

Water Futures II: A Dialogue for Young Scholars and Professionals

Ecosystems for Life: A Bangladesh-India Initiative

At a Glance

Bangladesh and India share the largest river networks in South Asia. These 54 trans-boundary rivers directly influence the lives and living of over half a billion people.

Management of basin and regional level natural resource challenges is limited to practitioners in this region. Moreover, the curricula of universities, colleges and training institutes in Bangladesh and India, have a focus on national issues. Rather, attention is not given to trans-boundary water management concerns. Against this backdrop, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh and Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India with support from IUCN's project Ecosystems for Life: A Bangladesh-India Initiative launched a Dialogue in 2013 for young scholars and professionals, offering opportunities to work and interact with academia, experts and practitioners in both countries to encourage interest in issues related to water management.

The purpose of Water Futures II is to further develop better informed public discourse on these issues.

What are the reasons to participate in the Dialogue – the goals and objectives

Overall objective of the Dialogue is to promote a deeper and nuanced understanding of riparian issues and common concerns. Specific objectives include:

- To build future leaders in water resource management in both countries;
- To equip young scholars and professionals with practical tools and skills for designing problem solving initiatives at local, national and regional levels;
- To provide opportunities to emerging practitioners to learn cross-country and cross-sectoral strategic, managerial and technical initiatives for sustainable water management, including food and environmental security;
- Provide a platform for open discussions on common problems, prospects and challenges relating to sustainable water resource management.

Who can participate

The programme is designed for young professionals, environmentalists, scholars, activists, journalists, creative artists, researchers from water resources and environmental disciplines, young diplomats and young policy makers from Bangladesh and India. There will be 10 participants from each country, excluding observers who may attend the programme at their own cost.

Minimum Requirements

- ✓ Graduation;
- ✓ Two years practical experience in a related field will be given preference;
- ✓ Applicants below the age of 35 years will be given preference.

How to Apply

Applicants are to send

- ✓ A Statement of Intent of not more than 250-300 words
- ✓ Latest Resume with 2 references

Last Date of Submission

Application and supporting documents must be sent electronically to the following Email id: waterfutures2014@gmail.com by 25 September 2014

Only selected candidates will be notified on email latest by 01 October 2014

Course Duration and Location

A two-week long programme including five days residential course each in India and Bangladesh, and field visits, will commence from 26 October 2014 till 7 November 2014. Course locations: India -- Kolkata and Bangladesh -- Dhaka.

Teaching Methodology

The course will be interactive, including films, music, games, lectures and discussions. Working days would be divided into four sessions, including lectures and discussions. Participants would also be involved in problem solving exercises in which the following activities would be covered:

- ✓ Situation analysis and critique of existing joint water management initiatives, treaties, and water regimes;
- ✓ Design of a water resource management regime;
- ✓ Reviewing livelihood strategies.

Participants from India and Bangladesh will be placed in smaller groups and prepare joint papers based on the modules of the programme.

Course Certificate

Participants would be given course completion certificates jointly by the University of Dhaka, Jamia Millia Islamia and IUCN.