

‘Desert dams to be constructed in Northern Badia by 2014’

by Hana Namrouqa | Sep 30, 2013 | 23:03

<http://jordantimes.com/desert-dams-to-be-constructed-in-northern-badia-by-2014>

A committee to implement water harvesting and natural pasture development projects in the Northern Badia seeks to renovate the Waleh Dam to ensure a sustainable supply of fodder and barley to cattle owners (File photo)

AMMAN — Authorities have formed a new technical committee to implement water harvesting and natural pasture development projects in the Northern Badia under the environmental compensation programme, according to a statement issued Monday.

Under the projects, desert dams will be constructed in the Northern Badia by the year 2014 and natural pastures there will be rehabilitated to raise livestock production, in addition to training livestock breeders on veterinary services, according to a statement e-mailed to The Jordan Times.

Environment Minister Taher Shakhshir said in the statement that renovating the Waleh Dam tops the committee’s priorities.

“Completing the renovation of the Waleh Dam means a sustainable supply of fodder and barley to cattle owners in the badia,” Shakhshir added.

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation is raising the walls of the 8.18mcm Waleh Dam in Tafileh as it reaches its maximum capacity every winter and overflows, thus wasting hundreds of thousands of cubic metres of water.

The environmental compensation programme, which seeks to revive the badia’s ecosystems and improve the living conditions of its residents, is funded through the compensation granted to Jordan by the UN Compensation Committee (UNCC).

The area’s terrestrial ecosystems were severely damaged following the 1991 Gulf War, when masses of refugees and their livestock — estimated at 1.8 million sheep, goats and camels — crossed the border and stayed in the country for several months.

In 2005, the UNCC decided to grant Jordan \$160.5 million in compensation for damage incurred by the Kingdom’s water, environment, wildlife, marine life and agriculture in the aftermath of the first Gulf War, in addition to \$1.4 million to tackle the salinity of the country’s underground water basins.

The funds are used to support projects that focus on restoring the badia’s ecosystem to its status before 1990 and tackling the negative consequences of random grazing and wildlife deterioration.

GDF SUEZ bolsters plans for tidal power generation in France

September 30, 2013

By PennEnergy Editorial Staff

Source: GDF Suez

<http://www.pennenergy.com/articles/pennenergy/2013/09/gdf-suez-bolsters-plans-for-tidal-power-generation-in-france.html>

In the presence of the President of the French Republic, Mr François Hollande, GDF SUEZ and ALSTOM signed a partnership agreement to study integrating the marine current turbine developed by ALSTOM to the pilot project developed by GDF SUEZ at Raz Blanchard.

This agreement is part of the strategy of GDF SUEZ to bring together all interests in a position to participate in the creation of a new French industrial sector.

GDF SUEZ is thus consolidating its industrial partnerships to outfit the pilot tidal energy farm at Raz Blanchard with ALSTOM turbines in complement to the VOITH turbines. Last February, GDF SUEZ signed a first partnership agreement with VOITH, CMN, Cofely-Endel and ACE for assembly and maintenance of a pilot turbine plant at Cherbourg.

Through the present agreement, the partners are marshaling and pooling their expertise and skills to:

- create a marine current sector in France;
- achieve industrial competitiveness and performance;
- schedule commissioning the first machines as of 2016;
- develop an optimized operating and maintenance strategy;
- ensure the safety of persons and property.

The goal of GDF SUEZ is to be front-line player in marine current renewable energy and position itself at the two largest French tidal power sites where 80% of the potential of this energy source are concentrated – Raz Blanchard off the Cotentin coast, and Fromveur offshore Finistère. In the Fromveur zone, GDF SUEZ is continuing its development studies based on a partnership agreement signed in June 2012 with the Quimper based company SABELLA that is currently completing the construction of the D10 tidal energy turbine.

GDF SUEZ develops its marine current projects together with local players and therefore takes environmental considerations and maritime practices into account, particularly those important to the local fishing industry.

With close to 10,000 MW of installed power capacity in France, more than 50% of which from renewable energy sources, GDF SUEZ has made renewable energy one of the major focuses of its development. For example, the Group is France's leader in onshore wind power, with over 1,200 MW of power in production, and the country's second largest hydroelectric power producer, with 3,800 MW of installed capacity.

Governments must encourage investment in climate resilience

2013-09-29 23:06:40

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/1d203a24-04f8-11e3-9e71-00144feab7de,s01=1.html>

The thick mangroves shielding southern Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City from storm surges demonstrate a "green" rather than "grey" approach to climate resilience - an approach that is gaining attention.

Yet whether restoring wetlands or building dykes, the pressure on public finances means that paying for climate proofing infrastructure will require ever more innovation.

In recent decades, many governments have recognised that "hard infrastructure" such as dams and dykes can be more costly and less effective than nature's barriers.

While the long-term success of ecosystems as defences against extreme weather has yet to be tested, the severity of some recent climate events has called the reliability of traditional infrastructure into question.

"You only have to look at the Japanese earthquake [in 2011] to recognise that all of these things have limits," says Tom Mitchell, head of climate change at the London-based Overseas Development Institute.

David Bresch, head of sustainability and political risk management at Swiss Re, the reinsurer, stresses the need to make investments on a case-by-case basis.

"Sometimes wetlands are more effective in mitigating coastal risks than building large dams - but in other places large dams are part of the solution," he says. "It's often a basket of options."

These options have expanded to include digital technology. With the assistance of sensors wirelessly connected to computers, data analytics software can monitor climate risks as they develop.

The US-based World Resources Institute is applying these technologies to problems such as water scarcity and deforestation. The WRI is developing a tool called Global Forest Watch that uses satellite and remote sensing technologies to provide two-weekly monitoring of forest cover for individual hectares.

"That's going to transform the way forests are managed," says Andrew Steer, WRI president and chief executive. He adds that similar technologies can be used to manage water risks, using the vast capacity of computing to monitor and analyse changes in river levels, water flows and risks of pollution.

Technology is a critical tool in creating early warning systems. In Rio de Janeiro, city authorities have worked with IBM, the technology company, to create an automated alert system that uses email and instant messaging to warn of changes in flood and landslide forecasts for the city.

While an increasingly large menu of options - from data analytics to ecosystem barriers - is becoming available, the bigger problem is finding the means to finance these investments.

International agreements have created some sources of funding for climate change-related investments. These have tended to focus on climate mitigation measures, such as energy efficiency or the promotion of renewable energy.

"Adaptation finance has been the poor sister to mitigation finance in the 20 years since the creation of the [UN] Framework Convention on Climate Change," says Mr Steer.

This is changing. "In the past few years, everyone has woken up to the fact that we haven't succeeded in preventing climate change, so we now need to put a lot more resources into adaptation," adds Mr Steer.

With forethought, much can be achieved without spending large amounts of money. In developing countries, this might mean avoiding the construction of single storey buildings.

"If you build schools that have two storeys, there is somewhere for people to go in a flood," says Mr Steer. "So there are simple things you can do."

In places where ageing infrastructure is in need of being upgraded, factoring climate change risks into those upgrades requires only incremental increases in funding.

"Since you have to upgrade it anyway, why not do it in a resilient way?" asks Mr Bresch. "And do not flood proof for today's flood risk, but look into the future to see whether there is a likelihood of more frequent events."

Yet upgrades can only go so far. Given the rise in number and severity of recent storms, floods and droughts, more investment will be needed.

For some governments, the prospect of deterring foreign investors creates an incentive. Mr Mitchell cites the 2011 floods in Bangkok and the Thai government's subsequent spending on defensive walls around industrial sites.

"If government is not prepared to support the construction of large scale defences, then industry will move elsewhere," he says.

"And for the Thai government, the thought of that kind of capital flight to other markets was unthinkable."

Some innovative financing options are starting to emerge. Through its Green Bonds the World Bank raises funds from investors to lend to projects that are seeking to mitigate and create resilience to climate change.

Eligible adaptation projects include reforestation or watershed initiatives that offer protection against floods, sustainable forest management projects and the development of agricultural systems that strengthen food security and reduce deforestation.

Government efforts to harness private capital can be applied locally, too. Examples include the tax breaks some cities offer to apartment owners to construct green roofs, which act as giant sponges, soaking up storm water and allowing it to drain away gradually.

Given the shortage of public resources, it will be critical for governments to find ways of encouraging individuals and businesses to invest in climate resilience.

"This is an area that's quite untapped," says Mr Mitchell. "But we're beginning to see some interesting approaches."

RDC : l'accord de vente d'électricité à l'Afrique du sud sera conclu en octobre

septembre 29, 2013

L'accord de vente de l'énergie qui sera produite par le barrage électrique Inga III entre Kinshasa et Pretoria sera conclu à la fin du mois d'octobre prochain lors de la visite en RDC du président Sud-africain, Jacob Zuma, pour un éventuel sommet régional. Les termes du contrat prévoient l'achat par l'Afrique du Sud de 2 500 MegaWatt (MW), soit plus de la moitié de la capacité totale du projet Inga III évalué à 4 800 MW.

Un conseiller du gouvernement congolais, cité par l'AFP, explique que les 1300 MW produits par Inga III seraient destinés aux industries minières du Katanga. Ces entreprises ont atteint une production record de cuivre et de cobalt en 2012 mais leur développement est limité par le manque d'énergie disponible.

Le reste de la production de ce barrage bénéficierait à la population congolaise, toujours selon la même source.

Ce contrat, déjà paraphé au niveau ministériel, rend le projet Inga III plus viable pour les investisseurs, ajoute le conseiller.

La construction du barrage d'Inga III pourrait coûter autour de 8,5 milliards de dollars selon le gouvernement. Le coût total est évalué à 12,5 milliards de dollars compte tenu des frais connexes.

Les travaux de construction pourraient débuter en octobre 2015 et la mise en service pourrait intervenir entre 2020 et 2021.

Opposition parties say more dams mask problem

Updated at 5:10 pm on 30 September 2013

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/political/223184/opposition-parties-say-more-dams-mask-problem>

Opposition parties say building more dams is not going to solve the underlying cause of climate change.

A new report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change forecasts an increased risk of drought and heat waves globally.

Federated Farmers suggests building more water-storage facilities is a way to stave off the effects of an increase in droughts.

But Labour and the Green Party say building more dams would just mask the problem. They say greenhouse gas emissions need to be reduced as a first step.

TVA breaks record for power generation from its dams

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2013/oct/03/tva-breaks-record-power-generation-its-dams/?partner=RSS>

TVA generated more electricity during the fiscal year ending Sept. 30 than in any year in its 80-year history, the federal utility announced today.

Above-average rainfall and water runoff allowed TVA's 29 hydroelectric dams to generate 18.5 million megawatt-hours of electricity, enough to serve 1.2 million homes for a year. This breaks TVA's previous record, set in 1973, by 122,000 megawatt-hours.

"It has been a wet year and our River Operations team took advantage of it," John McCormick, TVA vice president of River Operations, said in a statement.

TVA dams were able to generate power even during months like July, when TVA usually has to hold on to water for the recreation season, McCormick said.

"In a typical year, conventional hydroelectric power makes up about 8 to 10 percent of TVA's total electricity production, with the bulk of our generation coming from nuclear, coal and natural gas. But In fiscal 2013 hydroelectric power contributed about 13 percent of the generation mix," McCormick said.

Pace: Dam best flood solution

<http://www.chieftain.com/news/breaking/1898679-120/creek-fountain-north-pueblo>

By CHRIS WOODKA The PuebLO Chieftain Published: October 4, 2013; Last modified: October 4, 2013 11:53PM

A large dam on Fountain Creek is needed to prevent the kind of damage from flooding witnessed in Northern Colorado last week, a county commissioner “When the big one comes, there will be added damage from growth in Colorado Springs and the burn scars of two large fires. The flooding will be worse than ever,” Commissioner Sal Pace said Thursday. “We only have to look at the tragic events in Boulder and Larimer counties, in Lyons and Estes Park, to see what could happen.” Floods, some rated as 500-year storms, overcame numerous small dams. Larger dams, such as Bear Creek and Cherry Creek reservoirs in the Denver Metro area, held up, he pointed out.

<http://www.enn.com/ecosystems/article/46505>

From: Alison Singer, [Worldwatch Institute](#),

Published October 4, 2013 12:40 PM

China's Dam Environmental Problem

Although the Chinese government has acknowledged the extensive environmental issues resulting from the Three Gorges Dam, the Ministry of Environmental Protection has given the green light for construction for another massive hydro project.

As the global leader in hydropower, China must adopt environmental policies that account for methane and carbon emissions as well as ecosystem disruptions and erosion potential.

Taking the lead in financing and building hydroelectric infrastructure in Southeast Asia, while also implementing domestic dam projects, China has funneled a vast amount of money into projects in Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar, as well as developing extensive systems of dams in its own waters. But while dams can provide relatively cheap, clean energy (hydroelectric power provides almost 20 percent of the world's electricity, more than any other alternative energy source), the associated ecosystem destruction and human relocation issues have triggered protests and concerns across China.

A new study by the Bertelsmann Foundation's Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) project reported that the majority of countries in the region, including China, have introduced substantial regulatory measures aimed at strengthening environmental impact assessment and planning capacities. Indeed, due to internal and external pressures, China has become apparently more focused on environmental issues. China introduced environmental assessment legislation in 2002, and increased investment in green technology by 18 percent in 2011.

However, despite making headway in its resource efficiency as it introduces cleaner technologies, China still lags behind many of its Asian counterparts. Although efforts to

reduce emissions and utilize alternative energy resources are promising, the rapid development of nations like China demands massive increases in energy, construction, and resultant emissions. Indeed, China appears to be increasing its per capita CO2 emissions. The SGI experts hold that China's environmental policy has largely failed to protect and preserve the sustainability of natural resources and quality of the environment.

The Three Gorges Dam in China, for example, displaced over 1 million people, flooded hundreds of towns and villages, and is full of industrial pollution from upstream sources, as well as pollutants from the submerged mines, dumps and factories. Scientists are also concerned about increased seismic activity, erosion, and the exacerbation of drought conditions resulting from the reservoir and its new microclimate.

Government shutdown's impact on hydropower industry unclear

WASHINGTON, D.C.
10/01/2013

Clouds of uncertainty hang over Washington D.C. after Congress was unable to pass the federal budget before the new fiscal year began at 12 a.m. this morning, sending the government into its first shutdown since 1995.

Exactly what the shutdown means for the hydroelectric power industry as a whole remains somewhat unclear, though many of the federal agencies operating hydropower projects seem to be following suit with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, whose operation orders include the "minimum required maintenance personnel of hydropower plants" in its civil works activities that are to be continued "without regard to available funding."

Likewise, the Bureau of Reclamation said it "will continue to deliver water and generate power during the shutdown period", with dam safety monitoring and infrastructure protection also continuing due in large part to non-appropriated funds.

So though day-to-day operations at many federally-operated hydropower plants will likely continue for the time being, project permitting, licensing, research and development appear most susceptible to the shutdown.

Agencies of particular relevance to the hydroelectric industry and the affects of their shutdowns include:

Department of Energy: As most of DOE's funding comes in the form of multi-year appropriations, the agency said it can continue to operate for some time before requiring furloughs. According to DOE's contingency plan, however, the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), which

oversees investments in clean energy technology, would be amongst the many offices to close should the department's money run low.

Department of the Interior: Interior has committed itself to continue its renewable energy production for the time being, though a release from Reclamation said the shutdown will suspend other activities, including "processing right-of-way and special-use permit applications and carrying out certain project management actions". Additionally, Reclamation said "contracts and agreements that are considered non-essential may be subject to suspension or stop work orders".

Environmental Protection Agency: The EPA has furloughed more than 90% of its staff, agency head Gina McCarthy said, leaving only enough to "keep the lights on and respond in the event of a significant emergency". EPA's litigation and legal support branches have shut down, in addition to its laboratory operations.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission: FERC has said it has some unspent appropriations from this past year and will thus continue normal operations for now. After that money is spent, the agency said it will reduce its staff to under 70. Hydroelectric inspections will continue, though regulatory filings will cease.

HydroWorld.com will continue updating this story as more information is collected.

<http://www.pakissan.com/english/news/newsDetail.php?newsid=24721>

Government will construct Dasu, Bhasha dams simultaneously

Saturday, October-12-2013

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has said that Pakistan's introduction of key reforms and measures to fix the national economy have bolstered international confidence as top world institutions have expressed their willingness to partner in the country's development.

Senator Dar, who is leading a Pakistani team of economic managers to the IMF-World Bank meetings, was upbeat after holding a series of discussions with leaders of financial institutions and his counterparts from several countries on Thursday. "At each forum our efforts have been appreciated and now the world financial institutions acknowledged a seriousness on part of the government led by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif towards addressing long-delayed issues and pulling the country out of its economic woes", he told APP after meeting with Managing Director of the World Bank.

The PML-N government is implementing its election manifesto and the world now recognises that Pakistan is striving to move the economy forward in its own national interest. Regarding his meeting with MD World Bank, Ms Sri Mulyani Indrawati, the finance minister said he conveyed the government's decision that it has undertaken simultaneously to build both Dasu and Diamer-Bhasha dams.

Pakistan, he said, is getting support from the World Bank and other institutions while a study on Diamer-Bhasha dam is also under way. "We will start our project without waiting for foreign studies - we will construct both dams in line with our national interest". The completion of the two projects would not only add more than 9000 MW of power to the system but also help maintain massive water reservoirs, he added.

Earlier, the finance minister had useful meetings with his counterparts from Afghanistan and Iran, and president of Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA). Dar also came away with a positive takeaway from his meetings with the US officials. He met with USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah, US Deputy Secretary of State William Burns and Under Secretary of Treasury David Cohen.

He said the US has declared Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's October 23 visit to the White House for talks with President Barack Obama as official working meeting. "As we move forward with reforms and recovery agenda, Pakistan will get the importance it deserves", he added. Meanwhile, the finance minister also addressed a gathering of Pakistan Bank Fund Staff Association that comprises World Bank and IMF employees of Pakistani origin. He informed the experts of some bold and difficult reforms and austerity measures the government has put in place to revive the national economy.

Netherlands Navy, stakeholders brainstorm on solutions to flooding

OCTOBER 17, 2013 BY ENIOLA AKINKUOTU [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

The Netherlands Navy and other stakeholders in the Nigerian Maritime sector on Wednesday, held talks on how to combat flooding in the country.

The event came a few weeks after the National Emergency Management Agency warned that there might be serious floods across the nation soon.

The discussion was held during the visit of the Netherland Warship, the HNLMD Rotterdam, for the Exercise African Winds, which is part of the ongoing African Partnership Station initiative in Lagos.

While briefing journalists after the dialogue, the Ambassador of Netherlands to Nigeria, John Groffen, said in fighting flooding, the vast experience and expertise of the Netherlands in the field of water management would come into play.

He said, "As we have battled water for centuries, it is logical that we should share this expertise abroad, in this case with Nigeria. We have already gained so much expertise abroad fighting floods including that at New Orleans and New York after Hurricane Katrina and Sandy respectively.

“In 1953, the great flood in our country was a wakeup call which caused the death of 2,000 people and we swore it would never happen again. We want to replicate such solutions in Nigeria without waiting for disasters of such magnitude to prompt us to act.”

The Director, Water Quality Control, Mr. Samuel Ome, said there was the need for continuous monitoring of the river system to get the behaviour of the water and forecast it.

He said the major aim of the agency was tackling flooding disaster especially as it concerns the health and hygiene of the people.

He said, “During this period, we strive to reduce the risk of water borne diseases occasioned by the floods. We partner with emergency stakeholders in this regard.

“The ministry is working on long-term measures for building dams. Although the average construction of a large dam takes seven years, the ministry has put working measures in place.”

Also speaking at the event, the representative of the African Development Bank, Mr. Andy Mensah, said the bank had in the past been actively involved in water management in Nigeria

He said there was the need for public private partnership because the government could not utilise water resources alone.

Egypt: Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt Discussions On Renaissance Dam Panel Report Next Week

16 OCTOBER 2013

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201310160816.html>

Ethiopia's Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy has said Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt will hold discussions next week on ways to implement the recommendations put forth by the International Panel of Experts (IPoE) who submitted a report on the impact of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

Fekahmed Negash, Boundary and Tran-boundary Rivers Affairs Director at the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy, said the meeting is scheduled to take place, probably in Khartoum, on October 22, 2013 between officials of the three countries. The meeting will be the first since the international experts submitted their findings to the three governments in June this year. Two previously planned meetings had to be cancelled. Although the content of the report has not been made public, Ethiopia has expressed its readiness to implement the recommendations.

The Boundary and Tran-boundary Rivers Affairs Director said the panel recommended for further studies to analyze the impact of the dam on Egypt's water use and future Nile dams to be built by Sudan and Ethiopia. In a recent press conference, Prime Minister Hailemariam, responding to questions about possible structural measures needed to stabilize the foundations, said the Panel of Experts had studied the issue carefully and had unequivocally confirmed that the dam was safe.

Govt plans to build small, big dams to generate cheaper electricity: Asif

Dated: **2013-10-23**

<http://www.onlinenews.com.pk/details.php?newsid=241812>

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Muhammad Asif said the government plans to build small and big dams to generate cheaper electricity to meet the growing domestic and commercial demands.

Speaking on a TV channel he said timings of loadshedding are been reduced gradually.

He said an operation has been launched to nab the elements allegedly involved in power theft.

The Minister said subsidy is being given on electricity to those people who are using less units.

China says paying attention to India's concerns on dams

Published on: October 22, 2013 - 23:49

BEIJING: China Tuesday said it is paying attention to India's concerns on its plans to build more dams on the Brahmaputra river, an issue expected to figure prominently in visiting Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's talks with leaders here.

China pays attention to India's concerns over trans-border rivers, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told a media briefing in response to a question on India's concerns over the dams.

Six meetings of experts have been held since 2007 to discuss the sharing of data on rivers between the two countries, she said.

China has made great efforts in providing flood season hydro data to India and to assist the Indian side in managing emergencies, she said.

Beijing also played a very important role in disaster and flood prevention and disaster relief, and the issue was discussed during Premier Li Keqiang's visit to India in May, Hua said.

Asked about India's concerns over Chinese projects in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Hua reiterated Beijing's position that the Kashmir issue is a matter left over from history between India and Pakistan.

"We hope the two sides can properly handle this issue through friendly consultation," she said.

Hua reiterated the answer when she was asked about Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's recent efforts to seek US support for resolving the Kashmir issue.

Referring to Singh's visit, Hua said this will be first time after 1954 that the Indian and Chinese Prime Ministers visited each other's countries in the same year.

"We hope through this visit we can exchange views with the Indian side on deepening our strategic cooperative partnership so as to build up strategic mutual trust and enhance consultations on major international and regional issues," she said.

"By doing so, we can maintain sound and long-term development of bilateral relations."

The Dam that May Damn Egypt's Future - Writer claims Ethiopia signed 1959 treaty with Egypt

- Posted by **Daniel** on October 22, 2013 at 8:08pm
- **View Blog**

*Note from Sodere Team

A misinformed writer from "Green Prophet sustainable news from middle east", mistakenly claims Egypt signed 1959 treaty with Sudan and Ethiopia.

by Karin Kloosterman

<http://sodere.com/profiles/blogs/the-dam-that-may-damn-egypt-s-future-writer-claims-ethiopia-sign>

In a strange and surprising twist, Egypt says it will consider participating with its neighbour Ethiopia in the construction of the **Renaissance Dam**, a project which it had staunchly opposed (and even suggested sabotaging).

The dam known formally as the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam will provide much-needed hydro-power to Ethiopia, but downstream it is expected to change the face of the Mighty Nile and the Fertile Crescent as we know it.

According to **Al Monitor**, Ethiopia's Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn announced that his country welcomes the participation of Egypt and Sudan in the construction of the dam and stressed that his government considers the dam will be jointly owned by Sudan, Ethiopia and Egypt.

Cairo viewed this statement as a positive step toward reaching a consensus on the Nile project, despite its earlier sharp criticism of it.

Egyptian Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation Mohamed Abdul Muttalib said: "Egypt doesn't mind joining the Ethiopian government in building the dam for the service and development of the Ethiopian people. But we must agree on a number of items in a clear way to prevent any damage to Egypt as a result of the dam construction.

"During the coming negotiations with Ethiopia over the dam, we will clarify our position regarding the policy and method of operating the dam, the size of the storage lake attached to it, and how to fill it with water in times of flood and drought."

He stressed, "Egypt will definitely not participate in the construction unless these policies are agreed upon and agreements regarding them are signed."

The Renaissance Dam is an under-construction gravity dam on the Blue Nile River in Ethiopia. It is located in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region of Ethiopia, about 40 km (or 25 mi) east of the border with Sudan.

Currently Egypt gets about 55 million cubic meters of water from the Nile each year through agreements it had signed **with Sudan and Ethiopia in 1959**. But times have changed, populations have grown and the power needs of the region have outpaced their desire to maintain old contracts.

The majority of the Nile water that Egypt receives comes through Ethiopia, a people who are clearly passionate about how they want to govern their future.

Safety concerns of the future dam, which will generate 6,000 MW, have been brought up; lasting effects to the people who sustain themselves with the Nile are an obvious concern especially for Egyptians.

Meanwhile the media speculate that this move by Egypt is less goodwill than playing its cards while the political turmoils that have taken over the country simmer down.

While dams are a straightforward and somewhat "green" source of hydro-power, there are lessons to be learned from countries that construct them. Thailand, China, Canada, the United States have all constructed major hydro-electric dam projects which have resulted in massive changes to the natural and built environment.

For a country like Egypt which seems to be hanging precipitously by a thread, a change to its precious Nile could spell out disaster.

There is a wonderful historical and academic article **here on Origins** if you want to delve deeper into the significance of the Nile to countries like Egypt and Sudan.

According to Origins, "Since the twelfth century C.E. Christian Ethiopian kings have warned Muslim Egyptian sultans of their power to divert waters of the Nile, often in response to religious conflicts. But these were hypothetical threats.

"Today, however, Ethiopia is building the Grand Renaissance Dam and, with it, Ethiopia will physically control the Blue Nile Gorge—the primary source of most of the Nile waters."

Any changes to the Nile will force world powers in the region to adjust. This Green Prophet would rather see **Ethiopia (defiant about its dam)** develop solar power than to make sweeping changes to the ebb and flow of the mighty Nile.

When completed, the Renaissance Dam – formerly known as the Millennium Dam and sometimes referred to as Hidase Dam – will be the largest hydro electric power plant in Africa.

Egyptian, Sudanese and Ethiopian ministers **will soon meet to discuss** the dam, hopefully under civil terms.

According to Wikipedia Egyptian tactics weren't so diplomatic in the recent past: "On 3 June 2013 while discussing the International Panel of Experts report with President Mohammad Morsi, Egyptian political leaders suggested methods to destroy the dam, including support for anti-government rebels."

The speakers didn't realize they were being televised live. Oops.

World Bank Group : Fourth Riparian Meetings on Rogun Assessment Studies

10/22/2013 | 07:22am US/Eastern

DUSHANBE, October 22, 2013 - The fourth information-sharing and consultation meetings on the Assessment Studies for the proposed Rogun Hydropower Project (Rogun HPP) took place on October 17, 18, and 20 by videoconference from Dushanbe with connections to World Bank offices in Central Asia, Washington, D.C., as well as Kabul, Afghanistan, and Paris, France. The purpose of these meetings was to update riparian governments and civil society organizations on interim technical findings, take questions, and receive feedback.

Riparian government representatives from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan attended; a separate discussion was held with more than 34 civil society organizations via videoconference between Almaty, Astana, Ashgabat, Bishkek, Dushanbe, Kabul, and Tashkent. The Bank also briefed representatives of the donor organizations and diplomatic community in Central Asia on the latest findings of the assessments and the outcomes of the riparian information-sharing meetings.

The fourth riparian meetings focused on the issue of dam safety, which is part of the ongoing Techno-Economic Assessment Study (TEAS). According to the Terms of Reference, the TEAS includes the following phases: Phase 0: Assessment of the salt dome issue at the project site; Phase I: Assessment of the existing Rogun HPP site and works; and Phase II: Rogun HPP project definition options. Phase 0 and Phase I studies, which were presented and discussed during the fourth riparian meetings, provide an input for the ongoing Phase II assessment.

The meetings presented two summaries of reports:

- Geological and Geotechnical Investigation of the Salt Wedge in the Dam Foundation and Reservoir (Phase 0 of the TEAS Terms of Reference); and
- Assessment of the Existing Rogun HPP Works, including caverns and tunnels (Phase I of the TEAS Terms of Reference).

The first report examines the potential risks to dam safety of the wedge of salt that exists along the Ionakhsh Fault. The consultants' findings indicate that there are viable mitigation measures that could be taken and monitored throughout the life of the proposed project to prevent the salt wedge from endangering dam safety. The second report evaluates the conditions of the existing facilities at the Rogun site, including tunnels and powerhouse caverns. The consultants have concluded that several of the underground structures, including the existing two diversion tunnels and the powerhouse cavern, would require mandatory strengthening and remedial measures to be operated safely. These measures have been assessed and the costs are being included in the cost estimates, which will serve as an input into the ongoing economic and financial assessment of the proposed Rogun HPP.

The Government of Tajikistan and the World Bank disclosed these draft documents in English and Russian on September 30. The presentations made during the meetings are also publicly available at www.worldbank.org/eca/rogun and comments will be accepted until November 1, 2013, via email (rogunconsult@worldbank.org) or can be mailed to the World Bank Country Offices.

"The World Bank is committed to facilitating good practice in information-sharing and we encourage the involvement of all riparian countries from government, civil society, and the public," said Marsha Olive, World Bank representative who chaired the riparian meetings. "We want to help put the facts on the table as interim reports become available to enable an informed debate on every aspect of the proposed Rogun project. We are particularly attentive to the application of modern international

standards for safety, environmental, and social protection. The questions and concerns expressed by riparian stakeholders during these meetings are vital to a robust regional dialogue on the proposed Rogun project."

During the meetings, questions and comments from the riparian governments focused on the specific implications of the remedial measures recommended by the consultants, the next steps in the Assessment Study process, and the value of bringing the riparian representatives together with the consultants and independent Panel of Experts for a constructive, informative dialogue. Civil society participants focused on learning more about the analysis conducted by the consultants, the implementation of the remedial measures that have been identified, and the overall process of analyzing the proposed project.

The meetings provided an opportunity for interaction with the consortium of consultants conducting the studies and with members of the independent World Bank-financed Engineering and Dam Safety Panel of Experts that is providing additional oversight to the TEAS. During their presentations, the Panel of Experts endorsed the conclusions of the consultants based on their own analyses and site investigations. The Panel of Experts re-emphasized the need to monitor and implement safety-related mitigation measures and maintenance over the life of any dam. The Panel also commended the Government of Tajikistan for ensuring transparency and demonstrating good practice in information-sharing through this phase of the Assessment Study process.

"The documents shared for these meetings are drafts and will not be considered final until after comments from riparian governments and civil society stakeholders are received and carefully considered," said Ms. Olive. "It is important to clarify again that the Assessment Studies will not decide whether the proposed Rogun dam will be built, they will only serve as an input to decision-making. The World Bank's financing of the Assessment Studies and consultative process does not imply that the Bank will finance the proposed project in the future."

The fifth riparian meetings will be scheduled at a later date to review summaries of draft Phase II Techno-Economic Assessment Study (TEAS) and the draft Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA).

For more information about the Rogun Assessment Studies, visit: www.worldbank.org/eca/rogun

Dams Will Ensure Safe Water Supply, Says India Caucus Report

- By [Sunita Sohrabji, Staff Reporter](#)

- Oct 20, 2013

<http://www.indiawest.com/news/14376-dams-will-ensure-safe-water-supply-says-india-caucus-report.html>

Dams are an inevitable part of the solution to ensure a clean and consistent supply of water to India's growing population, stated Kirit Parikh, chairman of the Integrated Research and Action for Development in India, in a report recently released by the Senate India Caucus.

Ninety-seven million Indians currently lack access to clean drinking water and many of the country's most prevalent diseases are related to unsafe water, said Parikh, in an interview with the National Bureau of Asian Research.

Access to safe potable water will become an even scarcer commodity as India continues its rising economic and population trajectory, predicted Parikh, noting that India's population is expected to surpass China's population by 2028.

"This critical problem has broad implications for the country's domestic situation and global role," said Mark Brunner, director of the Senate India Caucus. The Caucus is co-chaired by Sens. Mark Warner, D-West Virginia, and John Cornyn, R-Texas.

The ability to store and transport water are key factors in solving India's water crisis, asserted Parikh. Rainwater supply is inconsistent and not evenly distributed across the country and there are limits as to how much harvested water can be stored.

"There remains a critical need for storage dams because climate change will increase the availability of water while greatly altering its distribution," said Parikh, a former member of India's Planning Commission in charge of energy and water issues.

The former advisor to five Indian prime ministers addressed environmental and social impact concerns about disturbing species in proposed dam areas and mass-scale displacement of people who live on the banks of rivers.

"Even when these people are resettled and compensated properly, which is often not the case, the lifestyles, social support systems and culture are disrupted," he noted.

But despite such concerns, India must educate its people about the need for dams. Environmentalists and social activists must be engaged in a dialogue addressing their concerns, said Parikh.

Insufficient investment in urban water-treatment facilities results in poor water quality that is not even fit for bathing, stated Parikh. Industrial effluent standards are largely unenforced due to lack of staff and technical know-how, he added.

Over-extraction of water by farmers also contributes to dwindling groundwater supplies, said Parikh. Groundwater is open access in India and anyone can pump water on his or her own land. With so many small-scale farmers in India each pumping their own water, "the tragedy of the commons is inevitable," he said.

State and central governments must empower local authorities to control over-extraction of water by farmers, said Parikh. With inconsistent water supplies, farmers are apt to extract whatever they can, but local governments must be provided with the tools to educate their citizens on managing water supplies, so that the critical resource is not depleted, he explained.

India also needs to expand watershed development, said Parikh, citing efforts by social revolutionist Anna Hazare, water conservationist Rajendra Singh, and the state of Gujarat.

Central and state governments must strictly enforce effluent standards to reduce water pollution and adequate sewage treatment plants must be built, said Parikh, noting that

some states treat only half or less of their effluence. Such plants can be paid for with an incremental increase in the price of water, said the New Delhi-based scholar, adding that India could also work with private water firms to modernize urban water-distribution systems.