



**Water Environment Forum (WEF)
Pakistan**

**WEF Brief Paper
August, 2017**

Water Environment Security

by Nisar A Memon

WEF is pleased to launch its first Brief Paper, at the beginning of 71st year of Pakistan, on 'Water Environment Security' and commence an informed discourse amongst the practitioners, professionals and stake holders on a subject which is fundamental to life of its over 200 million inhabitants.

Pakistan came into being under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah with sacrifices of millions of Muslims who laid their lives and left their homes and hearth to live in new homeland where citizens could live in economic, social and political freedom with equal rights irrespective of religious believes. We built a standing army, air force, navy, nuclear and missile defence systems to provide our people the territorial security.

Under successive governments, economic and social development was undertaken with varying degree of success, despite two major wars with India and continued war against terrorism and extremism. We did not loose sight of developing the needed infrastructure, institutions, natural resources, and human resource development since there is interdependence of these for security, with water as focal point. Globally, in the last 25 years, a new challenge related to water environment is being debated and collective programs designed and implemented i.e. global climate change challenge.

Pakistan signed Indus Water Treaty in 1960 with India, supported by World Bank, whereby the water was partitioned in continuation of territorial partition of 1947. The western rivers namely: Indus, Jhelum and Chenab were assigned for use by Pakistan while Ravi, Sutlej and Beas for use by India. Later, in 1991, Water Apportionment Accord was inked between four provinces of Pakistan and Indus River System Authority (IRSA) came into being for implementation of the 1991 Accord.



Water Environment Security *by Nisar A Memon*

Page 2

Pakistan mainly depend on Indus River basin for its water, in addition to Kabul River, thus need to manage relationship with India and Afghanistan for its security. In view of Hindutva gaining political supremacy in India and Talibanization in Afghanistan, Pakistan has to manage the challenge on its eastern and northwestern borders towards its water security, in addition to territorial security. This coupled with global climate change challenge poses a serious threat to population.

The population increase itself is an additional factor to be recognized with decreasing per capital water availability. All this requires focused governance which due to failure of leadership in all walks of life has affected efficient use of already scarce water resource. In recent years, we are witnessing some space to water environment issues despite large chunk of media space to politics.

Governments at federal and provincial levels have woken to their responsibilities and are implementing and communicating policies and programs at global, country and provincial levels. All private sector institutions must fully participate in these endeavors since the task is enormous and requires all stakeholders to come forward in meeting the challenges.

No society can secure itself from challenges of climate change without adequate investment in scientific technological research and education commencing from school level. In future, WEF Brief Papers, we shall discuss each aspect of water security but above all will be guided by active participation of all water environment professionals in this debate.

Water Environment Forum is a non profit Trust registered in 2014 in Islamabad to protect water environment interests of Pakistan for the benefit of its people. The mission of WEF is to acquire, disseminate and manage knowledge, policy making in relation to Pakistan's water resources, contribute to public discourse through a programmatic approach in integrated management of Pakistan's water resources and providing a platform for professionals to come together and take actions to achieve sustainable development of water resources.

WEF Board of Trustees: Mr. Nisar A. Memon, Dr. Arshad Muhammad Khan, Engr. Syed Raghieb Shah, Mr. Ghazanffar Ali, Dr. Shakil Ahmad, Dr. Ali Tauqeer, Dr. Qamar Uz Zaman Chaudhry, Advocate Rabel Z. Akhund

<http://waterenvironmentforum.pk/>, <https://web.facebook.com/waterenvironmentforum/>,
https://twitter.com/water_environ,

info@waterenvironmentforum.pk