



# SUURPADOT - SUOMEN OSASTO ry FINNISH COMMITTEE ON LARGE DAMS

FINCOLD

## FINCOLD 60 YEARS

Finland was elected as the 21<sup>st</sup> member of ICOLD at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Hague on September 3, 1947. Activities were first operated by the name of International Commission on Large Dams of the World Power Conference Finnish Committee. This Finnish Committee arranged 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of ICOLD in Helsinki in 1959. Finnish Committee on Large Dams (FINCOLD) was registered on September 6, 1960.



FINCOLD has been active in ICOLD. Mr. Osmo Korvenkontio was elected as Vice President of ICOLD in 1977. Mid 1950s Finns were very active with concrete technology and arranged the ICOLD Sub-Committee on Concrete. Nowadays FINCOLD has participants in 4 ICOLD Committees. FINCOLD has also taken active part in the ICOLD European Club. Most recent bigger role was with the working group on the Management of Incidents. The working group was led by FINCOLD and the work was finished 2017.

There are nearly 200 hydropower dams in Finland. By the end of the Second World War Finland had lost one third of its hydropower capacity. Most of the hydro-power stations were built between 1950 and 1970. Nowadays there are new tailings dams and flood embankments built in Finland but nearly no hydropower dams. Infrastructure is aging and many renovation projects have been processed during past years.

FINCOLD is a co-operation forum for dam owners, authorities, designers, constructors as well as people functioning in research, development and teaching. FINCOLD organizes annual seminar "Floods and dams" with other dam safety actors. FINCOLD also arranges seminars and excursions to FINCOLD members.



The revised Dam Safety Act (494/2009) came into force in Finland in 2009 when the previous act was 25 years old. The revised Government Decree on Dam Safety (319/2010) came into force in 2010. After the new legislation came - the Dam Safety Guide was published in 2012. The purpose of the guide is to complement and elucidate the law and the decree through examples and descriptions. These have all been translated in English and can be found in the Internet ([www.environment.fi/damsafety](http://www.environment.fi/damsafety)). FINCOLD has been actively participating legislation revision and other dam safety activities in Finland.

In Finland, there are 450 classified dams. Dam safety authority supervises the work of the dam owners. According to the law, dam owners have the total responsibility of their dams. Dams are classified in three classes according to the hazard they pose in a case of an accident. Tailings dams and flood embankments are considered as dams by the Dam Safety Act.

Future of FINCOLD and dam safety in Finland is firm. Significant work will be done with monitoring and renovating aging infrastructure. Estimating, monitoring and supervising the hazard is never-ending work as long as there are dams. It is also important to maintain international relationships to ensure up-to-date know-how and knowledge sharing.