Regional Clubs and Young Engineers Forum to continue their work at a distance, by videoconferences. This is the important work of ICOLD that I ask each National Committee to support as much as possible.

Finally, I offer my words of encouragement. I am confident that ICOLD will come out of this period stronger than ever! Please, continue to stay safe and remain healthy, and I will see you soon.

Michael ROGERS
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