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Strategic Discussion on the River Basin Planning and Management Cycle

Date: 2 December 2019

Time: 9:30 am – 04:00 pm

Venue: The Claridges, New Delhi

Background

Government of India's one of the most aspirational missions, 'National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)' has witnessed significant progress on rejuvenation of the revered river Ganga through implementation of number of activities such as creating new/augmenting infrastructure projects for , capacity development of relevant stakeholders, wastewater treatment, public outreach. While the NMCG has the pivotal role in rejuvenating Ganga, the importance of effective coordination with relevant partner organizations and departments is emerging as an integral part of its functioning in order to optimise the outcomes. In this connection, the NMCG has been gearing up to move towards River Basin Management (RBM) approach to implement its activities in a concerted manner.

RBM is an important and strategic approach to successfully manage entire river basins with a holistic view as it allows for coordinated and integrated implementation of activities for water resources management with a clear governance structure. Such an integrated RBM approach considers and addresses all pressure factors stemming from human activities and possibly posing a risk to impact on river basin objectives.

In this regard, the Indo-German 'Support to Ganga Rejuvenation' project (GIZ-SGR), the India EU Water Partnership (IEWP) and the NMCG have been working together to promote a structured approach towards integrated RBM. In this connection, the River Basin Planning & Management Cycle has been widely recognised as an important and effective steering and management instrument to develop RBM plans, implement these and review their effectiveness. Based on the challenges faced in managing river basins, the Cycle identifies the key steps in RBM planning processes, supports the development & implementation of measures and facilitates the allocation of responsibilities among all stakeholders through a clear coordination and governance structure.

In order to introduce the RBM Cycle as practical planning tool, a modular training targeting relevant stakeholders responsible or involved in developing and implementing RBM has been developed. These RBM Cycle trainings will be conducted in a series of modules starting from December 2019. Based on the roles, the stakeholders to participate in the strategic discussions and trainings have been classified in following categories;

- a. **Target Group 1** – Strategic discussions with high level Decision Makers from partner institutions and relevant organizations
- b. Target Group 2 – Trainings for Senior level officials who steer the organizations/ groups and will eventually be responsible for the planning and implementation process
- c. Target Group 3 - Senior and Mid-level official responsible for steering the implementation
- d. Target Group 4: Trainers from 3-4 training institutions who will roll out the RBM Cycle trainings in the future.

The programme schedule for the first module for the Decision Maker level (Target Group 1) can be found below. Module 2 is planned for February 2020, module 3 for May 2020.

Module 1: Introduction to the River Basin Planning and Management Cycle

Aim

This strategic discussion is being organised with high level Decision Makers from identified partner organisations/ departments **to develop a common understanding on importance of RBM Cycle in the Indian context and the role of decision makers within it. The participants will share experiences and initiate a dialogue to coordinate and implement the RBM Cycle in India.**

The workshop will be based on several interactive sessions between the facilitators and the audience, in order to create an environment fruitful for discussion and coordination between decision-makers of agencies operating in the Ganga Basin.

Programme Schedule

| Time | Session | Speaker |
|---------------|---|--|
| 09:00 – 09:30 | Registration | |
| 09:30 – 09:40 | Welcome and introduction to the topic | Martina Burkard Head of Programme, GIZ Birgit Vogel Project Manager IEWP, GIZ |
| 09:40 – 09:50 | Setting the Context | Rajiv Ranjan Mishra Director General, NMCG |
| 09:50 – 10:00 | Workshop Objective | Consultant |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | Interactive session on River Basin Management (RBM): <input type="checkbox"/> Principles of RBM and RBM Plans <input type="checkbox"/> EU Water Framework Directive <input type="checkbox"/> Exchange of experience with the audience: The Indian perspective | Consultant and participants |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | Tea/ Coffee Break | |
| 11:30 – 13:00 | Interactive session on the RBM Cycle: <input type="checkbox"/> Overview on the Cycle <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation of each step <input type="checkbox"/> Example of implementation in EU context <input type="checkbox"/> Exchange with the audience on implementation in the Indian context | Consultant and participants |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch | |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | Interactive session on RBM Cycle (continuation): <input type="checkbox"/> Development of River Basin Management Plans (inspiration from the EU WFD) <input type="checkbox"/> Exchange of experience with the audience: How to blend EU and Indian approaches? | Consultant and participants |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | Summary of the discussions and next steps | Consultant GIZ |