



Call for Paper

International Conference

on

River Water Sharing in South Asia: Identifying Common Concerns for Peace and Development

**UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Institute of South
Asia Regional Cooperation (UMISARC)
Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India**

April 19-21, 2012

**Venue: Convention cum Cultural Complex,
Pondicherry University,
Puducherry- 605014**

**Prof. N.K. Jha
Convener
Director, UMISARC**

Pondicherry University

Pondicherry, now Puducherry, is a Union Territory with one of the highest levels of quality of life in the country with excellent physical infrastructure and almost a hundred per cent literacy level. The Pondicherry University was established at this beautiful town in 1985 by the Government of India through an Act of Parliament. The University is located in the serene surroundings on Coromandal coast and 10 km north of Puducherry. The campus is spread over 780 acres of land some of which is rolling down to the sea beach. The University is a member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities and has signed Memorandum of Understanding with several foreign universities / institutes. A recent survey reported by the UGC (University Grants Commission) and the NAAC (National Accreditation and Assessment Council) ranked this university as one of the best in the country.

The Conference Theme

While water has always been an essential requirement of life, the significance of this precious natural resource has got all the more salience because of rising population, scanty rainfall, disregard for environmental resources and their mismanagement. These factors have put a huge pressure on availability of water in the world. Hence water is emerging as one of the defining issues of the next half century.

This is especially true in South Asia, which holds less than 5 percent of annual global renewable water resources that too is endangered due to spread of irrigated farming, water intensive industries and demand of the rising middle class. Moreover, continental South Asia (India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan) is the most populated region in the world with about one sixth of the global population and the ever increasing population at the rate of 1.5%. is increasing the demand for food and water. Beyond this, water is also associated in South Asia with fertility, purity and spiritual nourishment. Its great value is a deep and central element of the millennium culture.

Hence rivers in South Asia are the life and blood of these countries. Bangladesh, for instance, relies on water from the Ganges and the Bhramaputra for irrigation and drinking water. Nepal is angling to earn 'hydrodollars' by selling its immense hydroelectricity potential from the many tributaries and sub-tributaries of the Ganges. Three bi-lateral treaties to share the major tributaries of the Ganges — the Koshi, Gandak and Mahakali (in India known as Sharada) — have been signed between the Government of India and Nepal in 1954, 1956 and 1996 respectively. The Government of Bangladesh and India have signed a Farakka treaty on sharing of Ganges River in 1996. Attempts are on to sign an accord on the sharing of Tista river water between India and Bangladesh/

However, critiques argue that the benefits of sharing of these rivers have been unequal and over politicized. It is alleged that sharing has not been done in accordance with the present and future water needs of each of the riparian countries. Each country has been trying to get the largest share, leading to more controversies. Most of the negotiation processes have therefore failed to lead to a basic framework for sharing the rivers for peace, security and regional cooperation.

In fact a very little effort has been done to explore the great possibility of sharing these rivers for peace, security and development in the region. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the only inter-governmental body in the region, does not address the subject of water rights, but only some narrowly defined economic and trade issues. No regional framework has been worked out for making the best use of these rivers to promote the collective harmony and prosperity of the region, in stark contrast to the case of Mekong, or other trans- boundary river basins in other parts of the world.

The proposed Seminar therefore is intended to bring together leading academic experts, policy analysts, legal experts, defence personals as well as members of media and think tanks from different parts of the India, Nepal and Bangladesh to deliberate upon the above-mentioned and related questions and to come out with valuable policy inputs for the Government of India. The Seminar will focus on why and how water should be regarded as a source of co-operation, as a potential means towards mediating and resolving existing conflicts. Disagreements about how our limited and common water resources should be used are not unusual, but proper solutions must be found through mutual understanding and negotiations that are socially, economically, politically and environmentally acceptable. It will be explained, for instance, how the Kosi river that devastated north Bihar on Aug 18, 2008 and which is categorized as one among “rivers of sorrow,” could be transformed as sources of irrigation and power generation. This can only be achieved through the free, prior, and informed participation of all the river basins-based stakeholders.

The Seminar may also include a paper, which will focus on how in the interest of optimal use of scarce water resources some countries can produce some crops and other countries can cultivate other crops depending on soil, moisture and other factors. To do that we need strong economic co-operation and a free trade market in agriculture. That means that we have to go for new forms of regional co-operation. The new global framework suggested by the World Commission on Dams in its report in 2000 for the best management of water and energy resources is certainly an approach to adopt.

The year 2012, is very appropriate for organizing this conference in view of a couple of political developments taking place. The World Water Forum will take place in France. This will lead to a major reassessment of the whole water scene in the world. Second, the Swiss Parliament has specially allocated authority and support to the government to find solutions to the world’s water problems. Singapore will also give a big push. They have their annual version of World Water Forum. Third, Israel’s technologies will hit the market. Hence it is high time to organize a seminar on sharing of river water at Pondicherry University, which has all necessary infrastructures for successfully conducting this kind of relevant academic meets.

Tentative Topics for Discussion

Water as a Source of Economic Development and Technological Advancement

1. Sharing of River Water: A Means of Regional Cooperation

2. Sharing of River Water with Pakistan
3. Sharing of Water Resources with Nepal
4. Sharing of River Water with Bhutan
5. Managing Water Controversies with Bangladesh
6. Role of Provinces in Water Sharing with Neighbours
7. Role of the SAARC in Managing the Issues of Water Sharing
8. Need for Engaging Civil Society
9. Need and Prospects for Water Sharing Agreements

Note: The authors may choose their own topics related to the theme.

Paper Submission

Participants willing to present paper are requested to follow the schedule and guidelines given below:

- Abstract (not exceeding 250 words) should be submitted on or before **April 5, 2012**.
- Abstract should include the name of the author(s), their affiliation and address (postal and e-mail)
- Two copies of complete paper (one hard copy and one soft copy) not exceeding 20 pages should be submitted. While one soft copy may be sent through email on misarc.pu@gmail.com, another soft copy may be sent in CD along with the hard copy on or before **April 10, 2012**.
- Paper must not be previously published or currently under review for publication elsewhere.
- The following style sheet may kindly be used.

Style Sheet

1. The paper may be composed in MS-Words format, Times New Roman font with heading in Font Size 14 and the remaining text in the font size 12 with 1.5 spacing.
2. Notes should be numbered consecutively, superscripted in the text and attached to the end of the article.
3. Spelling should follow the British pattern: e.g. 'colour,' NOT 'color.'
4. Quotations should be placed in double quotation marks. Long quotes of above 4 (four) lines should be indented in single space.
5. Use italics for title of the books, newspaper, journals and magazines in text and end notes.
6. In the text, number below 100 should be mentioned in words (e.g. twenty eight). Use "per cent", but in tables the symbol % should be typed.

Citing References

Book

Leo E. Rose and Richard Sission, *War and Succession: India, Pakistan and Creation of Bangladesh* (New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1990), pp. 102-5.

Citing an article from an edited book

A. Appadorai, "On Understanding Indian Foreign Policy," in K. P. Misra, ed., *Studies in Indian Foreign Policy* (New Delhi: Thompson Press, 1969), pp. 113-17.

Citing an Article from a journal

Nalni Kant Jha, "Implications for India of an Unstable Nepal," *Nepali Journal of Contemporary Studies* (Kathmandu), vol.6, no.1, March, 2006, p.36.

Citing an article from a Newspaper

Shekhar Gupta, "Pakistan's Civilian Deal," *Indian Express* (New Delhi), August 30, 2008.



Registration Form
International Seminar

on

*River Water Sharing in South Asia: Identifying Common Concerns for Peace and
Development*

UMISARC, Pondicherry University
April 19-21, 2012

Name (in Block Letters) :

Designation :

Institution :

Address for Correspondence :

Phone : Mobile:

Fax :

E-mail :

I will participate
(Please tick appropriately) : () without presenting a paper () and present a paper

Title:

Authors(s):

Accommodation Required : Yes No

Arrival : Date: Time:

Departure : Date Time:

Delegate Fee : Rs. (per person)

Bank: DD / Cheque No.: Date: Amount:

Place:

Date:

Signature

Note: Delegates who need accommodation should intimate in advance, the companions of the delegates should also pay the delegate fee. It may not be possible to accommodate who fail to send the fee in advance.

- In case of need, please photocopy this form for multiple applications.

Registration Fee:*

Out Station Participants : Rs. 600.00

*The registration fees will cover high tea, lunch, conference materials as well as accommodation in moderately priced guest house during **three-day Seminar**. No TA/DA will be given to the out station participants selected for presentation.

DD or Cheque should be drawn in favour of Director, UMISARC, payable at Pondicherry and same should be sent to the Director, UMISARC, Pondicherry University, Puducherry-605014. Those who send outstation cheque should add Rs. 50/- more towards bank charges.

Visa to India

Visa to India can be obtained at Indian Embassy / High Commission functioning in the respective country based on our invitation letter with other relevant documents prescribed in the application form. **Invitation letter will be sent on receipt and selection of the abstract by the Academic Committee of the Seminar.**

Organizing Committee

Chief Patron	Ambassador Madanjeet Singh
Patron	Prof. J A K Tareen , Vice Chancellor, Pondicherry University
Vice-Patron	Prof. M. Ramdass , Director - Studies, Educational Innovation, Rural Reconstruction, Pondicherry University
Convenor	Prof. N. K. Jha , Director, Southern Asia Studies Programme, UMISARC, Pondicherry University
Committee Coordinators	
Academic Committee	Prof. B. B. Mohanty , Professor & Head, Department of Sociology, Pondicherry University; Dr. B. Krishnamurthy , Associate Professor, Department of Politics & International Studies, Pondicherry University; Dr. A. Subramanyam Raju , Associate Professor, UMISARC, Pondicherry University.
Transport	Dr. D. Purushothaman , Assistant Professor, UMISARC, Pondicherry University
Accommodation & Food	Dr. Thanga Rajesh , Guest Faculty, UMISARC, Pondicherry University.
Communication	Dr. B. B. Biswas , Research Associate, Southern Asia Studies Programme, UMISARC, Pondicherry University

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