

Pani Satsang: EU-SA Dialogue on Water Resource management: Where can we find mutual areas of collaboration?



Prof Martin Grambow, Germany

Keynote speech:

River rejuvenation HSS-CSD

- Accomplished understanding on land use, water use, dams, retention areas, rain water harvesting structure and hydrological, geological, topographic description needed.
- Complex models' climate, hydraulic soil, flood and drought difference between natural system and situation change in quantity and quality talking about the climate, forests
- Resource for drinking water, how question of irrigation can be answered
- Issue of irrigation
- France, Croatia, Tunisia are trying new things but State administration has not been able to and GW level is reducing worldwide. We need to find better ways for irrigation
- Cooling water and industry- some chemicals are not problems initially while later, they bring problems. Fluoride is ruining quality measures in Europe.
- Appearance of dangerous chemicals starts in discussion for discharge- India is doing lot of work in this field
- Economical possibilities- principle of precaution,
- Discharges from point and non-point sources, discharge from agriculture ruining ecosystems (nitrate)
- Engineering – what can we do with climate change? Technical climate engineering is not a right way but biological climate engineering by introducing wetlands, forests for restoring ecosystem is important.
- Quality- previously had only chemical indicators (green or blue) with good quality. Recognised in whole Europe, big problem with fishes
- Approach of holistic quantitative knowledge about the ecosystem
- Water Frame Directive (includes ecological situation)

- Chemical pollution- drinking water quality (chemical quality) to guarantee in all surface water.
- Policies- hardest thing in policy is to set goal for chemical pollution.
- Taking right goals is strategy of risk management
- Management/administration- strength/capacity of administration, self-responsible, self-learning, innovative administration; financial possibilities; delimitation of redevelopment areas; time planning (5-yr planning); commitment
- Remarkable that we have couple of indicators for good water governance (technical) but on self-responsiveness.
- Chinese are recognised- degradation of environment great threat to China – battle against water pollution/degradation

The following points were raised in the management/administration of water resources:

- To win battle of environment- biggest and only battle in the world we really need to fight. We need organisation to fight. Need to pay people fair, special training while entering organisation
- Subsidiarity and internality (organisations as river basins or provinces). But need internality that people at all levels have to understand they have to fight.
- Cooperation (international and national) – trust each other, joint body, is a big part of success
- Culture/consciousness (holy river, identification/commitment: problem of distance: drinking water from tap versus product from bottle/factory), water as social space- urban green spaces).

Interaction

The following points of discussion were raised by the participants:

- Good organisation requires good training and good payment for people to work. Hans Siedel foundation is doing – question of payment is bothering. Many of countries, sustainability does not remain. Donor organisation running behind crisis- any strategy to help money starved countries for survival of countries in the area of water?
- Big success stories of Nepal are managed by community. Community Forests (CF) were nationalised- produced tragedy of commons. CF managed by guards hired by community themselves and paid in kind worked fine. World Bank gave salary and everything collapsed.
- Money is not problem in Nepal, remittance is the source. Revenue of government increased. Big donors failed to realise something is there other than money in governance.
- Formation of policies is one thing while its implementation is entirely different. Implementation would not be possible when all stakeholders realise their and others' rights. What do you recommend how should we translate the document into implementable reality?
- Specific examples from Bavarian authority how they maintain self- learning, innovation? How do you ensure that?

Responses from the speaker

Speaker of the program Prof. Grambow responded as follows:

- Donors have some obligations to support others, principally wise understanding on the other side, history. We feel the responsibility to help each other. Most countries are sometimes donor. It is fair to exchange what we know. Education system in Germany.
- Economy against ecology
- Implementation- strong administration over 200 years ago in Germany. Flood protection system, trained community to do themselves- well-structured organization
- Water administration in many countries is completely fractured.

- Educate anyone coming into administration. Everyone gets special training – career plan- for leading persons – investing in people – meet after work- respect each other.
- People are passionate about their work-topic of soil and water. Getting the right people is very challenging in India and Germany.
- Dipak: In Nepal, trying to institutionalise constitution and 3 tiers of government. At present, central government is trying to pull authority of provincial government. Germany- lots of things to learn. Bavarian government – how do you manage foreign aid establishment of Germany- GIZ/KWF? How is it looking at international cooperation?
- Response: Workers are motivated and wanted to change, special meaning to work with water. You can't motivate someone but can only demotivate someone. We recognise them as part of our organisation.
- Dipak: Mekong/Ganga Dialogue: Is it possible to think of dialogue between people in the European Union and Indo-Gangetic area? There are aspects of local initiatives which is quite unique in Nepal. We will be able to learn more in navigation. No large region of the world has developed economically without developing inland navigation- can learn from Europe. Institutional setting in Europe and Nepal differs.

The participants discussed on how can we have civil society-academics interaction? The following points were raised in this regard:

- If there could be lecture series, webinar – South Asia to start, mentoring programs, students exchange to inspire
- UNECE Water Convention- countries have signed the convention- if India/Nepal have signed the convention?
- South Asia level and beyond- conference more systematically and more organised way for dialogues – opportunities can be made available to others as well.
- To bring countries together in water- joint research by universities by students of relevant fields. Visits can be planned to related countries.
- Internship concept can be at the regional level be encouraged.
- Bringing in private sector- lobby government to give private sectors enough support
- CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) – we gladly provide forums for exchange. Direct government to government interaction can be left but they can be brought to the government. Will share report.
- Networking- web portal can be developed/ social network
- Dialogue-Debate- Decision
- Engagement with actors- Government
- Government responsibility.