



India-EU Water Forum

as part of the World Sustainable Development Summit

13 February 2019. New Delhi, India Habitat Centre

Draft Programme / Concept

SESSION 1: INDIA-EU WATER FORUM PLENARY SESSION (09:30-10:30)

A joint plenary session will be held together with TERI. The session serves the introduction to the current water management challenges in India and how these are jointly approached within the India-European Union Water Partnership (IEWP). The session showcases how the IEWP is engaging European experience to build capacities of Indian institutions (primarily Ministry of Water Resources) towards integrated river basin management. In this context, the IEWP tackles many topics including integrated river basin management, assessment of environmental flows, the development of a water quality dashboard for targeted decision making, groundwater management, irrigation efficiency and reuse of treated wastewater. In addition, research and the introduction of innovative technologies are central as well as creating opportunities for EU businesses to enter the Indian market.

The session is moderated by Ms. Henriette Faergemann (Delegation of the European Union to India). Preliminary programme:

09:00 – 09:40 Opening and individual statements

- Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister of State, Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
- Shri UP Singh, Secretary, MoWR, RD&GR
- Mr Tomasz Kozlowski, Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to India
- Shri Rajiv Mishra, Director General, NMCG (*tbc*)
- Director, TERI (*tbc*)

09:40 – 10:00 Cooperation with EU Member States and across institutions (hand-over of cooperation agreement/MoUs)

- Joint Working Programme with selected EU MS
- Cooperations with other partners/stakeholders

10:00 – 10:20 Coffee/Tea Break



SESSION 2: PLANNING AND MANAGING WATER RESOURCES IN RIVER BASINS (10:20-15:45)

Integrated River Basin Management (RBM) is widely accepted as good practice, and a basis for sustainable development. The European Union (EU) is the global leader when it comes to the management of river basins implementing River Basin Management Plans for 198 basin districts since almost two decades, whilst India has so far been struggling to develop successful case studies. Therefore, it was agreed within the India-EU Water Partnership to develop a pilot RBM Plan for the Tapi river basin during the period of 2018-2020. All three states that share the basin (Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat) are being involved and a selection of Key Water Management Issues will be addressed.

The IEWF Session 2 holds a technical focus and follows the milestones for successful RBM processes addressing functioning governance and coordination, identification of Key Water Management Issues and related management objectives, basin characterisation including the analysis of pressures and impacts through risk criteria as well as monitoring and status assessment. In addition, the development and the implementation of a programme of measures to mitigate impacts is a central RBM component.

Jointly with the Indian counterparts, participating EU experts including representatives from institutions, universities and businesses will illustrate good practices, lessons learned and approaches, tools and technologies from applied work in the EU and in India.

The session will be moderated by the IEWP team. The preliminary programme consists of brief introductory presentations as well as “on-the-spot statements” and discussions.

10:20 – 10:45 India-EU Water Partnership and EU Horizon 2020

This part aims the introduction of the IEWP and its RBM activities as well as of the H2020 water projects. Interlinkages and cooperation between the IEWP and the H2020 projects will be outlined.

- Representative from the DG Environment, European Commission (tbc)
- Jointly moving towards effective river basin management in India
(*Birgit Vogel, IEWP/GIZ*)
- Joint India-EU action research to develop new and/or adapt the most suitable existing innovative and affordable solutions for drinking water, wastewater treatment and monitoring water quality
(*Tania Friederichs, Delegation of the European Union to India*)

10:45-11:20 Introduction to river basin planning and the Tapi basin.

This part aims for an exchange on the pros and cons of planning and managing water within river basins, and past and current attempts to do so at the global level, in the EU and in India.

- Benefits and challenges of river basin planning and management. Focus: Tapi River Basin (*tbd, IEWP*)
- Key steps in the implementation of the Ganga River Basin Management Plan
(*cGanga, tbc*)
- Approaches and initiatives to implement sustainable river basin and water resources management in India
(*MoWR, RD&GR, tbc*)
- Examples on river basin or wide-scale land-use planning, including in cooperation between European and Indian institutions
(tbc – **Contributions requested now/expected by 25 January**)



11:20-12:00 **Governance and coordination.**

This part addresses how to assure coordination and joint implementation between different competent authorities on the federal, state and local levels and how to foster ensure effective approaches.

- Challenges and limits of state-driven water resource planning in the Tapi River Basin (*Tapi States; tbc*)
- The role of river basin organizations in river basin management - Lessons learned from Europe and the world (*Susanne Schmeier, IHE-Delft, tbc*)
- Strengthening of River Basin Organisations in the Ganga basin – needs and the way forward (*NMCG, tbc*)
- Examples on improving governance and coordination in River Basins, preferably between European and Indian institutions

(tbc – **Contributions requested now/expected by 25 January**)

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Lunch

13:00-13:45 **Key water management issues, including monitoring and characterisation.**

This part provides thoughts and tools for identifying the challenges within the basin and prioritising target-oriented assessments and actions within large river basins.

- Key Water Management Issues identified in the Tapi River Basin – process and next steps (*Vikrant Tyagi, IEWP/GIZ, tbc*)
- Water quality monitoring and dashboard development towards improves decision making in RBM – the case of the Hindon River Basin (*2030WRG, tbc*)
- Combining different tools for assessing a river basin: monitoring, modelling and expert judgement (*Kees Bons, Deltares, tbc*)
- Further examples on monitoring, problem assessment (e.g. drinking, surface or groundwater pollution or quantity, biodiversity, water uses, etc.), preferably between European and Indian institutions

(tbc – **Contributions requested now/expected by 25 January**)

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13:45-14:30 **Definition of joint visions and management objectives.**

This part highlights which important elements should be taken into consideration for defining, discussing and agreeing on RBM objectives to achieve mid- and long-term aims in river basins.

- Developing and implementing guidelines for the assessment of environmental flows in the Ramganga and other rivers (*Bhopal Singh, MoWR, RD&GR, CWC (tbc)*)
- Further examples on agreeing on shared visions or negotiating management objectives, preferably between European and Indian institutions

(tbc – **Contributions requested now/expected by 25 January**)

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14:30-15:15 **Identifying and implementing mitigation measures and targeted investments.**

This part aims to illustrate which set of measures could be implemented to limit/eliminate negative impacts and to assure sustainable RBM. It will also showcase some of the measures implemented in the European Union, which could be adapted/transferred to India.

- Increasing water use efficiency in agriculture and assuring sustainable water allocation (*tbc*)
- Other measures, e.g. for improved provision of drinking water, wastewater treatment and/or the monitoring of water quality (*tbc*)
- Lessons learned from other experiences/examples, projects or initiatives to implement measures for sustainable RBM, preferably jointly between European and Indian institutions (*tbc* – **Contributions requested now/expected by 25 January**)
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15:15-15:45 **Questions, discussion and final comments**

15:45 – 16:30 Coffee/Tea Break

SESSION 3 - BUSINESS SESSION: HOW CAN EUROPEAN BUSINESSES ESTABLISH PARTNERSHIPS AND TRANSFER WATER SOLUTIONS AND TECHNOLOGIES TO INDIA? (16:30-18:00)

India has a vast need to apply innovative solutions and technologies in its water sector and in RBM. However, transfer and adaptation of existing solutions is often challenging, in particular for Small and Medium Enterprises. The session will present some showcases of successful EU-India business models and illustrate major barriers and failures. Opportunities for EU businesses to involve in the Indian water market will be presented. Further, the India-EU Water Partnership's action plan for 2019 foresees the development of a series of tools which will be presented. Ample time for questions and discussions will be provided.

The draft Agenda includes:

- 16:30-16:40 Introduction and the IEWP business component
- 16:40-17:10 Success stories, barriers and failures
- 17:10-17:30 Tools for EU businesses
- 17:30-18:00 Questions, discussion and final comments