

**International Conference on**  
**Rivers of South Asia: Connecting Ecology, People, and**  
**Governance**

**Date: 22-23 July 2023**

**Organizers:**

South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG), North South  
University, Bangladesh,  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), Universiti Brunei Darussalam and  
National River Conservation Commission (NRCC), Bangladesh.  
Associate Partner: South Asian Network for Public Administration (SANPA)

**Venue**

North South University, Dhaka  
Virtual via ZOOM- Meeting ID: 974 7348 3269 Passcode: 818439

**Day 1 – Saturday, 22 July 2023**

Time	Programme	
09: 45-10.00	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> (Syndicate Hall, NSU)	The arrival of Guests and Participants
10:00 - 10: 15	Welcoming Remarks: by SIPG, UBD & SANPA	<b>Dr. Sk. Tawfique M. Haque</b> , Director, SIPG, NSU <b>Dr. Debbie Guan Eng Ho</b> , Acting Dean, FASS, UBD <b>Professor Habib Zafarullah</b> , President, SANPA
10: 15- 10.35	Opening Keynote Paper Presentation	Opening Keynote Speaker- <b>Dr. Iftekhar Iqbal</b> , Associate Professor, History and International Studies, FASS, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), Paper Title: "Locating the River between Poetics and Policies: Challenges and Choices".
10: 35 - 10: 40	Speech by Special Guest	Special Guest- <b>Dr. Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury</b> , Chairman, National River Conservation Commission (NRCC), Bangladesh
10: 40 - 10: 50	Speech by Chief Guest	Chief Guest- <b>Mr. M. A. Mannan, MP</b> , Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Planning, Government of Bangladesh
10: 50 - 11: 00	Speech by Session Chair	Speech by Session Chair
11.00 – 11.30		Tea Break

<p><b>11: 30 - 12: 30</b></p>	<p><b>Panel-1 Syndicate Hall</b></p>	<p><b>Panel Discussion on ‘River Governance: A River Restoration Initiative’ By NRCC, Bangladesh</b></p> <p><b>Chair- Prof. Arupjyoti Saikia, IIT-Guwahati, India</b></p> <p><b>Presentation:</b> 1. Paper on “Automated Collection and Smart Processing of Information for Efficient Spatio-Temporal Assessment of Hydrology and Ecology of Rivers and Water Bodies in Bangladesh” <b>Chandan Roy, University of Rajshahi, Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury, Sakib Mahmud, NRCC, Bangladesh</b></p> <p>2. Paper on “Rivers of Life: Legal Entity of the Rivers” <b>Dr. Mahfuzul Haque, SANPA &amp; Bangladesh University of Professionals</b></p>
<p><b>12: 30 - 14.10</b></p>	<p><b>Panel-2  (10 mins each paper + 10 mins Q&amp;A) Syndicate Hall</b></p>	<p><b>Governing the River: Dynamics of Policy and Popular responses-1</b></p> <p><b>Chair- Prof. Md. Jakariya, NSU</b></p> <p>1. River Governance in South Asia: For People or for Politics? <b>Pratip Chattopadhyay, University of Kalyani, India</b></p> <p>2. “Effectiveness of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) for managing Ecologically Critical Areas in Dhaka surrounding rivers in Bangladesh” <b>Sakib Mahmud, K.M. Kabirul Islam, NRCC, Bangladesh &amp; SANPA</b></p> <p>3. “River Connectivity for Ecological Sustainability in Dhaka Mega City and the Role of Turag, Balu, Buriganga and Shitolakhya Rivers” <b>Dr. Shafi Noor Islam, Universiti Brunei Darussalam</b></p> <p>4. River Restoration and Governance in India: A Case Study of River Anjana in West Bengal <b>Shiladitya Chakraborty, Ananta Das, University of Kalyani &amp; SANPA</b></p> <p>5. Addressing Glacial Retreat, Water Source Changes, and Drought in the Koshi Basin: Challenges and Opportunities <b>Pratik Poudel, Mokbul Morshed Ahmad, Asian Institute of Technology</b></p>
<p><b>14: 10 - 15: 00</b></p>	<p><b>LUNCH</b></p>	
<p><b>15: 00 – 16: 20</b></p>	<p><b>Panel-3  (10 + 10 mins) SIPG Conference Room</b></p>	<p><b>Ecological and economic changes in the river systems -1</b></p> <p><b>Chair- Dr. Mahfuzul Haque, SANPA &amp; Bangladesh University of Professionals</b></p> <p>1. “Study of Chronological Riverbank Erosion along Padma River Using Remote Sensing and GIS” <b>Rokhsana Titlee and Nova Ahmed, North South University</b></p>

		<p>2. “Symbiosis and Deracination: Exploring the Political and Economic Ecology from Riverine fictions of West Bengal” <b>Dr. Moumita Sarkar</b>, University of Delhi, India</p> <p>3. “Promoting Community-Based River Governance in the Kurigram and Lalmonirhat Districts of Bangladesh” <b>Md Mostafizur Rahman, Md Hamidul Islam</b>, Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur</p> <p>4. River Conservation vis-a-vis Governance and Administration: A Comparative Study between India and Bangladesh <b>Nilanjan Chakraborty, Arindam Saha</b>, Amity Law School, Amity University, Kolkata</p>
16: 20 – 17: 40	Panel-4 SIPG Conference Room	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>River as a site of culture and connections</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chair- Prof. M. Emdadul Haq, NSU</b></p> <p>1. Rivers as cultural forces shaping the socio-political narratives of Peoples in South Asia: A Tale of Ganges/Padma <b>Dr. Md. Abdus Samad and Samia Yesmin</b>, Jagannath University</p> <p>2. The Cross Dimensional Tales of Indian Rivers- Fictitious Account of Factual Ambivalence <b>Hari Godara</b>, O P Jindal Global University</p> <p>3. The Brahmaputra in India and Bangladesh: Connected Histories and Shared Futures <b>Dr. Abhijit Dihidar</b>, Goreswar College, Assam, India</p> <p>4. The Social Landscape of Kapatakkha River: An Ethnography of Human-Water Entanglements in Deltaic Sundarbans <b>Md Rahamatullah, Md Raihan Raju</b>, South Asian University, New Delhi</p>
17.40-18.00		<b>Tea Break</b>

**Day 2 – Sunday, 23 July 2023**

Time	Programme	
09: 00		Arrival of Guests and Participants
09: 15 – 10: 55	<p><b>Panel-5</b></p> <p><b>(10 mins per session + 10 mins)</b></p>	<p><b>Governing the River: Dynamics of policy regime and popular responses-2</b></p> <p><b>Chair- Dr. Iftekhar Iqbal, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. “The Unruly Brahmaputra in the Post-colonial India: Techno-bureaucracy, Embankments, and Life in Waterscapes” <b>Prof. Arupjyoti Saikia, IIT-Guwahati, India</b></li> <li>2. “Legal Consequences of Granting Legal Personhood to the Rivers of Bangladesh and India: Development versus Environmental Protection” <b>Ferdousi Begum, American International University- Bangladesh (AIUB), Dhaka</b></li> <li>3. “Institutional Framework of Brahmaputra-Ganga Basin: Lessons from Mekong River Commission” <b>Anup Kumar Saha, South Asian University, New Delhi</b></li> <li>4. “Political Economy of River Pollution and Grabbing in Bangladesh” <b>Md. Parvez Hasan Yousuf, SIPG, NSU</b></li> <li>5. “Lost Rivers, Lost Livelihood: The Impact of Corruption on the Rivers of Bangladesh” <b>Ashfia Mahbub Rafa, Jagannath University, Dhaka</b></li> </ol>
10: 55– 11: 10	<b>Tea Break</b>	
11: 10 – 12: 30	<p><b>Panel-6</b></p> <p><b>(10 mins per session + 10 mins)</b></p>	<p><b>Ecological and economic changes in the river systems-2</b></p> <p><b>Chair– Dr. Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman, NRCC, Bangladesh</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. “Dying Rivers of Bangladesh: A case study of Karatoa” <b>Shahedul Islam, Tamim Forhad Shuvo, Independent University, Bangladesh</b></li> <li>2. Changing Course of River &amp; The Declined Medieval Town in South Bengal <b>Sekhar Sil, Bankura University, India</b></li> </ol>

		<p>3. “Connected Livelihood in the Borderlands of Nepal and India: Analysing Water Troubles” <b>Manish Jung Pulami</b>, South Asian University, New Delhi</p> <p>4. “Comparative Analysis of Physical Characteristics and Ecosystem Quality in the Bakkhali River and Rabnabad Channel in Bangladesh” <b>Syeda Jasia Firdaws, Saif Khan Sunny, Maria Zaman*</b>, <b>Most Israt Jahan Mili</b>, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University</p>
12: 30 – 14: 10	Panel-7 (10 mins per session + 10 mins)	<p><b>Governing the River: Dynamics of policy regime and popular responses-3</b> <b>Chair- Prof. Biswas Karabi Farhana, NSU</b></p> <p>1. “Resolving Policy and Governance Issues in International Rivers of South Asia: Unlocking the Potential of Mediation” <b>Hasnain Mahmood, ADR-ODR International (UK)</b></p> <p>2. “Impact of Industrial waste on rivers in Bangladesh: Challenges and Way Out” <b>Marufa Akter</b>, University of Barishal, Bangladesh</p> <p>3. “Impact of River Training on the Dynamics of Jamuna in Bangladesh- As seen from Landsat satellites images” <b>Palash Basak</b>, University of Newcastle</p> <p>4. Hydro-Politics in South Asia: Unravelling Afghanistan’s Hydro-Political Challenges and Regional Cooperation <b>Pintu Kumar Mahla, Shivendra Shandilya</b>, Central University of Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir, India</p> <p>5. Delta Plan and Future of Bangladesh <b>Anwarul Hoque Ansari</b>, Independent University Bangladesh</p>
14. 10- 14.40		Lunch
14. 40- 15.40	Policy Colloquium / Panel-8 (Syndicate Hall, NSU)	<p><b>Policy Colloquium on River Governance (Title yet to be decided)</b> Moderator- Prof. Shahidul Haque, SIPG, NSU</p> <p>Panelists-</p> <p>1. Prof. Imtiaz Ahmed, University of Dhaka</p> <p>2. Ms. Farah Kabir, Country Director, ActionAid, Bangladesh</p> <p>3. Dr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, Asian Confluence, India</p>
15. 40- 16.00		<b>BREAK</b>

		<b>CLOSING CEREMONY (Syndicate Hall, NSU)</b>
<b>16.00– 16. 20</b>	<b>Closing Keynote</b>	<b>Closing Keynote Paper Presentation by Professor Arupjyoti Saikia, IIT-Guwahati , India</b>
<b>16: 20– 16: 35</b>	Key Takeaways	Presentation of the Key Takeaways from the Conference
<b>16.35- 16.45</b>	Speech by Chief Guest	Speech by Chief Guest <b>Dr. Shamsul Alam</b> , Hon’ble State Minister, Ministry of Planning, Government of Bangladesh
<b>16: 45– 16: 55</b>	Speech by Session Chair	Speech by Session Chair
<b>16:55– 17:00</b>	Vote of Thanks	Vote of Thanks
<b>17:00– 17:05</b>	<b>Photo Session</b>	
<b>17: 05– 17: 20</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>	