

**Minutes of the 1st Joint Working Group (JWG) Meeting on Nepal – Bangladesh
Cooperation in the Field of Power Sector held on December 3, 2018 in Kathmandu**

The 1st meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) pursuant to the Article – IV of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on August 10, 2018 between the Government of Nepal and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on Cooperation in the Field of Power Sector was held in Kathmandu on December 3, 2018. The Nepali delegation was led by Mr. Dinesh Kumar Ghimire, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, Government of Nepal and the Bangladesh delegation was led by Mr. Sheikh Faezul Amin, Joint Secretary, Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The lists of delegates from Nepal and Bangladesh are attached at *Annex – 1*.

Adoption of Agenda

Both sides adopted the agenda placed at *Annex – 2*.

1. Discussion on possibility of power trade between Nepal and Bangladesh

Given the potential for development of hydropower projects in Nepal and Bangladesh being as a potential market for electricity generated in Nepal, the detailed discussions were held to utilise this opportunity for the mutual benefit. Bangladesh side also mentioned the possibility to export their surplus power to Nepal during winter season. Both side noted that there is high scope of power trading between Nepal and Bangladesh by virtue of seasonal complementarities of demand and supply existing between the two countries. JWG recommended that the two countries shall explore the possibility of power trading between them as well as modalities of possible commercial arrangements.

2. Discussion on possibility of investment in hydropower development in Nepal

Discussions were held on the possibility of investment for the development of hydropower projects in Nepal. During discussion Bangladesh side informed that there are several private and public sector investors in Bangladesh who are capable and have interest to invest in Nepal's hydropower projects adopting various investing modalities. Nepali side welcomed the proposal and further elaborated that the present government policy and rules are conducive for Foreign Direct Investment. It was discussed that in order to explore the possibilities of investment, the potential projects are to be identified. For this JWG recommended to constitute Joint Technical Team (Generation) comprising three members from each country to identify potential hydropower projects in Nepal and explore the possibility of investment along with working out suitable mechanisms for power trading between the two countries.



3. Discussion on possibility of Cross Border Interconnection between Nepal and Bangladesh

During the discussion, both sides acknowledged the possibility and potential of power trading between Nepal and Bangladesh. In order to move forward on this, JWG recommended to constitute a Joint Technical Team (Transmission) comprising three members from each country to explore the possibility of cross border transmission connectivity between the two countries.

During the discussion, the importance of transmission connectivity was noted in order to trade electricity between Nepal and Bangladesh, which could happen through India. Both sides were of the view that there is a need of trilateral arrangement among Nepal, India and Bangladesh as far as transmission connectivity is concerned. JWG recommended that both sides will make their best efforts in devising such trilateral arrangements by proposing the matter as a common agenda in respective JWG/JSC meetings between Nepal & India and Bangladesh & India.

4. Progress on import of 500 MW hydropower from 900 MW Upper Karnali Hydropower Project, Nepal to be developed by GMR, India through NVVN, India to Bangladesh

Bangladesh side informed on the progress of importing 500 MW hydropower from 900 MW Upper Karnali Hydropower Project in Nepal. It was further informed that Government of Bangladesh is in the process of finalising the back to back power sale agreement between BPDB and NVVN after signing PPA between NVVN and GMR. Bangladesh side further stated that such agreements are expected to be finalised within next two to three months. Nepali side noted the progress made so far.

5. Cooperation between Nepal and Bangladesh in the field of renewable energy especially in the field of Solar Home System (SHS)

Bangladesh side made a presentation on the field of Solar Home System implemented by Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL) in Bangladesh. Nepali side appreciated the presentation and stated that Alternative Energy Promotion Centre under the Government of Nepal is carrying out similar activities in Nepal. Bangladesh side also informed that Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) was formed as nodal agency responsible for Scaling up Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency. In order to exchange and sharing of experiences, knowledge and expertise in this area for the benefit of both the countries, JWG recommended to establish an appropriate linkage between the concerned entities of the two countries.



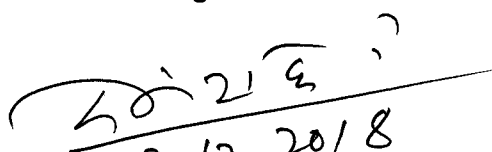
6. Meeting of the 2nd Joint Working Group

JWG recommended to hold the next meeting in Bangladesh in May/June 2019.

7. Any other matters

Bangladesh side expressed the desire to support Nepal for capacity building in the field of power sector through various training programs. Nepali side appreciated the offer and requested to provide the details of such programs.

The meeting was held in cordial and friendly atmosphere.


03.12.2018

(Mr. Dinesh Kumar Ghimire)

Joint Secretary

Ministry of Energy, Water Resources & Irrigation

Government of Nepal



(Mr. Sheikh Faezul Amin)

Joint Secretary, Power Division

Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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List of Delegates from Nepal

S.No.	Name and Designation	Position
1.	Mr. Dinesh Kumar Ghimire Joint Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation	Co-Chair
2.	Mr. Toya Nath Adhikari Joint Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation	Member
3.	Mr. Sandip Kumar Dev Deputy Director General, Department of Electricity	Member
4.	Mr. Lekh Nath Gautam Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Member
5.	Mr. Braj Bhushan Chaudhary Deputy Managing Director (Transmission), Nepal Electricity Authority	Member
6.	Mr. Prabal Adhikari Chief (Power Trade Department), Nepal Electricity Authority	Member
7.	Mr. Sagar Raj Goutam Senior Divisional Engineer, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation	Member
8.	Mr. Babu Raj Adhikari Senior Divisional Engineer, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation	Invitee
9.	Mr. Raju Maharjan Senior Divisional Engineer, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation	Invitee

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List of Delegates from Bangladesh

S.No.	Name and Designation	Position
1.	Mr. Sheikh Faezul Amin Joint Secretary, Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources	Co-Chair
2.	Mr. Mohammad Hossain Director General, Power Cell	Member
3.	Mr. S.M Tarikul Islam Director, Prime Minister's Office	Member
4.	Mr. Md. Reyad Hossian Director(South Asia), Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Member
5.	Mr. Md. Mahbubur Rahman Chief Engineer(IPP), BPDB	Member
6.	Mr. Pranab Kumar Roy Chief Engineer (P&D), PGCB	Member
7.	Mr. Khaled Mohammad Zaki Deputy Secretary, Power Division	Member
8.	Mr. Md. Mahbubul Haque First Secretary(TPC), Embassy of Bangladesh	Invitee
9.	Ms. Mithila Majumder Infrastructure Development Company Ltd.	Invitee

**Agenda for 1st Joint Working Group (JWG) Meeting on Nepal – Bangladesh
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1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Discussion on possibility of power trade between Nepal and Bangladesh
3. Discussion on possibility of investment in hydropower development in Nepal.
4. Discussion on possibility of Cross Border Interconnection between Nepal and Bangladesh
5. Progress on import of 500 MW hydropower from 900 MW Upper Karnali Hydropower Project, Nepal to be developed by GMR, India through NVVN, India to Bangladesh.
6. Cooperation between Nepal and Bangladesh in the field of renewable energy especially in the field of Solar Home System (SHS)
7. Any other matters