

Commemorating the Fortieth Anniversary of the Establishment of the Korean Committee on Large Dams



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On behalf of the Japan Commission on Large Dams (JCOLD), I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to the Korean Committee on Large Dams (KNCOLD) as it celebrates its 40th anniversary. In Japan, we refer to a person's 40th year of age with the words 不惑 (pronounced fuwaku in Japanese), which are taken from classical Chinese writings. They express the belief that a person who has reached the age of 40 can act without hesitation.

The age of forty is also called 強任 (pronounced kyoshi in Japanese). This word expresses the belief that a person who has reached the age of forty acts filled with intelligence and vigor. Korea is also a country whose people understand Chinese ideographs, so I suppose that in Korea, the age of

forty is also described using these words. I would like to express my sincere respect for the recent domestic and international activities of KNCOLD which, I believe, are surely suitable for an organization which has reached the age of fuwaku and kyoshi.

Korea and Japan are both situated in the monsoon region of East Asia and their natural environments and social environments are extremely similar, so they face many of the same problems concerning dams.

KNCOLD and JCOLD have, therefore, maintained close relationships for many years through exchanges of a variety of technologies. For example, top officers of the two organizations have

held meetings when necessary, and in 2001, they established the Japan-Korea Dam Technical Conference which holds symposiums to study technology problems in conjunction with these meetings.

Beginning in 2004, the Chinese National Committee on Large Dams (CHINCOLD) joined to establish the East Asia Area Dam Conference. This Conference is now the liveliest of the many regional clubs under the International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD).

The following are the most noteworthy examples of cooperation between our two organizations. KNCOLD held the ICOLD 72nd Annual Meeting in Seoul in 2004, and JCOLD cooperated by sending more delegates than any other participating nation and by holding a pre-study tour of Japanese dams.

This year, the ICOLD 80th Annual Meeting and 24th Congress were held in Kyoto, and KNCOLD cooperated similarly by sending the largest delegation than any other participating nation and by holding a pre-study tour of dams and weirs in Korea. The two organizations have also cooperated closely in the management of the ICOLD, but I will not describe those in detail.

In Korea and in Japan, the construction of large

scale dams submerging many homes has become difficult in recent years because of restrictions imposed by the natural environment and social environment. But from an international perspective, to respond to the increase of the population, constructing and managing dams to supply food, provide water for urban water systems, generate hydroelectric power, and regulate flooding have become extremely important challenges. And activities such as taking global warming countermeasure and reducing dependency on nuclear power plants are accelerating dam construction. The technologies used to construct and safely manage Korea and Japan's many dams are, internationally, extremely important. We must work to continuously expand these technologies around the world.

I pray that KNCOLD will continue to undertake both domestic and international activities worthy of its age as expressed by the words, fuwaku and kyoshi.

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