



Sub-regional Dialogue on Inland Waterways

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

Hotel Hindusthan International, Kolkata, India, 26th – 27th October, 2017

Proposed Agenda **Thursday, 26th October, 2017**

14:00 – 14:30	Registration
14:30 – 14:45	Welcome and opening remarks Bipul Chatterjee, Executive Director, CUTS International Sagar Prasai, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation, New Delhi Shantanu Mitra, Senior Climate & Environment Advisor, DFID Asia Regional Team, British High Commission, New Delhi
14:45 – 16:15	Plenary 1: Strategic issues and emerging opportunities in the Bay of Bengal region <i>Considering the development of various trade and connectivity initiatives in the Bay of Bengal region, this session will explore strategic issues and emerging opportunities of using waterways as a means of river-to-bay connectivity.</i> Chair: Atiur Rahman, Professor, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka and Chairman, Unnayan Shamannay, Bangladesh Panellists <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Bruce Bucknell, British Deputy High Commissioner, Kolkata• H.E. Zokey Ahad, Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner, Kolkata• H.E. Thinlay Wangchuk, Consul General, Royal Bhutanese Consulate, Kolkata• H.E. Eaknarayan Aryal, Consul General, Nepal Consulate, Kolkata• H.E. Pyi Soe, Consul General, Myanmar Consulate, Kolkata• H.E. Craig L. Hall, Consul General, United States Consulate, Kolkata• H.E. Masayuki Taga, Consul General, Japan Consulate, Kolkata

16:15 – 16:30	Break
16:30 – 18:00	<p>Plenary 2: A sub-regional discourse for better governance of inland waterways</p> <p><i>This session will deliberate on the importance and scope of enhancing sub-regional connectivity through better governed institutions of inland waterways by focussing discussions on necessary regulatory reforms, legislative changes and capital investments.</i></p> <p>Chair: M. P. Bezbaruah, Former Member, North Eastern Council, Ministry of the Development of North East Region, Government of India</p> <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keshav Dhoj Adhikari, Joint Secretary, Water and Energy Commission Secretariat, Government of Nepal • Prashant Agrawal, Joint Secretary (BIMSTEC & SAARC), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India • Dasho Yeshe Wangdi, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan • Dasho Karma Penjor, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communications, Royal Government of Bhutan • Mohammad Mozammel Haque, Chairman, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, Government of Bangladesh • Nutan Guha Biswas, Chairperson, Inland Waterways Authority of India, Ministry of Shipping, Government of India
18:00 – 18:30	Break
18:30 – 20:00	<p>Session 1: Benefits of trans-boundary water cooperation through the development of inland waterways</p> <p><i>Presentation by CUTS International on key findings from the project and putting forward a roadmap to sustain the on-going regional connectivity momentum in the BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal) sub-region.</i></p> <p>Chair: A. K. Enamul Haque, Professor, Department of Economics, East-West University, Bangladesh</p> <p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prithviraj Nath, Associate Director, CUTS International & Head, CUTS Calcutta Resource Centre • Veena Vidyadharan, Fellow, CUTS International & Deputy Head, CUTS

	<p>Centre for International Trade Economics & Environment</p> <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nisha Agrawal, Chief Executive Officer, OXFAM India • Golam Rasul, Theme Leader (Livelihoods), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Kathmandu • Soumya Chattopadhyay, Consultant, Regional Cooperation at Asian Development Bank, New Delhi • Arnab Bandyopadhyay, Senior Transport Specialist, The World Bank Group, New Delhi
20:00	Reception and Dinner

Friday, 27th October, 2017

09:30 – 11:00	<p>Session 2: Promoting trade and transit through inland waterways</p> <p><i>This session will discuss the prospects of enhancing domestic, sub-regional and regional trade and transit through inland waterways by looking into its governance and regulatory framework.</i></p> <p>Chair: Shashi Bhushan Shukla, Secretary, Inland Waterways Authority of India, Ministry of Shipping, Government of India</p> <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saiful Islam, Joint Director, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, Government of Bangladesh • Sonam Tenzin, Director, Department of Trade, Ministry of External Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan • Jancy Vijayan, Director (Multi-Disciplinary Unit), National Water Development Agency, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India • T.K. Rudra, Director, Inland Water Transport Directorate, Transport Department, Government of West Bengal • Niraj Sharma, Senior Divisional Engineer, Ministry of Physical Planning and Infrastructure, Government of Nepal • Purushottam Ojha, Former Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Supplies, Government of Nepal
11:00 – 11:30	Break

<p>11:30 – 13:00</p>	<p>Session 3: Fostering private sector participation to promote trade and tourism within and across borders</p> <p><i>This session will explore the opportunities of promoting different kinds of trade and tourism over inland waterways by engaging private sector and advocating an enabling environment for their participation.</i></p> <p>Chair: Y. K. Singhee, Director, Eastern Navigation Private Limited, Kolkata</p> <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taufiq Uddin Ahmed, President, Tour Operator Associations of Bangladesh • Kinlay Dorji, Chief Operator, River Guides of Panbang, Bhutan • Nirmalya Choudhury, Executive Director, Assam Bengal Navigation, Guwahati • R. Sushila, Executive Director, Vivada Inland Waterways Limited, Kolkata • Naresh Neupane, Managing Director, Engineering Consultancy for Constructive Development Efforts Nepal Private Limited
<p>13:00 – 14:00</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>14:00 – 15:30</p>	<p>Session 4: Streamlining community and environmental concerns in inland waterways development discourse</p> <p><i>This session will focus on issues and opportunities regarding livelihood generation of riverine communities as well as environmental concerns by engaging civil society voices for inclusive and sustainable development of inland waterways in the BBIN sub-region.</i></p> <p>Chair: Archana Chatterjee, National Coordinator, International Union for Conservation of Nature, New Delhi</p> <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ferdous Ara Rume, Assistant Director, Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust, Bangladesh • G. K. Chhopel, Chairman, Bhutan Water Partnership • Shawahiq Siddiqui, Founding Partner, Indian Environment Law Organisation, New Delhi • Ajaya Dixit, Executive Director, Institute for Social and Environmental Transition, Kathmandu • Megh Ale, President, Nepal River Conservation Trust
<p>15:30 – 16:00</p>	<p>Break</p>

16:00 - 16:30	Closing remarks Bipul Chatterjee, Executive Director, CUTS International Sagar Prasai, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation, New Delhi Shantanu Mitra, Senior Climate & Environment Advisor, DFID Asia Regional Team, British High Commission, New Delhi
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