International Conference
of the
Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management Society

The Majestic River Ganga

– Health, Integrity & Management

November 13-15th, 2006
Patna University, Patna, India

Chairpersons:
R.K. Sinha (India), M. Munawar (Canada)

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Organized by:
The Aquatic Ecosystem Health & Management Society (Canada)

Hosted by:
Environmental Biology Laboratory
Department of Zoology
Patna University (India)

Final Circular

Objectives & Rationale:

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The Symposium is designed to focus on the ecosystem health of River Ganga. A comparative international session is tentatively planned to compare the status of River Ganga with other tropical rivers.

The River Ganga has been the cradle of Indian civilization and symbol of purity to millions. It is treated as one of the most holy rivers of the world. The Ganga is the largest river of the Indian sub-continent. The Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna river basin covers only 0.12% of the total landmass of the Earth yet about 10% of the world's population reside there. Recently, the Ganga is facing numerous threats originating from anthropogenic activities throughout its basin. Organic pollution from domestic sewage, industrial effluents, and hazardous chemicals from non-point sources of agriculture and health sectors have seriously impacted water quality, aquatic biodiversity and human health. The Ganga ecosystem and its food-web must be viewed holistically with integrated and watershed perspectives. The river and it tributaries have not received proper attention from the researchers, policy makers and environmental managers in India.

In this context, the Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management Society and Patna University are jointly sponsoring this international symposium on River Ganga. Scientists from both the tropical and temperate regions are invited to participate.

The main objectives of the symposium are:

1. to review and compare the state of "health" of the river and its wetlands,
2. to evaluate the impacts of anthropogenic stress on biodiversity and human health,
3. to review the status of conservation and management of food web dynamics and fisheries of the river,
4. to evaluate the technology for the sound assessment and monitoring of the river's ecosystem health,
5. to discuss the need for participation of stakeholders, public awareness, and environmental education of children and youth,
6. to compare the ecosystem health and fisheries of tropical rivers with a special emphasis on River Ganga.

Conference Themes:

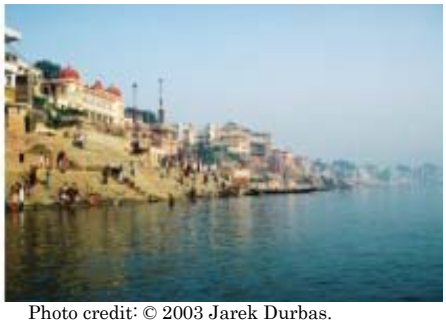
- Ecosystem health and management of River Ganga and its tributaries (Upper, Middle and Lower reaches)
- Origin of Ganga - a geological and religious perspective
- Historical Perspective of the Gangetic aquatic resources
- Expansion of the Gangetic watershed
- Anthropogenic impact and toxicology in the Gangetic ecosystem
- Biodiversity in River Ganga
- Management, Remediation and Restoration of River Ganga

Tentative Program-at-a-Glance:

	Mon, Nov 13th	Tues, Nov 14th	Wed, Nov 15th
Morning	Registration, Inauguration & welcome ceremomy,	Keynote presentation, Contributed sessions	Panel discussion, Highlights of the conference, Summary and recommendations, Publication plans, Closing ceremony
Afternoon	Keynote presentation, Contributed sessions	Keynote presentation, Contributed sessions	Field trip to historical locales of Patna
Evening	Poster session	Banquet, Cultural programme	

Venue and climate:

The venue of the symposium, Patna (ancient Pataliputra, the capital of Magadh Empire), is the capital of Bihar. The city of Patna (25°37'N 85°10') is located on the right bank of the River Ganga with a river front of over 20 kilometres. The Ganga receives a maximum volume of water in and around Patna. The River Gandak (the Narayani in Nepal) from the Himalayas joins the Ganga opposite the Patna University campus.



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Travel Information:

Patna, the capital of Bihar is well connected with almost all the major cities of India by air, rail and road. The nearest International Airports are Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi, and Netaji Subhash International Airport, Kolkata. The Patna Airport is Jaiprakash Narain Airport, Patna. Taxis are available from the airport and railway stations to hotels and the university.

Pre and Post Conference Tours:

One/two days pre and post conference tours can be organized for Nalanda, Rajgir, Bodh Gaya, Vaishali on payment basis (approximate cost: 25 US$ per person). A half day floating seminar can be organized in the Ganga at an estimated cost of 10 US$ per person (includes packed lunch).

Abstracts:

Submission of abstracts is now closed.

Registration:

Registration fees are given below:

1. Participants from India: Rs. 2500
2. NGOs: Rs. 5500
3. Indian Students: Rs. 450
4. Participants from SAARC countries (other than India): USD $150
5. International/participants from other countries: USD $300
6. SAARC and International Students: $75

Mode of payment: *categories 1, 2 and 3* as given above should send their payments by Bank Draft to Prof. R. K. Sinha, payable to: Organizing Secretary, International Conference on Ganga, Zoology Department, Patna University, Patna 800 005. *Categories 4, 5 and 6* should fill out the attached registration form for payment in USD to the AEHMS.

Please choose carefully the appropriate rate for Indian, SAARC countries and International participants, based on citizenship.

The registration fee includes attendance at all scientific sessions, book of programme and abstracts, coffee & tea.

Registration after **Sept 22nd, 2006**, will be subject to a late fee of Rs. 500 and $50 USD for SAARC and International participants.

Accommodation Information:

Arrangements for accommodation and payment are the responsibility of the participant. For information and reservations contact Dr. R.K. Sinha, Organising Secretary, at rksinha_54@sancharnet.in. Please make sure to book accommodation promptly.

AEHMS Publication Plans:

Selected manuscripts originating from the conference will be considered for publication subject to peer review. It is planned to publish papers originating from the Symposium in a special issue of the journal, *Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management* (Published by Taylor & Francis, USA) and/or a peer reviewed book under the Ecovision World Monograph Series, depending on the number of manuscripts. For details contact Dr. M. Munawar, Chief Editor, AEHMS at munawarm@dfo-mpo.gc.ca. Instructions to authors are available on the AEHMS website: www.aehms.org.

Due to the large number of manuscripts expected the AEHMS has set page limit guidelines as follows: Keynote: 10-15; Oral & Poster: 8 printed pages including tables and figures (Text: Times New Roman 11 pt, Margins: 2.7 cm (1”), Paper: letter size 21.6x28 cm (8.5x11”)).

Manuscripts may be submitted at any time but the final deadline will be **January 31st, 2007**.

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Secretariat:

J. Lorimer, (AEHMS): lorimerj@dfo-mpo.gc.ca,
Fax: +1 905-634-3516
D. K. Kedia (Patna University):
dilip.kedia@rediffmail.com,
Fax: +91 612 2688801

Local Organizing Committee:

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Organising Secretary

R. K. Sinha, Department of Zoology, Patna University

Co-Sponsored by:

Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management Society

&

Patna University (India)

"Ganga has been a symbol of India's age-old culture and civilization, everchanging, everflowing, yet the same Ganga"

- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India (in his "Will and Testament").