

**Minutes of the First Meeting of India - Nepal Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC) held on 8-9 December, 2008 at New Delhi.**

The first meeting of India-Nepal Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC) was held on 8-9 December, 2008 at New Delhi. The Indian delegation was headed by Shri R.C. Jha, Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission, Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR), Government of India and the Nepalese delegation was headed by Shri S.B. Regmee, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of Nepal. Lists of Indian and Nepalese delegations are given at Annexure – I & II respectively.

1. Leader of the Indian delegation in his opening remarks, welcomed the Nepalese delegation and mentioned that during the third meeting of Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) it was decided to have three tier joint mechanism to expedite the decision making process and the implementation of decisions undertaken at the institutional interactions. Whereas a Joint Ministerial Commission on Water Resources would be headed by the Ministers of Water Resources of India and Nepal, a Joint Standing Technical Committee was constituted to rationalize technical committees and sub-committees that are existing between India and Nepal related to flood management, inundation problems and flood forecasting activities besides projects specific committees on hydro power. The JSTC will be coordinating all technical committees and sub-committees under JCWR. The transformation of existing institutional mechanism into new mechanism was agreed to be finalized in the next meeting of JCWR. Hence, the working of existing committees/sub-committees is to be reviewed during this meeting so that the recommendations/decisions of this meeting may be put up in the next meeting of JCWR.

2. The Leader of Nepalese delegation expressed his gratitude for the excellent hospitality extended by the Government of India and added that this meeting would be of high importance to the two friendly neighbouring countries

for beginning a new dimension for addressing issues in water resources. He further mentioned that he was hopeful of obtaining good cooperation from both sides to harness enormous potential of water resources development in the region for the optimum use not only in hydropower but also for reliable agriculture development, flood mitigation and other usage.

3. After deliberations on the items of agenda, which is at Annexure-III, the following conclusions and decisions were made.

**4. Review of the on-going activities/ continuation of existing Committees/ Sub-committees.**

**4.1 Standing Committee on Inundation Problem (SCIP)**

Last meeting of SCIP was held in August-September, 2006. It was informed that there are still around 26 unresolved issues related to inundation raised by India and Nepal. The Nepalese side stated that as inundation problems may continue to exist in some form or the other, this committee be continued. Indian side suggested that a Committee on Flood Management may look into all matters related to floods and the works entrusted to four other committees; like SCEC, SCFF, JCFM & HLTC. It was agreed to recommend the formation of the Committee on Flood management which would look after all the issues that are being looked after by SCIP, SCEC, SCFF, JCFM, and HLTC. This issue would be placed before JCWR for final decision.

Besides, it was decided to form following two task groups - one each for inundation issues related to UP and another related to Bihar as under:

Task Group –1:

Nepal Side;

1. SDE, DWIDP,
2. Concerned WIDP Chief

India Side:

1. SE, Baharaich, Government of UP
2. Director, GFCC, Patna dealing for UP

Task Group – 2:

Nepal Side;

1. SDE, DWIDP,
2. Concerned WIDP Chief

India Side:

1. SE, Drainage Circle, WRD, Government of Bihar, Motihari
2. Director, GFCC, Patna dealing for Bihar

#### **4.2 Standing Committee on Flood Forecasting (SCFF)**

It was informed that the following works are to be implemented before the monsoon of 2009.

1. For transmission of hydromet data from five key hydromet stations viz Kusum (River Rapti) Narayanghat (River Narayani) Karmaiya (River Bagmati), Chatara (River Kosi) and Mainchuli (River Kankai) a field visit is needed to explore the possibility of installation of telephone based telemetry system with a data logger, sensor and transmission modem.
2. Selection of site for establishment of a hydromet site on Kamla river in Nepal in the vicinity of Portaha and Bandipur near Mahendra Rajmarg.
3. Inspection of the existing Dipayal meteorological site for upgradation to hydrometeorological station including construction of gauge house, cableway and wireless.
4. Operationalisation of Rajaiya hydromet site on river Gandak and Samjighat and Chisapan hydromet sites on river Karnali by providing required equipment and completing the civil works after inspection.

5. Strengthening of wireless workshops (for repair of equipment) at Kathmandu and India (Patna).
6. Procurement and supply of one four wheel drive inspection vehicle for site visit by DHM officials in Nepal.
7. Supply of rain gauges (as per Nepal standards) water level recorders, gauge plates, wireless sets, maintenance free batteries, etc. as required.

JSTC decided that the above works may be completed before monsoon 2009 by a Task Force as under:

Nepal Side:

1. Flood Forecasting Section Chief, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology,
2. Concerned Basin Office Chief, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology.

India Side:

1. SE (HOC) CWC, Varanasi Ph. 0542-2282302
  2. Executive Engineer, MGD-I, CWC, Lucknow Ph. 0522-2389158
- and
1. Director, Monitoring, CWC Patna, Ph. 0612-2274256
  2. Executive Engineer, MGD-IV, CWC, Patna Ph. 0612-2671541

#### **4.3 Joint Committee on Flood Management (JCFM)**

The works performed by JCFM was reviewed and it was observed that the committee has submitted two preliminary reports for flood management covering the areas between rivers Gandak to Mechi. Third report for the area covering west of Gandak to Sharda is yet to be prepared. The remaining work of the Committee may be handed over to a Task Force-4 as mentioned below:

Nepal Side:

1. Deputy Director General, Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention
2. Senior Divisional Engineer, Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention

India Side:

1. Member (P), GFCC
2. Senior Joint Commissioner, Government of India.

#### **4.4 Sub- committee on Embankment Construction (SCEC)**

It is agreed that the SCEC will continue its work until a final decision is taken by JCWR as stated in Para 4.1. above.

#### **4.5 High Level Technical Committee (HLTC)**

It was noted that providing of unhindered passage in Kalkalwa bund has been agreed to by the Indian side (State government of Uttar Pradesh); the design calculations and type of opening may be discussed and finalized by the Task Group -1 as referred at para 4.1.

Representative of Government of Uttar Pradesh stated that the modified proposal has been submitted to the Government of UP and details would be shared with the Government of Nepal in due course. JSTC decided that Government of UP may finalize/ exchange the design details with Nepal latest by 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2008 so that the execution of the work may be started by January, 2009 and completed before monsoon of 2009.

**4.6.** After detailed discussions, it was decided to form four Task Groups consisting of two officers from each side to undertake field visits and to resolve urgent inundation problems within a fixed time frame. These task groups will submit the final report by 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2009 to the JSTC.

Continuation of these Task Groups will be reviewed during next meeting of JSTC/JCWR.

#### **5. Pre-feasibility study of Naumure Project**

Indian side acknowledged the receipt of data and study report provided by the Government of Nepal and handed over a list of other required data for carrying out Pre-feasibility Study of Naumure Project. Nepalese side informed that the requisite data would be provided by 31<sup>st</sup> December' 2008.

#### **6. Visit to Mahalisagar**

It was decided that the joint visit to Mahalisagar would be organized on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2008.

#### **7. Latest status on Kosi Breach Closure**

Nepalese side expressed concern over the progress of work and desired to know the latest status of Kosi Breach Closure work and action plan prepared for the same. The Indian side informed that 8 km long diversion channel has been completed and water is released on 9<sup>th</sup> December'2008. It would facilitate and expedite construction of coffer dam. A copy of the action plan prepared by the Indian side was also handed over to the Nepalese side in the meeting.

Indian side also handed over a copy of the Recommendations of Kosi High Level Committee and a draft copy of the recommendation of High Level Expert Team (HLET) to the Nepalese side for information and comment.

Nepalese side informed that there are many vulnerable points upstream of breach site and requested the Indian side to carry out maintenance of critical/vulnerable points before monsoon period so that disaster experienced recently is not repeated in future.

#### **8. Flood Management Works on both sides of river Mechi**

Indian side informed that a project report for construction of Flood Embankment on river Mechi prepared for West Bengal portion was sent to GON for their comments but the comments from GON are still awaited. It was also informed that project report for Bihar portion has also been cleared by GFCC and a copy of the same would be provided to Government of Nepal. Nepalese side agreed to expedite their comments on both the schemes simultaneously, on receipt of project report for Bihar portion.

#### **9. Gandak Project**

Nepalese side raised the issue of non-implementation of agreement reached on 26.06.2008 by the Government of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh with all concerned on the Gandak problem. Engineer-in-Chief, WRD, Government of Bihar informed that following two schemes in accordance with the agreement has been undertaken by State Government.

- (i) Construction of seven bathing ghats along main Western Canal,
- (ii) Repairs of 16 civil structures of main Western Canal.

He further informed that a DPR for special repairs of Gandak Main Western Canal in Nepal is under preparation and would be completed by January, 2009.

Representative from Government of Uttar Pradesh informed that agreed proposals pertaining to Gap-A, B, etc. have been prepared in accordance with the agreement reached in 26. 06. 2008 and are under process of sanction. JSTC directed to complete all those works recommended by the Gandak High-Level Committee before the monsoon 2009.

#### **10. Restoration of damaged Transmission Lines**

Indian side informed that Power Grid Corporation of India deputed a team of officers to visit the damaged transmission lines by the Kosi floods. Their

inspection report is expected in a week's time. Efforts are being made to restore the lines at the earliest, within two month's. In the meanwhile it is possible to provide additional 20 MW of power from Tanakpur side. Ministry of Power, Gol will examine the possibility of supplying power which is usually supplied by the Bihar State Electricity Board through the Kataiya-Duhabi transmission line, via Tanakpur under Nepal India Power Exchange Agreement.

### **11. Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project and Saptakoshi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage cum Diversion Scheme**

The JSTC noted the progress of work in respect of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project, and Saptakoshi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage cum Diversion Scheme. JSTC decided to direct concerned officials from both sides of these projects

- (I) to refurbish the Hydrological stations at Pancheshwar and Rupaligad sites and to start joint observation at Pancheshwar and Rupaligad sites,
- (II) to undertake necessary investigations at proposed reregulating dam at Rupaligad, (alternative dam site),
- (III) to direct JPO SKSKI to resume the suspended activities at the project sites.

The meeting was conducted in a cordial atmosphere.

Signed on 9 December 2009 in New Delhi.

R.C. Jha  
Chairman, GFCC  
Team Leader (India)

S.B. Regmee  
Joint Secretary, MOWR  
Team Leader (Nepal)





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Indian delegation

- |     |  |                   |
|-----|--|-------------------|
| 1.  | Shri R. C. Jha, Chairman, GFCC                               | Leader            |
| 2.  | Shri S.P.Kakran, Commissioner (Ganga), MOWR                  | Member            |
| 3.  | Shri Jayant Kawale, Joint Secretary (Hydro), MOP             | Member            |
| 4.  | Shri S.K. Sengupta, Chief Engineer (YBO), CWC                | Member            |
| 5.  | Shri M.U. Ghani, Member (C ), GFCC, Patna                    | Member            |
| 6.  | Shri Devender Sharma, Chief Engineer (UGBO), Lucknow         | Member            |
| 7.  | Shri Devi Rajak, Engineer-in-chief, WR D, Govt. Bihar, Patna | Member            |
| 8.  | Shri Gyan Das, S.E., Bahraich, Government of U.P             | Member            |
| 9.  | Shri G.D. Singhal, Liaison Officer, Govt. of U.P.            | Member            |
| 10. | Shri S.K. Sahu, S.E. CWC, Patna                              | Member            |
| 11. | Shri A.K. Singh, S.E., Planning Circle, CWC, Faridabad       | Member            |
| 12. | Shri A.S.P. Sinha, SJC (Ganga), MOWR                         | Member- Secretary |

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Nepalese delegation

- |     |   |                  |
|-----|---|------------------|
| 1.  | Mr. Shital Babu Regmee, Joint Secretary,<br>Ministry of Water Resources                         | Leader           |
| 2.  | Mr. Suresh Raj Uprety, Joint Sectary,<br>Water and Energy Commission's Secretariat              | Member           |
| 3.  | Mr. Mahendra Bahadur Gurung, Director General,<br>Dept. of Water Induced Disaster Prevention    | Member           |
| 4.  | Mr. Madhu Sudan Paudel, Director General,<br>Dept. of Irrigation.                               | Member           |
| 5.  | Mr. Sriranjana Lacoul, Director General,<br>Dept. of Electricity Development.                   | Member           |
| 6.  | Mr. Prakash Kumar Suvedi, Under Secretary,<br>Ministry of Foreign Affairs.                      | Member           |
| 7.  | Mr. Yagya Bahadur Hamal, Minister Counsellor,<br>Embassy of Nepal, New Delhi.                   | Member           |
| 8.  | Mr. Dilli Bahadur Singh, Project Manager,<br>Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project                   | Member           |
| 9.  | Mr. Surendra Mananda Bajracharya, Project Manager,<br>Sapta Kosi High Dam Multi Purpose Project | Member           |
| 10. | Mr. Uttar Kumar Shrestha, Managing Director,<br>Nepal Electricity Authority.                    | Member           |
| 11. | Mr. Gautam Rajkarnikar, Senior Divisional Engineer,<br>Water and Energy Commision's Secretariat | Member           |
| 12. | Mr. Pradip Raj Pande ,<br>Senior Divisional Engineer, Ministry of Water Resources               | Member Secretary |

**Annexure-III**

**Agenda for First Meeting of India - Nepal Joint Standing Technical  
Committee (JSTC) held on 8-9 December, 2008 at New Delhi.**

1. Review of the on-going activities/ continuation of existing Committees/  
Sub-committees.
2. Pre-feasibility study of Naumure Project
3. Visit to Mahalisagar
4. Latest status on Kosi Breach Closure
5. Issue of embankment on both sides of river Mechi
6. Gandak Barrage
7. Restoration of Damaged Transmission Lines
8. Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project and Saptakoshi High Dam  
Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage cum Diversion Scheme