



TRANS PATH: WATER TRANSFORMATION PATHWAYS FOR INLAND WATER NAVIGATION IN THE BRAHMAPUTRA BASIN



INCEPTION WORKSHOP

MONDAY, 10TH APRIL, 2023
TIME: 09:30 TO 17:30 IST

METROPOLITAN HOTEL, NEW DELHI
(ALSO VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM)

The governments of India and Bangladesh have agreed to use their waterways for the passage of goods and other commercial services. Inland water navigation is connected to the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030, because it is the cheapest mode of transportation from an economic point of view and the least disruptive from an environmental point of view. It has a lower environmental / carbon footprint and potential to generate employment for river basin communities. Hence, among many water-related interventions in Brahmaputra River Basin (BRB), inland water navigation can lead to transformational change on the ground by reshaping the economy, environment and society relationship. But like any other intervention, inland water navigation also has its socio-economic and policy challenges, and as such the regular top-down approach may be inadequate in addressing these challenges.

While dealing with complex transformational processes of socio-technical systems, like inland water navigation, we are not only confronted with technical or political issues but also with questions of inclusivity, participation and equity. It requires an understanding of the political, sociological, anthropological, historical, literary, and economic circumstances, context and needs of the communities that are directly dependent upon the basin. The imperative is to fundamentally shift the trajectory or development path from a top-down approach to an inclusive process. To begin with, it necessitates an understanding of who (government agencies, individual community residents, or leaders) might trigger a transformational shift and how these steps can be designed.

Through this case study, we aim to showcase the process that leads to the transformation of conflicts to cooperation in a transboundary basin.

Key Themes

- How can science-based tools help in participatory, pro-active, and transformative pathways for better water futures in Brahmaputra River Basin?
- How to navigate a diverse agenda to bring about equitable, just and sustainability-based transformations?
- How can water policymaking in the Brahmaputra River Basin be more inclusive, transparent, and participatory (leave no one behind) and how can we include water users and water stewards in policy-making, planning, and management (voicing concerns, hearing each other, reaching an agreement and taking responsibility for realization) for inclusivity?
- How can we make water institutions accountable, transparent and effective to ensure that transformations are inclusive (across gender, class and region) and sustainable, through appropriate policies?

Target Audience

Community leaders and managers, policy makers, academia, international organizations and trans-local civil society collaborations spanning across India and Bangladesh.

Expected Outcomes

Fostering learning about, and supporting the further development of, policy analysis tools and planning approaches and concepts to support a pro-active, adaptive, joint management of transformation pathways for Brahmaputra River Basin and between India and Bangladesh.





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TEAM

IIT Guwahati
Anamika Barua
Vani Bhardwaj
Krishna Deori
Chayashri Basumatary
Divya Tati

CUTS International
Bipul Chattopadhyay
Veena Vidyadharan
Sumanta Biswas
Vandana Sharma
Deepmala Ghosh

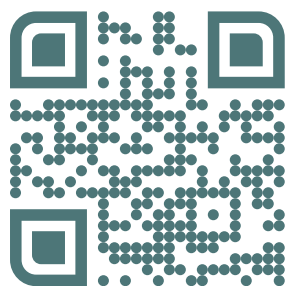
CEGIS
Malik Fida Abdullah Khan
Muhammad Monowar Ul Haq

The Third Pole
Joydeep Gupta

JJS
ATM Zakir Hossain

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SCAN TO VIEW RESOURCES



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AGENDA

9:30 - 10:00

Registration

10:00 - 10:10

Welcome Remarks

Bipul Chattopadhyay
Executive Director, CUTS International

10:10 - 10:30 | Session 1

Introduction Of Team Members & Project

Anamika Barua
Professor, IIT Guwahati

10:30 - 11:30 | Session 2

Reflections From Experts

Jayant Singh, Vice Chairman, IWAI
Sharmila Khanam, Deputy Director (Foreign Transport), BIWTA
Partha Pegu, Director, IWTA

Moderator
Veena Vidyadharan
Fellow, CUTS International

11:30 - 11:40

Vote of Thanks

Divya Tati
IIT Guwahati

11:40 - 12:00

High Tea

12:00 - 13:30 | Session 3

Feasibility Of Inland Water Transportation To Bring Transformative Change

Syed Monowar Hussain, Independent Consultant & Former Director, BIWTA
Subhakar Dandapat, Independent Consultant & Former Chief Engineer, IWA
Malik Fida Abdullah Khan, Executive Director, CEGIS, Bangladesh
Mandakini Kaul, South Asia Regional Coordinator, World Bank
Jyotiraj Patra, Climate Change and Adaptation Specialist, UNDP

Moderator
Anamika Barua
Professor, IIT Guwahati

13:30 - 14:30

Lunch

14:30 - 15:45 | Session 4

Gender And Social Dimensions In Water Governance

Sushanta Talukdar, Editor, NEZINE
Nuzhat Nueary, Program Officer, OXFAM
Mandakini D. Surie, International Development Consultant
Partha Jyoti Das, Head, Water, Climate & Hazard Division, Aaranyak
Medha Bisht, Associate Professor, South Asian University

Moderator
Sumit Vij
Assistant Professor,
Wageningen University & Research

15:45 - 16:15

Tea And Coffee

16:15 - 17:30 | Session 5

Reflections from Partners

Sumanta Biswas, Senior Programme Officer, CUTS International
ATM Zakir Hossain, Executive Director, JJS
Vani Bhardwaj, PhD Candidate, IIT Guwahati
Muhammad Monowar Ul Haq, Jr. Specialist, CEGIS

Moderator
Joydeep Gupta
South Asia Director, The Third Pole

17:30

High Tea

