

# **HYDRO 2016 AND SWITZERLAND AS HOST COUNTRY**



### THE ANNUAL HYDRO CONFERENCES

The annual conferences in this series are the most international gatherings for the hydropower profession, bringing together experts in the various inter-related disciplines in the field of hydropower development. Emphasis is on encouraging the advancement of carefully planned hydro schemes in the less developed countries, and equally maximizing the benefits of existing hydro installation, by maintenance and timely upgrading.

Three main tracks of sessions cover technical, economic/financial and environmental issues, with much emphasis on emerging topics, such as climate resilience, cyber security and capacity building/succession planning.

The events also provide a bridge between policy-makers and practitioners, highlighting topical issues and encouraging balanced debate.

Past events have taken place in Budapest (1994); Barcelona (1995); Lausanne (1996); Portoroz (1997); Aix en Provence (1998); Gmunden (1999); Bern (2000); Riva del Garda (2001); Kiris (2002); Dubrovnik (2003); Porto (2004); Villach (2005); Porto Carras (2006); Granada (2007); Ljubljana (2008); Lyon (2009); Lisbon (2010); Prague (2011); Bilbao (2012); Innsbruck (2013); Cernobbio (2014); and Bordeaux (2015).

Today the conferences attract around 1500-1600 participants, representing more than 80 countries. The main water- and energy-related professional associations, such as ICOLD and the International Energy Agency, play a major role in sessions and often host side events.

# **SWITZERLAND AS HOST OF HYDRO 2016**

With 33 hydro and pumped-storage schemes under construction (at both new and major upgrade projects), which will provide more than 2100 MW of new capacity,

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- All those active in advancing world hydropower development, whether through research, planning, project financing, design and construction, operation and maintenance, refurbishment or equipment supply.
- Others advising on specific aspects such as environmental protection, social aspects, safety enhancement, legal and contractual issues, climate science, etc.
- University lecturers and students, who together will ensure that expertise in the field of hydro and water resources development is sustainable. The conferences include sessions of special interest and relevance to students.

Switzerland is one of Europe's most active countries for hydro development at present. It is also one of the continent's original major hydropower developers, having based much of its industrial development on exploitation of its hydro resources during the 1950s. Today hydropower produces about 60 per cent of Swiss electricity.

Western Switzerland is a major centre of activity today, with schemes such as the major Nant de Drance, FMHL and Linthal 2015 pumped-storage schemes under way (two of which can be visited on post-Conference study tours.

The Swiss Government (through the Federal Office of Energy) is promoting the future use of hydropower through a variety of measures, as part of its 'Renewable energy action plan'. As well as new developments, existing plants are being renovated and expanded, taking related ecological requirements into account. There is a target to increase production by at least 2000 GWh/year through these measures.

Swiss utilities, academic institutes, professional associations and industrial companies have expressed strong support for HYDRO 2016, and are waiting to welcome the international hydropower community, and to share their long-term experience of hydro development.

# **MONTREUX AND THE RIVIERA**

As a result of its mild micro-climate, the Montreux-Vevey region has become known as the Montreux Riviera. HYDRO 2016 will take place against a background of stunning scenery, including vineyards, mountains, and medieval buildings.

The conference and exhibition will take place in the modern and spacious 2m2c Congress Centre, overlooking Lake Geneva, which is also home to the world famous Montreux Jazz Festival in the summer. The centre, with a total area of 18 000 m<sup>2</sup> and equipped with state-of-the-art technology, has a flexible layout and a total of 23 modular meeting rooms, all offering panoramic views of the lake and the Alps.

# **ACCESS AND REGIONAL TRANSPORT**

The nearest airport to Montreux is Geneva, which has direct flights from 120 cities. From Geneva, the journey takes approximately one hour by train, coach or car, with much of the route offering spectacular views of the lake.

Zurich airport, with direct flights from 150 cities, is 2.5 hours from Montreux by train. All HYDRO 2016 registered participants will receive a complimentary 'Montreux Riviera Card' allowing free use of all local public transportation in the area. Discounts are also available for some train journeys from neighbouring countries.









# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

A record number of abstracts (more than 450) were submitted for HYDRO 2016, making the task of the International Steering Committee challenging. The review process was recently completed, and the full programme will be published shortly. In addition to the paper presentations, a number of specialists will be invited to join panel discussions on key topics. The outline below presents a few highlights from the programme.

Several sessions will be led by experts from the International Energy Agency and ICOLD.



# POTENTIAL AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- One of the sessions on the first day will focus on global opportunities for hydropower development, with special emphasis on studies, plans and identified projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America.
- Opportunities for innovative development will also feature on the programme, including prospects for marine energy, and new approaches to upgrading capacity at existing installations.

# **SMALL AND LOW HEAD HYDRO**

 Innovations in machinery components, design optimization, model testing and retrofitting SHP at existing water infrastructure will be among many topics covered. One talk will focus on private investment in small hydro in Africa.

# FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND CONTRACTUAL ISSUES

- Risk mitigation and management will be the subject of a session, including a panel discussion, with input from experts from the insurance sector.
- A session on contractual issues will address the question of how responsibilities should be shared between employers and contractors.

# **CIVIL ENGINEERING**

- Innovative designs of dams and appurtenant works will be covered, with case studies from many parts of the world.
- Safety and new monitoring methods, will be a key topic, including lessons from past incidents, the seismic vulnerability of a high arch dam, and dealing with alkali silicate reaction. Ageing infrastructure will be the topic of several presentations.
- The design and construction of tunnels, underground power caverns and flood discharge works will also be on the agenda.



# **FOCUS ON SWISS HYDRO EXPERIENCE**

• The expertise behind the Swiss achievements in the fields of hydro and pumped storage development will be reflected in a special session devoted to the HYDRO 2016 host country. Presentations will focus on Swiss competence in research and engineering, with speakers from some of the world renowned centres of excellence in Switzerland. The session will also include some selected case studies of recent and on-going projects in the country.

### **SUCCESSION PLANNING**

• One session will look at training activities available for young people entering the field of hydropower, as well as succession planning, capacity-building needs, and some success stories. Inter-active discussion between students and experienced engineers will be encouraged, and a students' social event is being organized.

# **MARINE ENERGY**

 Several papers will look at regional and global prospects for various forms of marine energy, and case studies will focus on schemes such as the Swansea tidal lagoon scheme.

# **CLIMATE ISSUES**

 Topics will include practical steps towards climate resilience, new hydrological forecasting methods, and flood mitigation and hazard management.

# **HYDROPOWER EQUIPMENT**

• Research, new developments, modelling, testing, operational issues and upgrading of hydro machinery will be covered, with emphasis on innovation, efficiency improvements and economy.

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# **TOURS AND SOCIAL PROGRAMME**

# **TECHNICAL STUDY TOURS**

A choice of three tours will be offered following the HYDRO 2016 conference, to give international participants the opportunity to visit a variety of Swiss dams, hydro plants, and major pumped-storage developments.

Provisional plans are under way with the relevant Swiss authorities, and in collaboration with the Swiss National Committee on Dams, for two- and three-day trips, which will offer the opportunity to visit the 900 MW Nant de Drance pumped-storage scheme and the Emosson dam and reservoir, the Hongrin double curvature arch dam and the FMHL pumped-storage scheme under construction close to Montreux, the Bieudron powerplant and Grande Dixence, the world's highest gravity dam; Les Toules and Schiffenen arch dams; and some low head run-of-river hydro installations on the river Aare.

The technical visits will be complemented by some cultural and touristic activities, such as a visit to the world famous Gianadda Foundation Museum and Gallery in Martigny (for participants of two of the tours), sightseeing in Bern, and a chance to see the spectacular mountain scenery around Zermatt.

Visits are also planned during the week of the conference to EPFL's Laboratory of Hydraulic Construction (LCH) and Laboratory of Hydraulic Machines (LMH) in Lausanne, and to Mhylab in nearby Montcherand.

# **HALF DAY EXCURSION**

On Sunday 9 October, after registering at the conference centre and collecting badges and conference documentation, participants will have the opportunity to join a half-day trip, including lunch, with a first chance to enjoy the picturesque little town of Montreux, and the spectacular lake.

# **ACCOMPANYING PERSONS' TOURS**

Accompanying persons attending HYDRO 2016 will have opportunities to participate in tours to some of the most scenic parts of Europe, in the Montreux-Geneva region, over three days.

The three-day package this year will provisionally include: a visit to the medieval hilltop village of Gruyère, renowned not only for its cheese but also its castle; a demonstration of chocolate making - another speciality of Switzerland (along with hydropower and cheese!); a visit to the Château de Chillon (see photo below); and, a trip into the mountains. Participants will become familiar with the





Lavaux region, known as the 'Swiss Corniche', with its vineyards and small villages. The area was recently designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site. A tasting is planned at one of the wine cellars on the Corniche.

# **SOCIAL PROGRAMME**

A full social programme will be arranged, as always, including: a reception for chairpersons and speakers, on the evening before the conference begins; a welcome reception, to which all participants and accompanying persons are invited, in an elegant setting close to Lake Geneva; a Networking Reception in the Exhibition halls; and, a Conference Gala Dinner in a historical building, full of local character. In view of the HYDRO 2016 Conference venue, renowned both for the Montreux Jazz Festival and for world class classical concerts, there will be no shortage of good music.

# **ACCOMMODATION**

Hotel rooms have been reserved for delegates in a wide range of categories, from 3\* to luxury 5\*. Student accommodation can also be arranged on request. Within Montreux, the selected hotels are all within easy walking distance of the 2m2c congress centre. For others nearby, free public transport can be used.

Hotel rooms are also available in nearby Vevey, and nearby villages, which are just a few minutes away by tram or bus (Montreux Riviera Cards will allow for free travel on this journey).

Accommodation bookings can be made at the time of registration.

### **CONTACT DETAILS:**

Full details of tours and social activities will be published in the Final Bulletin, which will be available in June, and will include the conference registration form. Meanwhile, for more information, contact:

Aqua ~ Media International Ltd,
PO Box 285, Little Woodcote, Wallington, Surrey SM6 6AN, UK
Tel: + 44 20 8773 7244 • Fax: + 44 20 8773 7255
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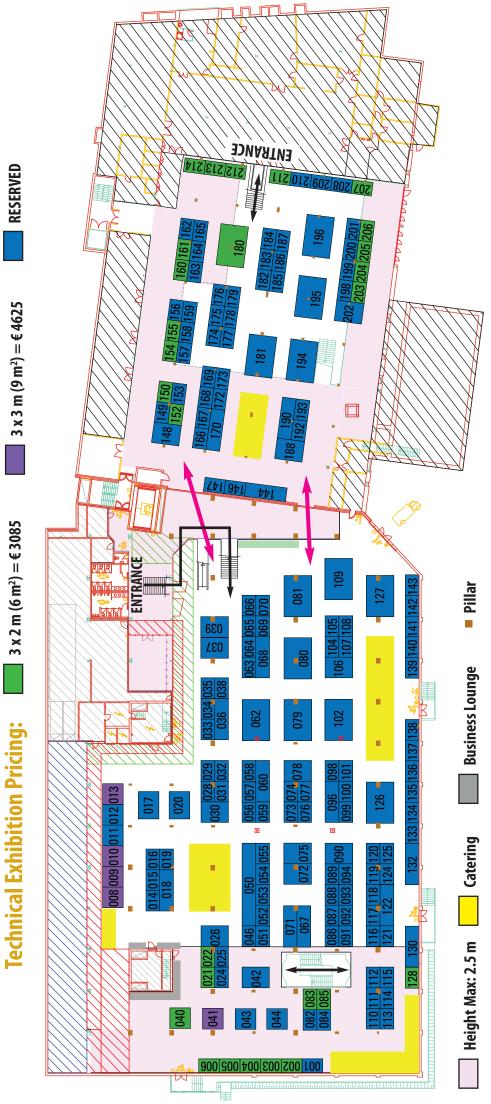


# ON PLAN

I0 to 12 October 2016  $\sim$  Montreux, Switzerland



• All lunch and refreshments will be served in the Exhibition Halls. Delegates are encouraged to move around the whole exhibition area over the three days, to have a comprehensive overview • The Technical Exhibition will be an important part of HYDRO 2016, bringing together experts from the manufacturing industry, consultants, developers and professional associations. of the exhibits on display, and to make new contacts among the international hydropower community. • A Networking Party will take place in the Exhibition Halls after the conference sessions on Tuesday afternoon. The Exhibition Hall therefore will have extended opening hours on Tuesday.



# **HYDRO 2016 TECHNICAL EXHIBITION STANDS BOOKED BY MAY**

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