Brahmaputra Basin Policy Dialogue

Expanding Tradable Benefits of Trans-boundary Water: Promoting Navigational Usage of Inland Waterways in Ganga and Brahmaputra Basins
Hotel Golden Tulip, Dhaka, Bangladesh on Thursday, 10th August, 2017

Agenda

09:00 - 09:30 Registration with Tea/Coffee

09:30 - 10:15 Welcome and Objective of the Meeting
Bipul Chatterjee, Executive Director, CUTS International
Atiur Rahman, Chairman, Unnayan Shamannay
Sarah Taylor, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation - Bangladesh

Keynote Address
Comm. Mohammad Mozammel Haque, Chairman, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority
Ajay Kumar Bansal, Director (Regional Office – Guwahati), Inland Waterways Authority of India, Government of India

10:15 - 10:30 Tea/Coffee

10:30 - 12:45 Policy discourse in Bangladesh, Bhutan and India
Chair: Arun Roy, Consultant & Technical Expert
Presentations by Unnayan Shamannay, Royal Society for the Protection of Nature (RSPN), CUTS International & Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Nidhi (RGVN) followed by discussion
12:45 - 13:30  Lunch

13:30 – 14:30  Policy Circle Discussions

Participants will be divided into three policy circles for discussion on upper and lower riparian aspects (led by CUTS, RSPN & UnSy representatives):

1) Policy Circle for government stakeholders (ministry, departments, state and national level)

2) Policy Circle for non-government stakeholders (academia, NGOs, CSOs, community representatives)

3) Policy Circle for private sector stakeholders (logistic, construction, trade, tourism companies)

These policy circles will deliberate on policy discourse as described in previous presentations and select topics of trans-boundary cooperation at individual level.

14:30 – 15:30  Report back on emerging opportunities and challenges in the Brahmaputra basin
Chair: G. K. Chhopel, Chairman, Bhutan Water Partnership
Based on the presentations and policy circle discussions, participants will have to showcase the emerging opportunities and challenges in the Brahmaputra basin.

15:30 – 15:45  Tea/Coffee

15:45 – 16:15  Wrap-Up and Takeaways

Nazrul Islam, Program Director, The Asia Foundation - Bangladesh
Radhika Singh, Program Manager, DFID
Prithviraj Nath, Associate Director, CUTS International & Head, CUTS Calcutta