

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 (CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment), CUTS International</p> <p>Keynote Address Mohammad Abu Jafor Howlader, Director, Marine Safety Traffic Management Department, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), Government of Bangladesh</p>
10:30 – 11:20 am	<p>Presentation of study findings: Title: Prospects of cross-border trade via small mechanised boats between Dhubri (India) and Chilmari (Bangladesh) Presenter: Veena Vidyadharan, Fellow and Centre Head (CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment), 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), Government of Bangladesh & CUTS Project Advisory Committee Member A. K. Mitra, Former Secretary, Water Resources Department, Government of Assam</p> <p>Floor opened for discussion</p>
11.20 - 11.40 am	Tea Break

<p>11:40 am – 1:00 pm</p>	<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), Government of Bangladesh & CUTS Project Advisory Committee Member</p> <p>Panelists: Md. Saiful Islam, Joint Director, Bangladesh Inland Waterways Authority (BIWTA), Government of Bangladesh Md. Moynul Islam, Assistant Commissioner (Land), Upazila Land Office, Kurigram, Government of Bangladesh Rameshwar Telangre, Assistant Plant Protection Officer, Plant Quarantine Station (Guwahati), Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine & Storage, 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>
<p>1:00 - 2:00 pm</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>2:00 – 3:00 pm</p>	<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, Bangladesh Md. Shohidullah Kaysare, Importer (Stone Chips), Chilmari, Bangladesh Md. Saidul Islam Lipu, Boat Owner and Ghat Contractor, Chilmari, Bangladesh Atowar Rahman, President, Sonarhat Exporters Association, Assam, India Kuddus Ali, Secretary, Assam Meghalaya Cargo Boat Association, Dhubri, India Shanti Doley, Director, Brahmaputra Cruise Private Limited, Assam, India Tikendra Nath Deka, Scientist, Spice Board, Guwahati</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, Journalist, Guwahati</p> <p>Panelists: S. M. Abraham Lincoln, Civil Society Member and Lawyer, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Kurigram, Bangladesh Toriqul Islam, Director, Riverine People, Bangladesh Swapan Kumar Sarma, Secretary, Gauripur Vivekananda Club, Dhubri, India</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 (CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment), CUTS International</p>