



## International Cooperation and transboundary perspectives on water

### India Water Forum

April 20th – 22nd New Delhi

Transboundary Rivers are ubiquitous all around the world. South Asian transboundary rivers are inseparably linked with the regional geopolitics involving several riparian countries unequal in both size and power. There are many social, economic, and environmental issues surrounding these rivers and their basins. For starters, all the riparian countries are developing and/or majority of the civil population are living below the poverty level. Furthermore, this large community in each country is highly diverse in religious, ethnic and social divisions. Water related issues include floods, water availability, water pollution/sedimentation, introduction of flow regulation structures (dams/barrages), and minimum flow requirements downstream has impacted the livelihood of these diverse communities and in return impacted on the socio-economic growth, and the development of the country. The growing demands for water caused by the rise of population, high development and industrialization increase the necessity of identifying the importance of these resources and opt for better governance of these transboundary rivers. However, it is not an easy task to manage these multinational river basins, for a mere misuse by one user will subsequently have an impact on another user of this common pool resource. On a positive note, it has been identified that these rivers often can act as a powerful catalyst for cooperation. The co-management of the rivers by riparian countries addressing the interest of all the stakeholders is the key to revenue the maximum benefit from these water resources, by not only confining to technical benefits but also by reaching out to the areas of Socio-economy, Environment and Policy as well.

This panel discussion on International Cooperation and Trans-boundary Perspectives on water is divided into two subpanel discussions .The first subpanel discussion will focus on the importance of identifying and addressing the transboundary issues and challenges and need for co-operation in transboundary river basin management. The panel will be held for an hour will be deliberating upon the following three key questions.

**Key Questions: Panel 1** (The panelists in **panel 1** are requested to speak broadly addressing the following three key questions)

1. What is the need for transboundary cooperation? Do you think the co-operation can lead to a better river basin management?
2. What efforts are required to address transboundary issues to promote co-operation?
3. What are the roles and responsibilities that each riparian country/state should undertake for a smoother process of formulating cooperative arrangement to meet challenges of water scarcity?

The objective of the second subpanel is to share knowledge and experience of the panelist on the three main transboundary rivers “Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra” and to look for avenues of cooperation between the riparian countries. Following key questions will be addressed by the panelists.

**Key Questions: Panel 2.** (The panelists in **panel 2** are requested to speak broadly addressing the following three key questions)

1. Can we outline potential avenues (knowledge/research/implementation) for collaboration between India, Pakistan and Bangladesh on transboundary water governance?
2. What are the common water concerns and how can we build trust and confidence between the riparian countries so as to enhance the existing cooperation to address the common concerns?
3. Can we identify approaches/mechanisms that allow the voices and concerns of all stakeholders be heard, so as to facilitate transparency within ongoing / new collaborations

**Panel Discussion**

**Venue: India Habitat Centre (IHC), New Delhi**

**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2016; Time: 2:00 - 5:15 PM (Duration: 3 hours and 15 minutes)**

<b>Session 6: International Cooperation and Trans-boundary Perspectives on water</b>	
<b>2.00- 2.05</b>	<b>Introduction to the panels</b> Dr. Poulomi Banerjee, SaciWATERs
<b>2.05-3.20</b>	<b>Panel 1</b>
<b>2.05-2.15</b>	<b>Chair</b> Sh. G S Jha Chairman, Central Water Commission
<b>2.15-2.25</b>	<b>Keynote Address</b> Mr. Ravi Narayanan Chair, Asia Pacific Water Forum, Governing Council
<b>2.25-2.35</b>	Mr. Munshi Faiz Ahmad Chairman, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS)
<b>2.35-2.50</b>	Mr. R K Gupta CMD, WAPCOS
<b>2.50-3.00</b>	Dr. Sagar Prasai The Asia Foundation, New Delhi
<b>3.00-3.20</b>	Open discussion
<b>3.20-3.35</b>	<i>Tea Break</i>
<b>3.35-5.15</b>	<b>Panel 2</b>
<b>3:35 – 3:40</b>	Opening Remarks by the <b>Chair</b> Dr. S.K. Sarkar, Former secy. Ministry of Water Resources Director Water Resources Division, TERI
<b>3:40 – 3:50</b>	Mr Nisar Menon Chairman, Water Environment Forum, Pakistan
<b>3:50 – 4:00</b>	Prof Janakarajan Madras Institute of Development Studies, India

4:00- 4:10	Ms. Bushra Nishat Programme Manager, South Asia, International Water Association (IWA)
4:10 – 4:25	Prof Ramshoo Head Of the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Kashmir
4:25 - 4:35	Dr. Anamika Barua Executive Director, SaciWATERS
4:35 – 5:15	<i>Open discussion</i>

***Please note that each panelist will have 10 minutes to express their views. . Kindly do not make any presentation since everyone has been awarded only 10 minutes to speak. We request all the panelists to kindly stick to the time limit.***