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Special Session (SS01) on:

Water management in South Asia: From conflict to cooperation

Organiser:

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The aim and scope of the special session:

The special session titled '*Water management in South Asia: From conflict to cooperation*' will aim at identifying areas for improvement in current water management in the studied region. Speakers will look at the socioeconomic, environmental, and institutional aspects along the three major river basins and other water management related issues. The session will highlight various challenges and opportunities for cross-border water management and wider regional cooperation in South Asia, with a particular emphasis on the three major river basins in the Indian subcontinent — the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra.

The management of transboundary water resources is known for its complexity and large number of interconnected socioeconomic, technological, environmental, and institutional aspects. Moreover, it tends to be specific to each reality and complex in terms of the factors involved. At the same time, challenges related to climate change, increasing water scarcity and dangers linked to large-scale water diversion projects are *interregional* and *international* by nature and thus require creative collaborative approaches to develop suitable and a basin-wide solutions in order to face unexpected events such as ecosystem degradation, water scarcity, and displacement of people.

During the last few decades, the issue of sustainable water management in South Asia has been increasingly gaining significance, especially in view of the fact that water has the potential to sharpen territorial and resource feuds, and trigger greater regional instability in this region. Hence the objective of this session is to offer a platform and to share observations and research findings dealing with the strengthening of the regional collaboration as well as with the effectiveness of the water management. Furthermore, taking into consideration the increasing development in the region and related pressure on water resources, the panelists will discuss water conflictual and cooperative attitudes and gestures between countries and regions, and will analyse management trade-offs between nature, agriculture, and urban uses.

SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT