

Minutes of Meeting – Check-in: CoP on Resilient Infrastructure for Energy Transition > Building Climate Resilience in the Hydropower Sector through EWS

Date of Meeting: 08 November 2024

Attended by:

1. Lena Wiest, IEA
2. Manjusha Mishra, NHPC
3. Isabella Villanueva, Ministry of Energy, Chile
4. Lei Xie, IHA
5. Mark Christian, EPRI
6. Amarnath Giriraj, IWMI
7. Lance Gore, ADB
8. Saswata Sanyal, ICIMOD
9. Avinash Venkata A, CDRI

Points of Discussion

- The main points of discussion centred around the possible date of the proposed next technical dialogue on the theme of modernization of EWS. It was tentatively agreed that the dialogue could be held in the last week of November or 2nd week of December with the date to be finalized.
- On-boarding a lead author for the proposed knowledge product (attached is a brief draft ToR for the same) – for capturing the key findings from the technical dialogues and disseminating it to wider audiences, including the coalition countries, high-level forums etc.
- It was suggested by EPRI that some primary challenges with respect to building hydropower sector resilience could be covered, with focus on finance, and diversification. Further, mapping out the timelines with respect to the various risk factors especially flooding could be looked at. Focus could also be on asset owners.
- Additionally, it emerged from IHA that there is a need for increased awareness and capacity building, among the industry participants, with respect to enhancing hydropower sector resilience.
- The example of Zambia was cited by IWMI, and how aging hydropower infrastructure and impacts of El Nino had caused devastating damages to the economy, resulting in cascading losses of more than US \$ 300 million in a 2 month time period, and why there needs to be a focus on early warning systems and early action plans.
- NHPC had brought out the need to focus on capacity building and to focus on long-term forecasting.
- ICIMOD is working on a multi-hazard risk assessment framework interacting with the mountain ecosystems, which could be of some relevance to the CoP.

Action Points

- CDRI to share the previous documents relating to the community of practice with WMO, IEA, ADB and ICIMOD.
- CDRI to share the draft concept note of the next technical dialogue on “Modernization of EWS”, along with possible shortlisting of dates to be finalised.
- CDRI to share the possible dates for hosting the technical dialogue.