

SAHDR 2013

WATER FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

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SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS



MAHBUB UL HAQ
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTRE



About the Mahbub ul Haq Centre

- ◆ Foundation for Human Development in Pakistan
- ◆ Mahbub ul Haq Human Development Centre
- ◆ Set up in November 1995, Islamabad
- ◆ The late Dr. Mahbub ul Haq, founder and chief architect of UNDP Human Development Reports

Work of the Mahbub ul Haq Centre

- ◆ Special focus on South Asia
- ◆ Policy research institute and think tank
- ◆ Promotion of the human development paradigm
- ◆ Powerful tool for informing people-centred development policy
- ◆ Professional research, policy studies and seminars
 - ◆ On issues of economic and social development
 - ◆ As they affect people's well-being

Why was the Mahbub ul Haq Centre set up?

- ◆ Shared histories of the people in this region
- ◆ Shared destinies
- ◆ Need for cooperation among the countries of the region
- ◆ Comparative analysis of the region with the outside world
- ◆ Annual Report – Human Development in South Asia

Continuing Dr. Haq's Legacy

- ◆ Analyzing the process of human development
- ◆ People at the centre of economic, political and social policies
- ◆ Regional focus on South Asia
- ◆ Yardstick for progress and setbacks of South Asia vis-à-vis the rest of the world

Current activities of the Centre

- ◆ Preparation of annual reports – Human Development in South Asia
- ◆ Publication of a collection of unpublished papers of Dr. Haq
- ◆ Policy papers
- ◆ Seminars and conferences on global and regional human development issues

List of Human Development Reports produced by the Centre

- ◆ 1997 The Challenge of Human Development
- ◆ 1998 The Education Challenge
- ◆ 1999 The Crisis of Governance
- ◆ 2000 The Gender Question
- ◆ 2001 Globalization and Human Development
- ◆ 2002 Agriculture and Rural Development

List of Human Development Reports produced by the Centre

- ◆ 2003 The Employment Challenge
- ◆ 2004 The Health Challenge
- ◆ 2005 Human Security in South Asia
- ◆ 2006 Poverty in South Asia: Challenges and Responses
- ◆ 2007 A Ten-year Review

List of Human Development Reports produced by the Centre

- ◆ 2008 Technology and Human Development in South Asia
- ◆ 2009 Trade and Human Development
- ◆ 2010/11 Food Security in South Asia
- ◆ 2012 Governance for People's Empowerment
- ◆ 2013 Water for Human Development

Why a report on water?

- ◆ A report on water not only from the point of view of its availability and usability by its growing population, but also from the perspective of human development to analyse how water could impact people's ability to survive and prosper in this region, in the context of potential scarcity of water by 2030 and the variability of weather due to climate change
- ◆ South Asia's other concern is transboundary water mismanagement that can at any moment lead to a huge conflict within the region, which is already plagued by mistrust among the countries

Why a report on water?

- ◆ Water is intimately connected to all the major challenges that South Asia is facing today
- ◆ The economies of most countries are growing, but are the people moving up with the economies?
- ◆ How is this emerging water issue going to impact this unequal and unjust growth?
- ◆ Can this growth be sustained without efforts to mitigate climate change?
- ◆ In the context of reduced water supply, can this region afford not to cooperate with its neighbours on water sharing?

Where to find the South Asia Human Development Reports

- ◆ To download a soft copy, visit the 'Annual Reports' section of www.mhhdc.org
- ◆ For a hard copy, fill in the order form, available under the 'Annual Reports' section of www.mhhdc.org

Key findings of Water for Human Development

- ◆ 16th Report on Human Development in South Asia
- ◆ ‘Water for human development’ fills a critical research gap in the discourse about water and human development in the context of South Asia
- ◆ The crucial link between water and human development
- ◆ Water seen from the prism of the human development philosophy
 - ◆ people’s access to it in the region
 - ◆ its nexus with economic development
 - ◆ with climate change and
 - ◆ the evolving nature of transboundary riparian relations in South Asia

Water and sanitation in South Asia

- ◆ The well-being of people in South Asia is largely determined by their access to water and sanitation
- ◆ Out of a cumulative population of 1.65 billion, 1.5 billion people have now obtained water from improved sources
- ◆ On the sanitation front, 1 billion people are still using unimproved sanitation facilities

Priorities for water and sanitation

- ◆ To recognize the human right to water and sanitation
- ◆ To take adequate measures to implement national water and sanitation policies
- ◆ Infrastructure for water and sanitation require upgrading
- ◆ Increased budgetary allocation
- ◆ Better financing mechanisms for improved service delivery

Water and economic development

- ◆ The issue of *declining water availability* as a major concern for South Asia's development trajectory
- ◆ A two-way causality between water and economic development
- ◆ On one hand, water contributes to economic development
- ◆ On the other hand, economic development demands increased harnessing of available water resources

Water and Agriculture

- ◆ Agriculture, the mainstay for South Asian economies accounts for 91 percent of all water use
- ◆ Low efficiency and productivity in the agricultural sector coupled with poor management of water resources and improper pricing policies have intensified pressures on water use

Problems of water governance

- ◆ South Asian countries are all facing a lack of institutional capacity and effective water management
- ◆ These issues coupled with limited, dilapidated and ageing infrastructure and high conveyance losses have added to the problems of water governance in the region

Options for South Asia

- ◆ In the foreseeable future, the options South Asian countries can avail consist of:
- ◆ Improving water productivity
- ◆ Pricing water for efficient allocation
- ◆ Using integrated water resource management techniques

Water and Climate Change

- ◆ Climate change makes South Asia one of most vulnerable regions in the world
- ◆ It serves to exacerbate the traditional drivers of water stress
 - ◆ population growth
 - ◆ urbanization
 - ◆ industrialization
 - ◆ inefficient water governance

Climate change – adaptation and mitigation

- ◆ In the future, the intensity of floods, droughts and cyclones is expected to rise, thereby resulting in pronounced displacement and migration
- ◆ Current practices are disconnected from development planning, with most of the policies and plans weakly linked to disaster risk reduction, agriculture and other related areas
- ◆ The region needs to adapt by building resilience to climate change
- ◆ Mitigation strategies will require countries in the region to reduce emission intensity of growth while improving the access of people to cleaner energy

Transboundary water resource management in South Asia

- ◆ Transboundary water management in South Asia – its challenges and opportunities - have a crucial bearing on lives and livelihoods of people in South Asia
- ◆ Six out of the eight countries in the region share river systems that span national boundaries

Transboundary water resource management in South Asia

- ◆ South Asia is one region that has not only dealt with some of the most difficult disputes over international rivers, but has also been able to design some interesting ways of cooperation
- ◆ The treaties that exist in the region are all bilateral
- ◆ The bilateral focus inhibits countries from holistic river basin management

Transboundary water resource management in South Asia

- ◆ The Report calls for establishing a regional institution as an ideal platform to cooperate, where processes for exchanging data and information on a timely basis would reduce the current trust deficit between countries
- ◆ It would enable the region to forge more robust water sharing treaties especially with respect to hydrological variability, ground water extraction and climate change, promote better flood management, and help to manage contentious hydroelectric projects on shared watercourses

Transboundary water resource management in South Asia

- ◆ The Report highlights the need to better understand the 'hydrological interdependence' that binds these countries
- ◆ How it should be managed, not only for ensuring water security and sustainability, but also peace in the region

The Report as a testimony

- ◆ Continued neglect and lack of policy attention to this important resource will derail or possibly even reverse the progress that the region has made thus far
- ◆ Whether it is in terms of the number of people who have been provided with access to water and sanitation
- ◆ The extent of economic growth that is attributed to the use of water in agriculture, industry, and the energy sectors
- ◆ The efforts towards developing comprehensive adaptation and mitigation policies with respect to climate change
- ◆ Current and future possibilities for bilateral and regional cooperation in water resources management

Six definitive conclusions

- ◆ First, the world, and especially South Asia can no longer take water for granted
- ◆ Second, the lack of access to water has reinforced existing inequalities
- ◆ Third, water is a critical driver of economic development
- ◆ Fourth, climate change is a formidable challenge, which South Asian countries can no longer ignore; rather, they must prepare for it
- ◆ Fifth, countries have to work together under a regional framework to resolve and manage transboundary water-related issues
- ◆ Finally, water should be managed and conserved appropriately so that the present generation can benefit from this vital resource without constraining its use by future generations

Aims & Objectives

- ◆ Bridging the research and policy divide
- ◆ Enlightening readers about locating water amongst its respective needs and multiple uses by individuals, households, economies, the environment and riparian states and the notion of water stress and ultimately, water scarcity
- ◆ By focusing on a myriad of complex issues affecting water for human development, the Report intends to provide an insightful analysis that is relevant for the research community, academics and policymakers

Future prospects

- ◆ The Centre hopes that the issues that have been raised here will receive much needed policy attention
- ◆ Failing to do so, will lead to a situation of *'policy-induced'* water scarcity, the costs of which will ultimately be borne by the poor and the marginalized
- ◆ In the 21st century, we cannot afford to let this happen

Thank you!

