



Consultative Workshop on

## Upper Lower Riparian Issues and Options

18-19 January 2011

Islamabad Hotel



### Online Coverage

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\01\19\story\\_19-1-2011\\_pg11\\_3](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\01\19\story_19-1-2011_pg11_3)

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Science-based dialogues vital to resolve riparian issues

#### *Staff Report*

ISLAMABAD: The water experts on Tuesday developed consensus to build up mutual trust and science-based multi-stakeholder dialogues for understanding and resolving upper lower riparian issues and explore viable options.

This consensus was made at the opening session of a two-day consultative workshop that started on Tuesday at a local hotel.



Considering water as lifeline for Pakistan's sustainable development and steering it clear of political agendas and bias, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Pakistan

undertook a study on the issues and options for the upper and lower riparian of the Indus River.

Based on this and several other studies, four policy briefs have been prepared, Indus Water Treaty and Managing Shared Water Resources for the Benefit of Basin States, Beyond Indus Water Treaty: Groundwater and Environmental Management, Towards Kabul Water Treaty: Managing Shared Water Resources, and Pakistan Water Apportionment Accord for Resolving Inter-provincial Water Conflicts. The workshop is to consult the relevant stakeholders on these policy briefs.

Presenting the policy briefs, Dr Shahid Ahmad, Member Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, gave a presentation on the draft policy briefs for discussion and feedback.

“Small dams are important for the protection of the livelihoods,” said Ahmad. He voiced his concerns over the practice of expanding irrigation system without considering efficient usage of water.

“Neutral fact and science-based studies can be very useful in solving the regional water issues,” said Ganesh Pangare, Coordinator, Regional Water and Wetlands Programme, IUCN Asia.

Pangare quoted various instances of the regional cooperation on the Nile, Mekong and Senegal rivers. He was of the view that since they had successful examples of regional cooperation, there was no need to reinvent the wheel in Pakistan’s case. He emphasised on the private sector’s involvement in the dialogues.

“IUCN being a neutral convenor for the dialogues on the sustainable development issues has brought together experts to discuss what we have come up with so far and propose necessary amendments, improvements and additions to make these policy briefs more viable and closer to reality,” said Shah Murad Aliani, Country Representative, IUCN Pakistan.

Water is a very complex issue and thus needs to have dynamic ways for solving this problem, said Jan Willem Cools, First Secretary (Environment & Water) and Deputy Head of Development Section of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands on this occasion. He emphasised on paradigm shift, solutions and champions for the cause in order to resolve water issues in Pakistan.

## Pakistan, a 'water-stressed' country



A Pakistani today has access to a fifth of the water he had in 1947

**ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's water per capita has fallen by a whopping 78.4 per cent since 1947, mainly due to increased population. In other words, a Pakistani today has access to a fifth of the water he had in 1947. Currently 1,080 cubic metres of water is available to a single person in the country, compared to about 5,000 cubic metres in 1947, according to Dr Shahid Ahmad, an environmental expert who spoke at a two-day consultative workshop.**

“This makes Pakistan a water stressed country, without alternatives to draw on if Indus supplies fall short,” Dr Ahmad said. He said the rise in urban population raised even more danger of water scarcity as the demand for non-agricultural use of water grows.

“It is estimated that Quetta will run out of potable water within the next 15 years and water conflicts will increase,” he added.

He said the current water storage capacity is too limited, at a mere 137 cubic metres of storage capacity per person.

Other environmental experts at the workshop expressed grave concerns over the lack of water security in the country, which according to them is badly affecting its people and economy. They urged the need for increased investment in the water sector.

The inaugural session of the workshop, titled “Upper Lower Riparian Issues and Options” and organised by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), was held on Tuesday at a local hotel.

The experts included member of Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC), Dr Shahid Ahmad, coordinator of IUCN Asia’s Regional Water and Wetlands Programme, Ganesh Pangare, country representative IUCN, Shah Murad, deputy head of Embassy of Netherland’s Development Section, Willem Cools, and various other representatives of national and international organisations working on water issues.

The consensus at the workshop was that water issues need to be addressed on a priority basis as they play an important role in the development of a country and the life of its citizens. Unfortunately, in Pakistan, this neglected sector is treated as a “step-child”.

The participants urged the need for a greater trust and science-based dialogues between multiple stakeholders in order to understand and resolve upper/lower riparian issues as well as explore viable solutions.

They were of the view that initiating a dialogue on trans-boundary water issues would require research for the identification of critical areas.

According to the participants, the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) was responsible for gathering data on water issues but it had been unable to do so because of the lack of human resources and equipment.

Pakistan should first resolve the existing water issues within its own boundaries before considering its issues with neighbouring countries. The inter-provincial disputes over water distribution and the scandals involving construction of dams were cited as prime examples of the issues that first needed to be resolved.

Nevertheless, the experts emphasised the need for a water treaty between Pakistan and Afghanistan, as water developments in the latter state could have severe repercussions for Pakistan’s historic rights over water from Kabul River.

While presenting draft policy briefs, Dr Ahmad said, “The mindset to assist the neighbour in building infrastructure must be fostered in Pakistan.” Calling the water treaty an “existential issue”, he urged “open-minded” Pakistanis and Afghans to work on it, advising that the discussion should be “totally delinked” from historical grievances such as the Durand Line.

He said that the restructuring and strengthening of Pakistan’s chapter of Indus Water Commission and the establishment of a tripartite water forum could be a feasible option.

“There is a need to resolve the pending issues of mistrust by using the principles of International Water Laws for a win-win situation,” Dr Ahmad stressed.

He added that the inter-provincial water conflicts could be resolved through measure such as developing a reliable system of water measurement, building consensus for construction of carryover dams, allocating more resources for water infrastructure, and strengthening water management for optimal water use.

*Published in The Express Tribune, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011.*

## Inter-provincial water disputes

# Experts fail to propose solution

■ MOHSIN BABBAR

ISLAMABAD — Eminent experts, academicians and representatives of provincial irrigation departments Wednesday could not reach any agreement to propose solution to inter-provincial water disputes.

They, however, were unanimous in identifying that sufficient data was not available in Pakistan to analyse and recommend policy proposals both at inter-provincial level and with India as well.

These observations were made at a two-day workshop on "Upper Lower Riparian Issues and Options," concluded here Wednesday.

The workshop was organised by IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature.

The workshop participants were also of the same opinion that water disputes across the border or within country cannot be resolved without considering climate change phenomenon.

The purpose of the workshop was to bring together all relevant stakeholders to deliberate on the policy briefs on Upper Lower Riparian Issues and Options in Pakistan, prepared by the IUCN.

The four policy briefs included (i) Indus

Water Treaty and Managing Shared Water Resources for the Benefit of Basin States, (ii) Beyond Indus Water Treaty: Ground-water and Environmental Management, (iii) Towards Kabul Water Treaty: Managing Shared Water Resources, and (iv) Pakistan Water Apportionment Accord for Resolving Inter-provincial Water Conflicts.

Experts and representatives from the

## Sufficient data was not available to analyse policy proposals

relevant government departments like provincial irrigation departments, Indus River System Authority (Irsa), farmer communities, academia, NGOs, international organisations and donors participated in the workshop.

They recommended that an authentic database needed to be developed and made public in order to build confidence and trust amongst the stakeholders, and to take right decisions.

The participants emphasised the need

to undertake more research, especially on eastern and western waters in the backdrop of climate change, and to create a neutral forum to undertake comprehensive dialogue on these issues and make appropriate recommendations to the policy-makers.

In this regard, the IUCN was asked to play its neutral role and take this agenda forward.

Based on these two-days deliberations, the IUCN will finalise the policy briefs and present to the policy makers for their consideration.

The IUCN has also committed to revive the Pakistan Water Gateway as a virtual meeting place and web portal for sustainable management of water in Pakistan.

Experts took part in two-day deliberations included member Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) Dr Shahid Hamid, former Irsa chairman Shafqat Masood, Water expert from Sindh, Senator Kazi Abdul Majeed, Punjab Water Council chairman, Hamid Malhi, former secretary irrigation Balochistan Abdul Salam, Additional Secretary Sindh irrigation department, Mazhar Shah, Hamid Sarfraz from the IUCN and Nasir Panhwar from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).



## IUCN workshop on water

# Speakers call for mutual trust to resolve issues

■ MUNIR AHMED

ISLAMABAD — The speakers highlighted the trust deficit and disputed data on water measurement as two key elements that mar inter-provincial harmony and flare up trans-boundary challenges.

The participants called for mutual trust and science-based multi-stakeholder dialogues to understand and resolve upper lower riparian issues and explore viable options.

The water experts from across the country deliberated frankly on the issues and options of the upper-lower riparian at a workshop here Tuesday.

The two-day workshop is being organised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) under its Balochistan Partnerships for Sustainable Development Programme, funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Dr Shahid Ahmed, Member Natural Resources at the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, in his key note address said that the future is quite bleak in terms of availability and quality of water as an impact of climate change and downstream flow of heavy untreated effluents.

He was of the view that the provinces

should have the option to market their unutilised share in water according to agreement in the Council of the Common Interests (CCI).

Considering water as lifeline for Pakistan's sustainable development and steering it clear of political agendas and bias, IUCN Pakistan undertook a study on the issues and options for the upper and lower riparian of the Indus River.

Based on this study and several other research reports, Dr Shahid Ahmed has developed four policy briefs for the IUCN, and for the consumption of government and other non-governmental water experts.

The drafts of the policy briefs including Indus Water Treaty and Managing Shared Water Resources for the Benefit of Basin States, Beyond Indus Water Treaty: Groundwater and Environmental Management, Towards Kabul Water Treaty: Managing Shared Water Resources, and Pakistan Water Apportionment Accord for Resolving Inter-provincial Water Conflicts, were presented in the workshop for consultation.

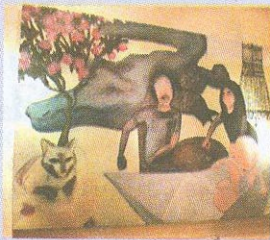
Presenting the policy briefs, Dr Shahid Ahmad made a detailed presentation. In his talk he mentioned that "Small dams are important for the protection of the livelihoods."

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## DATELINER

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**January 19**

Opening of exhibition of drawings and sculptural drawings at the Rohtas Gallery, House No 57-B, Street 26, F-6/2, at 5:30pm; till January 24.



**January 19**

Concluding session of a consultative workshop on water issues, organised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature at the Holiday Inn, at 10am.



# Science-based dialogues vital to resolve riparian issues

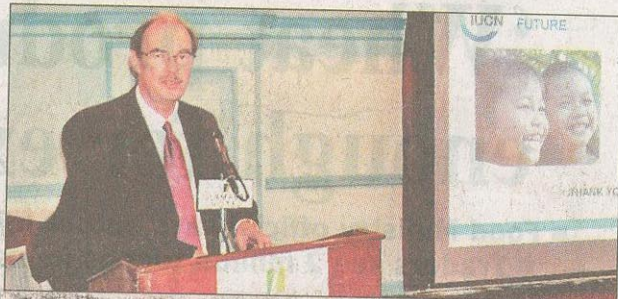
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Daily Times

Thursday, January 20, 2011

## Riparian issues discussed at IUCN workshop

### Staff Report

**ISLAMABAD:** A two-day workshop, titled 'Upper Lower Riparian Issues and Options', concluded in Islamabad on Wednesday. The workshop was organised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The purpose of the workshop was to bring together all relevant stakeholders to deliberate on the policy briefs on Upper Lower Riparian Issues and Options in Pakistan, prepared by the IUCN. The four policy briefs included Indus Water Treaty and Managing Shared Water Resources for the Benefit of Basin States beyond Indus Water Treaty, Groundwater and Environmental Management, Towards Kabul Water Treaty: Managing Shared Water Resources, and Pakistan Water Apportionment Accord for Resolving Inter-provincial Water Conflicts.

Experts and representatives from the relevant government departments, farmer communities, academia, NGOs, international organisa-

tions and donors participated in the workshop and appreciated the IUCN for undertaking this initiative.

They recommended that an authentic database needed to be developed and made public in order to build confidence and trust amongst the stakeholders, and to take appropriate decisions. The participants emphasised the need to undertake more research, especially on eastern and western waters in the backdrop of climate change, and to create a neutral forum to take on a comprehensive dialogue on these issues and make appropriate recommendations to the policy makers.

In this regard, IUCN was asked to play neutral convening role and take this agenda forward.

Based on these two-days deliberations, IUCN will finalise the policy briefs and present to the policy makers for their consideration. IUCN has also committed to revive the Pakistan Water Gateway as a virtual meeting place and web portal for sustainable management of water in Pakistan.



# ISLAMABAD

THE EXPRESS  
TRIBUNE

Wednesday

JANUARY 19, 2011

## Pakistan, a 'water-stressed' country

Environmental experts discuss the growing water issues and feasible options for their solution

SEHRISH WASIF  
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's water per capita has fallen by a whopping 78.4 per cent since 1947, mainly due to increased population. In other words, a Pakistani today has access to a fifth of the water he had in 1947. Currently 1,080 cubic metres of water is available to a single person in the country, compared to about 5,000 cubic metres in 1947, according to Dr Shahid Ahmad, an environmental expert who spoke at a two-day consultative workshop.

"This makes Pakistan a water stressed country, without alternatives to draw on if Indus supplies fall short," Dr Ahmad

said. He said the rise in urban population raised even more danger of water scarcity as the demand for non-agricultural use of water grows.

"It is estimated that Quetta will run out of potable water within the next 15 years and water conflicts will increase," he added.

He said the current water storage capacity is too limited, at a mere 137 cubic metres of storage capacity per person.

Other environmental experts at the workshop expressed grave concerns over the lack of water security in the country, which according to them is badly affecting its people and economy. They urged the need for increased investment in the water sector.

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Environmental expert  
Dr Shahid Ahmad

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