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## A MESSAGE FROM DR. B.R. SHETTY, PATRON OF IACRR

*A paradigm shift from “storing flood waters in inland dams and reservoirs and natural discharging of river flood waters into the ocean” to “storing river flood waters in coastal reservoirs in, or close to the sea using downstream reservoirs”*

Despite water covering about 70% of the Earth's surface, fresh water for consumption is not as plentiful. Less than 3% of all water on the earth is fresh; most of which is in the ice caps and glaciers, with only about 1% of all fresh water being accessible surface water! More than 1 billion people lack access to clean water and about 3 billion people lack the same for about three months in a year. Many large cities in the world are facing a situation of 'water stress'. According to the United Nations, global demand for fresh water will exceed supply by 40% by 2030. The main reasons for this increasing water stress are climate change, human behavioral change and population growth. Most civilizations in the history of the human race have flourished in areas where abundant water was available. Now, it seems that there is enough



rainfall on our planet to support all humanity, but it is unevenly distributed and a good part of it comes during heavy storms and is lost to the sea. Due to climate change rainfall events have become more intense and sporadic and as all this happens quickly, the majority of these flood waters flow through streams and rivers into the ocean and mix with salt water, thus getting lost as a water resource. A water crisis in many parts of the world can be prevented by starting to regard the large volumes of water flowing to the oceans during floods as a valuable water resource. Coastal reservoirs represent a paradigm shift in the history of water resources management, from storing flood waters in inland dams to storing freshwater in "downstream reservoirs", located in estuaries close to the sea. I have the fortune of being in the position of patron of a new society focused on this subject, namely the International Association for Coastal Reservoir Research (IACRR), and it is my ambition to contribute what I can to support the delivery of fresh water for all and reducing water stress globally.

I am happy to note that Hydrolink - the magazine of the International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR) - is taking an interest in coastal reservoirs and bringing out a special issue on this new topic, highlighting the need for such activities to help solve the world's growing water crisis. On behalf of IACRR, I would like to thank IAHR for their support and I would encourage the IAHR community to work with IACRR to deliver the science and engineering needed to address the challenges and opportunities of delivering water security to many cities world-wide through coastal reservoirs.

I understand from Professor T G Sitharam, President of IACRR, that the Centre for Coastal Reservoir Research at the University of Wollongong held a very successful first International workshop on coastal reservoirs in collaboration with IACRR in January, 2018. I am pleased to note that this workshop had representation from water resources planners, politi-



**Dr. B. R. Shetty** is an Indian-born businessman and founder of many companies based in the UAE, and Chairman of BRS Ventures. He completed his pharmaceutical education in India and moved to the UAE in 1973. In 1975 he founded New Medical Centre Health to fill the need for personalized healthcare for all. He has invested considerably in medical institutions in India and also in recycling of water at the Jog Falls (the second highest water falls in India and a major tourist attraction) using a reverse pumping mechanism, which would make Jog Falls perennial and generate hydropower during the monsoon season. Dr Shetty has received many awards for his work, including the highest distinction in the UAE, the Abu Dhabi Award. He is now Patron of the IACRR and passionate about water security in India, the UAE and world-wide.

cians and water ministers from Australia, Malaysia, China and India, as well as researchers, engineers and scientists who spent time reviewing and assessing the feasibility of coastal reservoirs in securing universal access to safe and affordable drinking water. I am happy to note that the concept of storing water in downstream reservoirs (coastal reservoirs) is rapidly catching on and I understand that a number of major cities around the world are now actively pursuing coastal reservoirs as a sustainable solution to their water supply problems. I am also happy to hear that Hohai University will host the 1<sup>st</sup> IACRR World Congress on Coastal Reservoirs in Nanjing, China, in October 19-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018. I am also pleased to hear that we are working to host this conference in association with world renowned learned societies such as IAHR.

I congratulate and thank IAHR's Hydrolink editor and its editorial board for taking this collaborative initiative to support and promote Coastal Reservoirs to its scientific and engineering community and I look forward to seeing closer links between IAHR and IACRR in the future.

Thank you. ■