Political Geography of South Asia

Lecture 12

INDUS WATER TREATY

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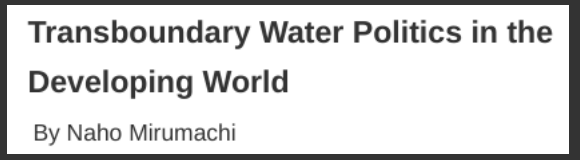
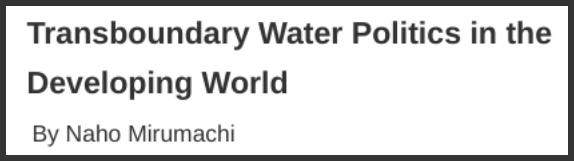
276 international transboundary river basins

- The United Nations International Decade for Action ‘Water for Life’ highlighted water cooperation as one of the key themes between 2005 and 2015. The various policy reports and awareness—raising campaigns of this initiative argue that cooperation brings about efficiency in water resources utilization, spur on regional cooperation and provide broader political benefits not just on water issues (see UN Water 2013a).



the Nile River,

- the cooperation fostered by the Nile Basin Initiative, an institution established between ten basin states, is claimed to be a de facto issue: ‘nobody in the basin any longer questions whether cooperation on the Nile is necessary, desirable or doable. Rather, the conversation has shifted focus onto how to promote and expedite it’ (Seid et al. 2013: 37).
- For Egypt, the dam raises concerns for its national security, with the premise that ‘[i]f Egypt is the Nile’s gift, then the Nile is a gift to Egypt’ (BBC 2013). This bilateral relationship has experienced stalled negotiations over downstream water availability and environmental impacts (Al Jazeera 2014). The issue flared up at one point in 2013, with the Egyptian prime minister invoking spilling blood over water (George 2013).



Conflict and cooperation

- coexist in these basins, and that a narrow focus only on cooperation misses out on a full understanding of the politics of transboundary waters.
- The aforementioned case between Ethiopia and Egypt cannot be simply and sensationally described as one of ‘water war’ as the media has done (see Schwartzstein 2013). Instead, the project represents how diplomatic conflict through provocative words coexists with deliberations over project details, in an attempt to maintain and challenge water utilization and allocation in the Nile. In the lower Mekong River basin, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam have been celebrated for achieving a water agreement based on sustainable development principles and for establishing the Mekong River Commission (MRC).

Transboundary Water Politics in the Developing World

By Naho Mirumachi

Building dams as a viable solution

- utilizing advances in engineering may serve this discourse of water scarcity. By doing so, scarcity is naturalized, to be taken for granted and as something universal, leading to ‘self-fulfilling prophesies around “crisis“ (Mehta 2010a: 252). These expressions of scarcity expose state power manifested with policies and institutions to manage ‘crisis’, supporting what Michel Foucault called governmentality (Mehta 2010b). The effect of governmentality is that, through discourses of water scarcity, control of society is achieved by the state in a way that is not imposed in an overtly top—down fashion, but through a more pervasive manner (Foucault 1991). However, building more and ‘better’ dams to deal with water scarcity may in fact only exacerbate the rate of water abstraction beyond ecological limits.

Transboundary Water Politics in the Developing World

By Naho Mirumachi

River basins are hydrological units of the earth’s surface over which water runs to a lowest point (estuary, lake, delta). A river basin is considered as a physical and ecological whole, dependent on water for ecosystem functions and a separate entity on the earth ’s surface. It thus makes sense to see it as a planning and management unit for natural resources management. Furthermore, river basins are integrated ecological systems, with the management responses recognising ecosystem interdependencies.

Basins as economic production systems. In some river basins, navigation, hydroelectric power production and irrigation water have been and continue to be the perceived triumvirate for economic growth. Water resources are seen as the mechanism for national economic development, especially in developing countries. This mechanism is also regarded as a fundamental for sustainability too, so that ‘development trajectories‘ can be visualised for future generations-water is a key for human survival and ensuring human well being (Shah, Molden and Sakthivadivel 2003). This approach recognises the constraints of the available water resources systems within river basins, and where these constraints limit growth. inter-basin transfer and/or expanded conjunctive use of groundwater resources are seen as a solution.

Transboundary Water Politics in the Developing World

By Naho Mirumachi

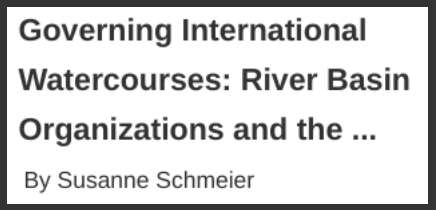
States and River Basins

- In international environmental politics, the neo-realist claim that states pursue national interests unilaterally and thus exploit their natural resources without taking into account consequences for others has empirically not prevailed.

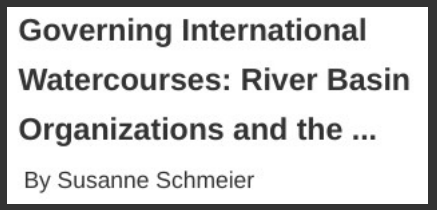
Governing International Watercourses: River Basin Organizations and the ...

By Susanne Schmeier

- Conflict is not states' preferred strategy for dealing with natural resources related and environmental collective action problems. Instead, states have increasingly acknowledged that unilateral behaviour necessarily reduces the benefits for all members of the respective ecosystem, including the defecting state.



- Effectiveness scope river basin governance is a large policy field encompassing a broad variety of activities targeting very different collective action problems. In order to better capture the effectiveness of an RBO in governing a river basin, effectiveness is broken down into four scope dimensions in which RBOs are expected to potentially matter: political stability, environmental sustainability, economic growth and social development. Although these four dimensions are necessarily interdependent, treating them separately allows to different RBOs' contributions to different substantive scopes of river basin governance.



Hydropolitics

- Another way of categorizing collective action problems relies on the assumption that some problems are more relevant for the security of states than others because they affect their national interests of survival in the international system. Such security-related collective action problems are referred to as “high politics” while non-security-relevant issues rank as “low politics" (Czempiel, 1981, p. 196; Hascnclcver at (11., 1996, p. 192). High politics problems are considered particularly problematic by hydropolitics scholars, linking the importance of a river and its resources for its riparians to these riparians’ willingness to cooperate (Wolf, 1995; Brooks, 1997; Soffer, 1999; Brochmann and Hensel, 2009; Zawahri and McLaughlin Mitchell, 2009).

Indus Water Treaty

Source: http://www.transboundarywaters.orst.edu/projects/casestudies/indus.html

- Indus River and tributaries
- Dates of Negotiation: 1951-1960
- Negotiate an equitable allocation of the flow of the Indus River and its tributaries between the riparian states
- Develop a rational plan for integrated watershed development [X]
- Criteria for water allocations: Historic and planned use (for Pakistan) plus geographic allocations (western rivers vs. eastern rivers

Background

- The Government of India Act of 1935, however, put water under provincial jurisdiction, and some disputes did begin to crop up at the sites of the more-extensive works, notably between the provinces of Punjab and Sind.
- In 1942, a judicial commission was appointed by the British government to study Sind's concern over planned Punjabi development. The Commission recognized the claims of Sind, and called for the integrated management of the basin as a whole. The Commission's report was found unacceptable by both sides
- Chief engineers of the two sides met informally between 1943 and 1945 to try to reconcile their differences. Although a draft agreement was produced, neither of the two provinces accepted the terms and the dispute was referred to London for a final decision in 1947
- the Indian Independence Act of 15 August 1947 internationalized the dispute between the new states of India and Pakistan.
- As the monsoon flows receded in the fall of 1947, the chief engineers of Pakistan and India met and agreed to a "Standstill Agreement," which froze water allocations at two points on the river until 31 March 1948, allowing discharges from headworks in India to continue to flow into Pakistan.
- On 1 April 1948, the day that the "Standstill Agreement" expired, in the absence of a new agreement, India discontinued the delivery of water to the Dipalpur Canal and the main branches of the Upper Bari Daab Canal
- Pakistani awareness of its vulnerability to its upstream neighbour for economic viability was heightened immeasurably

Steps towards Resolution

- In 1951, Indian Prime Minister Nehru, whose interest in integrated river management along the lines of the Tennessee Valley Authority had been piqued, invited David Lilienthal, former chairman of the TVA, to visit India
- David Black, president of the World Bank contacted the prime ministers of Pakistan and India, inviting both countries to accept the Bank's good offices
- He outlined "essential principles" as follows, 1) the water resources of the Indus basin should be managed cooperatively; 2) the problems of the basin should be solved on a functional and not on a political plane, without relation to past negotiations and past claims
- Black suggested that India and Pakistan each appoint a senior engineer to work on a plan for development of the Indus basin.
- A Bank engineer would be made available as an ongoing consultant
- The first meeting of the Working Party included Indian and Pakistani engineers, along with a team from the Bank, as envisioned by Black, and met for the first time in Washington in May 1952
- After three weeks of discussions, an outline was agreed to include, 1) determination of total water supplies, divided by catchment and use; 2) determination of the water requirements of cultivable irrigable areas in each country; 3) calculation of data and surveys necessary, as requested by either side; 4) preparation of cost estimates and a construction schedule of new engineering works which might be included in a comprehensive plan

Challenges

- a common development plan for the basin in subsequent meetings in Karachi, November 1952, and Delhi, January 1953 failed
- the Bank suggested that each side submit its own plan
- Both sides did submit plans on 6 October 1953, each of which mostly agreed on the supplies available for irrigation, but varied extremely on how these supplies should be allocated
- The Indian proposal allocated 29 MAF/yr. to India and 90 MAF to Pakistan, totaling 119 MAF. The Pakistani proposal, in contrast, allocated India 15.5 MAF and Pakistan 102.5 MAF, for a total of 118 MAF
- Revised Indian position: All of the eastern rivers and 7% of the western rivers to India and for Pakistan 93% of the western rivers and none of the eastern rivers
- Revised Pakistani position: 30% of the eastern rivers and none of the western rivers for India and 70% of the eastern rivers and all of the western rivers for Pakistan.
- The Bank concluded that not only was the stalemate likely to continue, but that the ideal goal of integrated watershed development for the benefit of both riparians was probably too elusive a goal at this stage of political relations
- On 5 February 1954, the Bank issued its own proposal, abandoning the strategy of integrated development in favour of one of separation

Final Stages

- The Bank proposal called for the entire flow of the eastern rivers to be allocated to India, and all of the western rivers, with the exception of a small amount from the Jhelum, to be allocated to Pakistan
- According to the proposal, the two sides would agree to a transition period while Pakistan would complete link canals dividing the watershed, during which India would continue to allow Pakistan's historic use to continue to flow from the eastern rivers
- On 25 March 1954, India accepted the proposal as the basis for agreement. Pakistan viewed the proposal with more trepidation, and gave only qualified acceptance on 28 July 1954
- To help facilitate an agreement, the Bank issued an aide memoire, calling for more storage on the western rivers, and suggesting India's financial liability for "replacement facilities" -- increased storage facilities and enlarged link canals in Pakistan which could be recognized as the cost replacement of pre-partition canals

The Bottlenecks

- Little progress was made until representatives from the two countries met in May 1958. Main points in contention included: whether the main replacement storage facility ought to be on the Jhelum or Indus rivers -- Pakistan preferred the latter but the Bank argued that the former was more cost-effective;
- what the total cost of new development would be and who would pay for it – India's position was that it would only pay for "replacement" and not "development" facilities
- In 1958, Pakistan proposed a plan including two major storage facilities -- one each on the Jhelum and the Indus; three smaller dams on both tributaries; and expanded link canals.
- India, objecting both to the extent and the cost of the Pakistani proposal, approximately $1.12 billion, proposed an alternative plan which was smaller in scale, but which Pakistan rejected because it necessitated continued reliance on Indian water deliveries

World Bank's Mediation Plan

- Bank suggested an alternative approach in a visit to India and Pakistan in May. Perhaps one might settle on a specific amount for which India is responsible, rather than arguing over individual works
- The Bank might then help raise additional funds among the international community development for watershed development. India was offered help with construction of its Beas Dam, and Pakistan's plan, including both the proposed dams would be looked at favourably
- With these conditions, both sides agreed to a fixed payment settlement, and to a ten-year transition period during which India would continue to provide Pakistan's historic flows to continue
- In August 1959, Bank organized a consortium of donors to support development in the Indus basin, which raised close to $900 million, in addition to India's commitment of $174 million.
- The Indus Water Treaty was signed in Karachi on 19 September 1960 and government ratifications were exchanged in Delhi in January 1961

Final Provisions

- The main points of the treaty included:
- 1) an agreement that Pakistan would receive unrestricted use of the western rivers, which India would allow to flow unimpeded, with minor exceptions;
- 2) provisions for three dams, eight link canals, three barrages, and 2500 tube wells to be built in Pakistan;
- 3) a ten-year transition period, from 1 April 1960 to 31 March 1970, during which water would continue to be supplied to Pakistan according to a detailed schedule;
- 4) a schedule for India to provide its fixed financial contribution of $62 million, in ten annual instalments during the transition period;
- 5) additional provisions for data exchange and future cooperation.
- 6) The treaty also established the Permanent Indus Commission, made up of one Commissioner of Indus Waters from each country.
  - The two Commissioners would meet annually in order to: establish and promote cooperative arrangements for the treaty implementation;
  - promote cooperation between the Parties in the development of the waters of the Indus system;
  - examine and resolve by agreement any question that may arise between the Parties concerning interpretation or implementation of the Treaty;
  - submit an annual report to the two governments.

Indo-Nepal Water Treaty

Agreement Between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and Government of India Concerning the Construction of Trisuli Hydro-electric Project

Kathmandu, 20 November 1958

PREAMBLE

Whereas His Majesty's Government of Nepal are keen to develop the Hydro-electric potential in their country, and Government of India are willing to co-operate with His Majesty's Government of-Nepal to attain this objective, the two Governments have entered into this Agreement regarding the construction of the Trisuli Hydro-electric Project (hereinafter called the Project) at a cost of approximately Rs. 3.5 crores as defined hereunder :

(i) (a) A pick-up weir, water conductor system and a power station located at Trisuli, which will comprise the entire civil works for the 21,000 K.W. scheme;

(b) The initial installation at the power station will be comprised of three generating units of 3,000 K.W. and the scheme would be capable of expansion with an ultimate installation of 7 units of 3,000 K.W. The fourth generating unit of 3,000 K.W. will also be installed taking into account the actual demand for power.

(ii) Transmission lines to convey power from the above power station to Kathmandu valley with a sub-station located near Kathmandu.

With nearly 6,000 rivers and streams flowing from Nepal to India, carrying 174 billion cubic metres of water per year, hydropower is an area that has been identified as having immense potential for cooperation between the two countries. However, despite having a long history in cooperation on water resources, the issue has been the subject of a substantial controversy between the two countries.

While problems such as lack of adequate studies, non-availability of data, lack of finance, expertise and technological know-how to exploit water resources have been cited as reasons for lack of progress in projects development,

Nepal has frequently accused India of behaving unfairly on the issue of sharing of river waters. For instance, when India constructed the Kosi and Gandak barrages in 1963 and 1970 respectively, which were designed to help both states in irrigation and flood control, Nepal alleged that it had neither received its fair share of irrigation waters in lieu of agricultural land for construction purposes, nor adequate compensation for its farmers.

So acute was the mistrust against India, that in its new Constitution in 1991, Nepal incorporated Article 126, which stated that henceforth, all agreements on natural resources signed with a foreign country would have to be ratified by a two-thirds majority by a joint parliamentary session.

Despite this clause, the treaty on Mahakali that was signed after an all-party consensus, was the subject of considerable controversy, necessitating the addition of four strictures at the time of ratification. Given this background, the signing of an agreement calling for the setting up of a task force within three months to explore the development of hydropower projects in Nepal is encouraging. However, to allay any misunderstanding, emphasis was laid on third party investment and technical expertise, including from international organisations. Though Nepal has an estimated hydropower potential of 83,000 MW, actual production is only 240 MW per annum, that is, less than one per cent of potential. Moreover, Nepal’s per capita consumption of electricity is as low as 19 KWH with only 15 per cent of the population having access to power.

http://www.financialexpress.com/printer/news/52772/

MAHAKALI TREATY 1996

TREATY BETWEEN HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CONCERNING THE INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MAHAKALI RIVER INCLUDING SARADA BARRAGE, TANAKPUR BARRAGE AND PANCHESHWAR PROJECT.

Source: https://www.google.co.in/

Agreement Details

- Nepal shall have the right to a supply of 28.35 m3/s (1000 cusecs) of water from the Sarada Barrage in the wet season (i.e. from 15th May to 15 th October) and 4.25 m3/s (150 cusecs) in the dry season (i.e. from 16th October to 14th May).
- India shall maintain a flow of not less than 10 m3/s (350 cusecs) downstream of the Sarada Barrage in the Mahakali River to maintain and preserve the river eco-system.
- In case the Sarada Barrage becomes non-functional due to any cause: (a) Nepal shall have the right to a supply of water as mentioned in Paragraph 1 of Article, by using the head regulator (s) mentioned in Paragraph 2 of Article 2 herein. Such a supply of water shall be in addition to the water to be supplied to Nepal pursuant to Paragraph 2 of Article 2.
- India shall maintain the river flow pursuant to Paragraph 2 of this Article from the tailrace of the Tanakpur Power Station downstream of the Sarada Barrage.

Territorial Concession

For the construction of the eastern afflux bund of the Tanakpur Barrage, a Jimuwa and tying it up to the high ground in the Nepalese territory at EL 250 M, Nepal gives its consent to use a piece of land of about 577 metres in length (an area of about 2.9 hectares) of the Nepalese territory at the Jimuwa Village in Mahendranagar Municipal area and a certain portion of the No-Man's Land on either side of the border. The Nepalese land consented to be so used and the land lying on the west of the said land (about 9 hectares) upto the Nepal-India border which forms a part of the pondage area, including the natural resources endowment lying within that area, remains under the continued sovereignty and control of Nepal and Nepal is free to exercise all attendant rights thereto. In lieu of the eastern afflux bund of the Tanakpur Barrage, at Jimuwa thus constructed, Nepal shall have the right to: (a) A supply of 28.35 m3/s (1000 cusecs) of water in the wet season (i.e. from 15th May to 15th October) and 8.50.m 3/s (300 cusecs) in the dry seasons (i.e. from 16th October to 14th May) from the date of the entry into force of this Treaty. For this purpose and for the purposes of Article 1, herein India shall construct the head regulator (s) near the left under sluice of the Tanakpur Barrage and also the waterways of the required capacity upto the Nepal-India border.

Hydroelectricity

- India shall construct a 132 KV transmission line upto the Nepal-India border from the Tanakpur Power Station (which has, at present, an installed capacity of 120,000 kilowatt generating 448.4 millions kilowatt-hour of energy annually on 90 percent dependable year flow)
- Following arrangements shall be made at the Tanakpur Barrage at the time of development of any storage project(s) including Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project upstream of the Tanakpur Barrage: (a) Additional head regulator and the necessary waterways, as required, up to the NepaI-India border shall be constructed to supply additional water to Nepal. Such head regulator and waterways shall be operated jointly.
- Nepal shall have additional energy equal to half of the incremental energy generated from the Tanakpur Power Station, on a continuous basis from the date of augmentation of the flow of the Mahakali River and shall bear half of the additional operation cost and, if required, half of the additional capital cost at the Tanakpur Power Station for the generation of such incremental energy. Article 3 Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project (hereinafter referred to as the “Project”) is to be constructed on a stretch of the Mahakali River where, it forms the boundary between the two countries and hence both the parties agree that they have equal entitlement in the utilization of the waters of the Mahakali River without prejudice to their respective existing consumptive uses of the waters of the Mahakali River. Therefore, both the Parties agree to implement the Project in the Mahakali River in accordance with the Detailed Project Report (DPR) being jointly prepared by them.
- The Project shall be designed and implemented on the basis of the following principles: (a) The Project shall, as would be agreed between the parties, be designed to produce the maximum total net benefit. All benefits accruing to both the Parties, with the development of the Project in the forms of power, irrigation, flood control etc., shall be assessed. (b) The Project shall be implemented or caused to be implemented as an integrated project including power stations of equal capacity on each side of the Mahakali River. The two power stations shall be operated in an integrated manner and the total energy generated shall be shared equally between the Parties. (c) The cost of the Project shall be borne by the Parties in proportion to the benefits accruing to them. Both the Parties shall jointly endeavour to mobilize the finance required for the implementation of the Project. (d) A portion of Nepal’s share of energy shall be sold to India. The quantum of such energy and its price shall be mutually agreed upon between the Parties.

Specific Considerations

- India shall supply 10m3/s (350 cusecs) of water for the irrigation of Dodhara –Chandani area of Nepalese Territory.
- Water requirements of Nepal shall be given prime consideration in the utilization of the waters of the Mahakali River.
- Both the parties shall be entitled to draw their share of waters of the Mahakali River from the Tanakpur Barrage and/or other mutually agreed points as provided for in this Treaty and any subsequent agreement between the Parties.
- Any project, other than those mentioned herein, to be developed in the Mahakali River, where it is a boundary river, shall be designed and implemented by an agreement between the Parties on the principles established by this Treaty.
- In order to maintain the flow and level of the waters of the Mahakali River, each Party undertakes not to use or obstruct or divert the waters of the Mahakali River adversely affecting its natural flow and level except by an agreement between the Parties.
- Provided, however, this shall not preclude the use of the waters of the Mahakali River by the local communities living along both sides of the Mahakali River, not exceeding five percent of the average Annual flow at Pancheshwar.
- This Treaty shall not preclude planning, survey, development and operation of any work on the tributaries of the Mahakali River to be carried out independently by each Party in its own territory without adversely affecting the provision of Article 7 of this Treaty.

Institutional Arrangement

- There shall be a Mahakali River Commission (hereinafter referred to as the “Commission”).
- The Commission shall be guided by the principles of equality, mutual benefit and no harm to either Party.
- The Commission shall be composed of equal number of representatives from both the Parties.
- The functions of the Commission shall, inter-alia include the following: a) To seek information on and, if necessary, inspect all structures included in the Treaty and make recommendations to both the Parties to take steps which shall be necessary to implement the provisions of this Treaty. b) To make recommendations to both the Parties for the conservation and utilization of the Mahakali River as envisaged and provided for in this Treaty. c) To provide expert evaluation of projects and recommendations there to. d) To co-ordinate and monitor plans of actions arising out of the implementation of this Treaty; and e) To examine any differences arising between the Parties concerning the interpretation and application of this Treaty.

Dispute Resolution

- If the Commission fails under Article 9 of this Treaty, to recommend its opinion after examining the differences of the Parties within three (3) months of such reference to the Commission or either Party disagrees with the recommendation of the Commission, then a dispute shall be deemed to have been arisen which shall then be submitted to arbitration for decision. In so doing either Party shall give three (3) months prior notice to the other Party.
- Arbitration shall be conducted by a tribunal composed of three arbitrators. One arbitrator shall be nominated by Nepal, one by India, with neither country to nominate its own national and the third arbitrator shall be appointed jointly, who, as a member of the tribunal, shall preside over such tribunal. In the event that the Parties are unable to agree upon the third arbitrator within ninety (90) days after receipt of a proposal, either Party may request the Secretary-General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague to appoint such arbitrator who shall not be a national of either country.

New Deal Replacing Old

- The earlier understanding reached between the Parties concerning the utilization of the water of the Mahakali River from the Sarada Barrage and the Tanakpur Barrage, which have been incorporated herein, shall be deemed to have been replaced by this Treaty.
- This Treaty shall be subject to ratification and shall enter into force on the date of exchange of instruments of ratification. It shall remain valid for a period of seventy five (75) years from the date of its entry into force.
- This Treaty shall be reviewed by both the Parties at ten (10) years interval or earlier as required by either Party and make amendments thereto, if necessary. 4. Agreements, as required, shall be entered into by the Parties to give effect to the provisions of this Treaty. Done at New Delhi, India, on the twelfth day of February of the year one thousand nine hundred ninety six.

Pancheshwar MPP Treaty

Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project (PMP) is a bi-national hydropower project to be developed in Mahakali River bordering Nepal and India. Development of PMP, is a mutual interest project between two countries, and is covered under integrated Mahakali Treaty signed between Nepal and India according to which, equal sizes of underground power house i.e. of 3240MV will be constructed on each side of Mahakali river in India and Nepal. Moreover, the PMP also offer benefit of regulated water for irrigation to a vast area of agricultural land both in Nepal and India along with benefit of flood control at downstream.

"In September 2014, the governing body of the Pancheshwar Development Authority, the project implementing body, met for the first time. This led to formal establishment of the PDA. Recently, WAPCOS Ltd, an Indian state-owned company hired to prepare the detailed project report, submitted the final draft of the DPR. Report says Pancheshwar, along with Rupaligad project, can generate around 12 billion units of electricity per year." https://thehimalayantimes.com/business/pancheshwar-project-will-tallest-dam-world/

Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project:

- Source: http://www.wrmin.nic.in/
- Required field investigations for the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project have been completed by a Joint Project Office (JPO-PI) in 2002 (except for some confirmatory tests). But mutually acceptable DPR of Pancheshwar Project could not be finalized due to differences on certain contentious issues.
- During the 3rd meeting of Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) held from 29.09.08 to 01-10-08 at Kathmandu (Nepal), it was decided to set up Pancheshwar Development Authority (PDA) at the earliest for the development, execution and operation of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project.

SaptaKosi High Dam Project and SUN Kosi

- a Joint Project Office (JPO) was set up in August' 2004 to undertake detailed field investigations for preparation of DPR of SaptaKosi High Dam Project at Barakshetra, in Nepal. The field investigations include the field works of Sunkosi diversion scheme (constructing a dam at Kurule so that the Sunkosi water could be diverted to the Kamla basin through a tunnel) in the scope of work of JPO.
- In Kamla basin, a dam coupled with a barrage was envisaged and included in the scope of study by the JPO. Because of political instability and frequent strikes/ bandhs in Nepal, the field investigations at SaptaKosi High Dam sites have been delayed.

Kamla and Bagmati Multipurpose Projects

- The JPO-SKSKI has also been entrusted to undertake the feasibility study of Kamla Dam and preliminary study of Bagmati Dam Projects. These studies are in progress.
- Karnali Multipurpose Project and its present status At present, there is no exchange of views between the two sides.