World Heritage Irrigation Structures (WHIS) 2025

A total of 23 new structures are recognized in 2025. Now the total WHIS Register includes 200 structures.

BACKGROUND

- At the 63rd IEC, Adelaide, 2012 the process for recognition of the historical irrigation structures on the lines of World Heritage Sites as recognized by UNESCO was initiated.

- Scheme includes both the old operational irrigation structures as well as structures that have primarily archival value.

OBJECTIVES

- Tracing the history of and understanding the evolution of irrigation in the civilizations across the world.
- To select and collect information on historical irrigation structures from around the world, understand their significant achievements and gather knowledge about the unique features that have sustained the project for such a long period;
- To learn the philosophy and wisdom on sustainable irrigation from these structures; and
- To protect/preserve these historical irrigation structures

SCOPE

- **The structure shall be more than 100 years old;**
- **The structures shall fall under one of the following categories:**
  - **Dams (operational largely for irrigation purpose),**
  - **Water storage structures such as tanks for irrigation,**
  - **Barrages and other water diversion structures,**
  - **Canal Systems,**
  - **Old waterwheels,**
  - **Old shadouf,**
  - **Agriculture drainage structures,**
- **Any site or structure functionally related to present or past agricultural water management activity.**

HOW TO APPLY?

- **Nomination for WHIS are open and can be submitted throughout the year.**
- **A milestone from administrative perspective has been earmarked as 30 June every year specifically to enable the Jury to process them before the next IEC meeting**
- **NCs can nominate more than one structure (maximum of four), using separate nomination forms for each structure.**
- **Associated Members and non-member countries can nominate their structures through the neighbouring active NCs or by submitting directly to Central Office.**

Panel of Judges (PoJs)

CHAIR

VP Dr. Vadim Sokolov (Uzbekistan), Chair, PSCO - **Chairman**

MEMBERS

- Prof. Dr. Yutaka Matsuno, Japan, Chair, WG-HIST- Member
- VP Prof. Dr. Sylvestor Mpandeli (South Africa) - Member
- VP Prof. Fuqiang Tian (China) - Member
- Ir. NIK KUN BIN NIK MAN (Malaysia) - Member



MEMBER-SECRETARY

Dr. R.K. Gupta, Secretary General, ICID - Member Secretary

Nominations Received and Approved

- ❑ **China (4)**
- ❑ **India (4)**
- ❑ **Italy (4)**
- ❑ **Japan (2)**
- ❑ **Malaysia (1)**
- ❑ **South Africa (4)**
- ❑ **Thailand (1)**
- ❑ **Turkey (1)**
- ❑ **Uzbekistan (2)**

Approved Structures – China (4)

Chishan Lake Irrigation System





Jianjiangyan Irrigation System

Yuanyang Hani Terraces





Mentougou Ancient Canals of Yongding River

Approved Structures – India **(4)**

Cheyyar Anicut





Kodivery Anicut

Noyyal River System Tanks





Ekrukh Medium Project

Approved Structures – Italy **(4)**

Sportone di Maderno





Cascata Marmore

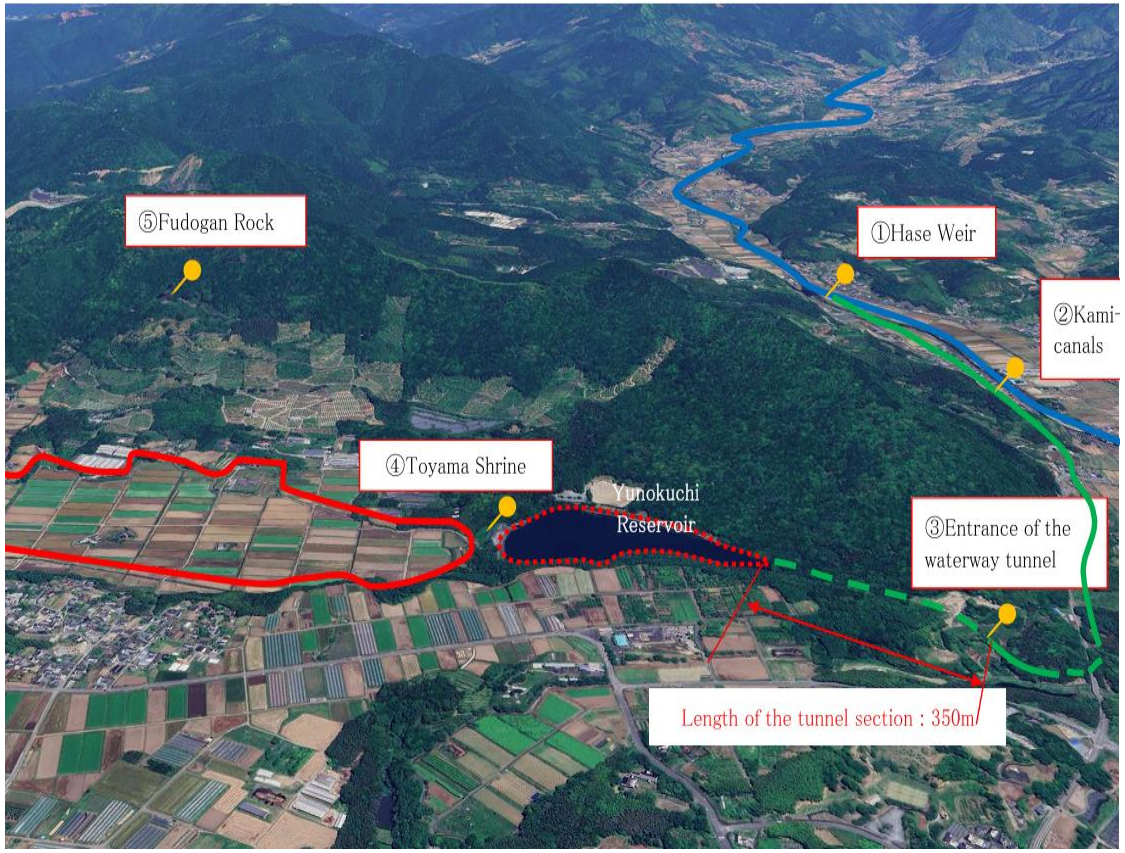
The hydraulic axis of the Clitunno





Monte Pacciano reservoir

Approved Structures – Japan (2)



Yunokuchi Tameike Irrigation System



Taketa Irrigation System
(Kibaru - Main Irrigation Canal)

Approved Structure – Malaysia **(1)**



Bukit Merah Dam/Reservoir (BMDR)

View of Dam and Spillway

Approved Structures – South Africa **(4)**

Darlington Dam





Hartbeespoort Dam

Koppies Dam





Woodhead Dam

Approved Structure – Thailand **(1)**

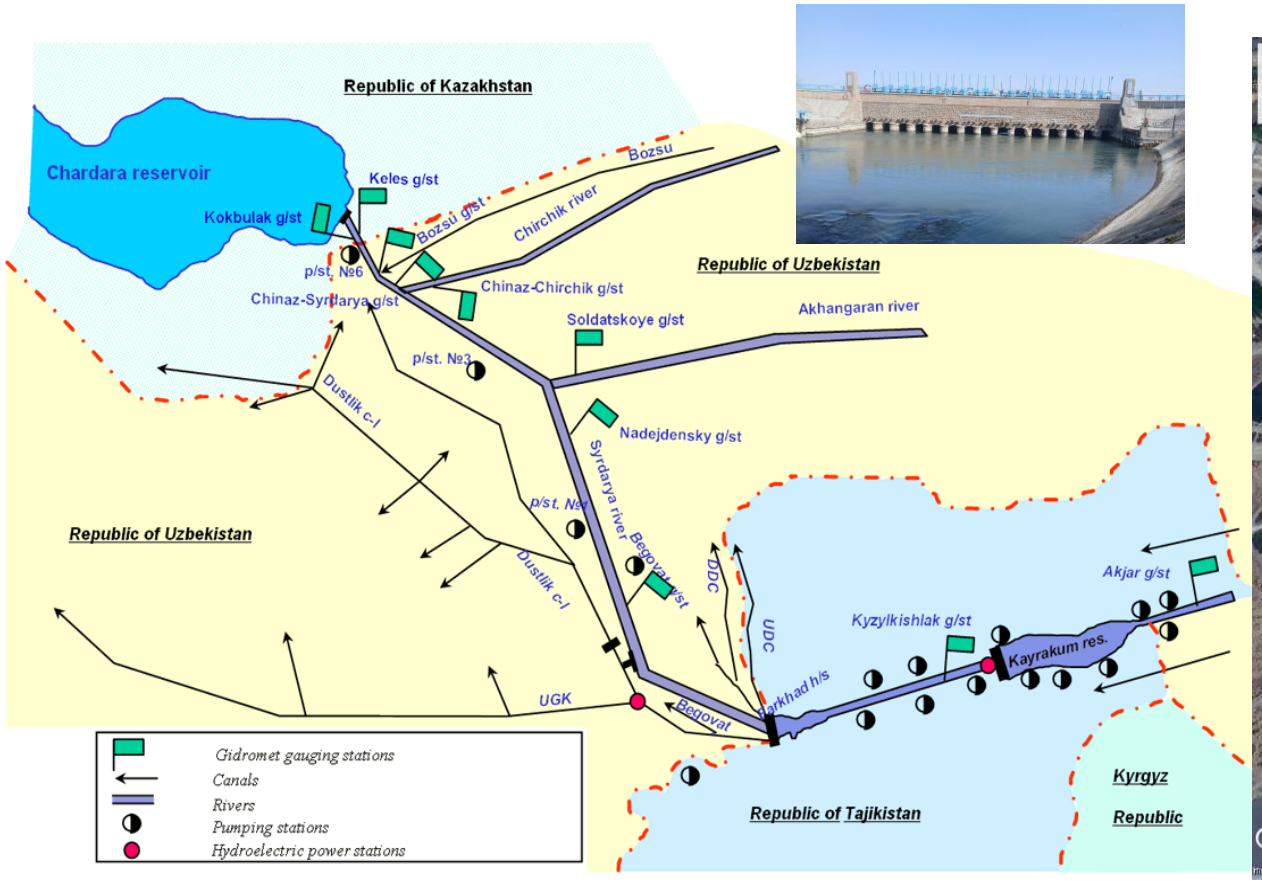


Rama VI Barrage

Approved Structure – Turkey **(1)** Stone Bridge



Approved Structures – Uzbekistan (2)





Dustlik Canal

(this structure shared by Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan)

Eski Tuya Tortar Canal