MINUTES
OF THE
FIRST MEETING
OF
J.C.E
ON
SAPTA KOSHI
HELD IN
Kathamndu
ON
February 13 - 14, 1992
Minutes of the First meeting of the Joint Committee of Experts (JCE) of India and Nepal on Sapta Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project held in Kathmandu from February 13 to 14, 1992.

An understanding was reached between His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMG/N) and Government of India (GOI) on preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Sapta Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project during the visit of the Rt. Honorable Prime Minister of Nepal to India in December 1991. The understanding reached reads as follows:

"Sapta Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project:--

Joint studies/investigations as are necessary to finalize the parameters of the Sapta Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project will be carried out expeditiously. For this purpose, a Joint Committee of Experts shall be constituted to finalize the modalities of the investigations and the method of assessment of benefits. Thereafter, the two sides will start the investigations of the project, with a view to preparing a detailed project report at the earliest."

As a follow up of the above understanding, the First meeting of the Joint Committee of Experts (JCE) on Sapta Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project was convened in Kathmandu from February 13 to 14, 1992. The Nepalese team was led by Mr. N. Ansari, Joint-secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, HMG/N and the Indian team was led by Mr. S. Nath, Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission, GOI. Prior to the meeting, a joint visit to the site was undertaken on February 11, 1992. The list of the participants is given in Annex I.

1. The meeting opened with the Nepalese team leader introducing the Nepalese members. In the opening remarks, the Nepalese team leader welcomed the Indian delegates and stressed the importance of this first meeting of Joint Committee of Experts (JCE) in
pursuing the understanding reached between the Prime Ministers of two countries in December 1991. The Nepalese team leader proposed an agenda for adoption to discuss (i) the modalities of the investigations and (ii) the methodologies for the assessment of benefits. The team leader also highlighted the potential catastrophe of the Koshi floods and the role of this project in resolving problems of affected area and also in uplifting the standard of living of the people of both the countries in general and the region in particular by harnessing the water resources of Sapta Koshi.

2. In his opening remarks, the leader of the Indian team thanked His Majesty's Government of Nepal for the courtesy extended to the Indian team. The Indian team leader mentioned that both the governments were conscious of the mutual benefits of utilizing the vast water resources potential. In that regard, he expressed that the construction of Sapta Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project would yield sizable benefits to both Nepal and India in the areas of irrigation, hydro power and flood control. The leader of the Indian team requested that HMG/N grant permission to the Government of India (GOI) to take up detailed surveys and investigations leading to preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for which GOI would arrange necessary finance. He further requested that permission be granted to start the construction/improvement of access road to dam site and temporary quarters for the investigating staff, which would facilitate the field investigation work.

3. The following agenda was adopted for deliberation:

i) Objectives and role of the project,

ii) Benefits of the project,

iii) Methodologies of assessment of the benefits, and

iv) Modalities of investigation and studies.
4. Summary record of discussions on the agenda items is as follows:—

i) Objectives and Role of the Project

Nepalese side suggested that the Sapta Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project should be investigated and studied to meet the following objectives in terms of fulfilling the requirements of both the countries from its development:

a) Flood Control/Management
b) Silt Control
c) Irrigation Development
d) Hydro Power Generation
e) Navigation Prospects

The Indian side agreed to the objective (a) to (d) above. However, regarding navigational aspects they stated that though it was agreed that one of the benefits of Water Resources development in any basin could be navigational benefits, it was indicated by them that in a river like Koshi having pronounced meandering tendency, navigation was very difficult and prohibitively costly. In any case navigational aspects could always be looked into separately and need not be linked with immediate taking up of Sapta Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project of which "Feasibility Report" prepared by Central Water Commission, (CWC), GOI, was already available.

The Nepalese side reiterated that the navigational aspect was a vital component of the Sapta Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project and therefore, this aspect must be studied and included in the scope of the investigations and studies to be taken up.
After deliberations it was agreed to refer the matter to the respective Governments for directions.

It was also agreed that Sapta Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project would be studied such that other water resources projects in the upstream reaches identified in the Koshi Basin are not adversely affected.

ii) Benefits of the Project

It was agreed by the JCE that the potential benefits of the Sapta Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project would be:

a) Flood control/management in Nepal and India;

b) Increased agricultural production through improved irrigation facilities in existing irrigated areas; and new irrigation areas to be commanded by the project in Nepal and India through increased regulated flow during lean periods; and,

c) Capacity and energy benefits in the Nepalese and Indian power systems.

The Nepalese side further stressed the inclusion of prospects for navigation from Bhimnagar to Calcutta through Koshi as a potential benefit. In view of what has been stated earlier in paragraph 4(i) it was decided to seek further directions from respective governments in this regard.
iii) Methodologies of Assessment of Benefits

The Nepalese side expressed the view that in order to facilitate the investigation and the studies and looking into other required arrangements, joint Inception Report was essential.

The Indian side indicated that the "Feasibility Report of May 1981" should serve the purpose of such an Inception Report. However, the Nepalese side desired to prepare a fresh Inception Report for which they sought available data from Indian side. This was agreed to by the latter. The nodal office in India for the acquisition of necessary information for the preparation of the Inception Report would be the Ganga Flood Control Commission, Sinchai Bhawan, Patna-800015.

iv) Modalities of Investigations and Studies

It was agreed that a draft Inception Report would be prepared by the Nepalese team within two to three months of receipt of the required information from India. This report would be sent to India for review and comments before finalization. The Inception Report would include, inter alia, the following aspect of investigation and studies:

- principles of assessment of benefits
- institutional/organizational arrangement
- scope of work
- cost estimate
- work schedule
- financing
The Nepalese team provided a tentative list enumerating the data and information required for the preparation of the Inception Report.

5. In order to make immediate headway in taking up surveys and investigations, the Indian side suggested to undertake the following works jointly at the earliest:

i) Topographical survey of dam area in 1:1,000 scale;

ii) Topographical survey of reservoir area in 1:15,000 scale;

iii) Surface geological survey of the dam site and reservoir area;

iv) Topographical survey of the command area in scale of 1:15,000; and,

v) Improvement of access road to dam site and construction of temporary quarters for investigating staff.

The Nepalese side agreed to process the matter expeditiously with HMG/N.

The Indian side indicated that the sub-surface geological investigations were time consuming items and therefore, requested Nepalese side to agree for taking up this joint investigations at the earliest. The Nepalese side agreed to pursue the matter.

6. The meeting was conducted in a very cordial manner and both the leaders of Indian and Nepalese teams exchanged pleasantries and thanked each other for cooperation.
7. It was decided to hold the next meeting of JCE in India after the Inception Report had been prepared and sent to India.

(S. Nath)  
Chairman  
Ganga Flood Control Commission  
Government of India  
Kathmandu  
February 14, 1992

(N. Ansari)  
Joint Secretary  
Ministry of Water Resources  
His Majesty's Government of Nepal
Annex I

FIRST MEETING OF JOINT COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS (JCE) ON SAPTA KOSHI HIGH DAM MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT

List of Participants

INDIAN TEAM

1. Mr. S. Nath
   Chairman
   Ganga Flood Control Commission – Team Leader

2. Mr. M. G. Joshi
   Chief Engineer (PIO)
   Central Water Commission – Member

3. Mr. R. Singh
   Chief Engineer (Hydro-Electric)
   Central Electricity Authority – Member

4. Mr. G. Pant
   Director (Geology), Sel. Grade
   Geological Survey of India – Member

5. Mr. T. N. Ray
   Chief Engineer
   Koshi Project, Government of Bihar – Member

6. Mr. A. R. Ghanashyam
   First Secretary
   Embassy of India
   Kathmandu – Member

7. Mr. B. P. Singh
   Director
   Ganga Flood Control Commission – Member Secretary

INVITEE

1. Mr. B. K. Verma
   Liaison Officer
   Government of Bihar
NEPALESE TEAM

1. Mr. N. Ansari
   Joint Secretary
   Ministry of Water Resources - Team Leader

2. Dr. A. B. Thapa
   Executive Director
   Water & Energy Commission Secretariat - Member

3. Mr. R. C. Chaudhary
   Director-in-Chief
   Nepal Electricity Authority - Member

4. Mr. M. M. Shrestha
   Deputy Director-General
   Department of Irrigation - Member

5. Mr. K. K. Shrestha
   Regional Director
   Eastern Region Irrigation Directorate Department of Irrigation - Member

6. Mr. B. R. Tuladhar
   Under Secretary
   Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Member

7. Dr. G. R. Bhatta
   Project Director
   Karnali (Chisapani) Multipurpose Project - Member Secretary

INVITEE

1. Mr. D. B. Thapa
   Director, Nepal Electricity Authority

2. Mr. A. D. Adhikary
   Divisional Engineer,
   Water and Energy Commission Secretariat

3. Mr. S. B. Malla
   Divisional Engineer,
   Ministry of Water Resources

4. Mr. K. P. Sharma
   Divisional Hydrologist
   Department of Hydrology & Meteorology