

India-Pakistan Water Roundtable - Joint Statement

Centre for Dialogue and Reconciliation's water initiative was launched in 2010 and since then it has conducted five water roundtables. The sixth one in the series was recently held in Bangalore.

Stakeholders representing the academia, civil society and other institutes from India and Pakistan met under the auspices of the Centre for Dialogue & Reconciliation and Jinnah Institute from 15-17 February 2014 in Bangalore to discuss issues related to water, climate change, the environment, transboundary aquifers, changing demographics, cooperation for joint disaster management and possible joint studies on issues of common concerns in the Indus basin.

The participants felt that some regions in both countries are facing water scarcity, which are likely to be exacerbated in the future due to the negative impacts of climate change.

While discussing the issues, the participants noted that:

- There is lack of adequate data on various aspects of climate change and its impacts on various sectors including water resources. This could be addressed if institutes/experts from two sides joined hands to generate credible knowledge to guide policy decisions for sustainably managing waters in the basin.
- Up-to-date data on various land and water resources in the Indus basin should be available to the people from the two countries for developing strategies for managing depleting water resources.

Accordingly, it was suggested that a web-based Indus Basin Resource Centre needs to be set up for the hosting and sharing of the available data and information.

The participants decided to take up coordinated studies addressing issues of common concerns related to water, climate change, and socio-economic aspects to arrive at joint recommendations. The partners from both countries were identified and the list shall be finalized and broadened over the next few months.

It was also decided that experts representing the identified institutes from both countries shall formulate a concept note for the studies within 3 months.

Mr. Ramaswamy Iyer
Dr. Amar Joshi
Dr. Shakeel Ahmed
Prof. Shakil Romshoo
Dr. S. Sreekesh
Mr. Gunbir Singh
Prof. Anish Dua
Ms. Sushobha Barve

Amb. Shafqat Kakakhel
Mr. Suleman Najib Khan
Dr. Zaigham Habib
Mr. Ahmad Rafay Alam
Dr. Shaheen Akhtar
Mr. Nazam Maqbool