

D.K. Sharma

Vice President, ICOLD

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MESSAGE



Dams being a major infrastructure component of water resources, play a vital role in providing significant benefits to humankind and also overall water security to the country. Storage of water behind dams regulates natural streamflow, allowing for benefits resulting from increased water availability, renewable energy production and reduction of adverse impacts caused by natural extreme events like floods and drought. Growing population is leading to a steady increase in demand for water, food and energy to meet basic needs as well as higher standards of living. At the same time dams may create new hazards with risks to downstream life and property in the event of dam failure resulting from an uncontrolled or catastrophic release of stored water. It is in this context that the Dams Engineering professionals have a profound duty and moral responsibility: namely, building urgently needed dams, reservoirs and levees in the most effective and sustainable way, while also ensuring that they are safe during their whole lifespan.

INCOLD has played a significant role in improvement of dam safety, through publication of technical papers and exchange of experience during national and international conferences organized every year, to disseminate the state of the art best practices and latest technological developments taking place in the field of dam engineering all over the world, to the Indian professionals and agencies associated with dam engineering development. INCOLD focussed on the theme **“Dam Safety, Risk Assessment and Management and Rehabilitation of Dams”** and **covered subthemes like** advances in dam safety, risk assessment and management; advances in the rehabilitation of dams and appurtenant works; innovations and adaptations in intakes, spillways and gates; advancement in materials for dam repair and rehabilitation; new approaches in energy dissipation arrangements in high velocity spillways; causes of damages and structural performance evaluation of dams; rehabilitation technologies to enhance dam safety; underwater inspection, robotics and repair methodologies for dams; modernization, optimization and rehabilitation of aging dams; and dam surveillance and monitoring.

ICOLD has come out with **World Declaration on Dam Safety**, to restate the fundamentals of dam safety that have been learned by generations of engineers over the time. Furthermore, all involved institutions are reminded to ensure, through the fulfilment of their responsibilities, that those principles in order to minimize risks to humankind associated with dams and reservoirs be respected. This common effort will contribute immeasurably to the overarching ICOLD vision for **“Better Dams for a Better World.”**

I welcome the ICOLD international experts and national experts at Jaipur, India and hope that the 6th edition of Dam Safety Conference being organized by INCOLD, CWC and DRIP will be a grand success.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Devendra Kumar Sharma'.

Devendra Kumar Sharma
Chairman, Organizing Committee and
Vice President, ICOLD

5th October 2022