

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF NEPAL-INDIA JOINT COMMITTEE ON INUNDATION AND FLOOD MANAGEMENT (JCIFM)

(February 4-8, 2014)

The eighth inspection/meeting of Nepal-India Joint Committee on Inundation and Flood Management (JCIFM) was held during February 4-8, 2014. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. A. Paramesham, Member (Coordination), Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC), Government of India and the Nepalese delegation was led by Mr. K. P. Regmi, Director General of the Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention (DWIDP), Government of Nepal. The Team Leader of the Nepalese delegation welcomed the Indian delegation at Hotel Rama, Janakpur.

The meeting of the Committee at Kathmandu was preceded by joint field visit to the ongoing and proposed embankment and flood protection works along the Kamala, Bagmati and Lalbakeya rivers. The list of participants of the meeting is given at Annex-1A and Annex-1B.

A) FIELD VISIT OF ONGOING WORKS AND PROPOSED WORKS

A-I Kamala River

The Committee carried out field visit of the Kamala River on February 5, 2014. The Committee inspected the ongoing, emergent works carried out during the monsoon of 2013 and the proposed works on the river.

A-II Bagmati River

The Committee carried out the field visit of the Bagmati River on February 5, 2014. The Committee inspected the ongoing, emergent works carried out during the monsoon of 2013 and the proposed works on the river.

A-III Lalbakeya River

The Committee carried out the field visit of the Lalbakeya River on February 6, 2014. The Committee inspected the ongoing, emergent works carried out during the monsoon of 2013 and the proposed works on the river.

DECISIONS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON INUNDATION & FLOOD MANAGEMENT (JCIFM)

B) ONGOING WORKS AND RELEASE OF FUNDS

B-I BAGMATI RIVER

One work package was endorsed by JCIFM in its seventh meeting. An amount of NRs. 0.46 crore was released to GoN as first installment for this work package. The Committee

recommended that the balance fund amounting to NRs. 0.46 crore would be released on receipt of utilization certificates of 75 % of funds released earlier.

A total of 15 packages of new works with 6 packages for tendering and 9 packages for execution by users' committees were considered as per the decision of the seventh meeting of JCIFM and subsequent correspondences. The summary of these packages is at Annex- 2A. The Committee endorsed the tender as approved by GON. The total GOI contribution for these packages including contingencies is NRs. 20.009 crore. The Committee recommended for release of initial installment of 50 % of GoI contribution amounting to NRs. 10.005 crore. The balance payment would be made on receipt of utilization certificates of 75 % of funds released.

The Committee inspected emergent works carried out on Bagmati River during the floods of 2013. The utilization certificates for expenditure incurred on such works have been submitted to GFCC. The summary of these emergent works is at Annex- 3A. The Committee recommended for reimbursement of NRs. 2.056 crore spent on the emergent works.

The Nepalese side stated that as per the decision of seventh meeting of JCIFM, the proposal for the protection works on Jhanj River was submitted to GFCC for approval. The Indian side stated that the proposal is under examination. The Committee decided that the tender may be floated for these works after approval of GFCC. The awarding of contracts will follow usual procedures as in other previous works.

B-II LALBAKEYA RIVER

Four work packages were endorsed by JCIFM in its seventh meeting. An amount of NRs. 2.72 crore was released to GoN as first installment for these work packages. The Committee recommended that the balance fund amounting to NRs. 2.72 crore would be released on receipt of utilization certificates of 75 % of funds released earlier.

A total of 7 packages of new works were considered for tendering as per the decision of the seventh meeting of JCIFM and subsequent correspondences. The summary of these packages is at Annex- 2B. The Committee endorsed the tenders as approved by GON. The total GOI contribution for these packages including contingencies is NRs. 19.959 crore. The Committee recommended for release of 50 % of this amount i.e. NRs 9.979 crore. The balance payment would be made on receipt of utilization certificates of 75 % of funds released.

The Committee inspected the emergent works carried out on Lalbakeya River during the floods of 2013. The utilization certificates for expenditure incurred on such works have been submitted to GFCC. The summary of these emergent works is at Annex- 3B. The Committee recommended for reimbursement of NRs. 2.059 crore spent on the emergent works.

B-III KAMALA RIVER

Four work packages were endorsed by JCIFM in its seventh meeting. An amount of NRs. 2.647 crore was released to GoN as first installment for these work packages. The Committee recommended that the balance fund amounting to NRs. 2.647 crore would be released on receipt of utilization certificates of 75 % of funds released earlier.

A total of 7 packages of new works were considered for tendering as per the decision of the seventh meeting of JCIFM and subsequent correspondences. The summary of these packages is at Annex- 2C. The Committee endorsed the tenders as approved by GON. The total GOI contribution for these packages including contingencies is NRs. 22.354 crore. The Committee recommended for release of 50% of this amount i.e. NRs. 11.176 crore. The balance payment would be made on receipt of utilization certificates of 75 % of funds released.

The Committee inspected the emergent works of bamboo piling and porcupine carried out on Kamala River during the monsoon floods of 2013. The utilization certificates for expenditure incurred on such works have been submitted to GFCC. The summary of these emergent works is at Annex- 3C. The Committee recommended for reimbursement of NRs. 1.397 crore spent on the emergent works.

B-IV New Works

The concerned Division officers of DWIDP have proposed 33 new work packages as per the revised DPR of Bagmati, Lalbakeya and Kamala Rivers. These consist of 7 packages on river Bagmati, 11 packages on river Lalbakeya and 15 Packages on river Kamala. The summary of these work packages for Bagmati, Lalbakeya and Kamala are given in Annex- 4A, Annex-4B and Annex- 4C. The JCIFM accorded “in principle” approval for the work packages I-N/Bagmati/R-Stud/P-74/2013-14 and I-N/Bagmati/R-Stud+Inlet+AFS/P-75/2013-14 in Bagmati River and I-N/LBK/L-EMB+GRV/ P-76/2013-14, I-N/LBK/L-Stud/P-77/2013-14, I-N/LBK/R-EMB+GRV+AFS/P-79/2013-14 and I-N/LBK/R-Stud+AFS/P-80/2013-14 in Lalbakeya River in view of their urgency. The tenders in respect of these above-specified packages shall be floated immediately and submitted to GFCC for necessary vetting. The details of the remaining packages would also be submitted to GFCC soon for its consideration. For the work packages approved by GFCC, tenders shall be floated. The final details of contract for such works will be submitted to GFCC for vetting. After vetting by GFCC, tenders will be approved and 50% of the GoI contribution shall be

released as the initial installment. The balance 50% shall be released after receiving of utilization certificates of 75% amount of initial contribution of GoI.

B-V Detailed Project Report for Extension of Embankment along Khando River

The Nepalese side informed that as per the decision of the seventh meeting of JCIFM a joint report was prepared based on joint survey of Khando River by the concerned contact officers for fixing the channel alignment and finalising the works required to be taken up for providing proper drainage of flood water from Nepal to India at the border and requested for finalization of the report. The Indian side responded that as DPR of this river is under appraisal, such a comprehensive joint report cannot be considered at this stage and emphasized on the need of combining the two. The Committee decided that a joint proposal may be prepared by the respective Contact Officers for works to be done near the border for providing immediate relief on sustainable basis. The Contact Officers shall be submitting the joint proposal to their respective team leader by the end of March 2014 for necessary action.

B-VI Detailed Project Report for Extension of Embankment along Bhutahi Balan River

The Nepalese side stated that the revised DPR incorporating the comments and observations of GFCC has been submitted for further examination. The Indian side stated that the views of GFCC will be conveyed to the Nepalese side after examination as soon as possible.

B-VII Detail Project Report for Extension of Embankment along Right Bank of West Rapti River

The Committee noted that two DPRs had been prepared for the West Rapti River. The first DPR is a comprehensive DPR covering the entire flood management works required on the river and the second one is a part of the comprehensive DPR comprising of immediate measures required to be taken up in 5 Km stretch of the river just upstream of Indo-Nepal border. The Committee also noted that during its seventh meeting it was decided that the DPR for the immediate measures could be implemented and for funding of the works the Nepalese side may follow the usual procedure to obtain financial assistance from the Government of India. The Indian side stated that the comprehensive DPR is being reviewed and the views of GFCC will be conveyed to the Nepalese side after examination.

B-VIII Recovery of Mobilization Advance given to Contractors for the Works of C & D Packages of Bagmati River Embankment

The Nepalese side informed the Committee that they are taking necessary actions to recover the mobilization advance given to contractors for the works of earlier C & D packages of Bagmati River embankment. The issue is currently sub-judice.

C) FLOOD INUNDATION ISSUES

C-I Mahali Sagar

The Committee noted that the joint survey, as directed by JCIFM during its third meeting, could not be undertaken to fix the contour level of 92.76 m in order to assess the reservoir area both in Nepal and India at the pond level of 92.76 m. During the seventh meeting, the Committee had directed the Contact Officers to complete the work by April end, 2013. However, this was not possible due to various reasons. The Committee decided that the said survey should be completed by the end of April, 2014 and the findings reported to the respective Team Leaders.

C-II Bairganiya Ring Bund

The Nepalese side informed the Committee that the construction of a sluice on the right bank of Lalbakeya river near Nepal-India border has been completed and construction of embankment on the right bank of Bhakuwa Nala is under progress and is likely to be completed before the monsoon of 2014. The Committee decided to review this issue after the completion of the above stated works as indicated in the third meeting of JCIFM.

C-III Rato River

The Committee noted that the joint study of the inundation situation in the area, as directed by JCIFM during its third meeting, could not be undertaken by the Contact Officers. The Committee during the seventh meeting had directed the Contact Officers to complete the work by end of June, 2013. However, the joint field study could not be done. The Committee directed the Contact Officers to complete the work by the end of June, 2014.

C-IV Lakhandehi River

The Nepalese side informed that it has submitted a comprehensive DPR for flood management in the river as decided in the seventh meeting of JCWR and requested for latest update. The Indian side stated that the views of GFCC will be conveyed to the Nepalese side after its examination by the end of April, 2014.

C-V Embankment on Mechi River

The Committee noted with satisfaction that the concerned Contact Officers have completed the joint survey of Mechi River on both banks and are fixing the tentative alignment of embankment for a reach of 52 km. The Committee directed the concerned Contact Officers to prepare the DPR after finalization of the design parameters and the alignment jointly within a short period.

D) FLOOD FORECASTING ISSUE

D-I Flood Forecasting Master Plan

The Committee noted that the fourth meeting of JSTC had decided to review the report prepared by the Task Force during 6 – 12 December 2011 on flood forecasting network on rivers flowing from Nepal to India. Accordingly, the Committee suggested to review the taskforce report by the experts of the GoN within three months. The DHM may continue to provide data on near real time basis to CWC during the monsoon season between 1st June to 31st October every year as usual.

The views of Indian Side are as follows:

- i) In the prepared Flood Forecasting Master Plan, altogether 27 Meteorological stations situated in Nepal formed part of Flood Forecasting Network. Dipayal and Birendranagar (Surkhet) meteorological sites in Karnali (Ghagra) basin was earlier recommended to be removed from this Network by the Task Group- III (UP) setup by JSTC. Accordingly, the number of meteorological station in Nepal is proposed to be reduced from 27 to 25.
- ii) The Task Force had recommended to remove two hydro-meteorological station, viz Pancheshwar on Mahakali and Portaha-Bandipur on Kamala from the Flood Forecasting Network on the recommendations of Task Groups for Bihar and UP. It also recommended to add 3 new sites viz, Chisapani and Belsot on River Kamala and Kuruleghat on River Sunkosi. Accordingly, the number of hydro-meteorological sites in Nepal proposed in the Network now gets increased from 20 (as per Flood Forecasting Network of 2004) to 21 (20-2+3).
- iii) The 18 sites in India (2 each on 9 common rivers) including river Burhi Gandak forms part of the Flood Forecasting Network. Thus the total sites in the network becomes 64 (list enclosed at Annex- 5)
- iv) The following 10 stations in Nepal (8 hydro-meteorological and 2 meteorological) have been recommended by the taskforce to be considered as Key stations in Nepal.

	Stations	Remarks
A	Kusum on Rapti	Existing Key Station, Telemetry Equipment provided by GoN
B	Narayan ghat of Narayani	Existing Key Station, Telemetry Equipment provided by GoN
C	Karmaiya on Bagmati	Existing Key Station, Telemetry Equipment provided by GoI
D	Chatra on Sapt Kosi	Existing Key Station, Telemetry Equipment provided by GoI
E	Mainachuli on Kankai	Existing Key Station, Telemetry Equipment provided by GoI
F	Chisapani on Karnali	New Key Station, Telemetry Equipment provided by GoI

G	Pachuwarghat on Sun Kosi	Telemetry installed under HYCOS by GoN
H	Turkeghat on Arun	Telemetry installed under HYCOS by GoN
I	Okhladunga (Met) in Kosi Basin	Telemetry installed under HYCOS by GoN
J	Dhankuta (Met) in Kosi basin	Telemetry installed under HYCOS by GoN

The Nodal officers from Indian side for Flood forecasting would be as follows:

Basin	Nodal Officers
Mahakali / Sharda, Karnali / Ghagra, Rapti	Executive Engineer, MGD-I, Lucknow
Bagmati, Kamala, Narayani / Gandak, Kosi, Kankai / Mahananda, Burhi Gandak	Executive Engineer, MGD-IV, Patna

- v) The Nodal Officers from India would be required to inspect all Key Stations every year along with the officers of DHM before the onset of monsoon to ensure that the equipment are functioning properly, gauge posts are fixed properly, check whether “Zero Gauge” of observation sites are connected with Mean Sea Level (MSL) or not, the reading taken manually match with the observation made using telemetry system and the data Communication system is in place to disseminate the information on real or near real time basis. Other non-key stations can also be inspected by the nodal officer once in three years.
- vi) The Task Force had recommended installation of satellite based telemetry system in conjunction with CDMA / GSM based telemetry system at all observation sites in Nepal in phased manner so that there is high probability of augmentation / supplementation of data.

E) COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR FLOOD MANAGEMENT

The Indian side informed the Nepalese side that they have not received the map showing all the 16 priority rivers flowing from Nepal to India along with details on the related flood problems in the Nepalese territory. The Nepalese side stated that the details will be submitted to GFCC for consideration by the end of May 2014.

F) Mechanism for Proper Co-ordination at the Field Level

The Committee decided that the Contact Officers identified during its seventh meeting shall continue to act. The Nepalese side also identified Contact Officer for Mahakali River at Darchula (Nepal). The details are given in Annex-6. The Indian side will identify the Contact Officer at Dharchula (India) and communicate the same to the Nepalese side.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of JCIFM tentatively in the last week of May, 2014. The meeting was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Signed on February 8, 2014 at Kathmandu.

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(Kamal Prasad Regmi)

Team Leader/ Director General
Dept. of Water Induced Disaster Prevention
(DWIDP)

.....
(A. Paramesham)

Team Leader/Member (Co-ordination)
Ganga Flood Control Commission
(GFCC), Patna

EIGHTH MEETING OF JCIFM (FEBRUARY 4-8, 2014)**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****INDIAN SIDE:**

1. Mr. A. Paramesham, Member (Coordination), GFCC, Patna - Team Leader
2. Mr. S. K. Sahu, Chief Engineer, LGBO, CWC, Patna - Member
3. Mr. Dinesh Prasad, Executive Engineer (WRD), Government of Bihar,
Patna - Member
4. Mr. Chandra Dev Ram, Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department,
Government of Uttar Pradesh - Member
5. Mr. Shuvankar Chakraborty, Superintending Engineer, NBFCC,
Government of West Bengal - Member
6. Ms. Satwant Khanalia, Under Secretary (Nepal), MEA - Member
7. Mr. Ashish Sinha, First Secretary (Commerce), Embassy of India,
Kathmandu, Nepal - Member
8. Mr. Munni Lal, Senior Joint Commissioner (Ganga), MOWR,
New Delhi - Member
9. Mr. Ravi Bhushan Kumar, Director (MP-II), GFCC, Patna - Member Secretary

EIGHTH MEETING OF JCIFM (FEBRUARY 4-8, 2014)**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****NEPALESE SIDE:**

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| 1. Mr. Kamal Prasad Regmi, Director General, DWIDP | - Team Leader |
| 2. Mr. Narendra Bahadur Lama, Deputy Director General, DWIDP | - Member Secretary |
| 3. Mr. Gautam Rajkarnikar, Deputy Director General, DHM | - Member |
| 4. Mr. Nirmal Raj Kafle, Under Secretary, MOFA | - Member |
| 5. Mr. Tara Prasad Sapkota, Under Secretary, MOF | - Member |
| 6. Mr. Hari Ram Shrestha, Senior Divisional Engineer, DOI | - Member |
| 7. Mr. Rabinath Babu Shrestha, Senior Divisional Engineer, DWIDP | - Member |
| 8. Mr. Raju Acharya, Senior Divisional Engineer, MOI | - Member |
| 9. Mr. Dinakar Khanal, Senior Divisional Engineer, WECS | - Member |

SPECIAL INVITEE

1. Mr. Manohar Rijal, Division Chief, WIDPD No. 1, Biratnagar
2. Mr. Ratneshwar Lal Karna, Division Chief, WIDPD No. 2, Janakpur
3. Mr. Ajay Kumar Jaiswal, Division Chief, WIDPD No. 3, Parwanipur
4. Mr. Motiraj Gautam, Division Chief, WIDPD No. 5, Bhairahawa
5. Mr. Bhilanand Yadav, Division Chief, WIDPD No. 6, Nepalgunj
6. Mr. Mahendra Prasad Badu, Division Chief, WIDPD No. 7, Dhangadi
7. Mr. Rajendra Prasad Yadav, Chief, PEEFO 2, Mahottari
8. Mr. Devnarayan Shah, Senior Divisional Engineer, DWIDP
9. Mr. Atma Ram Ray, Chief, PEEFO 7, Kanchanpur

FACILITATOR

1. Mr. Rajendra Prasad Paudel, Engineer, DWIDP