

Minutes of the Second Meeting of Nepal-India Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC) held on 30-31 March 2010 at Kathmandu

The second meeting of Nepal-India Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC) was held on 30-31 March 2010 at Kathmandu. The Indian delegation was headed by Shri R.C. Jha, Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC), Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India and the Nepalese delegation was headed by Mr. Madhu Sudan Paudel, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Irrigation (MOI), Government of Nepal. The lists of Indian and Nepalese delegations are given at Annexure-I and Annexure-II respectively.

1. The Team Leader of Nepal Mr. Paudel welcomed the Indian delegation to the meeting. Mr. Paudel, in his welcome address, expressed the view that there is no alternative to the meaningful cooperation between Nepal and India, and also extended thanks on behalf of the Government of Nepal to the Government of India for the cooperation extended from the latter in irrigation, flood management and power projects. He also expressed optimism that the JSTC meeting would be able to resolve bilateral issues in the sector and come up with valuable recommendations.

2. Shri R.C. Jha, Chairman, GFCC and Leader of the Indian delegation thanked Government of Nepal for the warm reception and excellent hospitality extended to the Indian delegation. He expressed hope that the deliberations during the meeting would be constructive and fruitful.

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

4. Review on Actions Taken on Decisions Taken in First Meeting of the JSTC

4.1 Koshi Breach Closure Works

The Indian side informed the committee that the closure of the Koshi Breach was completed in time with close cooperation between the Governments of Nepal and India.

The Indian side further informed that the works recommended by the KHLC have been initiated and would be completed by the end of May 2010.

The Nepalese side requested for a copy of the work plan of the works being carried out by the Government of Bihar for monitoring of the progress of the works at the field level. The Indian side agreed to provide the same. It was decided that Director, Eastern Region Irrigation

Directorate, Biratnagar and S. E., Barrage Circle, Birpur would periodically monitor the works jointly and report the progress.

4.2 Gandak Project

The Nepalese side requested the status of the Nepal Benefit Scheme prepared by the Indian side. The Indian side informed that the Nepal Benefit Scheme (Gandak Project) prepared by the Government of Bihar is awaiting the approval of Government of India. Once the scheme is approved the proposed works would be undertaken and the work plan will be provided to the Nepalese side through diplomatic channel.

4.3 Prefeasibility Study of Naumure Multi-purpose Project

The Indian side handed over a copy of the pre-feasibility study report of the Naumure multi-purpose project to the Nepalese side. The Nepalese side mentioned that the report would be studied by them and observations, if any, would be conveyed to the Indian side through the diplomatic channel.

4.4 Mechi River

The Indian side reiterated that adjoining area of the West Bengal is suffering inundation due to floods in Mechi river. Therefore, there is an urgent need to construct embankments there. The Nepalese side reiterated the necessity of simultaneous construction of embankments on both banks of the river. As the Mechi river forms international border, it was agreed to take due care in aligning the embankments so that they would be at identified distance from the border and the top levels of the embankments should be kept same on both sides, as far as practicable. It was agreed that in order to achieve this objective, the concerned officers of the Governments of Nepal, West Bengal and Bihar would conduct a joint survey to prepare the plan of Mechi River showing the international boundary and alignment of embankments, on both sides, including HFL at different locations. It was also agreed that the field survey should be started by 16th April and completed before 31st May 2010.

5. Review of the activities of JCKGP

It was reported that the fourth meeting of the JCKGP was held on 02 - 03 May 2009 in Patna, India. The JSTC directed to hold the next meeting of JCKGP at the earliest.

6. Review of the activities of JCIFM

It was reported by the Nepalese side that the embankment construction works are progressing in the Lalbakeya, Bagmati and Kamala rivers as planned. However, the work in the Khando river could not be initiated, although the DPR for the same had been submitted to the Indian side. The Indian side stated that the DPR is being reviewed.

It was noted that Joint Committee on Flood Management and Task Group - IV had already submitted three reports to JSTC. The JSTC directed JCIFM to examine the reports and identify the priority areas of flood management that may be undertaken by both sides to mitigate the devastation caused by the floods.

7. Progress Review of Pancheshwor Multipurpose and Saptakoshi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Koshi Storage cum Diversion Scheme

7.1 Pancheswar Multipurpose Project

It was noted that JSTC had directed the concerned offices of India and Nepal in its first meeting to (i) refurbish the hydrological stations at Pancheshwar and Rupaligad sites and start joint observations at Pancheshwar and Rupaligad sites, and (ii) undertake necessary investigations at proposed re-regulating dam site at Rupaligad (alternate dam site). The Nepalese side informed that in the absence of appropriate mechanism to commence the works jointly, the works at Rupaligad site could not be started. The Indian side clarified that both sides have their field units which were supposed to interact with each other in case of any ambiguity. The Indian side mentioned that Government of India has been making budget provision for this project every year, which are being surrendered. The Indian side suggested that Project Manager of Pancheshwar Multi-purpose Project, Nepal, may visit India immediately to sort out the issue and prepare a joint action plan with Superintending Engineer, Planning Circle, CWC, Faridabad in consultation with design engineers of CWC and submit within two months, a definite work plan along with the cost estimate to undertake the above identified field works for further consideration to the respective governments.

Decision regarding funding would be taken after receiving the estimates.

7.2 Sapta Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Koshi Storage cum Diversion Scheme

JCWR in its fifth meeting held in November 2009 at Pokhara (Nepal) had decided that in case, the drilling and drifting works at Sapta Koshi High Dam site are not resumed by March 2010, JPO personnel would be redeployed to effectively utilize their services or the strength of JPO-SKSKI would be downsized. In this context, JSTC was informed by the Nepalese side that the aforesaid works at Sapta Koshi High Dam site are still not resumed. It was informed by the Nepalese side that the process for the establishment of the police posts at Barahachetra and Chatara is already at an advanced stage. It was also informed that Government of Nepal has already issued necessary directives to the concerned agencies for providing mobile armed security during the field works. The Nepalese side further stated that since required security arrangement at the project site is now available, the field works may be resumed at the earliest.

8.0 Discussion on the issues directed by the JCWR

8.1 Implementation of the Mahakali Treaty

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

The Nepalese side informed the committee that the Detailed Project Report of the works to be executed by the Indian side in the Indian Territory to provide water from Tanakpur Barrage to Nepal as per the Mahakali Treaty has been received recently. The Nepalese side informed that the report is being studied and requested for a joint visit for the ground verification. It was decided that the concerned officials from both sides would undertake joint field visit to verify the alignment. The Indian side stated that any cooperation required for the field verification can be extended by the NHPC, Tanakpur. The Nepalese side mentioned that the observations on the report would be sent to the Indian side through the diplomatic channel at the earliest.

8.1.2 Release of Irrigation Water for Chandani Dodhara Area

The Indian side proposed to provide irrigation water to the Chandani Dodhara area of Nepal from an existing cross regulator near RD - 2.6 Mile of Sarda Main Canal. On the request of the Nepalese side, it was decided that a team consisting of the following officers from both sides would make a joint site visit and submit their recommendations regarding the delivery point within three months.

Nepalese Side

1. Mr. S. K. Sharma, DDG, Department of Irrigation
2. Mr. H. N. Jha, DDG, Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention
3. Mr. D. N. Misra, Director, Far Western Irrigation Directorate

Indian Side

1. Mr. A.K. Ojha, Chief Engineer, Irrigation Deptt., Lucknow.
2. Mr. A. Ram, Chief Engineer (Sarda), Irrigation Deptt., Lucknow.
3. Mr. Shailendra Kumar, S.E., Sarada Canal, Bareilly.
4. Mr. V.K. Srivastava, Ex. Eng., Head Works Division, Bareilly.

8.2 Inundation Problems due to Mahali Sagar, Laxmanpur Barrage & Kalkawa Bund and Rasiyawal-Khurd-Lotan Bund

8.2.1 Mahalisagar

The Nepalese side requested the Indian side to provide the design pond level of Mahali Sagar. The Indian side informed that the design pond level of Mahali Sagar is 92.76 m above mean sea level and assured that it would not be raised in any case. The Nepalese side stated that they

would like to verify the pond level from their records and will inform the Indian side about their observation, if required, within one month.

8.2.2 Kalkalwa Bund and Laxmanpur Barrage

The Nepalese side inquired about construction programme of the opening in the Kalkalwa bund for the passage of flow of Gandheli and Sotiya nalas. The Indian side informed that tenders for the proposed works have already been invited and is likely to be completed before the monsoon of 2010.

The Nepalese side proposed to construct an embankment on the right bank of the Rapti river from Kalkalwa bund to high ground in the Nepalese territory and handed over a copy of the DPR to the Indian side for the technical examination. It was decided that the DPR along with a report on the extent of the afflux due to Laxmanpur Barrage may also be sent through diplomatic channel as early as possible.

8.2.3 Rasiyawal-Khurd-Lotan Bund

The Nepalese side stated that, as agreed in the fifth meeting of JCWR, the culvert to be constructed in the Nepalese territory was nearing completion. The Indian side informed that tenders for the works proposed on Indian side have been invited and proposed works would be completed before the monsoon of 2010.

8.3 Flood Forecasting Activities on Rivers Common to India and Nepal

The Indian side informed that the Task Group visited sites on rivers on western Nepal and submitted minutes of the meeting identifying sites needing upgrading immediately as per the Master Plan. It was further informed by the Indian side that one vehicle has already been provided to the GON and tender for telemetric equipment for four sites have been invited. The Nepalese side acknowledged the receipt of the vehicle.

The Nepalese sides stated that the five year Master Plan approved in 2004 had been completed and a new Master Plan had been submitted in the second meeting of JCIFM. The Indian side stated that Draft Flood Forecasting Master Plan submitted by Government of Nepal is under examination and observations shall be submitted at the earliest to the Government of Nepal.

9.0 Any other issue

9.1 Inundation in Dudhwa National Park and adjoining areas due to Mohana River and inundation of Tikoniya town due to Karnali River

The Indian side informed that Dudhwa National Park is surrounded by Mohana River on the north and the spill of Mohana river is causing inundation in the Dudhwa National Park and adjoining areas. Some protection works are, therefore, needed on the Indian side near the border on Mohana River for the protection of Duduwa National Park, and adjoining areas. Similarly embankment on Karnali River is required to be tied to high ground in Nepal to protect Tikoniya

town in Indian territory. The Nepalese side proposed that extension of Bhutahi Balan embankment for the protection of Belhi village in Saptari district is also necessary. It was decided that these issues may be discussed in JCIFM.

The meeting was conducted in a cordial atmosphere.

Signed on March 31st 2010 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Madhu Sudan Paudel
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Irrigation, Government of Nepal
Team Leader (Nepal)

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

Annex 1 - List of Nepalese Delegates

1. Mr. Madhu Sudan Paudel, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Irrigation - Team Leader
2. Mr. Sriranjana Lacoul, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Energy - Member
3. Mr. Anil Kumar Pokharel, DG, Department of Irrigation - Member
4. Mr. Khom Raj Dahal, DG, DWIDP - Member
5. Mr. Sunil Bahadur Malla, DG, DoED - Member
6. Mr. Shiv Kumar Sharma, DDG, Department of Irrigation - Member
7. Mr. Hirananda Jha, DDG, DWIDP - Member
8. Dr. Jivendra Jha, Executive Director, NEA - Member
9. Dr. Ravi Sharma Aryal, Joint Secretary, WECS - Member
10. Mr. Krishna C. Aryal, Section Officer, MoFA - Member
11. Mr. Dilli Bahadur Singh, DDG, DoED - Member
12. Mr. Surendramanand Bajracharya, PM, Saptkoshi High Dam - Member
13. Mr. Keshab Dhoj Adhikari, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Energy - Member
14. Mr. Madhav Belbase, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Irrigation - Member Secretary

Special Invitees

1. Mr. P. K. Shahi, Director, ERID, Department of Irrigation
2. Mr. P. Poudel, Director, CRID, Department of Irrigation
3. Mr. P. R. Pande, Director, WRID, Department of Irrigation
4. Mr. D. B. Karki, Director, MWRID, Department of Irrigation
5. Mr. D. N. Misra, Director, FWRID, Department of Irrigation
6. Mr. S. B. Bista, SDE, DWIDP
7. Mr. S. L. Shrestha, SDE, DoED
8. Mr. Sanjay Dhungel, SDE, WECS
9. Mr. B. D. Aryal, Under Secretary, GWRD Board
10. Dr. Dilip Kumar Gautam, Senior Divisional Hydrologist, DHM
11. Mr. V. B. Singh, Project Director, NEA

Annex II - List of Indian Delegates

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| 1. Mr. R. C. Jha, Chairman, GFCC, Patna | - Team Leader |
| 2. Mr. S. P. Kakran, Commissioner (Ganga), MOWR | - Member |
| 3. Mr. Devender Sharma, Chief Engineer, CWC, Lucknow | - Member |
| 4. Mr. A. K. Ojha, CE, Irrigation Department, Government of UP | - Member |
| 5. Mr. Rajiv Kumar Gupta, Director (Hydro), Ministry of Power | - Member |
| 6. Mr. A. K. Basak, CE & Chairman, NBFCC, West Bengal | - Member |
| 7. Mr. H. K. Jain, Counsellor (Commerce) | - Member |
| 8. Mr. J. S. Bawa, Director, CEA | - Member |
| 9. Mr. A. S. P. Sinha, Sr. Joint Commissioner (Ganga), MOWR | - Member Secretary |

Special Invitees

1. Mr. S. K. Sahu, Project Manager (I), JPO-SKSKI, Biratnagar
2. Mr. A. K. Sinha, Liaison Officer, WRD, Government of Bihar

Annex III – Agenda

- 1.0 Review on Actions Taken on the Decisions Taken in First Meeting of the JSTC
- 2.0 Progress Review of JCKGP
- 3.0 Progress Review of JCIFM
- 4.0 Progress Review of Pancheshwor Multipurpose Project and Saptkoshi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Koshi cum Storage Diversion Scheme
- 5.0 Discussion on the issues to be resolved as directed by the JCWR
 - 5.1 Implementation of Mahakali Treaty
 - 5.1.1 Sill level of the Head regulator for Nepal at Tanakpur Barrage
 - 5.1.2 Release of Irrigation Water for Chadani Dodhara Area
 - 5.2 Inundation Problems due to Mahali Sagar, Laxmanpur Barrage and Kalkalawa Bund
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 - 5.3 Flood Forecasting Activities on Rivers Common to India and Nepal
- 6.0 Any other issues