

Minutes of the Sixth Meeting of India-Nepal Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) held on November 24-25, 2011 in New Delhi, India

The sixth meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) was held in New Delhi on November 24-25, 2011. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. D V Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India and the Nepalese delegation was led by Mr. Balananda Paudel, Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Government of Nepal. The lists of the Indian and Nepalese delegates are in **Annex-I** and **Annex-II** respectively.

1.0 While welcoming the delegation of Nepal, the Leader of the Indian delegation mentioned that India and Nepal shared all major rivers in Ganges system which have a very vast hydropower potential, and if we were able to harness such potential for mutual benefits on the basis of equal partnership, it would change the destiny of the peoples of our two neighbouring countries. The Indian Team Leader recalled the directives of the Prime Ministers of two countries during the recent visit of Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, to India in October, 2011 that the meetings of Joint Ministerial Level Commission on Water Resources (JMCWR) and Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) should convene at the earliest. He stated that, against that backdrop, the sixth meeting of JCWR though was being held after two years, assumed a great significance. The Indian Team Leader expressed his happiness that even while JCWR could not meet for some time, several other joint committees at technical level under it met regularly. The Indian Team Leader also said that the two sides were meeting with a new vigour, utilizing age old cultural and emotional ties to usher in a new era of cooperation.

2.0 The Nepalese Team Leader expressed his thanks to the Indian Team Leader and the Government of India for the warm welcome and hospitality, and the initiatives taken to organize this meeting, which is important to review the works for mutual benefits in water sector and to chart a course to accelerated development of bilateral water works. He informed the committee that some of the field investigation works in Sapta Kosi Project site had resumed and dialogues among the political parties to build a consensus for the speedy implementation of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project had initiated. He expressed happiness over significant progress made by the technical committees under JCWR in resolving many technical issues and coming forward with positive recommendations. He expressed his satisfaction that different components under the integrated Mahakali Treaty were getting momentum, which would have direct positive bearing on the development of the Pancheshwar project.

The Nepalese Team Leader also expressed his gratitude to the Government of India for the initiatives taken following the high level talks during the recent visit of Rt. Honourable Prime Minister of Nepal to India to improve infrastructure necessary for power supply to Nepal to ameliorate the situation of load shedding and expected a positive response from the Government of India on the proposed umbrella power trade agreement, which is a prerequisite for the successful implementation of cross border transmission interconnections. He further mentioned that recommendations

made by the Joint Committee for Comprehensive Strategy for Flood Management and Control set up to prepare a report by the Second Meeting of the JCWR may be implemented early. Regarding acquisition and exchange of quality meteorological and hydrological data, he emphasized the need of further cooperation. The Nepalese Team Leader said that the enormous amount of people to people relations apart from the formal ones should be utilized to make favourable environment in water sector development to the benefits of peoples of both countries.

3.0 After detailed deliberations on agenda which is placed at Annex-III, the following decisions were made:

3.1 Implementation of Mahakali Treaty- Review of Progress

3.1.1 Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project

JCWR reviewed the status of preparation of Detailed Project Report of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project. It was noted that some field works were yet to be completed jointly at the Rupaligad site. JCWR desired that the remaining works may be completed early to finalize the technical parameters of the re-regulating dam and its power plant complex.

It was further recalled that the Terms of Reference (TOR) of Pancheshwar Development Authority (PDA) was finalized in the 5th meeting of JCWR held at Pokhara (Nepal) and the document was put forward for the approval procedure at the appropriate level of respective government by the end of January 2010. Accordingly, the Government Nepal approved the Terms of Reference of PDA. The Indian side informed that the TOR of PDA is under process of approval and likely to be approved within next three months.

3.1.2 Sill level of the Head Regulator for Nepal at Tanakpur Barrage

JCWR reviewed the status of construction of 1.2 km long canal for supply of 1,000 cusecs of water from Tanakpur barrage to Nepal. During the meeting, the officers of Government of Nepal, NHPC and CWC held discussions on the sill level of Head Regulator for Nepal Canal taking into consideration the energy head losses and variation of pond levels that may affect the discharge capacity.

After discussion, it was proposed to lower the sill level of the Head Regulator at EL 244.25 m instead of EL 245.00 m proposed earlier. JCWR directed JSTC to finalize this sill level after reviewing the technical details.

3.1.3 Tanakpur-Mahendranagar Link Road

The Indian side informed that land acquisition on the Indian side was being taken care of by M/S RITES (India) in consultation with the Government of Uttarakhand (India). The Nepalese side informed that required land in Nepalese territory had already been acquired and the track had been constructed to secure the right of way. The JCWR decided that the concerned Indian agency be directed to expedite and complete the land acquisition and other related clearances at the earliest.

3.1.4 Release of irrigation water for Chandani Dodhara Area

JCWR took note with satisfaction that alternative sites were being surveyed for the release of irrigation water to Chandani Dodhara area of Nepal by a joint survey team since 15 November 2011 as decided by JSTC in its 3rd meeting.

4.0 Sapta Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project including Sun Koshi Storage cum Diversion Scheme - Review of progress of works.

JCWR reviewed the status of field investigations of Saptakosi High Dam Project and Sun Koshi Storage cum Diversion Scheme. It was noted that the geological investigations including geological mapping of the remaining works were underway. JCWR directed the JPO-SKSKI to expedite the award of the drilling work so that DPR could be completed by February, 2013.

JCWR directed that financial powers delegated to the Project Managers, JPO-SKSKI may be enhanced in order to expedite the decision making process. JCWR directed the Team Leaders of JTE to fix monthly targets for JPO and monitor them.

5.0 Issues related to Gandak Project

The Indian side informed the Committee that the Nepal Benefit Scheme related to Gandak Project, which was scheduled to complete by March 2012 could be delayed by a few months due to encroachment to approach road and requested the Nepalese side to remove the encroachments and provide adequate security to the Indian executing agency personnel. They further requested the Government of Nepal to consider duty free import of construction materials from India and a dedicated power supply line to the Gandak barrage.

The Nepalese side assured that additional security would be provided in the project area. Regarding easing out of duty free import of construction materials to Nepal, the Nepalese side assured that processing of import related documents would be expedited after they are received. It was agreed that a dedicated 11 kV line would be provided for the uninterrupted quality power for the operation and lighting of the barrage.

6.0 Review of activities of bilateral Committees

6.1 Various Committees

JCWR noted with satisfaction that meetings of Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC), Joint Committee on Inundation & Flood Management (JCIFM), Joint Team of Experts (JTE), Joint Committee on Kosi & Gandak Projects (JCKGP), Kosi High Level Committee (KHLC), Gandak High Level Standing Committee (GHLSC) were held regularly.

6.2 Power Exchange Committee

The JCWR noted that tenth meeting of Power Exchange Committee (PEC) had not been held so far. As a result, the various issues within the purview of the PEC could

not be reviewed. Finally it was agreed that the 10th PEC meeting would be held on 14-15 December 2011 in New Delhi.

7.0 West Rapti Multipurpose (Naumure) Project

JCWR noted that Government of Nepal was yet to send the comments on the Prefeasibility Study Report prepared by CWC to the Government of India, as decided in the third meeting of JSTC. The Nepalese side informed that the comments would be made available very soon.

8.0 Embankment on Mechi River

The JCWR took note with satisfaction that the contact officers of the Government of Nepal and the State Governments of West Bengal and Bihar would be carrying out joint survey from 1 December 2011 to 31 January 2012. It was also noted that the joint meeting of the contact officers was held recently.

9.0 First Meeting of Joint Ministerial Level Commission on Water Resources (JMCWR)

JCWR agreed that the first meeting of Joint Ministerial Level Commission on Water Resources (JMCWR) may be held in early 2012.

10.0 Flood forecasting activities on rivers flowing from Nepal to India

JCWR was informed that during 3rd meeting of JSTC, it was decided that a Task Force consisting of an officer, each from Central Water Commission, Patna, Irrigation Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh and Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar and an officer from Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, Government of Nepal would meet at the earliest to determine the appropriate equipment, to identify key locations where the equipments are to be installed, to estimate manpower requirement to use and look after the equipment and to decide on the mode of data transmission and sharing on real time basis or at the maximum of three hours interval. The Task Force would submit its detailed report within three months.

During the meeting, it was agreed that officers of Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, Government of Nepal would visit Lucknow from 7-14 December, 2011 to attend the meeting and finalize the report.

11.0 Power Supply

11.1 Construction of New Inter-connection Facilities

JCWR noted the report of the joint technical experts meeting in Kathmandu on November 20-21, 2011 that recommended for reinforcement of existing inter-connection facilities as well as creation of new interconnection facilities including 132 KV Katai - Kushaha double circuit and 132 KV Raxaul – Parwanipur single circuit (D/C Tower) to enhance import of power to Nepal in short as well as medium terms. The Nepalese side requested to expedite the implementation of these

recommendations in a time bound manner. The Indian side stated that additional inter-connections may not be required as the 400 KV Muzaffarpur-Dhalkebar double circuit cross border link is being established. The Nepalese side requested for the creation of new inter-connections as per the recommendations of the experts meeting so that it may facilitate to enable Nepal to draw an additional power by March 2013 for the intervening period till the 400 KV Muzaffarpur-Dhalkebar Line is commissioned. However, Indian side informed that the recommendations of the Joint Technical Experts would be discussed with the stakeholders of the Indian side on 30th November, 2011 to firm up the technical and financial requisites to enable additional quantum of power transfer to Nepal on commercial basis. JCWR directed that these issues may be discussed and finalized in the next meeting of PEC.

Regarding the status for the construction of the 400 KV Muzaffarpur - Dhalkebar double circuit line, Indian side informed that all the necessary clearance are being obtained by the concerned Joint Venture Company on the Indian side, Cross Border Power Transmission Company (CPTC). It was clarified by Nepal side that the Implementation and Transmission Service Agreement (ITSA) between NEA and concerned Joint Venture Transmission Companies i.e. CPTC and Power Transmission Company of Nepal (PTCN) and Power Sale Agreement (PSA) between NEA and PTC have been initiated and the final approval of the concerned boards is awaited. It was also clarified that the Share Holder Agreements would be made shortly. It was also clarified that construction of the line would be taken up immediately after all formalities are completed.

Nepalese side requested to enhance their import beyond 50 MW under bilateral exchange modality. The Indian side stated that the matter could be discussed in the forthcoming PEC meeting.

Regarding the proposal of Nepal for setting up of 2nd cross border high capacity transmission link between India and Nepal, Indian side informed that this link would be planned based on system requirements and depending upon the quantum of transfer of power and its time line.

11.2 Inter-connection and Cross border Power Trading

The Nepalese side stated that they had already sent draft MOU on interconnections and cross border power trading to MEA. The Indian side informed that the MOU would be examined and comments/observations will be conveyed soon.

12.0 Any other Business

12.1 Joint Committee for Comprehensive Strategy for Flood Management and Control.

The Nepalese side apprised JCWR that a committee was formed through the decision of the 2nd meeting of JCWR for Comprehensive Strategy for Flood Management and Control. The committee submitted its recommendations for urgent river training works for mutual benefits of both the countries. Nepalese side emphasized on early implementation of the recommendations.

The Indian Team Leader recalled the recent visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal in which the discussions were held to take up river training and management works on various rivers including embankment along West Rapti River. The JCWR directed JCIFM to prepare detailed project report on priority basis.

Signed on 25 November, 2011 at New Delhi.

(Balananda Paudel)
Secretary
Ministry of Energy
Government of Nepal

(Dhruv Vijay Singh)
Secretary
Ministry of Water Resources
Government of India

List of Delegates – India

1. Mr. Dhruv Vijay Singh, Secretary (WR)	Team Leader
2. Mr. R.C. Jha, Chairman, Central Water Commission	Member
3. Mr. G. Mohan Kumar, Additional Secretary (WR)	-do-
4. Mr. S. P. Kakran, Member (RM), CWC & Chairman, GFCC	-do-
5. Mr. Arvinder Singh Bakshi, Member (HP&I) & Chairman, CEA	-do-
6. Mr. Devendra Sharma, Commissioner (Ganga), MOWR	-do-
7. Mr. Akhilesh Mishra, Joint Secretary (N), MEA	-do-
8. Mr. Afzal Amanullah, Principal Secretary (WRD), Government of Bihar	-do-
9. Mr. Mahesh Chandra, Special Secretary (Irrigation), Government of UP	-do-
10. Ms. Anju Ranjan, First Secretary, Embassy of India (Kathmandu)	-do-
11. Ms. Ananya Ray, JS&FA, MOWR	Special Invitee
12. Mr. K. Yadav, Chief Engineer (LGBO), CWC	-do-
13. Mr. S.M Husain, Member (C), GFCC	-do-
14. Mr. Tanmoy Das, Chief Engineer (HP&I), CEA	-do-
15. Mr. K.K. Arya, Chief Engineer (SP&PA), CEA	-do-
16. Mr. A.K. Ojha, Chief Engineer (Irrigation), Govt. of UP	-do-
17. Mr. N.C. Chatterjee, Chairman, NBFCC, Govt. of West Bengal	-do-
18. Mr. S.K. Sahu, Project Manager (I), JPO-SKSKI	-do-
19. Mr. A.S.P. Sinha, Sr. Joint Commissioner (Ganga), MoWR	-do-
20. Mr. Joginder Singh,	

- Director (NBC), CWC -do-
21. Dr. R. Saha,
Director (SP&PA), CEA -do-
22. Mr. R.K. Gupta,
Director (Hydro), Ministry of Power -do-
23. Mr. Avinash Pavgi,
Additional General Manager, Powergrid -do-
24. Mr. Rakesh Kumar,
Exe. Vice President, Power Trading Corporation -do-
25. Mr. Arvind Kumar,
General Manager, Govt. of Uttarkhand -do-
26. Mr. Uday Kumar,
Liaison Officer, Government of Bihar -do-
27. Mr. A.K. Sinha,
Liaison Officer (Kathmandu), Govt. of Bihar -do-
28. Mr. Mohmad Sohail
Under Secretary, Government of Bihar -do-
29. Mr. Amit Kumar Jha,
Ex. Engineer, P&I Division, CWC -do-

List of Delegates – Nepal

1. Mr. Balananda Paudel, Secretary, Ministry of Energy	Team Leader
2. Mr. Rajendra Kishore Kshatri, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Energy	Member
3. Mr. Arjun Kumar Karki, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Energy	-do-
4. Mr. Anup Kumar Upadhyaya, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Energy	-do-
5. Mr. Sriranjjan Lacoul, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Energy	-do-
6. Mr. Bharat Raj Poudyal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	-do-
7. Mr. Anil Kumar Pokharel, Director General, Department of Irrigation	-do-
8. Mr. Dilli Bahadur Singh, Director General, Deptt. of Electricity Development	-do-
9. Mr. Kamal Prasad Regmi, Director General, Deptt. of Water Induced Disaster Prevention	-do-
10. Dr. Keshav Prasad Sharma, Director General, Deptt. of Hydrology & Meteorology	-do-
11. Mr. Shiv Kumar Sharma, Deputy Director General, Department of Irrigation	-do-
12. Mr. Keshab Dhoj Adhikari, Superintending Engineer, Department of Electricity Development	-do-
13. Mr. Sher Singh Bhat, Director, Nepal Electricity Authority	-do-
14. Mr. Madhav Belbase, Regional Director, Department of Irrigation	Invitee
15. Mr. Surendra Mananda Bajracharya, Project Manager, Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project & Sun Kosi Storage cum Diversion Scheme	-do-
16. Mr. Khaganath Adhikari, Charge D'affairs a.i., Embassy of Nepal, New Delhi	-do-
17. Mr. Yagya Bahadur Hamal, Minister Consular, Embassy of Nepal, New Delhi	-do-
18. Mr. Sagar Raj Goutam, Senior Divisional Engineer, Ministry of Energy	-do-

**Proposed Agenda Points for
6th Meeting of India- Nepal Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR)
on 24-25 November, 2011 at New Delhi**

- 1.0 Implementation of Mahakali Treaty**
 - 1.1 Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project.
 - 1.2 Sill level of the Head Regulator for Nepal at Tanakpur Barrage.
 - 1.3 Tanakpur-Mahendranagar Link Road.
 - 1.4 Release of irrigation water for Chandani Dodhara Area.
- 2.0 Sapta Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project including Sun Koshi Storage cum Diversion Scheme – review of progress of work**
- 3.0 Issues related to Gandak Project.**
- 4.0 Review of activities of various water and power related bilateral Committees**
 - 4.1 Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC)
 - 4.2 Joint Team of Experts (JTE)
 - 4.3 Joint Committee on Kosi and Gandak Projects (JCKGP)
 - 4.4 Joint Committee on Inundation and Flood Management (JCIFM)
 - 4.5 Kosi High Level Committee (KHLC)
 - 4.6 Gandak High Level Standing Committee (GHLSC)
 - 4.7 Power Exchange Committee (PEC)
- 5.0 West Rapti Multipurpose (Naumure) Project**
- 6.0 Embankment on Mechi River.**
- 7.0 1st meeting of Joint Ministerial Level Commission on Water Resources (JMCWR)**
- 8.0 Flood forecasting activities on rivers flowing from Nepal to India.**
- 9.0 Power Supply**
 - 9.1 Construction of New Inter Connection Facilities**
 - 9.2 Interconnection and cross border power Trading**
- 10.0 Any Other Business**