



## **EVENING MEETING**

**MONDAY 30 MARCH 2015 at 6:00pm**

One Great George Street, London  
(Nearest tube: Westminster)

### **The International Levee Handbook**

By

**Jonathan Simm, HR Wallingford**  
**Remy Tourment, Irstea, France**  
**Jackie Banks, Environment Agency**



For a brief synopsis see overleaf

**Admission free**  
**Teas available from 5.30pm**

**For more information please contact**

**Tim Fuller (BDS Secretary) on 020 7665 2234 or email : [bds@ice.org.uk](mailto:bds@ice.org.uk)**

This meeting will also be streamed live on the internet. For more details on how to view this meeting online please visit the BDS website.



## The International Levee Handbook (ILH) Synopsis

Flood embankments, or levees, are a vital part of flood risk management. In the light of serious levee failures during major storms such as Hurricane Katrina in the US (2005), Tempête Xynthia in France (2010), torrential rain in Pakistan (2010) and torrential rain and snowmelt in the US (2011), organisations from six different countries (France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, the UK and the USA) decided to come together to provide a guidance document on the design, construction and management of levees – the International Levee Handbook (ILH, 2013). The presentations will describe the vision for the handbook, give an overview of its contents and provide a short summary of some of the key technical issues which emerged in relation to the UK context.

As smaller reservoirs come under regulation in at least some parts of the UK (down to 10,000m<sup>3</sup>) the distinction between flood embankments and dams will become less significant. A nascent community of practice in the UK and Ireland, which has developed around the ILH, supported the development of new national guidance on the design of flood embankments to EC7 (expected 2014). This will be of interest to dam engineers. The further development of this community is currently being discussed, with the possibility of it being developed in association with the BDS, EU-COLD and ICOLD, to ensure that relevant knowledge is shared with the dam community.

## Biography details for the presenters

### **Eur. Ing. Jonathan Simm, HR Wallingford**

Jonathan Simm is a Technical Director at HR Wallingford with responsibility for developing technical capabilities in the areas of performance, risk, materials and sustainability. He joined HR Wallingford in 1992 after an early career working with consulting engineers in feasibility studies, design and construction supervision of coastal and maritime works.

He has been involved for 25 years in producing guidance documents for coastal and hydraulic engineering. As well as being the Technical Lead for the International Levee Handbook, he has been involved in the production of guidance on such diverse topics as the use of rock, timber, concrete and waste materials, construction risk and whole life costs. He has a passion for developing ideas that are directly usable by practitioners and over the last 15 years he has developed new ideas and approaches for sustainable asset management, integrating engineering thinking and analysis about reliability of defences with issues of deterioration and whole-life costs.

Jonathan chairs is a member of various professional committees and is currently chairman of the CIRIA Water Advisory Panel and a European committee responsible for standardisation of aggregates in construction.

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### **Rémy Tourment, IRSTEA, France**

Rémy has been working since January 1989 in Cemagref (now Irstea), which is a public applied research institute. His team, the Hydraulic Structures Research Unit, is specialized in safety of hydraulic structures and has been involved in levees since the winter 1993-94 when Camargue suffered its first recent/modern major floods and inundations involving levee failures, and France rediscovered the problems of levees after more than one century of peace. This team is also involved in safety of dams and other hydraulic structures since the early days of Cemagref.

Since May 2013, he has been coordinator for research and expertise on levees in Irstea. This includes participating in the definition of all levee related projects and expertise tasks (and possibly in their execution or management), being the representative of Irstea in all levee related bodies, including the new Association of Levee Managers (France Dignes) and Ministry of Ecology, keep watch on all levee related research, and try to build collaborations with relevant institutions. He is a member of French Committee on Large Dams, and is also an advisor for the French Standing Committee for Dams and Hydraulic Works.

### **Jackie Banks BEng (Hons) CEng FCIWEM MICE FIWater**

Jackie is a Chartered Engineer with 39 years experience in Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM). She has been a national Manager of Asset Management in the Environment Agency since 2002 and leads a team of technical advisors who set standards and methods for managing FCRM assets across England. These assets have a value of around £30 billion. Many of these assets are owned and maintained by third parties. Jackie is also the lead for enforcement in FCRM, a vital part of managing third party assets and ensuring free flow of water in channels and on the flood plain. She chairs the Asset Management Advisory Group in the joint Environment Agency / Defra Science Programme which delivers projects for all FCRM organisations in the UK. Jackie represented the UK asset management organisations on the Executive Steering Board of the International Levee Handbook. She is a past chairman of the Rivers and Coastal Group of the Chartered Institution of Water and Environment Management (CIWEM) and was a founding committee member of ICE's Hereford and Worcester Group.