

Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of India-Nepal Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC) held on 12-13 September 2013 in Kathmandu

1. The fourth meeting of India-Nepal Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC) was held on 12-13 September 2013 in Kathmandu. The Nepali delegation was led by Mr. Shiv Kumar Sharma, Director General, Department of Irrigation, Ministry of Irrigation, Government of Nepal and the Indian delegation was led by Shri Bibhas Kumar, Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) and Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC), Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR), Government of India. The list of the Nepali and Indian delegates is in Annex-I.

2. Leader of the Nepali delegation Mr. Sharma, while welcoming the Indian delegates in the beginning of the meeting, wished them a very good stay in Kathmandu. In the opening remarks, the Nepali Team Leader expressed his satisfaction by stating that the fourth meeting of JSTC in which many long pending issues would be discussed and resolved was being held. Mr. Sharma also stated that there was no alternative to meaningful cooperation between Nepal and India, and extended thanks on behalf of the Government of Nepal to the Government of India for the cooperation being extended in Nepal's irrigation and power development and flood management.

3. In response to the Nepali Leader's remarks, the Leader of the Indian delegation expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome and excellent hospitality extended by the Government of Nepal. The Indian Leader expressed that both the countries would continue to make sincere efforts for the development of irrigation, hydropower and flood management in the rivers flowing from Nepal to India for mutual benefits of the two countries. He hoped that discussions and the decisions in the meeting would prove to be fruitful.

4. Subsequently, the Agenda of the meeting, which is in Annex-II, was proposed and adopted, and detailed discussions were held on each of the agenda items.

5.1 Implementation of Mahakali Treaty

5.1.1 Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project

It was brought to the notice of JSTC by the Nepali side that they had reviewed the new draft of Clause 17 of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of Pancheshwar Development Authority (PDA) related to exemption of taxes and duties on various equipment and materials. The new draft was sent by the Government of India. The Nepali delegation also stated that the Government of Nepal had redrafted the concerned Clause 17 of the TOR taking the concerns of the Indian

side into consideration and reverted through diplomatic channel and was waiting for the response from the Government of India. The Nepali side further requested that the TOR be approved before the next JCWR meeting. The Indian side assured that the process of approval of the ToR and constitution of PDA on the part of the Government of India would be expedited.

The Indian side stated that the Government of India would soon send a study team to the Pancheshwar and Rupaligad dam sites in order to carry out necessary hydrological and geotechnical field studies. The Indian side would send the details of fieldwork schedule and the study team as required by the concerned agency of Nepal for making security arrangement and facilitation at the work sites prior to the dispatch of the study team.

The Nepali side brought to the notice of the JSTC that the abnormally high magnitude floods that occurred in the 2013 monsoon season had changed the Mahakali River profiles in the vicinity of Pancheshwar dam site for which the local inhabitants had been facing difficulties in crossing the river in absence of a boat crossing site. The Nepali side proposed two pedestrian suspension bridges across the Mahakali River, one at Rupaligad and the other at Rollghat near Pancheshwar dam site to facilitate movement of men, equipment and materials, which would be necessary for the investigation and other preparatory works for the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project implementation and also garnering support of the local people in favour of the project by addressing their immediate needs. It was decided that the Nepali side would prepare the details of locations and specifications of the suspension bridges and send to the Government of India for further action.

5.1.2 Finalisation of Sill Level of the Head Regulator for Nepal at Tanakpur Barrage

The Nepali delegation stated that the JSTC had a responsibility of reviewing and finalizing the technical details of new Sill level of the head regulator of Tanakpur for Nepal canal at Elevation 244.25 m, as directed by the decisions of sixth and seventh JCWR meetings. Accordingly, it was decided that the concerned agency of the Government of India would carry out the detailed design of the intake and head regulator structures considering Elevation to 244.25 as sill level and put up for consideration of JSTC in its next meeting

5.1.3 Tanakpur-Mahendranagar link road

The Nepali side informed that the track opening of the Tanakpur-Mahendranagar link road in 13 km stretch in Nepali territory had already been completed. The Nepali side requested the Indian side to expedite the construction of the remaining 1.3 km stretch of the road that lies in the Indian territory. The Indian side requested the Nepali side for providing the details of alignment along with map for expediting necessary clearances for construction of the remaining road stretch of 1.3 km in Indian territory by the Uttarakhand State Government.

5.1.4 Release of irrigation water for Chandani Dodhra area

It was brought to the notice of the JSTC by the Nepali side that the most suitable alignment of the canal was selected jointly out of three alternatives for which joint survey was carried out. The Department of Irrigation of Nepal conducted detailed engineering design of the canal and related structures and prepared a DPR for the selected alignment. The Nepali side handed over the DPR to the Indian side in the meeting. The Indian side assured to review the report and revert to the Government of Nepal within six months.

5.2 Sapta Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project & Sun Koshi Storage-cum Diversion Scheme

The JSTC reviewed the status of progress of field investigation works in the Sapta Kosi High Dam and Sun Kosi- Kamala diversion sites in connection with the preparation of DPR for the project. The JSTC also noted the decision of the 13th JTE meeting on Saptakosi and Sunkosi Investigation to continue JPO-SKSKI up to February 2013 and beyond up to February 2015. The JSTC also noted that the fieldwork had again halted due to local problems and felt the necessity for creating conducive environment by the Government of Nepal. JSTC directed JPO-SKSKI to carry out the remaining investigation and study works as directed by JTE.

5.3 Issue related to Koshi and Gandak Project

5.3.1 Koshi Project (including security arrangement)

The Indian side informed the JSTC that there is security threat to the Koshi Project facilities and requested the Government of Nepal for appropriate security arrangement and vigilance. The Nepali side assured that the matter would be conveyed to the concerned agency of the Government of Nepal.

The Nepali side brought the issue of compensation of land eroded by Koshi River in the past to the JSTC. The Nepali side reiterated that this issue would be discussed in the next JCKGP meeting. Nepali side expressed the view that the land had been lost due to the Koshi Project and needed compensation.

The Indian side informed that there was no provision of compensation for the eroded land in general in India as well as in Koshi Agreement in particular. The Indian side suggested not to take up the issue to JCKGP.

5.3.2 Gandak Project

The Nepali side brought to the notice of the JSTC that the problems of inundation and crop damage associated with insufficient capacities of cross drainage structures in the Western Main Canal in Nepali territory had long been discussed in different bilateral fora, however, the problems persisted. The Indian side informed that the drainage system of WMC of Gandak Project get cleared by the concerned Indian agencies every year and assured that it would look into the

issue again. The Nepali side stated that the maintenance works carried out by the Indian side were not adequate to resolve the inundation problem of the agricultural lands, hence, the problems needed to be resolved by considering the technical aspects of the drainage structures and JCKGP should look into the issue.

The Nepali side brought to the notice of the JSTC that the salary of a number of staff working in Land acquisition and Liaison office was not being paid. The Indian side stated that salary for existing staff are given regularly. However, provision for salary for the newly recruited staff, whose appointments are not accepted by Government of Bihar, would not be possible.

The JSTC decided to form a mechanism among the Government of Nepal and the State Governments of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh to address the problems in implementing Nepal Benefit Scheme and restoring protection works in the Gandak River. The JSTC also decided to include representatives from the Nepali side in GH LTC as has been practiced in Koshi High Level Committee.

5.4 Power Supply

5.4.1 Construction of New Interconnection Facilities

The Nepali side brought to the notice of the JSTC that the Government of Nepal had already sent the concept paper on the high voltage second cross border transmission line as directed by the seventh JCWR meeting. The Nepali side further informed that feasibility study of the cross border transmission line would be conducted under financial assistance of the Asian Development Bank. The JSTC decided that the Nepali side would prepare a detailed work plan of the study and apprise the Indian side.

5.4.2 MoU on Cross Border Interconnection for Electric Power Trade

Recalling the decision of the seventh JCWR meeting on the MoU on Cross Border Interconnection for Electric Power Trade, which the Government of Nepal sent to the Government of India for the latter's review and concurrence, the Nepali side inquired about the status of the review. The Indian side informed that the Government of India had already removed electricity from the list of the restricted items of trade, and stated further that the Government of India was examining the document and considering the matter positively.

5.5 Energy Banking

Recalling the decision of the seventh JCWR meeting on the concept paper on the Energy Banking, which the Government of Nepal sent to the Government of India for the latter's review, the Nepali side requested for the status. The Indian side informed that they had yet to receive the Concept paper. After receiving it, the Government of India would look into the matter and respond to Government of Nepal.

5.6 Review of Activities of Various Bilateral Committees

The JSTC noted with satisfaction that the bilateral meetings were held regularly, except that of the JCKGP, and expressed commitment to hold the meetings as stipulated in future also.

5.7 Flood Forecasting Activities on rivers flowing from Nepal to India

It was agreed that the report prepared by the taskforce during 6-12 December 2011 on flood forecasting activities in the rivers flowing from Nepal to India would be reviewed by the experts of both the Governments, and concrete steps would be recommended jointly taking the applicable new technologies into consideration for the review of JSTC in its next meeting.

5.8 Inundation Problem due to Mahali Sagar

The Nepali side informed the JSTC that the seventh meeting of JCIFM held on 19-24 March 2013 had directed the contact officers of both Nepal and India to complete the joint survey to trace the 92.76 m above msl contour in the field in order to determine the reservoir area by the end of April 2013, which could not be completed due to busy schedule of the contact officers. The JSTC directed the contact officers to complete the pending works.

5.9 Bank Erosion in Mahakali River

The Nepali side informed the JSTC about the damages caused by June 2013 floods in the Mahakali River on both sides of the river and further informed that the damages were much severer on the Nepali side in Darchula district in absence of bank protection works. The Nepali side also informed that it was planning to implement some immediate measures on the Nepali side of the river to reclaim the eroded land and to prevent further erosion. The JSTC decided to form a bilateral mechanism to share information on the assessment and warning of imminent flood dangers and to work on long term planning for the protection of the life and property in the area in future. The mechanism shall be represented by the Division Chief, Water Induced Disaster Prevention Division No. 7, Dhangadhi from Nepal and a representative of Uttarakhand from India.

The Nepali side also informed the JSTC that a stretch of about 1,200 m length on the left side of the Mahakali River downstream from the Sharda Barrage was still unprotected causing frequent inundation and bank erosion of areas in Nepal. The Nepali side requested the Government of India for carrying out necessary protection works at this site. The Indian side assured that the protection works in the stretch would be completed before the monsoon of 2014.

5.10 Review of Works on Lalbakeya, Bagmati, and Kamala Rivers

The Nepali side expressed its sincere thanks to the Government of India for providing financial support for implementation of river training works on Lalbakeya, Bagmati and Kamala Rivers. The Nepali side stressed on the needs of construction of four bridges on the left bank of Kamala River along the embankment on the major drains joining the river and one bridge on Manusmara along the left embankment of the Bagmati River, which were included in the respective DPRs of Bagmati and Kamala river protection works. The bridges are required for inspection and maintenance of the flood control works in the rivers and also to enhance the accessibility in the areas. The Nepali side also emphasized on the needs of protection works on Jhanj river (a major tributary of Bagmati River), the proposal of which is under examination by GFCC. The seventh meeting of JCIFM had decided that the tender might be floated for those works after approval of GFCC. The Committee directed JCIFM to look into the issues.

The Nepali side also informed the JSTC that absence of tying up of embankments along the Kamala River in Nepal and that in India had been causing inundation of villages in Nepal. The Committee directed JCIFM to take up this issue with utmost priority.

5.11 Implementation of jointly prepared Comprehensive Strategy for Flood Management and Control

The Nepali side informed the JSTC that a comprehensive strategy had been prepared for flood management and control as per the decision of second meeting of JCWR. The strategy, in three different parts, has identified a long list of rivers flowing from Nepal to India along with some immediate measures required to be taken up urgently at vulnerable areas of the rivers. The strategy also mentions about some short term measures to be taken up in different rivers. The JSTC expressed satisfaction over the implementation of river training works in Kamala, Bagmati and Lalbakeya Rivers as envisaged in the comprehensive strategy and stressed on the needs of taking up of works on new rivers in different phases for mutual benefits.

5.12 Taking up of Additional Works for Flood Embankment Construction (West Rapti, Khando, Bhutahi Balan, Jhim, Lakhandehi and Rato Rivers)

The Nepali side informed the JSTC that it had prepared and submitted the DPRs of West Rapti, Bhutahi Balan and Lakhandehi Rivers to GFCC, Patna for review and was preparing the DPRs of Khando (incorporating the comments received from GFCC, Patna), Jhim and Rato Rivers. The Nepali side requested the Government of India for taking up of additional works on rivers with completed DPRs. The Indian side stated that additional works could be taken up only after completion of works in Lalbakeya, Bagmati and Kamala Rivers.

The Nepali side further informed the JSTC that the seventh meeting of JCIFM had recommended the works envisaged in five km stretch of the West Rapti River on the right side just upstream of Indo-Nepal Border for implementation and stressed that if the proposed immediate works were not implemented, the river would change its course further right affecting the nearby villages and eroding the Kalkalwa bund. The Nepali side also stated that Nepal had completed channelization of Khando River near the border as per the joint report prepared following the decision of the seventh meeting of JCIFM for immediate relief from inundation of the area. However, channelization of the river has not been carried out on the Indian side, which is very essential to release the flood water from the area. The Nepali side requested to implement the immediate measures in West Rapti River and channelization of Khando River on the Indian side as decided in the seventh meeting of JCIFM. The Nepali side also requested to implement the protection works in Bhutahi Balan and directed JCIFM to continue its preparatory works for other rivers. The Indian side expressed that in view of the present resource constraint, the projects funded by Government of India need to be prioritized.

5.13 Timely auction/Lease/Permission of quarries for maintenance / Construction of Embankment

The Indian side brought to the notice of the JSTC that absence of timely annual updates of district rates of labors and materials and timely issuance of permits to extract riverbed materials had delayed the maintenance and other works in the Gandak Project. The Nepali side explained about the process and the time that is generally required to update the district rates and to issue the requisite permits.

Other issues

Bed material extraction from Mechi River

The Nepali side informed the Indian side that massive amount of riverbed materials were being extracted from Mechi River causing degradation of riverbed along a long stretch of the river. The riverbed degradation has progressed to the tributaries of the Mechi River on Nepal side resulting in making side intakes of several irrigation systems defunct. The Indian side assured that it would take up the issue to the West Bengal Government for necessary action.

Environmental problem of Border River

On the issue of rivers polluted by the industries in Nepal, which was brought to the notice of JSTC by the Indian side in its third meeting held on 13-14 September 2011, the Nepali side informed that the Department of Industry carried out the investigation on 12 industries, which were responsible discharging untreated industrial affluent, and they were penalized depending on degree of offence.

The next meeting of JSTC will be held in February 2014 in India.

The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere.

Signed on 13 September 2013 in Kathmandu.

(Shiv Kumar Sharma)
Director General Department
of Irrigation
and Team Leader (Nepal)

(Bibhas Kumar)
Chairman, GFCC
and Team Leader (India)

Annex - I

**Fourth Meeting of India - Nepal Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC) held
on
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S.N.	Indian delegation		Nepali delegation
1.	Mr. Bibhas Kumar, Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) & , CWC, New Delhi	Leader	Mr. Shiv Kumar Sharma, Director General, Department of Irrigation
2.	Mr. Naresh Kumar Mathur, Commissioner (Ganga), MOWR	Member	Mr. Kamal Prasad Regmi, Joint Secretary, Mol
3.	Mr. Ram Saran, Chief Engineer (UGBO), CWC, Lucknow	Member	Kesab Dhoj Adhikary, Joint Secretary, MoE
4.	Mr. A. K. Sahu, Director (North), MEA	Member	Mr. Pradip Raj Pandey, DG, DWIDP
5.	Mr. Hari Narayan, Chief Engineer (WRD), Govt. Bihar, Patna	Member	Mr. Dilli Bahadur Singh, DG, DOED
6.	Mr. Ajay Patel, General Manager, UJVNL, Uttarakhand	Member	Mr. Rishi Ram Sharma, DG, DHM
7.	Mr. Shri Munni Lal, Sr. Joint Commissioner (Ganga), MOWR	Member	Mr. Jhamak Pd. Sharma, Joint Secretary, WECS
8.	Mr. Komal Kumar, Senior Manager, NHPC	Member	Mr. Madhav Belbase, DDG, DoI
9.	-	Member	Mr. Arjun Kumar Karki, Executive Director, NEA
10.	-	Member	Mr. Pravin Raj Aryal, Project Manager, Koshi High Dam
11.	-	Member	Mr. Moti Bahadur Kunwar, Project Manager, Pancheshowr
12.	-	Member	Mr. Raju Acharya, SDE, Mol
13.	-	Member	Mr. Nirmal Kafle, Under Secretary, MOFA
14.	Ms. Anju Ranjan, First Secretary (Commerce), Embassy of India, Kathmandu	Invitees	Mr. Dan Ratna Sakya, Director, ERID
15.	Mr. A. K. Pal, Project Manager, JPO-SKSKI	Invitees	Mr. Rajendra Prasad Adhikary Director, WRID
16.	Mr. A. K. Sinha, Liaison Officer WRD, Government of Bihar	Invitees	Mr. Mahajan Yadav , PM, SMIP
		Invitees	Mr. Chanchal Singh Bista, PM, MIP
		Invitees	Mr. Ashish Bhadra Khanal, SDE, DOI
		Invitees	Mr. Atma Ram Raya, SDE, PEP , Kanchanpur
		Invitees	Mr. Ratneswar Lal Karna, SDE, DWIDP , Janakpur

		Invitees	Mr. Ajaya Kumar Jayaswal, SDE, DWIDP, Bara
		Invitees	Mr. Mohan Prasad Sangroula, SDE, DOI
		Invitees	Mr. Dinesh Rajauria, SDE, DOI
		Invitees	Mr. Rabinath Babu Shrestha, SDE, DWIDP
		Invitees	Mr. Pravin Raj Maskey, SDE, MOI
		Invitees	Mr. Sagar Raj Goutam, SDE, DOED
		Invitees	Mr. Shyam Kishor Yadav, SDE, MOE
		Invitees	Mr. Basu Dev Aryal, US, GW
		Invitees	Mr. Puspa Raj Khadka, PM, Transmission Line
		Invitees	Mr. Kanhaiya Kumar Manandhar , Director, Transmission Line
		Invitees	Ms. Jigyasa Rai, Er , MOI

**Agenda of Fourth Meeting of
India - Nepal Joint Standing Technical Committee
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1. Implementation of Mahakali Treaty
 - 1.1 Pancheshwor Multipurpose Project
 - 1.2 Finalisation of 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. Sapta Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project including Sunkoshi Storage cum Diversion Scheme
3. Issues related to Koshi and Gandak Project
 - 3.1 Koshi Project (Including Security Arrangements)
 - 3.2 Gandak Project
4. Power Supply
 - 4.1 Construction of New Interconnection Facilities
 - 4.2 Interconnection and Cross boarder Power Trading
5. Energy Banking
6. Review of activities of various bilateral Committees
7. Flood Forecasting Activities on rivers flowing from Nepal to India
8. Inundation problems due to Mahali Sagar
9. Bank cutting and erosion in Mahakali River
10. Review of Works on Lalbakeya, Bagmati and Kamala rivers
11. Implementation of jointly prepared comprehensive strategy for Flood Management and control
12. Taking up of additional works for Flood Embankment Construction
 - 12.1 DPR of West Rapti River
 - 12.2 Khando, Balan, Lakhandehi, Jhim and Rato Rivers
13. Timely auction/lease/Permission of quarries for maintenance/ Construction of Embankment
14. Any other item(s)

