

International Conference on Water Resources Policy in South Asia

Organized by

South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary
Water Resources Studies (**SaciWATERS**)

SaciWATERS announces its first International Conference on Water Resources Policy in South Asia, to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, during December 18-20, 2008. The conference is organised as part of the regional capacity building project [Crossing Boundaries](#). The conference will bring together regional and international water professionals, academics, policy makers, activists, politicians and others involved and interested in South Asian water resources issues. As part of the ongoing water resources policy dialogue, the conference aims to enhance the understanding of water resources governance, its management and use in the region by critically assessing the agenda for reform.

The conference seeks to investigate and understand the varied dynamics of existing water resources management in South Asia and compare them with those in other regions. *Policy* is broadly understood as parties engaged in water resources management that are involved in formulating, implementing and reshaping policies at different levels. The conference will document policy reforms in South Asia and the challenges therein. It will also critically assess the impact of the different initiatives to reform water resources governance. The importance of scientific knowledge while formulating water policy and the strengthening of water resources policy studies in the region will receive special attention.

About **SaciWATERS**

SaciWATERS is committed to bringing about structural changes in the dominant water resources management paradigm in South Asia. Within this ambit, the focus is on transforming water resources knowledge systems. The key ideas are an interdisciplinary approach to understanding water resources issues from a pro-poor and human development perspective with emphasis on exchange, interaction and collaboration at South Asia level. The long term aim is to establish a South Asian 'virtual water university'.

The [Crossing Boundaries](#) project focuses on education, research/innovation, knowledge base development and networking in a combined effort to contribute to a paradigm shift in water resources management in South Asia. The focus is on a critical and constructive engagement with the notion of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), and gender and water issues.

The project is jointly implemented by **SaciWATERS** and the Irrigation & Water Engineering group, Wageningen University, The Netherlands together with six South Asian partner institutions:

- 📍 Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 📍 Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 📍 Centre for Water Resources, Anna University, Chennai, India

- 📍 Nepal Engineering College, Kathmandu, Nepal
- 📍 Post Graduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
- 📍 Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India

Crossing Boundaries Project Advisory Committee and Partner Institution Members

Dr. Olivia Aubriot	Prof. Jayanta Bandyopadhyay	Dr. Deepak P. Bhattarai
Dr. Ben Crow	Dr. Ruth Meinzen-Dick	Dr. Ajaya Dixit
Prof. Nimal Gunawardena	Prof. Anisul Haque	Prof. Shafiqul Islam
Prof. S. Janakarajan	Prof. K. Karunakaran	Dr. P. Mollinga
Prof. S Parasuraman	Prof. A.L.T.Perera	Dr. Ujjwal Pradhan
Dr. A. Atiq Rahman	Dr. C. Patricia Urteaga	Dr. Linden Vincent

Conference Themes/Topics

The conference will broadly deal with the following topics and themes:

- 📍 Sectoral assessment of policy processes/reforms (irrigation, water supply and sanitation, hydropower, flood management, ecological water management)
- 📍 Rent seeking behaviour in water management and infrastructure development
- 📍 Success, value and limitations of participatory processes in the water sector
- 📍 International and federal hydropolitics
- 📍 Inter-sectoral water allocations, negotiations and conflicts
- 📍 Gender dimensions of water governance and management
- 📍 Water management in the peri-urban areas
- 📍 Approaches to urban water provision and management
- 📍 Privatisation in the water sector
- 📍 Impact of global policy discourses on National Water Policy making
- 📍 Watershed management policies and programmes
- 📍 Water policy and climate change
- 📍 Dying wisdom or myth making: exploring the meaning and value of local water management practices
- 📍 Approaches to water policy analysis in South Asia
- 📍 Civil and political society in water management in South Asia
- 📍 Water rights and water rights reform in South Asia
- 📍 Private sector boom and public sector malaise in water resources development

Important Dates

Last date for submission of abstracts and session proposals - **15 June 2008**

Notification of the acceptance of abstracts - **10 July 2008**

Last date for submission of final papers - **30 September 2008**

Guidelines for submission of Abstracts

All abstracts (word document only) of not more than 400 words on any of the themes must be submitted to conference@saciwaters.org

Authors are advised to mention their full name, address for communication, email ID, affiliation and the theme in the abstract.

All abstracts must be received on or before **15 June 2008**.

Abstracts received after this deadline will not be accepted for inclusion in the Conference. However an abstract will be considered only if the deadline for submission is extended.

Guidelines for Submission of Proposal for Session Coordination

All session proposal/description (word document only) of not more than 700 words should be sent to conference@saciwaters.org

All session proposals should portray a clear idea of the session and its specifications/technicalities.

All session proposals must bear the full name of the convener, proposed session title, address for communication, email ID and affiliation.

All session proposals must be received on or before **15 June 2008**.

Session proposals received after this deadline will not be accepted for inclusion in the Conference. However a proposal will be considered only if the deadline for submission is extended.

SaciWATERS

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