

Chinese American Water Resources Association

CAWRA Newsletter

No. 1

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President's Message: *Greetings and A Happy New Year.*

Water resources and hydraulic engineering has played a major role in the shaping of the Chinese history. Even in this high-tech era the importance of water resources has not diminished in either side of the Taiwan Strait. It is appropriate if scientific and technological exchanges and cooperation in water resources can be nurtured for those in Asia, the United States and elsewhere. Hopefully the CAWRA will play a

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constructive role in this development.

Humbly I am very honored to be the CAWRA's first President to serve you. The members of the Board of Directors, the Secretary/Treasurer and myself are working on several logistic matters for the newly formed Association. Nevertheless, the CAWRA belongs to all its members and any accomplishment is the result of our members' effort.

We plan to broaden our membership by starting a membership drive soon. We initially contacted mainly those who attended or were recommended at the ASCE San Francisco Hydraulics Conference in July. We are in the process of preparing a much bigger mailing list now. Your help in membership drive will be particularly appreciated.

This newsletter is a forum for the members to exchange information and ideas. It belongs to all of you. Without your input there will be a drought. Therefore, please send in any relevant news and articles that you feel appropriate. Meanwhile we will learn to make this newsletter more informative, useful and interesting to you. Wishing you a good new year of dog.

Ben Chie Yen

NEWS

Drought in Taiwan Continues - The whole island of Taiwan suffered from a serious drought this past fall. Precipitation was minimal in summer and fall, 1993, due to lack of typhoons that replenish waters to reservoirs. Water level in several major reservoirs dropped to an alarming level and caused severe water supply problems for agricultural, industrial, and domestic uses for cities. The normally wet rain harbor, Keelung, had to ration water. As the winter comes, the drought continues for middle and southern part of Taiwan but luckily rainfalls in northern part of Taiwan have alleviate problems there.

Bilateral Investigation on Sediment Transport Computer Models - A scientific investigation and fact-finding of selected sediment transport computer models is being carried out under a bilateral corporation project between engineers in the U.S. and Taiwan. The investigation is well in progress and results are expected to be reported in a conference in about a year's time.

Conference on Water Resources Engineering in Beijing - Preliminary planning is underway for a trilateral water resources engineering conference to be held in summer, 1994 in Beijing. Engineers of Chinese origin in the U.S., Taiwan, and Mainland China will participate in this meeting to discuss possibilities of future cooperation. Those interested should contact the Secretary of the CAWRA.

The Great Mississippi Flood of 93 - Flood stage records were set along most of the Mississippi River between Rock Island, Illinois and the Confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi River. More than 70% of private levees and 17% of federal levees failed. Flood prevention and disaster reduction systems went through test during the flood. Estimated damages exceed \$20 billions. Flood forecasting system, local, state, and federal response teams performed well during the Great Mississippi Flood of 93.

China Lacks Water to Meet Its Mighty Thirst - According to an article in *The New York Times*, diminishing water resources and fast-growing population, plus current economic boom have put increasing pressures on water supplies in China. "A Canadian environmental scientist, Vaclav Smil, says that China's land and water resources are approaching the limits of their ability to keep up with population growth." China has 22% of the world population, but just 8% of the world resources and 7% of its arable land. "The environmental foundations of China's national existence are alarming weak and they continue to deteriorate at high rates," Mr. Smil writes in a study of China's environmental problems. (Thanks to Dr. Yuan Cheng for providing this news)

Dam Safety in China - According to an article in the International Water Report, issue of Vol. 16, No.4, Autumn 1993, a group of Chinese engineers demanded that the government check the country's remaining rockfill dams after the Gouhou Dam in Qinhai broke in August, 93. The 200-foot-high dam collapsed and claimed over 1,250 lives, according to the United Nations' estimates. Engineers said that water came into the rockfill dams through damaged concrete slabs and joints and had urged the government to inspect similar dams to avoid future calamities

Environmental Monitoring in Asia - In another article in the same issue of International Water Report, it was reported that the Norwegian government and the Asian Development Bank will provide an \$818,000 technical assistance grant to developing a system to monitor Asia's environment. A system of numerical indicators and an environmental quality index will be developed to help describe the state of the environment. One task that a team of international consultants will undertake is to establish a common database framework for the People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Marshall Islands, Nepal, Pakistan, and the Philippines.

Meeting/Conference

May 23-26, ASCE 1994 Water Resources Planning and Management Division 21th Annual Conference. Denver, Colorado. Contact: D. Fontane, International School for Water Resources, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523. (tel) 303 4915247; (fax) 303 4916787.

June. 12-15, ASCE 1994 Conference on Hydraulics of Pipelines. Phoenix, AZ. Contact: ASCE.

July 8-9, 7th Conference on Hydraulic Engineering. Keelung, Taiwan, R.O.C. Contact: Prof. S.C. Chu. Dept. of River & Harbor Engineering, National Taiwan Ocean University, No.2 Pei-Ning Road, Keelung, Taiwan 202, R.O.C. (tel) 886-2-4622192 ext 6105; (fax) 886-2-4620724.

July. ASCE 1994 Annual Conference of Irrigation and Drainage Division. Kansas City, Kansas. Contact: ASCE.

Aug. 1-5, ASCE 1994 National Conference on Hydraulic Engineering and Symposium on Fundamentals and Advancements in Hydraulic Measurements and Experimentation. Buffalo, New York. Contact: ASCE. **Note the CAWRA will hold a members' meeting during this Conference.**

Aug. 24-26, 1994. 9th Congress of IAHR Asian Pacific Division. Singapore. Contact: Congress Secretariat, Dr. H.F. Cheong, Dept. of Civil Engineering, University of Singapore, Kent Ridge, Singapore, (tel) 65-336-8857 or 8858; (fax) 65-336-3613.

Sept. 20-24, International Conference on Irrigation Management Transfer. Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Contact: Sam H. Johnson III, IIMI, P.O.Box 2075, Colombo, Sri Lanka, (tel) 94 1 567404; (fax) 94 1 566854; (telex) 22318 or 22907 IIMIHQ CE.

Article & Members' Letters

(We welcome members submit proper news and activities for ARTICLES and MEMBERS' LETTERS)

Chinese American Water Resources Association

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