

**Panel:
Managing Waters Beyond Borders**

A considerable part of the ‘world’s freshwater resources’ are present ‘in river basins and groundwater systems shared between two or more countries’ (Timmerman 2011, p. 523). Trans-boundary water systems are a prominent feature of South Asia, a region marked by geo political concerns over trans-national river systems (‘Chintan’ 2011). The mighty Indus, the Great Ganga and Brahmaputra river basins and their decolonized division have rendered complicated histories among riparian India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh which have from time to time resulted in intrastate and interstate conflicts making management of transboundary waters a thorny issue (Uprety and Salman 2011, p.643).

In addition, climate change is essentially reshaping ‘the hydrological situation in the basins, increasing the number of extreme’ events such as ‘flooding and droughts’ (Timmerman 2011, p. 523) and the likelihood of future recurrence. In order to decrease the negative effects of the changing climate scenario, effective bilateral adaptation measures are essential to current water management policies (Timmerman 2011). Trans-boundary water management thus merits greater attention both as an antecedent for preservation of sustainable development and inclusive growth as well as being a catalyst for greater water cooperation in the region (Ibid.).

This panel aims to explore the possibilities of building strong transboundary water management in the South Asian region. The discussion would be conducted around following questions:

- How can transboundary water resources be equitably and sustainably managed?
- What are the central elements required to build effective transboundary management regimes?
- How can knowledge sharing be increased in times of extreme weather events?
- What roles can stakeholders play in ensuring environmental preservation through sustainable management of shared waters?

References

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