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**BRACE CENTRE FOR WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
&
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING & APP. MECH.**

SEMINAR :“ Future Policy Framework for Himalayan Water Resources in South Asia:Vital Importance of the Dams vs Environmental Flows Debate ”

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Abstract: The Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) basin, home of about 650 million people, has been known for conflicts over lean season flow between riparian countries of Bangladesh and India. The intense Monsoon precipitation makes the region prone to annual summer inundations, causing increasing human sufferings, as well as loss of life and property, while for the rest of the year scarcity condition develop, slowly but steadily. Guided by the traditional and reductionist engineering, huge investments have been made on thousands of kms of flood-protection embankments and plans for the construction of a series of large dams on the Himalayan rivers have officially been projected. The series of dams are expected to moderate the Monsoon floods, store water for augmenting the lean season flows, enhance the supply of water for irrigation, generate hydro-power, etc. These ideas proposed by the official engineers and encouraged by the big donors, are facing serious challenges from the eco-hydrological and public-interest viewpoints. The complex ecology of the Himalaya has been described as the reason that such engineering prescriptions as simplistic, ecologically unsustainable and economically unrealistic. Further, they do not recognise the enormous services performed by the environmental flows in the Himalayan rivers. The various important aspects of this debate between the traditional and the emerging visions will be presented and analysed in the lecture in the context of the GBM basin..

Speaker: Jayanta Bandyopadhyay is Professor and Head of Centre for Development and Environment Policy at the Indian Institute of Management in Calcutta, India. He has focused his professional interests on science, environment and public policy. His research in the past 25 years has been guided by the objective of generating trans-disciplinary public interest knowledge on critical environmental issues. He has studied several major environmental movements in India and his research has been the basis of a number of public interest cases in the Supreme Court of India related to the environment. He is presently the President of the South Asian Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resource Studies (SaciWATERs) which has taken a leading role in the promotion of new and holistic curriculum on water management in a number of South Asian Universities. He is a CLA for the Responses Working Group in Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. He is now the Vice-President of the Indian Society for Ecological Economics. He has published a number of crucial research papers on water management in South Asia, in particular, the Himalayan rivers.

2:30- 4:00 pm,
Tuesday April 12, 2005
Macdonald Eng. Bldg, Rm 497,
McGill University (downtown)



3:00 – 4:30 pm
Wednesday, April 13, 2005
Raymond Bldg, R3-038
Macdonald Campus, McGill