Destruction of dams (such as Elwha Dam, USA) are a challenge to the Engineering underwriter – see page 6
1. **News from the Executive Committee**

The EC had its last meeting on 20\textsuperscript{th} February 2014 in Istanbul. The Minutes of Meeting can be found on [www.imia.com](http://www.imia.com) (login necessary). Here are some of the key points:

- IMIA has supported, together with LEG, the London Working Party on DSU.
- The EC discussed in detail possibilities to further supporting the active implementation of the recommendations of the Working Party. The main focus has been to provide a common understanding of the intended coverage and the financial elements involved. As a consequence a workshop was organized in London which was attended by key players in this demanding niche and centred on the application of useful tools which you also may find on the IMIA page under DSU tool box.
- The preparations for the 47\textsuperscript{th} Annual IMIA Conference, which will take place in Cannes/Mandelieu, France from Sept. 20\textsuperscript{th} to 24\textsuperscript{th}, 2014, are already well advanced. More details of the agenda and the venue were discussed and agreed.
- Topics for Break Out sessions at our conference on Monday, the topic of the Panel Discussion on Tuesday and the topics for six new WG papers 2014/2015 have been agreed as well. They are listed up in our minutes of meeting which will be placed on www.imia.com soon.
- Revised Tunnelling Clause

  A (predominantly) London based group of underwriters has formed ICEIG (International Civil Engineering Insurers’ Group). One topic the group has taken on is Tunnel Clauses. With the help of loss adjusters and brokers the group has suggested an amended clause using the Munich Re 101 as a start point. Most of the changes are aimed at increasing the clarity of the clause to remove many of the common causes of dispute during the loss adjusting process.

  Moreover, the working group has also drafted a Key Facts Document much like the DSU Working Party did last year. Fine tuning of the revised clause is still going on. IMIA will support the initiative and will provide both the revised clause and the key facts document on www.imia.com in the near future.

  The EC is pleased to welcome Gjensidige Forsikring ASA; Oslo, Norway as a new full member.

2. **What is new on www.imia.com**

Following the redesign and restructuring of the IMIA Internet website the search process will be supported by additionally installing tooltips (The user hovers the pointer over an item, without clicking it, and a tooltip may appear—a small "hover box" with information about the item being hovered over. Tooltips do not appear on mobile operating systems, because there is no cursor.

Moreover a flipbook is being created and will be installed. It allows users to rapidly flip through a chosen document. This is a very time-consuming procedure, but the EC is confident to have it installed soon.
3. **Second IMIA Engineering Insurance Training Course  2014**

The Second Engineering Insurance Training Course has taken place in Berlin from March 10-14, 2014.

There were 31 students from 19 countries all over the world.

The organisation has again been provided perfectly by the German Insurance Association GDV and its entity DVA (German Insurance Academy). IMIA is very grateful to all persons involved for all their excellent support.

More or less, the same experienced seniors as in the first course of 2013, from leading insurers, large reinsurers and insurance service providers lectured on engineering insurance topics for four days. We owe them and their employers special thanks.

An examination comprising 64 questions took place on Friday morning, the average grades achieved were better than in the previous year.

4. **France expects you**

The next annual IMIA conference will take place from Sept. 21st – 25th in the Hotel Pullman in Cannes/Mandelieu, France. The preliminary agenda of this 47th conference is already on the IMIA web page – as well as the hotel information, the local information and the registration forms - and may undergo a few modifications, but it comprises again interesting topics. Please note, for accessing
the relevant information and for registration you will have to log in using the access
details shared by mail on April 2\textsuperscript{nd} 2014. Due to hotel constraints, reservation
should be completed by May 15\textsuperscript{th}, 2014. After this date, reservations cannot be
guaranteed.

Our French friends have already provided some interesting information on the
local market. We will send it as another regional special on France, the second of
this series.

5. **Second Special Issue “Territorial Information on France and its Engineering Insurance”**

The Annual Country Reports provided by our members and presented on
www.imia.com are much appreciated. The special on France will be sent out
simultaneously with this issue of the IMIA News Sheet.

6. **Tokwe Mukosi Dam Project in Masvingo**

A case study in entrepreneurial risk for underwriters. It’s not always the contractors
only in whose entrepreneurial risk the underwriter may be lured. The following press
information may serve as a case study. And Zimbabwe could be repeated anywhere.

Tokwe Mukosi dam, upon completion, is set to be the largest inland dam, second
to Kariba, built at a cost of US$200 million it is expected to carry nearly 2 million
cubic litres of water when completed.

The incessant rains that Masvingo received this season saw dam water levels at
Tokwe Mukosi rising beyond the expectations of the contractors. The Tokwe Mukosi
Dam wall is inevitably going to collapse. - Due to the damaged dam many homes
were submerged under water and many people in the Tokwe catchment area had
to be air lifted by Zimbabwean and Namibian air force helicopters. A lot of property
was lost, including crops and livestock.
Silting of lakes threatens power plants and turbines

Silting of lakes becomes an increasing problem for operators and for investors. Very often, hydro turbines suffer severe damage through silt within the first year of operation. According to a study released by the Ecole Polytechnique Lausanne, Switzerland (authors Anton Schleiss, Giovanni de Cesare, Jolanda Jenzer-Althaus) the siltation process may develop as shown in this table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continent</th>
<th>Annual Silting Rate (%/year)</th>
<th>Year when 80% are silted and lake unfit for power production</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>2035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>2100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>2060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>2080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>2080</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more and detailed info see: http://bulawayo24.com/index-id-news-sc-national-byo-42628.html
In the past 15 years, more and more conferences have been organized on this issue (see for example: [http://www.vncold.vn/Modules/CMS/Upload/13/Cooperation/Silting%20Problems.pdf](http://www.vncold.vn/Modules/CMS/Upload/13/Cooperation/Silting%20Problems.pdf)). Books are published on silting and hydropower plants.

It is certainly worthwhile giving this problem special attention.

8. **Dam Removal**

Today more communities than ever are considering removing or modifying dams due to ecological reasons or for safety reasons. More info see: [http://www.internationalrivers.org/resources/the-long-road-to-river-recovery-1673](http://www.internationalrivers.org/resources/the-long-road-to-river-recovery-1673)

Insurers may be confronted with granting cover not for constructing, but for dismantling large dams. As a case study see the article: [www.internationalrivers.org/campaigns/dam-removal](http://www.internationalrivers.org/campaigns/dam-removal)

and the specific information on the Elwha Dam in Washington/USA. The dam which blocked the migration of salmon was decommissioned. Removal started in September 2011 and was finished in March 2012:


Beginning of demolition
9. Environmental side effects of solar power plants

Environmentalists have hit out at a giant new solar farm in the Mojave Desert as mounting evidence reveals birds flying through the extremely hot 'thermal flux' surrounding the towers are being scorched.

Ivanpah, a massive solar-power project, is online in the Mojave desert.
It is using a solar thermal technology that has led to concerns about scorched birds. The plant officially began commercial operations recently, to more controversy beyond the threat to wildlife: Other solar technologies are far cheaper, and Ivanpah may be the first and the last of its kind.

The plant, however, is a technology marvel. In this aerial view, Tower 1 is seen surrounded by its sun-worshipping mirrors. Ivanpah is a concentrating solar power plant, and CSPs do not rely on photovoltaic panels that conventional solar-power sources do. Heat emanating from the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System, the world's largest solar farm of its kind (more than 550 °C), has allegedly killed and injured dozens of birds and other wildlife in the Mojave desert.


The topic of solar thermal plants is also being discussed in a new IMIA Working Group Paper to be presented at next IMIA conference in September this year.

10. Flood - make the best of it
Surfer towed along flooded Castleford road

You may also see: http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leeds-19727594

There is even a video on http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-T-8Etcx_f8, see yourself.

hhm 03.04.2014