

Annual dams conference bring generations of engineers together

This year's conference of the South African National Committee on Large Dams (SANCOLD), held in Cape Town in September, not only celebrated the organisation's 50th anniversary, but showcased the skill and expertise of a new generation of dam engineers. More than 200 delegates representing 13 countries attended this year's conference. In a special keynote address, Honorary President of the International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD), Dr Theo van Robbroeck, took delegates through his remarkable journey in water engineering in South Africa. This was followed by several interesting papers under the theme, 'Dam safety, maintenance and rehabilitation'. This year, 23 out of the 47 papers presented were by young engineers (i.e. under 35 years old). This remarkable group of young people, many under the mentorship of the Department of Water and Sanitation, showed that South Africa's water resources are in good hands. "SANCOLD is extremely pleased that the contributions from young engineers into the organisation is growing," noted President, Danie Badenhorst. This growth is certainly attributed to the Young Engineers Forum, which was established in 2011. SANCOLD is currently preparing for the 2016 Annual ICOLD meeting and symposium, which will take place in South Africa in May. This is the first time this gathering of world water engineering experts will take place in South Africa since 1994.



ICOLD Honorary President, Dr Theo van Robbroeck, regaled the audience with his keynote address of his remarkable career as a water engineer in South Africa. Dr van Robbroeck played a major role in many of South Africa's most remarkable water schemes, among others, the Tugela-Vaal transfer scheme and the Lesotho Highlands Development Project.



SANCOLD President, Danie Badenhorst, opened the conference.



A number of young engineers presented papers at the conference.