



India Water Week (January 13-17, 2015)
Regional Day- Global Water Partnership, South Asia

Side Event: "From Risk to Resilience: South Asia Regional Framework for Sustainable Water Management"

Background

The South-Asian Sub-Continent is home to more than one fifth of the world's population i.e. around 1.5 billion people and water forms a part of the cultural, social, economic and political fabric of the lives of these people (World Bank, 2014).

South Asia is also very vulnerable to climate change and the most visible impacts can be seen in terms of melting of glaciers which also affects the precipitation levels¹. Changing climate, unplanned development, increased water pollution; population growth etc. have not only adversely affected the water sources but have also made the region vulnerable to various hydrological shocks posing huge long term recovery challenges. Due to a variety of complex issues including climate change, depletion of water resources has become a looming crisis in South Asia².

Climate change and its linkages with water has always been one of the core agendas for India Water Partnership (IWP), both in its work on the ground and also in regional and national level discussions and consultations. During 2012, IWP organized a brainstorming session on "**Draft National Water Policy-2012 in context of Climate Change**" and came up with a set of recommendations for inclusion of climate change in the Draft National Water Policy 2012. During 2013 India Water Week, the regional day of GWP-South Asia focused on the theme of "**Improved Efficiency for Increased Resilience to Climate Change: an Integrated Water Resources Management Perspective**" and a panel discussion on "Empowering South Asian Women for Climate Change Adaptation".

Following its commitment for working towards water and climate change adaptation, India Water Partnership (IWP) in collaboration with Global Water Partnership-South Asia, WAPCOS and SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) propose to organize the Regional Day-A side event during India Water Week-2015. The theme of the event for the year 2015 is "**From Risk to Resilience: South Asia Regional Framework for Sustainable Water Management**". This side event of the IWP seeks to draw upon regional experience, knowledge and case studies to discuss how increasing water efficiency can help create a society that is more resilient to climate change and natural disasters.

Aim and Objectives

- To assess and identify key issues and challenges in water management and sustainable development in the context of climate change in South Asia.
- To maximize social, environmental and economic welfare (three pillars of sustainable development) resulting from water management.
- To map out pathways that will help realize the potential of SAARC countries in developing its water resources and draw a regional framework for addressing the issues of water management in the context of climate change and disaster risk reduction .

¹ Disasters in South Asia: A regional perspective, Naseer Menon, 2012

² Maryam Mastoo, Water Scarcity in South Asia, 2012



Expected Outcome

This entire event is expected to generate the following broad outcomes:

- An informed and shared understanding of the key issues and challenges in water resource management in the South Asian region from a DRR and CCA perspective.
- An agreed way forward for regional cooperation among the major stakeholders including governments, civil, society institutions and the scientific community.
- A strategy to address the issues related to “too much and too little” at the regional and subregional level.

Technical Sessions

The side event will feature two technical sessions followed by open discussion and way forward.

Technical Sessions:

Technical Session 1: Water Resources Management, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation in South Asia: Key Issues and Challenges in Water Sector Governance with Focus on Policy, Legislation and Institutional Reforms.

Sub-themes of the Technical Session 1 will include:

- Policy and governance framework and institutional arrangements for water resource management, disaster management and climate change adaptation (CCA) measures
- Water security and sustainable development

Technical Session 2: Developing a Joint Framework for Learning and Action for Effective and Sustainable Water Resource Management from a DRR and CCA perspective in the South Asian Region.

Sub-themes of the Technical Session 2 will include:

- Collaboration for developing joint strategies in DRR and CCA in South Asia
- Knowledge Management for effective planning and management with focus on enhancing early warning system
- Sharing of ideas and innovations among stakeholders

Participants

Government organizations, Policy makers, National and International delegates, Experts in the field of water resources, delegates from SAARC nations, NGOs and I-NGOs, CBOs working in the field of water management, Academicians, Researchers etc.



Organizers

India Water Partnership (IWP)

Established in 2001, India Water Partnership (IWP) is a non-profit organization with a goal of promoting Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in India. It has been accredited by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) headquartered at Stockholm, Sweden as Country Water Partnership of GWP. IWP prepared “India Water Vision-2025” during 1999 based on the projections for country’s water demand in 2025 on the initiatives of GWP and South Asia Technical Advisory Committee. The Vision Document was prepared after a series of four regional consultations with the senior government officials from Central and State Governments, policy makers, academicians, water experts, donor agencies, UNICEF, World Bank, NGOs and industry representatives. India Water Vision is cited in National Water Policy-2002.

SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC)

SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) was set up in October 2006 at the premises of National Institute of Disaster Management in New Delhi. The Centre has the mandate to serve eight Member Countries of South Asia Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka - by providing policy advice and facilitating capacity building services including strategic learning, research, training, system development and exchange of information for effective disaster risk reduction and management in South Asia.

Global Water Partnership-South Asia (GWP-SAS)

The Global Water Partnership South Asia (GWP SAS) is a fully independent constituent of the Global Water Partnership (GWP) family and network umbrella. GWP SAS currently represents Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka linked to promote IWRM in South Asia.

WAPCOS Limited

WAPCOS Limited is a “MINI RATNA” and “ISO 9001:2008” accredited Public Sector Enterprise under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Water Resource, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India. With in-built capability to provide multi-disciplinary project teams comprising of its own core group of professionals and specialists from various organisations of Govt. of India, WAPCOS provides consultancy services in all facets of **Water Resources, Power and Infrastructure sectors** in India and Abroad.

Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN)

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in partnership with key UN and other international organizations facilitated the formation of Global Adaptation Network (GAN), in response to the recognition of the need for relevant and usable knowledge as a prerequisite for successful climate change adaptation efforts. The Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) was launched in 2009 as the first regional network under GAN. The Network aims at building capacity, facilitating policy, planning, access to finances and actions, and knowledge dissemination in climate change adaptation.