



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

Agenda

Thursday, 26th October, 2017

15:15 – 15:45 Registration

Opening: Strategic issues and emerging opportunities in the Bay of Bengal region

Considering the development of various trade and connectivity initiatives in the Bay of Bengal region, the opening session will explore strategic issues and emerging opportunities of using waterways as a means of river-to-bay connectivity.

15:45 – 16:30

- 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
- H.E. Masayuki Taga, Consul General, Japan Consulate, Kolkata
- H.E. Bruce Bucknell, British Deputy High Commissioner, Kolkata

Plenary: A sub-regional discourse for better governance of inland waterways

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.

16:30 – 18:00

Chair: Atiur Rahman, Professor, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka and Chairman, Unnayan Shamannay, Bangladesh

Panellists

- Bhola Nath Dey, Member Planning and Operation, Additional Secretary, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, Government of Bangladesh
- Pemba Wangchuk, Director General, Road Safety & Transport Authority, Ministry of Information and Communications, Royal Government of Bhutan
- L.K. Rajak, Director, Regional Office (Kolkata), Inland Waterways Authority of India, Ministry of Shipping, Government of India
- Keshab Dhoj Adhikari, Former Joint Secretary, Water and Energy Commission Secretariat, Government of Nepal

18:00 – 18:30 Break

Session 1: Benefits of trans-boundary water cooperation through the development of inland waterways

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.

Chair: A. K. Enamul Haque, Professor, Department of Economics, East-West University, Bangladesh

Presentation

18:30 – 20:00

- Prithviraj Nath, Associate Director, CUTS International & Head, CUTS Calcutta Resource Centre
- Veena Vidyadharan, Fellow, CUTS International & Deputy Head, CUTS Centre for International Trade Economics & Environment

Panellists

- Arnab Bandyopadhyay, Senior Transport Specialist, The World Bank Group, New Delhi
- Nilhari Neupane, Economic Analyst (Livelihoods), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Kathmandu
- Soumya Chattopadhyay, Consultant, Regional Cooperation at Asian Development Bank, New Delhi
- Vishwaranjan Sinha, Programme Officer (Natural Resources Group), The International Union for Conservation of Nature, Bangkok

20:00 Reception and Dinner

Session 2: Promoting trade and transit through inland waterways

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.

Chair: Pravir Pandey, Vice Chairman, Inland Waterways Authority of India, Ministry of Shipping, Government of India

Panellists

09:30 – 11:00

- Saiful Islam, Joint Director, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, Government of Bangladesh
- Sonam Tenzin, Director, Department of Trade, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan
- Amitabh Sengupta, Director, Inland Water Transport Directorate, Transport Department, Government of West Bengal
- Purushottam Ojha, Former Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Supplies, Government of Nepal
- S.K. Saha Roy, General Manager, Haldia Dock Complex, Kolkata Port Trust

11:00 – 11:30 Break

Session 3: Fostering private sector participation to promote trade and tourism within and across borders

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.

Chair: M. P. Bezbaruah, Former Member, North Eastern Council, Ministry of the Development of North East Region, Government of India

11:30 – 13:00

Panellists

- Taufiq Rahman, Director, Tour Operator Associations of Bangladesh
- Lam Dorji, River Guides of Panbang, Bhutan
- Y. K. Singhee, Director, Eastern Navigation Private Limited, Kolkata
- Arun Roy, Consultant, Assam Bengal Navigation
- R. Sushila, Executive Director, Vivada Inland Waterways Limited, Kolkata
- Kumar Dhamala, Managing Director, Engineering Consultancy for Constructive Development Efforts Nepal Private Limited, Nepal

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

Session 4: Streamlining community and environmental concerns in inland waterways development discourse

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.

Chair: Ajaya Dixit, Executive Director, Institute for Social and Environmental Transition, Kathmandu

14:00 – 15:30

Panellists

- Mominul Haque Sarker, Deputy Executive Director, Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services, Bangladesh
- G. K. Chhopel, Chairman, Bhutan Water Partnership
- Shawahiq Siddiqui, Founding Partner, Indian Environment Law Organisation, New Delhi
- Sabyasachi Dutta, Founder and Director, Asian Confluence, Meghalaya
- Milon Sinha, Director (Fisheries & Animal Husbandry), Nature Environment & Wildlife Society, Kolkata

15:30 – 16:00 Break

Closing remarks

16:00 – 16:30

- 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