

International Conference
on
**Water Sharing in the SAARC Region:
Legal Issues and Challenges**

March 25-26, 2017



Organised by



M K Nambyar SAARC Law Centre
NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad

Rivers in the South Asian region have several geographic features unique to themselves. The river system in the different parts of South Asia is responsible for shaping the geopolitical relations of the post-colonial states in the region. Most of the major rivers in South Asia the mighty Ganga, Indus and Brahmaputra originate from a common source i.e. the Himalayas and its glaciers. Each major river is perennial and has its own organic system characterised by different tributaries, deltas, islands and streams. The three major flow through different states and cross through their different regional boundaries influencing the human ecology of the people living around - coastal dwellers, farmers, cargo movers, fishing community, traders and other dependents. As agriculture forms the main economic activity for livelihood in the subcontinent, these river systems have created complex geopolitical relations in the region.

Partition legacies and the associated nationalist emotions are triggering sharp reactions to any river development initiative by the neighbouring riparian state. Water-borne conflicts have shifted to the centre stage of South Asian political rivalries in recent years. The potential for conflicts will be more in future as almost all these regional states are registering higher population growth. Rapid urbanisation, industrial location, mining, intensive irrigation and agriculture have combined with inefficient use of water, to insure that water is fast becoming a scarce resource—both in terms of quantity and quality. Simultaneously, various environmental issues are getting regionalised and politicised.

Unfortunately, South Asian states have not been able to develop common norms for the management of the water resources of the region. India, which shares borders with almost all the nations of the South Asia, is both an upper and lower riparian, and is a giant in terms of its size (and economy) when compared to Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh. Tensions have arisen on many occasions between India and all these other water sharing countries due to lack of rules and other bilateral reasons. As the country is perceived to be a 'hegemon' by most of the countries in the region and also that there is a lack

of trust between these countries, disputes on water sharing have been persistent in the region. Water has been a serious tension point between India (upper riparian) and Pakistan (lower riparian); between India (upper riparian) and Bangladesh (lower riparian); and between India (lower riparian) and Nepal (upper riparian). It is, therefore, necessary for Bangladesh, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan and possibly Bhutan to develop a certain mechanism to jointly develop and share these international water courses in the future. The prospect for developing a regional Interstate River Water Management (IRWM) system should not be ruled out.

Objectives of Conference:

The proposed Conference aims at debating the wide range of issues relating to regional water resources such as the profiles of South Asian water bodies, sources of water-sharing disputes, legal conventions/instruments of water management, major issues and disputes, water as a source of regional energy security, sustainable and ecological dimensions of water resources.

For this purpose, it is intended to bring together leading academics, policy analysts, legal experts, defence personnel, members of media, students and think tanks from India and abroad, SAARC states in particular.

Debating Issues:

1. Regional Water Resources: Profile & Potentiality
2. International Legal Conventions on Water Sharing
3. Regional River Water Sharing: Issues and Disputes
4. Prospects for Regional Water Sharing: Regulation & Convention
5. Hydel Power as a source of Regional Energy Security
6. Sustainable & Ecological Dimensions of Water Resources

Paper Submission

Participants willing to present paper are requested to follow the schedule and guidelines given below:

- Abstract should not be more than 250-300 words.
- Abstract should include the name of the author(s), their affiliation and address (postal and e-mail).
- Abstracts will be shortlisted by the Organising Committee
- Abstract and complete paper may be sent through email to wssr@nalsar.ac.in
- Paper must not be previously published or currently under review for publication elsewhere.
- The Editorial Board will review the papers on the basis of quality and interpretative analysis and only shortlisted papers will be published.
- The following Style Sheet must be used, in writing full paper.

Style Sheet

Length of the Article: 5000-6000 words; **Font Size:** 12; **Font Style:** Times New Roman; **Space:** 1.5. Authors should apply the reference style furnished below. All references should be **footnoted** at the bottom of each corresponding page of the Text.

Book, single author:

- Footnote: Catherine Delafield, *Women's Diaries as Narrative in the Nineteenth-Century Novel* (Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2009), 145.

Book, two or three authors:

- Footnote: Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, *Superfreakonomics: Global Cooling, Patriotic Prostitutes, and Why Suicide Bombers Should Buy Life Insurance* (New York: William Morrow, 2009), 35.

Book, more than three authors:

- Footnote: Andrew Gelman and others, *Red*

State, Blue State, Rich State, Poor State: Why Americans Vote the Way They Do (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008), 128-9.

Book chapter/work in an anthology:

- Footnote: Christine De Vinne, "Religion under Revolution in Ourika," in, *Approaches to Teaching Duras's Ourika*, ed. Mary Ellen Birkett and Christopher Rivers (New York, NY: Modern Language Association of America, 2009), 41.

Case Reference:

- Carew & Co. Ltd. V. Union of India, AIR 1975 SC 2260

Article from a journal:

- Footnote: Tom Buchanan, "Between Marx and Coca-Cola: Youth Cultures in Changing European Societies, 1960-1980," *Journal of Contemporary History*, vol. 44, no. 2 (2009): 372.

Article from a magazine/periodical:

- First Note: Jon Meacham, "The Stakes? Well, Armageddon, For One," *Newsweek*, October 12, 2009, 5.

Article from a newspaper:

- First Note: Tyler Kepner, "A Battering of Santana Saves the Yankees' Weekend," *New York Times*, June 15, 2009, Section D, Final edition.

Websites (not online journals):

<http://www.uga.edu/profile/pride.html> (accessed October 21, 2009).

Immediate reference: where a source is quoted again immediately after the first quote: *Ibid*; p.26

Multiple references: where a particular reference (book, article or any other source) is quoted more than once in the Text: *supra* note 12, p. 50

Maps, tables, figures should be mentioned at appropriate places in the Text. They should be sourced at the bottom. Not at the Footnote.

Important Dates

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Submission of Abstract | February 10, 2017 |
| Selection of Abstracts and confirmation to participants | February 15, 2017 |
| Last date for submission of Registration Form and fee | February 23, 2017 |
| Submission of full paper for publication | April 15, 2017 |

Registration Fee:

| Category | Fee for Indian Participants (in Rupees) | Fee for Foreign National Participants (in USD)* |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Student Participants | 2,000/- | 50 |
| Faculty Members | 3,000/- | 75 |
| Other Stakeholders | 3,000/- | 75 |
| NALSAR Students and Faculty Members | | ----- |

*Fee may be paid in equivalent Indian Rupees by the foreign nationals.

Note: In case of co-authorship, fee should be remitted by both the authors separately.

Boarding and Lodging: Participants will be provided accommodation and food by the University. However, no TA/DA shall be paid to the participants.

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