

Annonce de conférence

Jeudi 22.03.2012 à 17:15, Salle GC B30 (Génie Civil)

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The Indus Waters Treaty 1960

Difference in 2007 relating to the Baglihar Dam and Hydropower Plant

The Indus rivers system comprises the main Indus, with a length of 3'100 km, and five important tributaries. All of them originate in the Himalayas, pass through Indian Territory and then flows through the Pakistan provinces of Punjab and Sind, and falls in the Arabian Sea.

In August 1947, the Indian sub-continent became independent. In 1951 negotiations between India and Pakistan began under the auspices of the World Bank and after 9 years the Indus Waters Treaty was signed on the 19th September 1960. The Treaty includes two main provisions, sharing the 6 rivers between India and Pakistan:

1. All the waters of the Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Beas and Sutlej) shall be available for the unrestricted use of India.
2. All the waters of the Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum and Chenab) shall be available for the unrestricted use of Pakistan. However India, as the upper riparian state, is allowed a restrictive use of their waters for domestic, agriculture, non-consumptive and hydropower generation.

In addition to these commitments of the Parties, the Treaty prescribes technical provisions which prevent a country, which have a restricted use on a river, to store the water and especially power plants should be run-of-river plants.



In the case of the Baglihar power plant, Pakistan estimates that the design submitted by India does not conform to these criteria. Upon request of the Governments of India and Pakistan, the author of the present communication was appointed in 2005 by the World Bank as Neutral Expert to state on the difference between the two countries.

The author declared his final verdict on February 2007, in which he upheld some objections of Pakistan on pondage capacity, height of dam and power intake tunnel, thereby limiting some flow control capabilities of the earlier design. However he rejected Pakistani objections on height and gated control of spillway declaring these conformed to engineering norms of the day.

The Treaty is a document extremely synthetic, clear and precise, but, in addition, sufficiently flexible to adjust to the technical developments. This is the award of the great engineers and lawyers who wrote this document fifty years ago, with strength of mind, joined with all the nuances inspired by a vision of the future.

La conférence sera donnée en français avec projections en anglais. Durée env. 45 minutes, suivie d'une discussion

Prof. Dr Anton SCHLEISS

