



## SECOND INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP HIMALAYAN SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION ON WATER SECURITY DHAKA, BANGLADESH

Jointly organized by BIPSS and SFG

### Dhaka Declaration on Water Security

Strategic Foresight Group (SFG) and Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS) organized 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 Basin.

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 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

## Participants

### Bangladesh

1. Maj Gen Muniruzzaman, President, Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS)
2. Mr Tauhidul Anwar Khan, Secretary General, Bangladesh Water Partnership
3. Mr Malik Fida A Khan, Head, Climate Change Study Division, Center for Environmental and Geographic Information services
4. Dr Mahfuz Ullah, Regional Councillor, International Union for Conservation of Nature(IUCN)
5. Major Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Former Minister of Water Resources, Government of Bangladesh
6. Mrs Hasna Moudud, President, ARDMA
7. Dr Mahmud Ali, Former Senior Editor, Asia-Pacific Region, BBC World Service, and Director Research, BIPSS

### China

1. Mr Zhang Shuang, Director, The Nature Conservancy, China Program
2. Dr Xiaohong Chen, Director, Department of Water Resources and Environment, Sun Yat-Sen University
3. Dr Shaofeng Jia , Professor, Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences
4. Prof Xi Chen, State Key Laboratory of Hydrology, Water Resources and Hydraulic Engineering, Hohai University
5. Ms Kezhen Cao, Chief Reporter, The Green Herald

### India

1. Mr Sompal, former Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources of India
2. Prof Jayanta Bandyopadhyay, Professor, Centre for Development and Environmental Policy, IIM Calcutta
3. Dr Chandan Mahanta, Head, Department of Environment, IIT-Guwahati
4. Mr Ganesh Pangare, Regional Coordinator, Water and Wetlands Program, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Asia Regional Office, Bangkok
5. Dr Sanjoy Hazarika, Chair, Centre for North East Studies at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi
6. Prof Nayan Sharma, Professor, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee
7. Dr Dulal Goswami, Former Professor & Head of Department of Environmental Science, Gauhati University

### Nepal

1. Mr Dipak Gyawali, former Minister for Water Resources, Member Nepal Academy of Science and Technology, Member Board of Directors, Nepal Water Conservation Foundation
2. Dr Bishnu Bhandari, Wetlands Specialist Integrated Water and Hazard Management (IWHM), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
3. Mr Som Nath Poudel, Former Executive Secretary, Water and Energy Commission Secretariat and General Secretary, Jalsrot Vikas Sansthan

4. Mr Ajaya Dixit, Director, Nepal Water Conservation Foundation

### MacArthur Foundation

- Mr Matthew Stumpf, Programme Officer, Asian Security Initiative

### Strategic Foresight Group

- Mr Sundeep Waslekar, President
- Mr Shrikant Menjoge, Senior Advisor
- Ms Ilmas Futehally, Executive Director



**Clockwise from above: 1. Dr Mahmud Ali and Ms Ilmas Futehally reading the Dhaka Declaration; 2. Workshop in Progress; 3. Mr Sompal, Major Hafiz, former Water Ministers of India and Bangladesh, with Mr Dipak Gyawali, former Water Minister of Nepal talking with Chinese delegates; 4. Gen. Muniruzzaman and Mr Sundeep Waslekar at the Inaugural Session.**