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Govt. of India
Ministry of Water Resources

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING
OF THE INTER SECTORAL ADVISORY GROUP FOR NATIONAL WATER MISSION
GOAL-I
HELD ON 27th DECEMBER, 2011 IN NEW DELHI**

The first meeting of the Inter Sectoral Advisory Group for National Water Mission "Goal-I : Comprehensive Water Data Base in Public Domain and Assessment of Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources" was held under the Chairmanship of Shri R.C. Jha, Chairman, Central Water Commission and Ex-Officio Secretary to Government of India on 27th December, 2011 in the Committee Room of Central Water Commission, Sewa Bhawan, R.K. Puram, New Delhi. The list of participants is at Annexure.

At the outset, the Chairman, CWC welcomed all the participants to the first meeting of the Inter Sectoral Advisory Group for National Water Mission Goal I, which was followed by self introduction by the participants. The Chairman, CWC, thereafter, requested Senior Joint Commissioner (PP), Ministry of Water Resources to take up each strategy identified for Goal-I for deliberation.

Strategy 1.1— Review and establishment of network for collection of additional necessary data

Senior Joint Commissioner (PP), Ministry of Water Resources informed that CWC has reviewed the hydro-meteorological network requirement for adequate data collection for water resources planning and flood forecasting. Accordingly, proposal for expansion of hydro-meteorological network of CWC from present 878 sites to about 2900 G&D sites had been made for the 12th Five Year Plan.

Chairman, CWC gave details about hydro-meteorological data collection network review exercise undertaken by CWC and stated that the State Governments have also been involved appropriately in finalising the requisite network.

Additional Secretary (WR) emphasized the need of standardization of hydro-meteorological data collection and its reporting all over the country and review of data dissemination policy also towards placing all data, other than classified, in public domain. He stated that a good effort has been made towards standardization of data collection and reporting under Hydrology Project I and II in the 13 States and that had to be extended to remaining States and UTs. The States have to be appropriately involved so that the country has a common inventory of sites and hydro-meteorological data.

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Representative of Ministry of Earth Sciences stated that the rainfall data is freely available and only cost of handling data is charged from the users. India Meteorology Department (IMD) has initiated a rainfall registration scheme towards preparing common inventory of rainfall sites and data. As regards tidal data, National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Survey of India (SI) and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) could be consulted. Chairman, CWC suggested that the forum of Coastal Protection and Development Advisory Committee (CPDAC) wherein all coastal States are represented, could be utilized for compilation of tidal data.

Dit. CWC. In-charge

Strategy 1.2— Development of Water Resources Information System

Chief Engineer (EMO), CWC informed that the first phase of Water Resources Information System has already been launched and the next phase is expected to be launched by March, 2012. It was informed that "An inventory of glacial lakes/water bodies in the Himalayan region of Indian River Basins" has also been prepared by CWC. It has been decided that the information within Indian territory may be placed on Water Resources Information System.

Director, National Institute of Hydrology (NIH) suggested that Geological Survey of India and Wadia Institute for Himalayan Geology had also prepared inventories of glaciers, which should also be compiled in Water Resources Information System.

Additional Secretary (Water Resources) informed that there is a proposal by CWC to set up National Water Information Centre in the XIIth Five Year Plan which may be taken up in right earnest.

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Strategy 1.3— Development/implementation of modern technology for measurement of various data

Chairman, CWC informed that efforts are being made to modernize collection of hydro-meteorological data through use of automated sensors. Telemetry system is also being installed for acquisition of data on real time basis. NIH, Roorkee may make a proposal to develop new technologies including isotopes methods and work out suitability for observation on Indian rivers/canals at various locations.

RD
FM
NIH

Strategy 1.4— Developing inventory of wetland

Senior Joint Commissioner (PP), Ministry of Water Resources informed that Ministry of Environment & Forests is preparing an inventory of wetlands through National Remote Sensing Agency. Inventory of wetlands in 9 States has been prepared so far and work is in progress for other States. Ministry of Environment & Forests has also launched a scheme of conservation and monitoring of wetlands. It was decided that MoEF would be requested to share the data for putting on WRIS.

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Strategy 1.5— Research and studies on all aspects related to impact of climate change on water resources including quality aspects of water resources with active collaboration of all research organizations working in the area of climate change

Senior Joint Commissioner (PP), Ministry of Water Resources informed that a meeting to undertake downscaling climate change models for assessment of impact of climate change on water resources was convened in Ministry of Water Resources and thereafter Chief Engineer (P&D), CWC & Advisor (T), NWM was requested to evolve a uniform set of deliverables and identify institutions to take up such research studies. Accordingly, CWC has identified the institutions and has written letters to seek their consent.

Director, NIH suggested that there should be uniformity in the methodology of downscaling climate change model studies.

Director (Climate Change), CWC suggested that a workshop could be organized to all interested institutes to standardize the methodology to be adopted in such studies. He also highlighted the need of streamlining the procedure for sanction of grants-in-aid since the present procedure being valid under the scheme of Research and Development in Water Resources Sector is tardy. He emphasized that since the studies are required to be done in mission mode, their administrative approval and funding should not take more than 2-3 month's time. A group of officers of Climate Change Cells under MoWR may examine the proposals and may be approved by a Committee under the Mission Director for funding.

Additional Secretary (WR) suggested that a policy decision would be taken soon to streamline the procedure for expeditious sanction of grants-in-aid for identified research studies, especially for the National Water Mission. He asked Senior Joint Commissioner (PP) to put up a proposal in this regard.

Strategy 1.6— Reassessment of basin wise water situation

PPMO

Chairman, CWC informed that the Committee constituted to reassess the basin-wise water situation has agreed upon methodology for assessment of water availability and studies have been completed for two river basins in the country.

Senior Joint Commissioner (PP), MoWR requested that parallel action for assessment of water availability in all the river basins should be taken up in order to have revised assessment of water availability quickly. He informed that Prime Minister's Office and Planning Commission are very keen on having an early assessment of water availability as the previous assessment was made in 1993.

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Chairman, CWC asked Chief Engineer (BPMo) to initiate studies in all the river basins of the country.

Strategy 1.7— Projection of the impact of climate change on water resources

Senior Joint Commissioner (PP), MoWR informed that this aspect is linked with Strategy 1.5 and 1.6.

Chairman, CWC invited comments from the State Governments.

After some deliberations, Chairman, CWC suggested to take up studies for impacts of climate change on water resources on basin/sub-basin scale, hydrological and meteorological time series data would be primary requirement. It has been pointed out that at present there is no data sharing arrangement among agencies engaged in related data collection. It has been decided that a small group of officers from IMD, IITM, CWC, CGWB and MoES may be constituted to work out seamless data sharing arrangement.

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The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

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Annexure

FIRST MEETING OF THE INTER SECTORAL ADVISORY GROUP FOR NATIONAL WATER
MISSION GOAL-I HELD ON 27th DECEMBER, 2011 IN NEW DELHI

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Shri R.C. Jha, Chairman, Central Water Commission—in Chair
2. G. Mohan Kumar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources
3. Shri B. Mukhopadhyay, Dy. Director General, India Meteorology Department,
Ministry of Earth Sciences
4. Shri B.G. Kaushik, Chief Engineer (BPMO), Central Water Commission
5. Shri W.M. Tembhurney, Chief Engineer (EMO), Central Water Commission
6. Shri S.P. Vashishth, Director (MGNREGA), Ministry of Rural Development
7. Shri R.D. Singh, Director, National Institute of Hydrology
8. Shri M.K. Sinha, Sr. Joint Commissioner (PP); Ministry of Water Resources
9. Shri A.K. Kharya, Director (CC), Central Water Commission
10. Dr. S.K. Jain, Scientist 'D', Central Ground Water Board
11. Shri B. Rath, Deputy Commissioner (RFS), Department of Agricultural &
Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture
12. Shri Arun Kumar Jha, Joint Director, Hydrology Directorate, Govt. of Bihar
13. Shri R.D. Singh, Asstt. Executive Engineer & Liaison Officer, Govt. of Tamil Nadu