



ActionAid Bangladesh is organizing the third International Water Conference on January 29-30, 2019. This Conference will go beyond disciplinary boundaries to embrace multidisciplinary perspectives on water and transboundary rivers, covering a range of thematic areas. We welcome submission of papers on the following themes:

People’s initiatives for the rights of the rivers

Though the trans-boundary rivers serve as the lifeline of the South Asian region, lives of many of these rivers are under continued threat. Protection of water resource require renewed attention. In this age of global cooperation and development, proactive role of the people across borders are vital to taking any common agenda forward. This particular theme focuses on community initiatives, people’s actions and social movements for the rights of rivers at local, national and international level.

Water as ‘WEBS’

Another broad thematic idea of the Conference is ‘WEBS’, an abbreviation which stands for ‘Water, Energy, Biodiversity and Sediment’. The construction of the idea is based on indigenous knowledge of this region. The word river comes from Indian sub-continental origin which involves the ideas of life, soul and energy. This refers to a holistic idea surrounding the concept of river and water. Under this thematic area, papers are invited in the following sub-themes:

- **Water**

This sub-theme focuses on the agenda of water in a trans-boundary river perspective. This includes the issues of flow of water in transboundary rivers, transportation, treaties and protocols related to trans-boundary rivers, the intersection between international law and domestic law pertaining to the agenda of water and river.

- **Energy**

Water is a source of energy. This sub-theme looks closely at the potentials of hydro-power, limitations of hydro-power (for example: socio-economic costs of hydro-power, its ecological impact), alternatives to hydro-power, innovations in energy and renewable energy.

- **Biodiversity**

Biodiversity of river and water is critical, when we think of the ecosystem. The threat to lives of rivers also has implications on the biodiversity. This sub-theme stresses on the protection of biodiversity of the trans-boundary rivers and considers the issues of fishery conservation and ecology, among others.

- **Sediment**

While sediment is considered a blessing for the civilizations across different regions, increasing siltation in the riverbeds posed serious challenge to the lives of rivers. This sub-theme intends to see the cause and effects of siltation and how the lives of rivers across boundary are threatened due to sedimentation. Dredging has often been suggested and practiced as a solution to this end. This sub-theme will focus on the opportunities and challenges of dredging, the impact of dredging and the possibilities of alternatives to dredging.

Climate Justice

The people living around river banks are often faced with the consequences of climate change. Climate justice is an important agenda, raised by the community living in the trans-boundary river banks. This particular theme examines the impact of climate change on the communities living on the trans-boundary riverbanks.

This Conference stresses on the intersection between water commons and sustainability, from a rights perspective. The thematic sessions of the Conference will maintain the linkage between the themes and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 6, SDG 15, SDG 13).

Community living on the transboundary riverbanks, academicians, activists, professionals, public and private sector experts, scientists, students and all others working in an industry dealing with water may submit an abstract not more than 500 words for the Conference. Selected applicants will be requested to submit a full paper with words not exceeding 7000. For the accepted papers, the presenters will have 30 minutes to present their papers in the Conference.

Submission of Abstract: October 31, 2018

Submission of Full Paper: November 30, 2018

Please submit the abstract at: shubhomoy.haque@actionaid.org