

***CE 597D Water Resources Seminar***  
***Friday April 30, 2004***  
***Stavely Conference Room —202 Hammond Building***  
**12:00-12:15 REFRESHMENTS**  
**12:15-1:15 SEMINAR PRESENTATION**

**“Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River in China”**

**HOWARD CHANG, Ph.D., P.E.**

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**ABSTRACT:** The newly completed Three Gorges Dam is on the Yangtze River in China; it controls 70 % of the drainage basin of the river. The dam has created a huge reservoir, from which 1.2 million people had to be resettled. The project will produce hydropower, equivalent to the output from 18 nuclear power plants. While it is the largest project ever undertaken by men, it, however, remains to be very controversial. The project was opposed by many knowledgeable people, including those in the engineering community. Because the Yangtze River carries a heavy sediment load, many believe that the reservoir will rapidly be filled with sediment, such that the project only has a limited useful life span, say 50 to 80 years. It appears that such an undertaking and huge investment could not be justified.

Howard Chang was involved in the reservoir sedimentation aspect of the project. He will describe the major findings pertaining to reservoir sedimentation and sediment control. The pros and cons of hydropower will also be compared.

Moderator: Dr. Peggy Johnson  
Refreshments: Norm Folmar