



# Transboundary co-op key to resolving water issue

*Speakers tell int'l confce at NSU*

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The inaugural session of a two-day international conference titled 'Transboundary Rivers of South Asia: Fostering Regional Collaboration for Environmental Sustainability' began at North South University on Tuesday.

The event aims to address critical issues surrounding transboundary river management and environmental sustainability in South Asia.

A total of 40 papers will be presented at the conference by authors from Bangladesh, Nepal, the United Kingdom, Turkey, and Kenya. There are approximately 60 participants, of which 30 are international, mainly from India.

An edited volume of selected papers from the conference will be published by CRC Press, Routledge-Taylor and Francis Group.

Professor Akhlaque Haque, Chairman of the South Asian Network for Public Administration (SANPA), said in the welcome address the importance of sustainable management of South Asia's shared water resources.

He also stated that this conference is not only a place for discussion but also a beacon of hope for the future.

Dr. Meheub Sahana, University of Manchester, UK, provided an insightful introduction to the themes and objectives of the conference.

He underlined the importance of research from the global South and South Asian regions on rivers and river management, as there are more transboundary rivers in the region.

Dr. Mohammad Abul Hossen, Member of the Joint Rivers Com-

mission (JRC), Bangladesh, emphasised the importance of joint efforts and stated that stakeholders play an important role in solving water problems.

He urged researchers and journalists attending the event to write in international newspapers so that transboundary water issues are brought to the attention of the global audience.

Mashfee Binte Shams, Principal, Foreign Service Academy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh, further appreciated the diplomatic acumen of the Bangladesh government in dealing with the water issues with its neighbouring countries and hoped to resolve existing issues in the future.

Sarwar Mahmud, Chairman of the National River Conservation Commission (NRCC), said he wants to strengthen regional cooperation to protect vital water resources and promote sustainable development.

Rivers are not just geological features but the essence of our existence, he added.

Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of NSU, emphasised the importance of upstream river countries taking into account downstream countries, as they also have rights to water resources.

Everyone is equal in the eyes of nature's legal system, he added.

The conference brought together leading scientists, policymakers, researchers, and practitioners from across South Asia and beyond, facilitating meaningful dialogue and sharing innovative solutions aimed at enhancing regional cooperation for environmental sustainability.