

# Water Governance in the Koshi River Basin

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Outcome: Improved cooperation and enhanced capacity for policy and decision makers to implement basin-wide management of, and investment in, the Koshi River Basin

This requires improved regional cooperation for sustainable water governance



A shift from water resources development to water governance (the ecological turn)

Transforming the social relations of control over water, a new relationship between states and citizens



# Defining governance

- Many understandings, not one simple definition
- Governance = “governing”, the process of government
- Governance = the exercise of political authority and the use of institutional resources to manage society’s problems and affairs (Kaufmann et al., 1999)
- Governance = a non-hierarchical mode of governing, where non-state (civil society) and corporate (companies) actors govern together with the state
- Governance = effectively implementing socially acceptable allocation and regulation, encompassing the relationship between a society and its government

- “Water governance is **defined** by the **political, social, economic and administrative systems** that are in place, and which directly or indirectly affect the use, development and management of water resources and the delivery of water service delivery at different levels of society” (UNDP website, 2007)

- Complexity of **U**ses (claims)
- Diversity of **U**sers (values)
- Dynamics of **U**ncertainty (undecidability)



- How to improve water governance in the Koshi River Basin, taking into account the 3 “U”s?
- Current diagnosis:
  - No trilateral mechanism between the three countries for holistic water governance
  - Different priorities
  - Different issues in the basin / different uses of water
  - Different capacities (financial / human)
  - Unclear how the costs of regional cooperation will lead to mutual benefits (status quo is always easier)

- Who are the stakeholders in each country, what are their interests, how can they mutually benefit from improved water governance? (incentive)
- What can the three countries contribute? (information)
- What is the status of existing institutions for managing their part of the basin? (institutions)



5.2: Analyze the policy and institutional framework for implementation of IWRM principles and approaches + assess gaps and necessary improvements

In 2014, for China, Nepal and India, if possible by trilateral teams together with ICIMOD and involving government agencies

5.3: Develop a framework and method for systematic basin-wide review of water governance in the Koshi River Basin; and suggest a set of governance indicators which could be continuously monitored and used in communicating to the Koshi stakeholders

In 2014, in all three countries, trilateral teams and workshops to discuss indicators

5.4: Review current legal and institutional provisions at national/provincial/local level for water governance; then foster regional cooperation in basin water management with prioritized recommendations on the most appropriate institutional arrangements for regional water governance in KRB.

In 2014 and 2015, in all three countries by trilateral teams and ICIMOD; Track I and II engagement strategies and structured dialogues

5.6: Strengthen (foster/create?) a regional platform for facilitating regional cooperation in monitoring and information sharing through early engagement of Track II stakeholders and early informing of Track I stakeholders

In 2014 and 2015, in all three countries by trilateral teams and ICIMOD; Track I and II engagement strategies and structured dialogues

- We have an unique opportunity to foster regional cooperation in the Koshi Basin
- This workshop is a first step
- IMHE has an important role to play as Chinese lead partner
- Crucial to bring together the partners in the Koshi Basin Program from the three countries for joint field visits and workshops
- Discuss and plan Component 5 during group work!

# Thank you

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