



## The British Dam Society

### Dams for Irrigation: technical and social considerations for sustainability

Half day meeting on Friday 20 February 2014 (14:00 to 17:00) at ICE Westminster

Although often essential for water management, dams can be controversial and have had much adverse publicity in recent decades. The focus of this joint meeting is on dams for irrigation, for which there is an increasing need for storage of water in order to meet the seasonal requirements for crop production. Groundwater – the subject of our last meeting – has a valuable role in this regard, but there is often a need for surface storage as well. Climate change, with a resulting increase in the variability in river flows, combined with population growth and changes in livelihoods will make the need even greater. There is a need to build better dams, and manage them better to avoid the problems encountered in the past, to help achieve food security, and to do so in a way that is socially and environmentally sound.

This will be a joint meeting with the British Dams Society, which is also an associated society of ICE and aims to advance the knowledge of technical subjects relating to planning, design, construction, maintenance, operation, safety, environmental and social issues.

IWF is strongly interested in the sustainable development of irrigation and water management for agriculture and is well-placed to hold a short meeting and debate on optimising the design and are management of dams. The subject was recently debated at the Environmental Change Institute in Oxford in November 2014 in a meeting entitled "Africa, Dams and Development". This meeting at IWF aims to focus specifically on design and management of dams for irrigation, highlighting good practice and solutions rather than simply identifying problems

#### 13:45 – Registration

2:00 Welcome by **Simon Howarth**, IWF & Mott MacDonald

2:10 **Dr Marta Roca** (HR Wallingford). *Sedimentation issues at Tarbela reservoir*

2:35 **Dr Peter Mason** (MWH) *Predictable variations in rainfall for reservoir inflow*

3.00 Coffee, tea, biscuits

3.25 **Jamie Skinner** (IIED) *Improving social outcomes from large irrigation dams in West Africa*

3.50 **Simon Howarth** (IWF/MM) *Sustainable irrigation from hydropower dams in China and Afghanistan*

4.15 **Simon Maddrell** (Excellent) *Sand dams: small solutions, big impacts*

4.45 Panel discussion.

5.15 Close

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**This event includes teas, coffees, lunch and networking.**

- Q&A will follow each presentation. Informal discussions may continue after the event.
- Capacity at this meeting is limited, and registrations will be confirmed on a first come first served basis. Please see below regarding registration.
- The Irrigation and Water Forum (IWF), formerly ICID.UK (the British Section of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage) is a not-for-profit organisation and the fees charged are for cost recovery only. In order to minimise administration costs, we need to receive payment in advance.

### Information

**Attendance fees:** There are no charges for IWaterForum/ICID/BDS members to attend this technical meeting, but registration in advance is required. The charge for non-members is £25 (£15 for those under 35, and £10 for full-time students).

**Registration and payment:** Applicants need to apply and pay online at

<http://www.ice.org.uk/Event?ID=3333> .

**Any queries should be addressed by phone or mail to Tim Fuller, IWF Secretary, c/o The Institution of Civil Engineers, One Great George Street, Westminster SW1P 3 AA. Email: [Tim.Fuller@ice.org.uk](mailto:Tim.Fuller@ice.org.uk) Tel: 0207 665 2234.**

**Location:** The meeting will be held at ICE, One Great George Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3AA.

**Membership** We encourage more people to join the Irrigation & Water Forum. Annual membership for 2015 is £60, £30 for young professionals under 35, and £15 for students. This gives you entrance to meetings as a member and access to the ICE building in central London as a member. To join check out the website <http://iwaterforum.org.uk/about/membership/>

**The Irrigation & Water Forum/ICID.UK** has engineers and natural/social scientists with interests in agriculture, irrigation and water resources management principally with an international focus. Although we represent the UK section of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, we have been running seminars addressing contemporary issues related to water, food, the environment & society for many years. We welcome your membership and involvement.