

Large dams conference draws record crowd

More than 230 people attended this year's conference of the South African National Committee on Large Dams (SANCOLD) held at Thaba'Nchu, in the Free State, late last year. The theme for the 2013 event was 'Technology for Water and Water Energy in Southern Africa.' Commenting on the theme of the conference, SANCOLD Chair, Danie Badenhorst, said: "The sustainable development of renewable resources with environmental stewardship

is of great importance in Africa as we seek to strengthen and maintain our critical water-supply infrastructure. In South Africa we have 3 500 dams with a height of more than 5 m that deliver a broad array of benefits, including water and power supply, flood risk management, water quality, recreation, sedimentation control and other benefits to the country's citizens." Badenhorst was encouraged by the record attendance at the conference as well as the high quality of papers delivered

(47 in total). "The papers delivered at the conference covered a variety of aspects, including planning, hydrology, hydraulics, environmental aspects, geotechnical and structural engineering, as well as dam safety. The high number of attendees and the interesting contributions show that there is a need for SANCOLD, and a need for our regular conferences where we can share dam engineering experiences and knowledge."

All photographs by Lani van Vuuren



Keynote speaker, Dr George Annandale, gave a thought-provoking address on sustainable water supply and climate change.



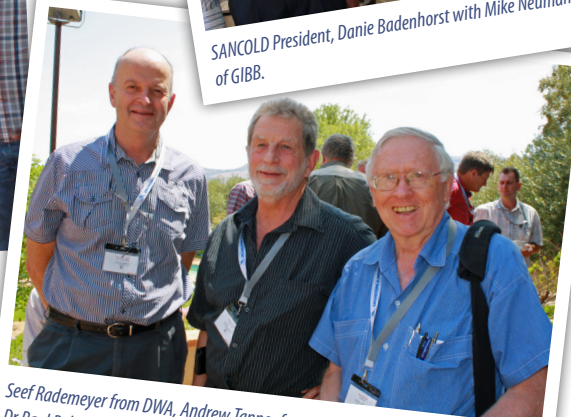
Shirley Ntotole, Zac Prins, Shenaaz Hoosen and Boitumelo Seake, all from the Department of Water Affairs (DWA).



SANCOLD President, Danie Badenhorst with Mike Neumann and Johann Geringer of GIBB.



Molola Mosome, Leepile Motlagomang, Khethikwe Khomo and Rodney Siwelane, all from DWA.



Seef Rademeyer from DWA, Andrew Tanner from Aurecon, and SANCOLD Secretary, Dr Paul Roberts.