

PRESS BRIEFING

Koshi Basin Programme Inaugural Partners' Forum

Organized by:

Bihar State Disaster Management Authority (BSDMA) and,
International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

Venue: A.N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna, Bihar, India

19 February 2014, Patna, India

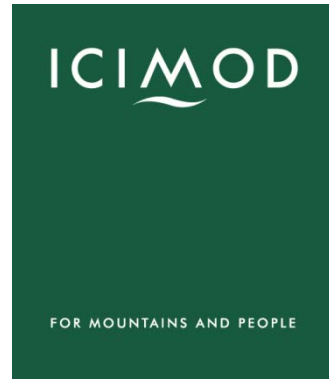
Contemporary environmental and socio-economic changes pose immense challenges to water resources management in the Koshi River Basin (covering parts of China, Nepal, and India) due to high spatial and temporal variation of resource endowment across boundaries, and upstream-downstream linkages (high degree of interrelationship among water uses and users).

With the support from the Australian Government, ICIMOD and its key national and regional partners initiated the Koshi Basin Programme (KBP - Phase I) to contribute to inclusive poverty reduction in the Koshi Basin by evaluating the range of possible water-related development pathways through evidence-based decision making and basin-wide cooperation. The overall goal is to strengthen community resilience against climate change impacts and water induced hazards in the Koshi Basin. ICIMOD implements this program in collaboration with Bihar State Disaster Management Authority (BSDMA), Patna, AN Sinha Institute of Social Sciences (ANSISS), Patna, National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), New Delhi, Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), New Delhi, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Colombo, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia, and a number of other national and international organizations.

BSDMA and ICIMOD share a growing concern to improve disaster preparedness and risk reduction in the context of climate change impacts in the Himalayan river basins in general and Koshi River Basin in particular. Against this background, BSDMA and ICIMOD have collaborated to initiate a forum of ICIMOD partners and stakeholders to inform, improve, and guide the outcomes and outputs of Koshi Basin Program. Under the leadership of BSDMA, the partners and stakeholders of Koshi basin program will periodically meet and discuss existing knowledge and emerging issues in the Koshi Basin and support the program to deliver useful and usable outputs and outcomes.

At the one-day forum, the participants will seek to develop a shared understanding of water-related environment, livelihood, and disaster issues in the Koshi Basin. The one-day workshop will also discuss good practices that should be promoted to bring positive

changes in the lives of people in the Koshi Basin apart from informing the Government policies. The forum is also expected to provide an opportunity for KBP partners to use an 'open spaces' tool to discuss knowledge products that can create impact. The workshop will be followed by a field visit to the Koshi Basin areas of India and Nepal that is expected to elaborate an initial 'snapshot' of the water and disaster-related development landscape of the Basin.



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For more information, please contact:

Dr Shahriar Wahid Coordinator-Koshi Basin Programme
International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
Email: swahid@icimod.org

Local contact in Patna:

Mr Hari Krishna Nibanupudi
Senior Disaster Risk Reduction Specialist
International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
Email: hkrishna@icimod.org
Phone: +91 756 988 7549

Notes to Editor

ICIMOD www.icimod.org

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge sharing centre serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan. Our aim is to influence policy and practices to meet environmental and livelihood challenges emerging in the HKH region. To do this we bring together researchers, practitioners, and policymakers from the region and around the globe to generate and share knowledge, support evidence-based decision making, and encourage regional collaboration. ICIMOD delivers impact through its six Regional Programmes of Adaptation to Change, Transboundary Landscapes, River Basins, Cryosphere and Atmosphere, Mountain Environment Regional Information System, and Himalayan University Consortium. These regional programmes are supported by the four Thematic Areas of Livelihoods, Ecosystem Services, Water and Air, and Geospatial Solutions and underpinned by Knowledge Management and Communication. ICIMOD seeks to improve the lives and livelihoods of mountain women and men, now and for the future.

Koshi Basin Programme <http://www.icimod.org/kbp>

ICIMOD's Koshi Basin Programme, supported by the Australian Government through the Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio for South Asia, aims to enhance the regionally coordinated management of the Koshi basin for the improved wellbeing of local communities and sustainable use of ecosystem goods and services. The current phase of the programme (2012 – 2016) aims to contribute to inclusive poverty reduction in the Koshi basin by evaluating the range of possible water-related development pathways through evidence-based decision making and basin-wide cooperation considering climate change, hazards, and the provision of sustainable freshwater ecosystem services.