

Dhaka Declaration on Water Security

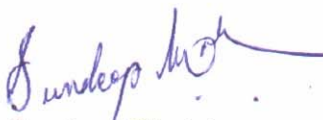
Strategic Foresight Group (SFG) and Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS) organised the Second International Workshop on Himalayan Sub-regional Cooperation for Water Security in Dhaka on 15-16 January, 2010. This is part of a long term process to build confidence and cooperation between countries that make up the Himalayan River Basins.

This process is supported by the John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation, USA.

25 distinguished water experts from India, Bangladesh, China and Nepal, including former ministers of Water Resources of India, Bangladesh and Nepal participated in the Workshop.

The following statement is made by the Conference:

1. Recognised the critical significance for water security of the Himalayan River Basin..
2. Recommended the formation of an experts committee to prepare a road map for data sharing and scientific exchange and to prepare guidelines for introducing transparency regarding relevant data.
3. Acknowledged the importance of a collaborative approach in addressing technical, scientific and other multi-disciplinary aspects of the complex issues involved.
4. Suggested the establishment of joint research projects involving all the countries represented to acquire, collect, generate and process appropriate up-to-date data for taking the process forward.
5. Recommended joint efforts for the exchange of data and information on flow of Himalayan Rivers in low season.
6. Recognised the need for political commitment of the Basin countries to driving forward collective approaches to the challenges.
7. Acknowledged the serious consequences of climate change for water security across the Basin countries and encouraged concerted collective action in addressing these.
8. Underscored the need to defend equal interests of all Basin countries especially the lower riparian ones.
9. Understood the potential for conflict over resources, if the problems are not resolved in a cooperative manner.
10. Recommended strongly integrated cooperative Basin management mechanism for the Himalayan Basin Area.



Sundeep Waslekar
President
Strategic Foresight Group
Date: 16 January, 2010



Major General ANM Muniruzzaman (Retd.)
President
Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies
Date: 16 January, 2010