



## ISLAMABAD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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## MEDIA COVERAGE

### National Dialogues Series II Roundtable

### **“Managing Hyphenated Climate and Water Challenge: A Case Study of Pakistan”**

**17 July 2019**



## **1. THE NATION**

### **‘Water security a growing challenge’**

**July 18, 2019**

Islamabad - Speakers at a national dialogue held here on climate and water challenges stressed the need for Pakistan to be prepared to tackle India’s attempts of using water as a coercive strategic tool and recommended that Kabul River should become a river of friendship between the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The national dialogue, titled “Managing Hyphenated Climate and Water Challenge: A Case Study of Pakistan,” was organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute on Wednesday.

In his keynote address, former WAPDA chairman Engineer Shams-ul-Mulk, who was the chief guest on the occasion, said that water security was a growing challenge for Pakistan. “It influences diverse aspects of economic and social development, as well as national and regional security,” he added.

He warned that Pakistan would not grow economically if dams were not built. Mulk was of the view that those who opposed the construction of large dams were not aware of the looming water crisis in the country and didn't want Pakistan to progress.

"Enemies of Pakistan have dented our efforts so much that we have not been able to build any new dams," he said, and recommended that Kabul River should become a "river of friendship" between the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Discussing Pakistan's water relations with India and Afghanistan, Dr Pervaiz Amir, a regional expert at the Stockholm-based Global Water Partnership, pointed out India's use of water as a coercive tool to increase Pakistan's water woes. He warned that unlike the recent showdown between the two

countries, India's nefarious strategy under Modi's administration would be to target Pakistan's water resources. He opined that threats from the Indian leadership should not be taken lightly.

"Pakistan needs to sort out its internal strife and inter-provincial conflicts over water and ensure internal dispute resolution first before going to the international community to rally support for its historical rights over water flows," he added.

Mr Lixin Gu, Sustainable Development Programme Leader from the World Bank Pakistan, pointed out that water was crucial for Pakistan's agricultural growth. He informed that the sector consumed around 95 percent of the country's water resources.

"At the same time, per capita availability of usable water is decreasing, primarily because of population growth, pollution and inefficient use of water resources," Gu said, and added that "Pakistan is well endowed with water - only 16 countries have more water - but since Pakistan is the world's sixth most populous country, water availability per person is comparatively low."

He informed the gathering that water was used excessively in agriculture, which made up around one-fifth of the national GDP, but less than half of this was from irrigated cropping.

"Irrigation contributes around \$22 billion to annual GDP. Crops like wheat, rice, sugarcane and cotton that represent nearly 80 percent of all water use generate less than 5 percent of the GDP - around \$14 billion per year," Gu said, and stressed that addressing climate change risks called for a more resilient agriculture sector.

In his welcome address, President of IPRI Vice Admiral (r) Khan Hasham said that climate change and water security were contemporary challenges.

Elaborating further, he said Pakistan was blessed with adequate surface water. “However, population growth, urbanization, and poor water management have caused water scarcity with only 1100 cubic meters per person water available in Pakistan. Urgent steps are needed to conserve, build new storages, recycle and adapt to new realities,” Hasham underscored.

He equated Pakistan’s water disputes with ticking time bombs which needed to be resolved diplomatically.

Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, CEO Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) Pakistan, said that by 2030 Pakistan was expected to lose wheat yields by 20 percent - a staggering amount for a country whose backbone is formed by wheat.

“Researchers, policy makers and all relevant stakeholders need to be cognizant of the impact of climate change,” he maintained.

In his presentation on “Water Scarce to Water Secure Pakistan: Recommendations for Action,” Syed Abu Ahmad Akif, Member Prime Minister’s Inspection Commission, and former cabinet secretary, said that in Pakistan, policies and recommendations abound but what mattered was identifying implementable improvements to deal with water and climate change-related issues.

He called for stronger regulations in the water sector; ending sugar subsidy; and creating a Water Commodities Market in line with international best practices.

<https://nation.com.pk/18-Jul-2019/-water-security-a-growing-challenge>

INTERNATIONAL  
**THE NEWS**

2.

**Divert 6MAF to Afghanistan for regional economic uplift: expert**

July 18, 2019

ISLAMABAD: Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), former chairman Shams ul Mulk on Wednesday said Pakistan should divert 6 million acre feet (maf) water of Indus River to Afghanistan for regional economic uplift.

He was speaking as chief guest at One-day National Dialogue Series (Session II) Roundtable on “Managing Hyphenated Climate and Water Challenge: A Case Study of Pakistan” organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI).

Shams ul Mulk said the country was dumping a total of 20-30maf water per year of Indus River, whereas this small ratio given to Afghanistan would help bind the two nations strategically and economically to attain sustainable development.

He said Pakistan had lost its three rivers to India under the Indus Water Treaty, while only one river and a dam were given in return. WAPDA had very little idea of decisions taken under the treaty, however, the country developed great leadership in its aftermath to protect its future, he added.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan was in WAPDA during the Indus Water Treaty era and he argued at that moment that one dam was not enough to cater to the needs of the growing population and economy of the country.

WAPDA then decided to build Tarbela Dam instead of Kalabagh Dam with the assistance of the World Bank, he mentioned. Mulk noted that WAPDA chose Tarbela Dam owing to difficult terrain and topography as it was not possible without the technical and financial assistance of the foreign agencies, whereas Kalabagh Dam’s construction was possible from the indigenous available resources.

The former chairman shared that the father of rock dams Arthur Casagrande, at the time of repair work on the dam said, “It’s far better what WAPDA did on Tarbela than NASA did on the moon.”

Mulk mentioned that it was the enormous leadership of WAPDA at that time who took the daunting task on war footings to manage the water resources of its sole river basin. However, during Ayub regime Pakistan realised the need to augment its existing water capacity and energy production due to increasing population. The country was progressing at 10 percent growth rate as compared to India on 3 percent, he added.

“President Ayub himself took the letter to the US authorities to negotiate for constructing another dam where their single sentence in response has cost Pakistan much throughout the history. The response quoted as if you [Pakistan] wish to maintain the growth rate achieved in the recent past you will have to build Kalabagh Dam. Our enemies have taken it seriously and failed us till date to build more dams,” he said.

In the prevailing century, around 45,000 dams were constructed the world over with 22,000 built in China where its famous Three Gorges Dam had the potential to generate electricity over the entire capacity of Pakistan, Mulk said.

IPRI President Ambassador Vice Admiral (ret'd) Khan Hasham Bin Saddique in his welcome address said the fact that only 2.5 percent of total fresh water resources were available for world population convinced the institute to hold this national dialogue on such a pertinent issue.

Water crisis, he said had certain politics attached to water resources as its effects were expanded to the concept of national security. Pakistan had less than one percent contribution in global greenhouse gas emissions, whereas it was among the three countries most affected by climate change.

Climate Change has disturbed rain patterns, prolonged droughts, increased heavy downpours and mega floods, which were impacting the country’s food security, the IPRI President said.

Pakistan had the fourth largest aquifer in the world and was blessed with glaciated rivers. Global studies reveal that unplanned urbanisation, climate change, population explosion, and poor water management would make the country go dry till 2040, Saddique added.

The roundtable discussion was moderated by former ambassador Shafqat Kakakhel who briefed the panel that the population had increased six fold in the country, which dropped the water availability from 5,000 cubic meter per person per year in 1947 to 1,000 cubic meter per person per year at present.

Water issues have gain extreme attention of the stakeholders and the global partners, therefore Pakistan adopted its water charter and water policy in April 2018, Kakakhel added. The experts including the World Bank's Sustainable Development Program Leader Lixin Gu, Water Expert Pervaiz Amir, Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) Pakistan CEO Ali Touqeer Sheikh, SDPI research fellow Dr Imran Saqib, and Member Prime Minister Inspection Commission Syed Abu Ahmad Akif mulled over multifaceted issues pertaining to water resources, transboundary water relations, water security and climate change, water scarcity, and way forward for Pakistan.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/499842-divert-6maf-to-afghanistan-for-regional-economic-uplift-expert>

# 3. **THE EXPRESS** **TRIBUNE**

## **Water is a commodity: experts**

**July 18, 2019**

Pakistan cannot continue business as usual water management. It is vital to reform water governance laws, policies, and institutions and infrastructure investments. The National Water Policy 2018 needs to be implemented in letter and spirit. The state needs to end its monopoly on water; invest immediately & heavily in storage capacity and water enforcement. Pakistan needs to be prepared for India's attempts of using water as a coercive strategic tool. The state and citizenry need to become water wise. These were the recommendations put forward by the speakers at the National Dialogue Series Roundtable on "Managing Hyphenated Climate and Water Challenge: A Case Study of Pakistan," organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute here in Islamabad.

In his Keynote Address, Wapda former chairman Engineer Shamsul Mulk said when it comes to water issues, leadership, vision and capacity are very important. Karachi water crisis to worsen over coming days. He said that water security is an important and growing challenge. "Enemies of Pakistan have disabled and crippled our efforts so much that we have not been able to build any new dams," he said.

IPRI President Vice Admiral (Retd) Khan Hasham bin Saddique highlighted that objectives of The National Dialogue Series is to debate and proffer policy recommendations on important national issues. He said that climate change and water security are urgent contemporary challenges whose socio-economic and food security impact on Pakistan would be grave. However, population growth, urbanisation, and poor water management have caused water scarcity with only 1,100 cubic metres per person water available in Pakistan. Urgent steps are

needed to conserve, build new storages, recycle and adapt to new realities. He feared that transboundary water disputes are ticking time bombs which need to be resolved diplomatically.

World Bank Sustainable Development Programme Pakistan Leader Lixin Gu outlined that the availability of water is crucial for Pakistan's agriculture growth. He informed that the sector consumes around 95 per cent of the country's water resources. At the same time, per capita availability of usable water is decreasing, primarily because of population growth, pollution and inefficient use of water resources. Lixin Gu pointed out that Pakistan is well endowed with water – only 16 countries have more water – but because Pakistan is the world's sixth most populous country, water availability per person is comparatively low.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2015646/1-water-commodity-experts/>



## **National Dialogue Roundtable On "Managing Hyphenated Climate And Water Challenge"**

July 18, 2019



Islamabad (UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News / Online - 17th July, 2019) Water is a commodity and must be treated as such. Pakistan cannot continue business as usual water management. It is vital to reform water governance laws, policies, and institutions and infrastructure investments. The National Water Policy 2018 needs to be implemented in letter and spirit. The state needs to end its monopoly on water; invest immediately & heavily in storage capacity and water enforcement. Pakistan needs to be prepared for India's attempts of using water as a coercive strategic tool.

The state and citizenry need to become water wise. These were the recommendations put forward by the speakers at the National Dialogue Series Roundtable on "Managing Hyphenated Climate and Water Challenge: A Case Study of Pakistan" organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute here in Islamabad, today. In his Keynote Address, the Chief Guest Engr.

Shams-ul-Mulk, former chairman of Pakistan's Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), said that a conference on water issues is an important need of the country in order to take concrete steps to conserve water for next generations of the country. Sharing the history behind the Indus Waters Treaty and role of WAPDA in the development of dams like Tarbela and Mangala, he stressed that "when it comes to water issues, leadership, vision and capacity are very important." He said that "water security is an important and growing challenge for Pakistan, and one that extends far beyond the traditional water sector.

It influences diverse aspects of economic and social development, as well as national and regional security." He warned that Pakistan's economic growth will not increase if dams are not constructed.

Mulk was of the view that those who oppose the construction of large dams are not aware of the looming water crisis in the country and don't want Pakistan to progress. "Enemies of Pakistan have disabled and crippled our efforts so much that we have not been able to build any new dams," he said.

Engr. Mulk recommended that Kabul River should become a "river of friendship" and joint cooperation initiative between the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Welcoming the speakers, environmental activists, media and students, President of IPRI Vice Admiral (Retd.) Khan Hasham bin Saddique highlighted that objectives of The National Dialogue Series is to debate and proffer policy recommendations on important national issues.

He said that climate change and water security are urgent contemporary challenges whose socio-economic and food security impact on Pakistan would be grave. He said that numerous studies have concluded that climate change is likely to lead to floods, droughts, rising sea levels, heat waves, melting of glaciers etc.

Dilating upon water security, he said that Pakistan is blessed with adequate surface water and the 4th largest ground water aquifer. However, population growth, urbanization, and poor water management have caused water scarcity with only 1100 cubic metres per person water available in Pakistan.

Urgent steps are needed to conserve, build new storages, recycle and adapt to new realities. He feared that "transboundary water disputes are ticking time bombs which need to be resolved diplomatically." He emphasised that policies need better implementation to address the issue. Conducting an appraisal of Pakistan's water resources, Lixin Gu, Sustainable Development Program Leader from the World Bank Pakistan, outlined that the availability of water is crucial for Pakistan's agriculture growth.

He informed that the sector consumes around 95 percent of the country's water resources. At the same time, per capita availability of usable water is decreasing, primarily because of population growth, pollution and inefficient use of water resources.

Gu pointed out that "Pakistan is well endowed with water - only 16 countries have more water - but because Pakistan is the world's sixth most populous country, water availability per person is comparatively low.

He pointed out that "water use is heavily dominated by agriculture, which contributes around one-fifth of national GDP, but less than half of this is from irrigated cropping. Irrigation contributes around USD 22 billion to annual GDP.

Crops like wheat, rice, sugarcane, and cotton that represent nearly 80 percent of all water use generate less than 5 percent of GDP - around USD 14 billion per year." Gu stressed that addressing climate change risks calls for a more resilient agriculture sector since increasing water use efficiency will contribute to greater resilience. Discussing Pakistan's transboundary water relations with India and Afghanistan, Dr Pervaiz Amir, a regional expert for the Stockholm-based Global Water Partnership pointed to internal transboundary issues as well as India's use of water as a coercive tool to increase Pakistan's water woes.

He warned that unlike the recent showdown between the two countries, India's nefarious strategies under Modi's administration will be to target Pakistan water resources.

He said threats from the Indian leadership especially Narendra Modi and his cabinet should not be taken lightly and negative tactics from the Indian side need to be countered.

"Pakistan needs to sort out its internal strife and inter-provincial conflicts over water and ensure internal dispute resolution first before going to the international community to rally support for its historical rights over water flows." Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, CEO, Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) Pakistan called for improvement in understanding of mountain water sources and the impact that this water has on food production.

"We need better and more efficient targeting measures and take into account the impact of climate change upon downstream flow of mountain water. Despite a multitude of constraints impacting the flow of mountain water onto downstream areas, it is imperative to develop avenues for further collaboration, research and dialogue in order to tackle constraints", he shared.

Sheikh highlighted that increased insight about the link between sources of water demand and sources of supply is important for developing appropriate adaptation measures. "For this reason, a water resources model will help to understand risks. As population continues to increase and demand for water rises, prioritizing further research and dialogue on mountain water is imperative. By 2030, Pakistan stands to lose wheat yields by 20 percent - a staggering amount for a country whose backbone is formed by wheat.

Researchers, policy makers and all relevant stakeholders need to be cognizant of the impact of climate change upon availability and temporal variances in water flow", he concluded. Dr Ian Saqib Khalid, Research Fellow at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute offered a sectoral analysis based on a field research conducted in Dera Ghazi Khan and Jhang to look at political-economy considerations in determining water governance responses to flood risks; equity and justice concerns in disaster risk management and policymaking.

He highlighted that Pakistan's current flood crisis stems from emphasis on "control" rather than "management" since flood control measures have been ad hoc and stand-alone, reactive rather than proactive and largely focused on structural measures.

He lamented that solutions have been developed in a monodisciplinary manner and lessons from past failures have rarely been learned. Sharing the study's results, Dr Khalid said that over a dozen entities are dealing with floods in Pakistan across federal, provincial and district boundaries which makes coordination difficult; and floods are blamed on lack of political leadership.

He shared that natural water channels are blocked by influential people through unplanned development, hence, exacerbating losses during floods, with women and children bearing the brunt of the impact of extreme events.

He recommended redefining standards, viz embankments; harnessing green/ natural infrastructure to manage existing and future flood risks; ensuring on the ground application of proper land use planning.

"Pakistan needs to develop a gender sensitive early warning system, and formulate a comprehensive insurance policy mechanism to counter the impacts of extreme flood events," he recommended. In his presentation "Water Scarce to Water Secure Pakistan: Recommendations for Action", Syed Abu Ahmad Akif, Member Prime Minister Inspection Commission, Former Cabinet Secretary said that the great difference between developing countries that have progressed over the last 30 years and those that have stagnated is not the ability to formulate policies, but the ability to translate policies into actions. "In Pakistan, policies and recommendations abound but what matters is identifying implementable improvements to deal with water and climate change issues." He called for stronger regulations on the water sector; ending sugar subsidy; and creating a Water Commodities Market in line with international best practices.

"Pakistan needs to stop growing thirsty crops; create a water economy; and make the sector financially sustainable by measuring and pricing water realistically." In his address, former Ambassador Shafqat Kakakhel, chair of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute's Board of Governors, lamented the deteriorating quality of water flowing into Pakistan, the alarming reduction in quantity of water, and other important water management issues. He was hopeful that Pakistan's re-engagement with the climate change negotiations, after several years of being sidelined due to absence of skilled negotiators, is an important development.

He also remarked that countries with high population growth rates, Bangladesh, Sub-Saharan Africa, have done something, but nobody in Pakistan is doing anything to slow down the rate of population growth which will exacerbate both economic and environmental challenges. The National Dialogue Series has been initiated by IPRI to facilitate cooperative solutions to major socioeconomic issues and help in the formulation of broad contours of a national narrative.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/national-dialogue-roundtable-on-managing-hyp-671683.html>

# Times of Islamabad

5.

**Pakistan should divert 6 maf Indus River's water to Afghanistan for regional economic uplift: Shams ul Mulk**



**July 17, 2019**

ISLAMABAD: Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), former chairman Engineer Shams ul Mulk Wednesday was of the view that Pakistan should divert 6 million acre feet (maf) water of Indus River to Afghanistan for regional economic uplift.

Speaking as chief guest in his keynote address at One-day National Dialogue Series (Session II) Roundtable on "Managing Hyphenated Climate and Water Challenge: A Case Study of Pakistan" organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) here he said that the country was dumping a total of 20-30 maf per year water of Indus River where its small ratio given to Afghanistan would help bind the two nations strategically and economically to attain sustainable development.

He said that Pakistan had lost its three rivers to India under the Indus Water Treaty where only one river and a dam were given in return. WAPDA had very little idea of decisions taken under the treaty, however, the country developed a great leadership in its aftermath to protect its future, he added.

“Ghulam Ishaq Khan has been in WAPDA during the Indus Water Treaty era and he argued at that moment one dam was not enough to cater with the needs of the growing population and economy of the country. WAPDA then has decided to build Tarbela Dam instead of Kalabagh Dam with the assistance of the World Bank,” he mentioned. Mulk noted that WAPDA chose Tarbela Dam owing to difficult terrain and topography as it was not possible without the technical and financial assistance of the foreign agencies whereas Kalabagh Dam’s construction was possible from the indigenous available resources.

Arthur Casagrande, he said was the father of rock dams at that time had termed the repair work of the broken part of the dam as, “It’s far better what WAPDA did on Tarbela than NASA did on the moon.”

Engineer Shams ul Mulk mentioned that it was the enormous leadership of WAPDA at that time who took the daunting task on war footings to manage the water resources of its sole river basin. However, during Ayub regime Pakistan realized to augment its existing water capacity and energy production due increasing population.

The country was progressing at 10 per cent growth rate as compared to India on 3 per cent, he added. “President Ayub himself took the letter to the US authorities to negotiate for constructing another dam where their single sentence in response has cost Pakistan much throughout the history. The response quoted as if you [Pakistan] wish to maintain the growth rate achieved in the recent past you will have to build Kalabagh Dam. Our enemies have taken it seriously and failed us till date to build more dams,” he said.

In the prevailing century, around 45,000 dams had been constructed the world over where 22,000 out of these were built in China where its famous three gorges dam had the potential to generate electricity over the entire capacity of Pakistan, Mulk said.

President IPRI, Ambassador Vice Admiral (R) Khan Hasham Bin Saddique in his welcome address said the fact that only 2.5 per cent of the total fresh water resources were available for the world population had convinced us to hold the national dialogue on such pertinent issue.

Water crisis, he said had certain politics attached to water resources as its effects were expanded to the concept of national security. Pakistan had less than 1 per cent contribution to the global green house gases emissions whereas it was among the three countries to be affected by climate change.

“Climate Change will incur disturbed rain patterns, prolonged droughts, heavy downpours and mega floods impacting our food security,” the IPRI President said.

Pakistan had the fourth largest aquifer in the world and was blessed with glaciated rivers. The unplanned urbanization, climate change, population explosion and poor water management would turn the country dry till 2040 as global studies reveal, he added.

The roundtable discussion was moderated by former Ambassador Shafqat Kakakhel who briefed the panel that the population had increased six fold in the country which dropped the water availability from 5000 cubic meter per person per year in 1947 to 1000 cubic meter per person per year at present.

“Water issues have gained extreme attention of the stakeholders in the country and the global partners whereas the country has adopted its water charter and water policy in April 2018,” he added.

The experts including the World Bank’s Sustainable Development Program Leader Lixin Gu, Water Expert Pervaiz Amir, Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) Pakistan CEO Ali Touqeer Sheikh, SDPI research fellow Dr Imran Saqib, Member Prime Minister Inspection Commission Syed Abu Ahmad Akif mulled over multifaceted issues pertaining to water resources, transboundary water relations, water security and climate change, water scarcity and way forward for Pakistan.

<https://timesofislamabad.com/17-Jul-2019/pakistan-should-divert-6-maf-indus-river-s-water-to-afghanistan-for-regional-economic-uplift-shams-ul-mulk>



## Water needs to be treated as a commodity, say experts



**July 17, 2019**

ISLAMABAD, JUL 17 (DNA) –Water is a commodity and must be treated as such. Pakistan cannot continue business as usual water management. It is vital to reform water governance laws, policies, and institutions and infrastructure investments. The National Water Policy 2018 needs to be implemented in letter and spirit.

The state needs to end its monopoly on water; invest immediately & heavily in storage capacity and water enforcement. Pakistan needs to be prepared for India's attempts of using water as a coercive strategic tool. The state and citizenry need to become water wise.

These were the recommendations put forward by the speakers at the National Dialogue Series Roundtable on “Managing Hyphenated Climate and Water Challenge: A Case Study of Pakistan”organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute here in Islamabad.

In his Keynote Address, Engr. Shams-ul-Mulk, former chairman of Pakistan's Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), said that a conference on water issues is an important need of the country in order to take concrete steps to conserve water for next generations of the country.

Sharing the history behind the Indus Waters Treaty and role of WAPDA in the development of dams like Tarbela and Mangala, he stressed that "when it comes to water issues, leadership, vision and capacity are very important."

He said that "water security is an important and growing challenge for Pakistan, and one that extends far beyond the traditional water sector. It influences diverse aspects of economic and social development, as well as national and regional security."

He warned that Pakistan's economic growth will not increase if dams are not constructed. MrMulk was of the view that those who oppose the construction of large dams are not aware of the looming water crisis in the country and don't want Pakistan to progress.

"Enemies of Pakistan have disabled and crippled our efforts so much that we have not been able to build any new dams," he said. Engr. Mulk recommended that Kabul River should become a "river of friendship" and joint cooperation initiative between the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Welcoming the speakers President of IPRI Vice Admiral (Retd.)Khan Hasham bin Saddique highlighted that objectives of The National Dialogue Series is to debate and proffer policy recommendations on important national issues.

He said that climate change and water security are urgent contemporary challenges whose socio-economic and food security impact on Pakistan would be grave.

He said that numerous studies have concluded that climate change is likely to lead to floods, droughts, rising sea levels, heat waves, melting of glaciers etc. Dilating upon water security, he said that Pakistan is blessed with adequate surface water and the 4th largest grand water aquifer.

However, population growth, urbanization, and poor water management have caused water scarcity with only 1100 cubic metres per person water available in Pakistan. Urgent steps are needed to conserve, build new storages, recycle and adapt to new realities.

He feared that “transboundary water disputes are ticking time bombs which need to be resolved diplomatically.” He emphasised that policies need better implementation to address the issue.

Lixin Gu, Sustainable Development Program Leader from the World Bank Pakistan, outlined that the availability of water is crucial for Pakistan’s agriculture growth.

He informed that the sector consumes around 95 percent of the country’s water resources. At the same time, per capita availability of usable water is decreasing, primarily because of population growth, pollution and inefficient use of water resources.

Gu pointed out that “Pakistan is well endowed with water – only 16 countries have more water – but because Pakistan is the world’s sixth most populous country, water availability per person is comparatively low.

Other speakers also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the importance of water management. =DNA

<http://www.dnaneews.com.pk/water-needs-treated-commodity-say-experts/>

# 'Water security a growing challenge'

Speakers caution against Indian designs over water crisis

**FAWAD YOUSAFZAI**  
ISLAMABAD

Speakers at a national dialogue held here on climate and water challenges stressed the need for Pakistan to be prepared to tackle India's attempts of using water as a coercive strategic tool and recommended that Kabul River should become a river of friendship between the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The national dialogue, titled "Managing Hyphenated Climate and Water Challenge: A Case Study of Pakistan," was organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute on Wednesday.

In his keynote address, former WAPDA chairman Engineer Shams-ul-Mulk, who was the chief guest on the occasion, said that water security was a growing challenge for Pakistan. "It influences diverse aspects of economic and social development, as well as national and regional security," he added.

He warned that Pakistan would not grow economically if dams were not built. Mulk was of the view that those who opposed the construction of large dams were not aware of the looming water crisis in the country and didn't want Pakistan to progress.

"Enemies of Pakistan have dented our efforts so much that we have not been

able to build any new dams," he said, and recommended that Kabul River should become a "river of friendship" between the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Discussing Pakistan's water relations with India and Afghanistan, Dr Pervaiz Amir, a regional expert at the Stockholm-based Global Water Partnership, pointed out India's use of water as a coercive tool to increase Pakistan's water woes. He warned that unlike the recent showdown between the two countries, India's nefarious strategy under Modi's administration would be to target Pakistan's water resources. He opined that threats from the Indian leadership should not be taken lightly.

"Pakistan needs to sort out its internal strife and inter-provincial conflicts over water and ensure internal dispute resolution first before going to the international community to rally support for its historical rights over water flows," he added.

Mr Lixin Gu, Sustainable Development Programme Leader from the World Bank Pakistan, pointed out that water was crucial for Pakistan's agricultural growth. He informed that the sector consumed around 95 percent of the country's water resources.

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Opponents  
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marily because of population growth, pollution and inefficient use of water resources," Gu said, and added that "Pakistan is well endowed with water - only 16 countries have more water - but since Pakistan is the world's sixth most populous country, water availability per person is comparatively low."

He informed the gathering that water was used excessively in agriculture, which made up around one-fifth of the national GDP, but less than half of this was from irrigated cropping.

"Irrigation contributes around \$22 billion to annual GDP. Crops like wheat, rice, sugarcane and cotton that represent nearly 80 percent of all water use generate less than 5 percent of the GDP - around \$14 billion per year," Gu said, and stressed that addressing climate change risks called for a more resilient agriculture sector.

In his welcome address, President of IPRI Vice Admiral (r) Khan Hasham said that climate change and water security were contemporary challenges.

Elaborating further, he said Pakistan was blessed with adequate surface water. "However, population growth, urbanization, and poor water management have caused water scarcity with only 1100 cubic meters per person water available in Pakistan. Urgent steps

are needed to conserve, build new storages, recycle and adapt to new realities," Hasham underscored.

He equated Pakistan's water disputes with ticking time bombs which needed to be resolved diplomatically.

Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, CEO Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) Pakistan, said that by 2030 Pakistan was expected to lose wheat yields by 20 percent - a staggering amount for a country whose backbone is formed by wheat.

"Researchers, policy makers and all relevant stakeholders need to be cognizant of the impact of climate change," he maintained.

In his presentation on "Water Scarce to Water Secure Pakistan: Recommendations for Action," Syed Abu Ahmad Akif, Member Prime Minister's Inspection Commission, and former cabinet secretary, said that in Pakistan, policies and recommendations abound but what mattered was identifying implementable improvements to deal with water and climate change-related issues.

He called for stronger regulations in the water sector; ending sugar subsidy; and creating a Water Commodities Market in line with international best practices.

■ **ROUNDTABLE**

## Divert 6MAF to Afghanistan for regional economic uplift: expert

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He said Pakistan had lost its three rivers to India under the Indus Water Treaty, while only one river and a dam were given in return.

WAPDA had very little idea of decisions taken under the treaty, however, the country developed great leadership in its aftermath to protect its future, he added.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan was in WAPDA during the Indus Water Treaty era and he argued at that moment that one dam was not enough to cater to the needs of the growing population and economy of the

country.

WAPDA then decided to build Tarbela Dam instead of Kalabagh Dam with the assistance of the World Bank, he mentioned.

Mulk noted that WAPDA chose Tarbela Dam owing to difficult terrain and topography as it was not possible without the technical and financial assistance of the foreign agencies, whereas Kalabagh Dam's construction was possible from the indigenous available resources.

The former chairman shared that the father of rock dams Arthur Casagrande, at the time of repair work on the dam said, "It's far better what WAPDA did on Tarbela than NASA did on the moon."

Mulk mentioned that it was the enormous leadership of WAPDA at that time who took the daunting task on war footings to manage the water resources of its sole river basin.

However, during Ayub regime Pakistan realised the need to augment its existing water capacity and energy production due to increasing population.

The country was progressing at 10 percent growth rate as compared to India on 3 percent, he added.

"President Ayub himself took the letter to the US authorities to negotiate for constructing another dam where their single sentence in response has cost Pakistan much throughout the history.

The response quoted as if you [Pakistan] wish to maintain the growth rate achieved in the recent past you will have to build Kalabagh Dam. Our enemies have taken it seriously and failed us till date to build more dams," he said.

In the prevailing century, around 45,000 dams were constructed the world over with 22,000 built in China where its famous Three Gorges Dam had the potential to generate electricity over the entire capacity of Pakistan, Mulk said.

IPRI President Ambassador Vice Admiral (ret'd) Khan Hasham Bin Saddique in his welcome address said the fact that only 2.5 percent of total fresh water resources were available for world population convinced the institute to hold this national dialogue on such a pertinent issue.

Water crisis, he said had certain politics attached to water resources as its effects were expanded to the concept of national security. Pakistan had less than one percent contribution in global greenhouse gas emissions, whereas it was among the three countries most affected by climate change.

Climate Change has disturbed rain patterns, prolonged droughts, increased heavy downpours and mega floods, which were impacting the country's food security, the IPRI President said.

Pakistan had the fourth largest aquifer in the world and was blessed

with glaciated rivers. Global studies reveal that unplanned urbanisation, climate change, population explosion, and poor water management would make the country go dry till 2040, Saddique added.

The roundtable discussion was moderated by former ambassador Shafqat Kakakhel who briefed the panel that the population had increased six fold in the country, which dropped the water availability from 5,000 cubic meter per person per year in 1947 to 1,000 cubic meter per person per year at present.

Water issues have gain extreme attention of the stakeholders and the global partners, therefore Pakistan adopted its water charter and water policy in April 2018, Kakakhel added.

The experts including the World Bank's Sustainable Development Program Leader Lixin Gu, Water Expert Pervaiz Amir, Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) Pakistan CEO Ali Touqeer Sheikh, SDPI research fellow Dr Imran Saqib, and Member Prime Minister Inspection Commission Syed Abu Ahmad Akif mulled over multifaceted issues pertaining to water resources, transboundary water relations, water security and climate change, water scarcity, and way forward for Pakistan. —APP



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سبق شمس الملک 13

ریسرچ انسٹیٹیوٹ کے زیر اہتمام موسمیاتی تبدیلی اور پانی کے مسائل کے حوالے سے قومی گول میز سیریز سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے شمس الملک نے کہا کہ سندھ طاس معاہدہ ہوا تو پاکستان کو صرف ایک دریا اور ڈیم دیا گیا، واپڈ اگواس معاملے پر اعتماد میں نہیں لیا گیا، غلام اسحاق خان نے اس مسئلہ کو حل کرنے کی کوشش کی، چب تعمیر کے دوران تربیلا ڈیم ٹوٹ گیا تو چھوٹے دوبارہ تعمیر کا حکم دیا، صدر ایوب خان نے دورہ واشنگٹن کے دوران دوبارہ ورلڈ بینک سے مطالبہ کیا کہ ہمیں مزید ڈیم کی ضرورت ہے، پن بجلی سب سے سستی ہے جبکہ تیل سے 25 سے 60 روپے فی یونٹ میں بجلی بنائی جا رہی ہے 22 ہزار ڈیم چین بنا چکا ہے چین کا ایک ڈیم پاکستان کی ضرورت سے زیادہ بجلی بناتا ہے، صدر اسلام آباد پالیسی ریسرچ انسٹیٹیوٹ خان ہشام بن صدیق نے کہا کہ مستقبل کی جنگیں پانی پر ہوں گی، پاکستان میں غربت زیادہ ہے فوڈ سیورٹی بھی بڑا مسئلہ ہے، ہم دس ممالک میں شامل ہیں جو سب سے زیادہ موسمیاتی تبدیلی سے متاثر ہوئے ہیں، پانی کا مسئلہ دن بدن سنگین ہو رہا ہے کہا جاتا ہے ہمارے ذخائر 2025 تک زیادہ تر ختم ہو جائیں گے، سابق سیکرٹری موسمیاتی تبدیلی سید ابو احمد عاکف نے کہا کہ موسمیاتی تبدیلی اور پانی کے حوالے سے کوئی بھی سفارش کریں سیاسی طور پر اس پر عمل نہیں کیا جائیگا، 18 ویں ترمیم کے بعد یہ صوبوں کا کام ہے، گنے کی کاشت سے صرف 40 لوگوں کو فائدہ ہوتا ہے جبکہ وفاقی حکومت 10 ارب اور سندھ حکومت شوگر ٹولوں کو 10 ارب سبسڈی دیتی ہے، ماہر آبی امور شفقت کا کاخیل نے کہا کہ ملک میں پانی کی دستیابی کم اور کوالٹی بھی خراب ہوئی ہے شہری آبادی میں اضافہ ہوا ہے پانی کے مسائل سنگین ہو رہے ہیں، صوبے پانی کی تقسیم پر لڑ رہے ہیں، ماہر آبی امور پرویز امین نے کہا کہ سندھ طاس معاہدہ میں تین بڑی خامیاں ہیں، کابل دریا کے حوالے سے کوئی معاہدہ نہیں، موجودہ دور کی بات کرنی ہوگی بھارت پانی پر 2 ارب ڈالر سرمایہ کاری کر رہا ہے کالا باغ ڈیم میں ٹیکنیکل اور معاشی مسئلہ نہیں، یہ سیاسی مسئلہ بنا دیا گیا ہے چھوٹے ڈیموں سے پاکستان کا مسئلہ حل نہیں ہوگا بڑے ڈیم بنانا ہونگے، بھارت کے پاس 5 ہزار جبکہ ہمارے پاس صرف دو ڈیم ہیں، ڈیموں کے مخالفین کو بھارت 2 ارب ڈالر سالانہ دیتا ہے تاکہ ڈیم نہ بن سکیں۔

ڈیم پاکستان کیلئے زندگی اور موت کا مسئلہ، مخالفین ملک دشمن ہیں، شمس الملک

چھوٹے ڈیموں سے پاکستان کا مسئلہ حل نہیں ہوگا پانی پر سرمایہ کاری ضروری، پرویز امین، شفقت کا کاخیل اور دیگر کا خطاب

دشمنوں نے ڈیموں کی خلاف مہم شروع کر کے ان کو روکا ہے، دریائے سندھ کے ضائع ہونے والے پانی میں سے کچھ حصہ افغانستان کی طرف موڑ دیں تو کوئی پاک افغان تعلقات کو خراب نہیں کر سکتا، اسلام آباد پالیسی باقی صفحہ 4 نمبر 13

اسلام آباد (اپنے نامہ نگار سے) سابق چیئرمین واپڈ انجینئر شمس الملک نے کہا ہے کہ ڈیم پاکستان کیلئے زندگی اور موت کا مسئلہ ہے، ڈیموں کے مخالفین ملک دشمن ہیں، کالا باغ ڈیم کے مخالفین نے کہا تھا اگر ڈیم سونا بھی ہوگا تو نہیں خریدینگے، ملکی ترقی روکنے کیلئے