

International Affairs Activities April 2011

The International Affairs Program routinely assists water resources agencies of other countries by providing reimbursable technical training and technical visitors programs for their staff. Training programs are tailored to fit each request and vary in length from two days to as long as one year, usually combining office assignments and field visits or study tours to Reclamation's Denver, regional, and area offices. All cost involved with providing training are fully reimbursed to Reclamation.

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Dam Safety Training-Sri Lanka

A three-person team consisting of Messrs. William Bouley, Jay Stateler and Robert Dewey, of the Technical Service Center, conducted a six-day dam safety training seminar for 60 staff of the World Bank-funded Dam Safety and Water Resources Planning Project under the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources Management of Sri Lanka.

The training was based upon developed coursework and materials that have been presented at Reclamation's Safety Evaluation of Existing Dams Seminar. As part of the training, a simulated exam was conducted at Nachchaduwa Dam, which was constructed in 998 AD and restored in 1906. The participants were looking for the onset of possible failure modes that had been identified in the classroom training.

It was conveyed by Mr. Ranjith Amaratunga, Training Coordinator of the project, *"We were able to conduct one of the best training programs for the dam safety sector in Sri Lanka."*

Mr. Sudharma Elakanda, Project Director, added, *"It was a wonderful program and all 60 participants attended full time, since it was so interesting and useful to every participant equally. Bob, Will and Jay conducted the program extremely well and they too enjoyed the program. I am taking this opportunity to thank USBR and particularly to you for giving all the assistance to plan this program and for three resource persons for conducting the program so effectively and friendly."*

The Water Resources Development Project has contributed significantly to the country's economic growth, poverty reduction and environmental health. It is estimated that less than 25% of the country's water resources are developed. At present, about 85% of the developed water resources are used for irrigated agriculture in the dry zone of the country.



