

This is Zhou Hanmin, the only tailings dam subcommittee member of ICOLD from China. I have always been paying close attention to drafting of this global standard. It was a pity that I haven't got chance to meet with you and the team when you were in China last time. After reading through the draft carefully, I am in agreement with structure of the standard and the opinion that TFS should comprehensively consider technique, community, surrounding environment and requirements from the miner, etc. What I would like to share here is: there are nearly 7000 tailing dams operating in China, with storage manner covers all sorts of damming method existing in the world (methods such as up-stream, center-line, down-stream, dry stacking, paste storage, tailing & rock co-disposed and geofabricform, etc.) At present, China has detailed and specific technical guidelines (both from state level and industrial level) and government requirement on TFS projects, evaluation and approval of TFS projects has strict procedures as well. The State has organized a group of expertise with strong technical background and rich experience to undertake assessment of TFS projects and review of engineering design, this helps a lot in controlling of technical risk of projects, government of different administrative level and social enterprises could invite the experts from the group to review design of the project. Hence, I would like to suggest our three sponsor of this global standard to establish a global expertise tank (members of ICOLD or scholars of this field, etc.) to carry necessary technical review on any new or upgraded or expanded TFS projects. And in running of dam projects, enterprises could also invite the expert to give diagnoses or provide technical assistance on projects with demands.

After collapsing of dam in China in 2008, Chinese government has taken concentrated measures in dealing with amounts of closed TFS or tailing dam designed not following specification, either to close the dam or supplement necessary design specifications. By now, safety of TFS in China are greatly improved, I hereby also suggest to treat TFS with different safety level differently in the standard.