In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

Enhancing Water Security of Indus Basin through IWRM



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## Water resources of Pakistan

• Pakistan is one of the world agro based countries, with an average rainfall of 240 mm a year. The country's water resources consist mainly of rainfall, glaciers and ground water. The population and economy are heavily dependent on an annual influx into the Indus river system (including its tributaries Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej rivers) of about 80 billion cubic meters of water flowing mainly through India and heavily depends on glacier melt in the western Himalayas.

## The Indus basin

 The Indus basin is located in 4 countries, of which the largest part in Pakistan, and substantial upstream parts in India China and Afghanistan. More than 40% is located at an elevation higher than 2000m a.s.l. The total hydrographic basin , as defined by the International Water Management Institute(IWMI) – has an area of 1 137819 km2.

## Expanse of the Indus basin



## Indus Basin location and Flow.

• The Indus River rises in the Tibetan plateau in the vicinity of Lake Mansarovar. It flows in Tibet for about 200 miles before it enters Ladakh, (part of Kashmir under Indian control) and then flows on towards Gilgit in Pakistan. Flowing through the North in a southerly direction along the entire length of Pakistan, it falls into the Arabian Sea near Pakistan's port city of Karachi. With a total length of 3,200 km (1,988 miles). The Indus river feeds ecosystems of temperate forests, plains and arid countryside. Its five major tributaries are the Jhelum, the Chenab, the Ravi, the Beas and the Sutlej (also having origin in Tibetan plateau). Another two tributaries of the Indus, the Kabul and the Kurram, lies in Afghanistan. Most of the Indus basin lies in Pakistan and India.

### Distribution of the catchment area of Indus River Basin

Country	Drainage Area (million ha)	Percent area of country in the basin (%)	Comments
Pakistan	59.80	52.48	-
India	38.32	34.35	1600 km2 Indian control, claimed by China
China	8.58	6.83	9600 km2 Chinese control, claimed by India
Afghanistan	7.21	6.33	-
Total	113.91	100	-



Source: Flood Forecasting Division, Pakistan Meteorological Department





# Challenges Faced by Indus Basin

• The Indus basin is one of the regions in the world that is faced with major challenges for its water sector, due to

- population growth.
- rapid urbanization.
- industrialization.
- environmental degradation.
- unregulated utilization of the resources.
- inefficient water use and poverty, all aggravated by climate change.

# Internal management of water resources & sharing of best

## practices.

• The issue of internal water resources management becomes very important given the fact that physical separation of the Indus tributaries has hampered the possibilities of efficient integrated basin management. In view of growing water scarcity, it is the responsibility of both states to ensure internal water resources management by following the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and share best practices in water conservation techniques in agricultural, industrial and domestic uses. There is a need for a paradigm shift in water management from technocratic approach that looks almost exclusively towards engineering solutions to a socio-centric approach which lays emphasis on indigenous physical and human resource management and is more resource-efficient and ecology friendly.

## Various national and international

## reports on Pakistan's water

# situation

• Pakistan Strategic Country Environmental Assessment Report, 2006, says water availability per person has drastically fallen from about 5,000 cubic meters in 1947 to 1,100 cubic meters. It projects that water availability will hit below 700 cm per capita by 2025. The World Bank in its report (2005) observed: "Pakistan is already one of the most water-stressed countries in the world, a situation which is going to degrade into outright water scarcity."In 2007, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) report stated that Pakistan is "nearly at water scarcity threshold of 1,000 cubic meters/person/year. "The *Economic Survey of Pakistan (2009-10)* puts the per capita availability of water in the country at 1066m 3/person. This clearly shows that Pakistan has become a water-scarce country.

## Conclusions

 The Indus river basin – shared by Pakistan, India, China and Afghanistan, is one of the most depleted river basins in the world. The basin is confronted with a lot of current and future challenges. Irrigated agriculture is by far the most important water demand stakeholder, but water demands for domestic and industrial purposes are increasing, due to population increase. Because the challenges are so massive and sustainable WRM requires the inclusion of all available options, so it is essential for scientists and policy makers to have a holistic vision for the Indus basin. The challenges of the Indus basin need to be taken upon the concept of IWRM, regarding the Indus basin as a natural system, independent of political borders, where flooding needs to be tackled by means of "river management" measures, not merely "river control" strategies.

