



The Asia Foundation



## **Brahmaputra Basin Policy Dialogue**

### **Expanding Tradable Benefits of Trans-boundary Water: Promoting Navigational Usage of Inland Waterways in Ganga and Brahmaputra Basins**

Hotel Golden Tulip, Dhaka, Bangladesh on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2017

### **Agenda**

**09:00 - 09:30 Registration with Tea/Coffee**

**09:30 - 10:15 Welcome and Objective of the Meeting**

Bipul Chatterjee, Executive Director, CUTS International

Atiur Rahman, Chairman, Unnayan Shamannay

Sarah Taylor, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation - Bangladesh

#### **Keynote Address**

Comm. Mohammad Mozammel Haque, Chairman, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority

Ajay Kumar Bansal, Director (Regional Office – Guwahati), Inland Waterways Authority of India, Government of India

**10:15 - 10:30 Tea/Coffee**

**10:30 - 12:45 Policy discourse in Bangladesh, Bhutan and India**

**Chair:** Arun Roy, Consultant & Technical Expert

*Presentations by Unnayan Shamannay, Royal Society for the Protection of Nature (RSPN), CUTS International & Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Nidhi (RGVN) followed by discussion*

**12:45 - 13:30 Lunch**

**13:30 - 14:30 Policy Circle Discussions**

*Participants will be divided into three policy circles for discussion on upper and lower riparian aspects (led by CUTS, RSPN & UnSy representatives):*

*1) Policy Circle for government stakeholders (ministry, departments, state and national level)*

*2) Policy Circle for non-government stakeholders (academia, NGOs, CSOs, community representatives)*

*3) Policy Circle for private sector stakeholders (logistic, construction, trade, tourism companies)*

*These policy circles will deliberate on policy discourse as described in previous presentations and select topics of trans-boundary cooperation at individual level.*

**14:30 - 15:30 Report back on emerging opportunities and challenges in the Brahmaputra basin**

**Chair:** G. K. Chhopel, Chairman, Bhutan Water Partnership

*Based on the presentations and policy circle discussions, participants will have to showcase the emerging opportunities and challenges in the Brahmaputra basin.*

**15:30 - 15:45 Tea/Coffee**

**15:45 - 16:15 Wrap-Up and Takeaways**

Nazrul Islam, Program Director, The Asia Foundation - Bangladesh

Radhika Singh, Program Manager, DFID

Prithviraj Nath, Associate Director, CUTS International & Head, CUTS Calcutta