

**Minutes of 8th Meeting of India-Nepal Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR)
held on 11th January, 2019 at New Delhi**

The 8th Meeting of India-Nepal Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) was held on 11th January, 2019 at New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Shri U. P. Singh, Secretary (WR, RD & GR), Government of India and the Nepali delegation was led by Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, Government of Nepal. The list of participants in the meeting is at **Annexure - I**.

In his opening remarks, the Indian Team Leader welcomed the Nepali Team Leader and his delegation to New Delhi and wished them a pleasant stay in New Delhi. He expressed that both the countries are bound by history, geography and culture and relation between the two countries are marked by deep rooted people to people contacts across open borders. He stated that India is ready to extend her fullest cooperation in resolving all issues in spirit of friendship, trust and goodwill. He further stated that India looks forward to work with the Government of Nepal to move forward on wide ranging partnership in the area of water resources. The Indian Team Leader expressed that extensive deliberations have taken place in the 6th JSTC meeting held on 9th -10th January 2019 and satisfactory outcomes have been achieved on Tanakpur-Mahendranagar Link Canal, Tanakpur-Mahendranagar link road, Kosi and Gandak Projects, Flooding and inundation related issues. However, he expressed that there is a need to accelerate work on areas like finalisation of the DPR of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project, preparation of DPR of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage-cum-Diversion Scheme and on flood forecasting activities.

The Indian Team Leader further mentioned that this meeting of JCWR was taking place after a gap of over five years. Despite the long gap between the meetings, considerable progress has been achieved during these years on issues of mutual interest in the bilateral water resources cooperation. He mentioned that JCWR meeting is taking place before the Joint Commission Meeting of Foreign Ministers. These meetings will give a clear direction for the work that needs to be undertaken in the coming years.

The Nepali Team Leader expressed sincere thanks to the Indian Team Leader and the Government of India for hosting the meeting and for the warm welcome and hospitality. He highlighted that this meeting is an opportunity to renew the bilateral commitment in fostering cooperation in water resources between the two countries. He was of the view that there is a need to treat water holistically considering an integrated water resource management framework and that Nepal's engagement with India comes as an important dimension in this framework. He further stressed that JCWR has the responsibility to translate the political will and commitment to advance the continued cooperation between the two countries in the area of water resources. He stressed the need to utilize the advantage of strong people-to-people relations between the two countries to further consolidate this cooperation.

Both the Team Leaders then introduced the delegation members and the Agenda items were deliberated in detail. The Agenda adopted for the meeting is given at **Annexure II**

1.0 Implementation of Mahakali Treaty

1.1 Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project

JCWR was of the view that the next meeting of Team of Experts/ Officials (ToE) should be convened at the earliest to finalise the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project. It was agreed that this meeting be held within February 2019 in Kathmandu. It was further agreed to extend the tenure of ToE till March 31, 2019.

1.2 Construction of Head Regulator and Link Canal from Tanakpur Barrage up to India-Nepal border

JCWR endorsed JSTC's decision to hold the meeting between the nodal officers of the project from India and Nepal to finalise the canal joining modalities within a month.

1.3 Construction of Tanakpur-Mahendranagar Link Road up to India-Nepal border

The two sides discussed the development of the link road on the Indian side. The Nepali side informed that a 13 km stretch of road was constructed on the Nepali side as the Indian side had informed during the 7th JCWR meeting that forest clearance for the link road on the Indian side was being processed. The Nepali side requested the Indian side to construct the 1.3 km link road as per the coordinates of the termination point shared in August 2018 which links with the East-West highway of Nepal.

The Indian side stated that the current alignment of the link road on the Indian side, which was shared with the Government of Nepal in May 2018, is the most practical one, considering the present movement of people on both sides of India-Nepal border. The Indian side further stated that the link road on the Indian side is nearing completion.

1.4 Release of irrigation water for Chandani-Dodhara Area

As construction of irrigation infrastructure in Chandani Dodhara Area is very high on Nepal's agenda, the Nepali side stressed that there was a need to construct the link canal from the Sarada main canal with urgency. It was agreed that the Indian side would provide their observations on the DPR within six months.

2.0 Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage cum Diversion Scheme

The Nepali side stated that in order to resume the stalled field work, coordination will be made with the provincial and local governments as stakeholder consultation is a key factor for any project to be implemented. JCWR underscored the importance of creating a conducive environment in the project area for smooth functioning of JPO-SKSKI, including adequate security measures to carry out field investigations, trust building measures, formulating a suitable Resettlement and Rehabilitation plan etc. JCWR directed JTE to review the status of project activities and recommend future course of action.

3.0 Issues related to Kosi and Gandak Projects.

3.1 Kosi Project

The Nepali side reiterated their stand on the issue of compensation of private lands lost on account of the Kosi Project. They stated that basically two types of the compensation issues are to be resolved by the JCWR. First, the compensation of the private lands lying within the embankment and second the land that is being eroded by Kosi River on the downstream of the barrage. The Nepali Side stated that due to non-payment of compensation of the eroded land, there is general dissatisfaction among the affected people. They also mentioned that the compensation of eroded land cannot be overlooked as JCWR was directed by JMCWR in its first meeting to look into the matter. The Nepali side requested the Indian side to address the issue of compensation seriously.

In response, the Indian side stated that the issue of compensation of private lands has already been settled. The Indian side further informed that there was no provision of compensation for the eroded land in the Kosi Agreement. This position of the Indian side has already been stated in the earlier meetings of JCKGP, 6th JSTC meeting and 4th Joint Commission Meeting.

JCWR also noted that the decisions taken by the 9th meeting of JCKGP regarding the security and protection of Kosi Project area, erosion of flood embankment on upstream and downstream of Kosi barrage and operation of gates were endorsed by the 6th JSTC meeting.

3.2 Gandak Project

During the meeting, the Nepali side informed that due to severe problems of congestion of cross drainage structures of the Western Main Canal, a large tract of land along the canal gets inundated and crops and properties are damaged. They

reiterated their stand on the issue of compensation owing to the loss of crops and properties on account of the Project and mentioned that JCWR was directed by JMCWR in its first meeting to look into the matter. The Nepali side stated that since the agreement was made for the benefit of both the sides, negative consequences of the project had to be addressed and therefore this matter needs adequate attention.

The Indian side stated that there is no provision for compensation for crop damages in the Gandak agreement and hence this matter is beyond the mandate of JCWR.

JCWR took note of the discussions and decisions of the 6th JSTC meeting regarding the issues related to the project and directed the concerned authorities of both sides to take appropriate measures to resolve the issues as discussed and agreed in the last JSTC as well as the JGKGP meetings.

4.0 Review of activities of various Bilateral Committees

JCWR took note of the meetings of several bilateral committees under its purview and appreciated their works. It stressed on the need for regular and timely meetings and implementation of the decisions made.

5.0 Flood forecasting activities on rivers flowing from Nepal to India

Both sides agreed on the need for sharing of real-time hydro-meteorological data for flood forecasting activities between the two countries. JCWR noted with satisfaction the formation of the Joint Team by the JSTC to recommend a mechanism for mutual sharing of data and directed the Team to submit its report within three months. JCWR noted that as agreed in the JSTC meeting the team will also update the 2011 Task Force Report on Flood Forecasting for expansion and modernisation of the flood forecasting activities.

6.0 Power supply

It was brought to the notice of JCWR that all issues related to power supply are being discussed in the Joint Steering Committee constituted in 2014 for co-operation in the power sector. Hence, JCWR decided to drop power supply related issues henceforth from JCWR's agenda.

7.0 Cooperation on flooding, inundation and erosion issues

7.1 Review of on-going works on Lalbakaiva, Bagmati and Kamala Rivers

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JCWR expressed satisfaction over the river training works carried out in Kamala, Lalbakaiya and Bagmati Rivers. The Nepali side thanked the Government of India for their cooperation and support in the implementation of these works.

7.2 Taking up river training works in other rivers flowing from Nepal to India

JCWR welcomed JSTC's decision to take-up river training works on three new rivers namely West Rapti, Khando and Banganga flowing from Nepal to India.

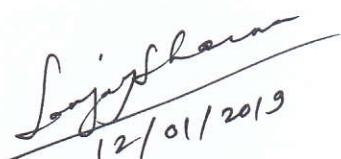
7.3 Inundation issues along India-Nepal border

JCWR appreciated the joint inspections carried out by the JCIFM Sub-Group to address the inundation issues along India-Nepal border. It was decided to implement the recommendations of the Sub-group with mutual consultations and continue periodic joint inspection visits of inundation prone areas. Both sides agreed to take appropriate measures in a timely manner to prevent inundation occurring along the border.

8.0 Any other item

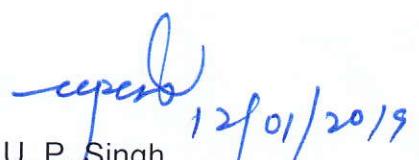
No additional item was discussed.

The meeting was held in a very cordial atmosphere and ended with vote of thanks.



12/01/2019

Dr. Sanjay Sharma
Secretary,
Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and
Irrigation, GoN
&
Leader (Nepal)



12/01/2019

U. P. Singh
Secretary (WR, RD & GR),
Ministry of Water Resources, River
Development & Ganga
Rejuvenation, GoI
&
Leader (India)

List of Participants in the 8th JCWR Meeting

Indian Side

Members

1. Mr. U.P Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India and Leader (India), JCWR
2. Mr. Masood Hussain, Chairman, CWC
3. Mr. Tripurari Sharan, Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Bihar
4. Mr. Arun Kumar Sinha, Chairman, GFCC, Patna
5. Mr. P. D. Siwal, Member (Hydro), Central Electricity Authority
6. Mr. Sudhakar Dalela, Joint Secretary (North), Ministry of External Affairs
7. Mr. J. Chandrashekhar Iyer, Commissioner (FM), MoWR, RD & GR
8. Mr. Balraj Joshi, Chairman & Managing Director, NHPC
9. Mr. P. C. Gaur, Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, Govt. of Uttarakhand
10. Mr. Ashok Kumar Singh, Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh

Invitees

11. Mr. Joginder Singh, Member GFCC, Patna
12. Mr. Bhopal Singh, Chief Engineer (UGBO), CWC, Lucknow
13. Mr. A.K.Nayak, Chief Engineer (LGBO), CWC, Patna
14. Mr. A. S Goel, Chief Engineer, (YBO), CWC, New Delhi
15. Mr. J. S. Bawa, Chief Engineer, Central Electricity Authority
16. Mr. Rakesh Toteja, Senior Joint Commissioner (FM), MoWR, RD & GR
17. Mr. A. Amarnath, Director (North), Ministry of External Affairs
18. Mr. Ajay Kumar, Director, GFCC, Patna
19. Mr. Bipin Kumar, Superintendent Engineer, Govt. of Bihar

Nepali Side

Members

1. Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources & Irrigation, Govt. of Nepal and Leader (Nepal), JCWR
2. Mr. Madhav Belbase, Joint Secretary, Water and Energy Commission Secretariat
3. Mr. Sushil Chandra Tiwari, Joint Secretary, MoEWRI
4. Mr. Pravin Raj Aryal, Joint Secretary, MoEWRI
5. Mr. Ram Gopal Kharbuja, Joint Secretary, MoEWRI
6. Ms. Sarita Dawadi, Director General, DoWRI
7. Mr. Madhu Prasad Bhetuwal, Director General, DoED
8. Mr. Krishna Belbase, Deputy Director General, DoWRI
9. Ms. Rita Dhital, Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Govt. of Nepal.
10. Mr. Sagar Raj Goutam, SDE, MoEWRI
11. Mr. Pradip Kumar Sah, Project Manager, JPO-SKSKI
12. Dr. Maheswor Shrestha, SDE, WECS
13. Mr. Raj Kumar Tandukar, SDE, MoEWRI
14. Mr. Prabal Adhikari, Chief, Power Trade Department, NEA
15. Mr. Sanjeev Ray, Engineer, MoEWRI



AGENDA ADOPTED FOR THE 8th JCWR MEETING

1. Implementation of Mahakali Treaty
 - 1.1 Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project
 - 1.2 Construction of Head Regulator and Link Canal from Tanakpur Barrage up to India-Nepal Border
 - 1.3 Construction of Tanakpur-Mahendranagar link road upto India-Nepal border
 - 1.4 Release of irrigation water for Chandani-Dodhara Area
2. Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage cum Diversion Scheme
3. Issues related to Kosi and Gandak Projects
 - 3.1 Kosi Project
 - 3.2 Gandak Project
4. Review of activities of various Bilateral Committees
5. Flood forecasting activities on rivers flowing from Nepal to India
6. Power Supply
7. Cooperation on flooding, inundation and erosion issues
 - 7.1 Review of on-going works on Lalbakiya, Bagmati and Kamala Rivers
 - 7.2 Taking up river training works in other rivers flowing from Nepal to India
 - 7.3 Inundation issues along India-Nepal border
8. Any other item