

POLICY DIALOGUE

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

The Lily Hotel, Guwahati on Tuesday, 31st July, 2018

Agenda

9:30 – 10:00 am	Registration with Tea/Coffee
10:00 – 10:30 am	<p>Welcome Remarks & Objective of the Meeting Veena Vidyadharan, Fellow and Centre Head (CITEE), CUTS International</p> <p>Keynote Address Ram Muivah (IAS), Secretary, North Eastern Council, Government of India* Md. Moynul Islam, Assistant Commissioner (Land), Bangladesh*</p>
10:30 – 11:20 am	<p>Presentation of study findings:</p> <p>Title: Prospects of cross-border trade via small mechanised boats between Dhubri (India) and Chilmari (Bangladesh) Presenter: Veena Vidyadharan, Fellow and Centre Head (CITEE), CUTS International</p> <p>Chair: Sagar Prasai, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation (India) *</p> <p>Discussants: Syed Monowar Hussain, Former Director, Bangladesh Inland Waterways Authority (BIWTA) A. K. Mitra, Former Secretary, Water Resources Department, Government of Assam* Bharat Bhushan Dev Choudhury, Director, Inland Water Transport, Department of Transport, Government of Assam*</p> <p>Floor opened for discussion</p>

11.20 - 11.40 am	Tea Break
11:40 am – 1:00 pm	<p>Regulatory regime for facilitating cross border movement of small mechanised boats between India- Bangladesh</p> <p>Moderator: Syed Monowar Hussain, Former Director, Bangladesh Inland Waterways Authority (BIWTA)*</p> <p>Panelists: Md. Saiful Islam, Joint Director, Bangladesh Inland Waterways Authority (BIWTA), Government of Bangladesh* Sushanta Paul, Assistant Commissioner, Bangladesh Customs, Government of Bangladesh* Annu Darin, Deputy Commissioner (Guwahati Division), Commissionerate of Customs (Preventive) North Eastern Region, Government of India* Surendra Singh, Director , Regional Office (Guwahati), Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), Government of India*</p> <p>Discussion Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What are the existing regulatory provisions and challenges to enable movement of small mechanised boats between Dhubri and Chilmari? ✓ What implications will it have on trade along the Indo-Bangladesh protocol route? <p>Floor opened for discussion</p>
1:00 - 2:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 – 3:00 pm	<p>Private sector perspectives on cross border trade using small mechanised boats</p> <p>Moderator: Arun Roy, Consultant, CUTS International</p> <p>Panelists: Md. Azharul Islam, Safe Trade International, Chilmari* Md. Shohidullah Kaysare, Importer (Stone Chips), Chilmari* Md. Saidul Islam Lipu, Boat Owner and Ghat Contractor, Chilmari* Shanti Doley, Director, Brahmaputra Cruise Private Limited Representative, Dhubri Chamber of Commerce* Trader, Dhubri* Nilina Boban, Assistant Director, Spice Board India, Guwahati* Chairman, Assam Industrial Development Corporation Limited*</p>

	<p>Discussion Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What are the various types of commodities that can be traded via the Dhubri-Chilmari route? ✓ What are the infrastructure related requirements for facilitating this trade route? ✓ What are the legal requirements for facilitating this trade route? <p>Floor opened for discussion</p>
3:00 - 3:15 pm	Tea break
3:15 - 4:15 pm	<p>Impact of cross border movement of small boats on livelihoods and local economy</p> <p>Moderator: Samudra Gupta Kashyap, Senior Editor, The Indian Express*</p> <p>Panelists: S. M. Abraham Lincoln, Civil Society Member and Lawyer, Supreme Court of Bangladesh* Sheikh Rokon, Secretary General, Riverine People, Bangladesh* Swapan Kumar Sarma, Secretary, Gauripur Vivekananda Club, Dhubri</p> <p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What are the livelihood opportunities for local people? ✓ What are the implications on women and other marginalised communities? <p>Floor opened for discussion</p>
4:15 - 4:30 pm	<p>Wrap-up & Takeaways</p> <p>Madhav Belbase, Joint Secretary, Water & Energy Commission Secretariat, Government of Nepal Sagar Prasai, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation (India)* Veena Vidyadharan, Fellow and Centre Head (CITEE), CUTS International</p>

**To be confirmed*