

Concept Note

“Indigenous Knowledge and Practices on Water Resource Management are key drivers for Water for Sustainable Development”

Table of Contents

1. Background	1
2. Objective	1
3. Coverage and Participation	2
4. Date and time.....	2
5. Guiding Questions.....	2
6. Agendas.....	3

1. Background

The Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) is a regional organization founded in 1992 by Indigenous Peoples’ movements. AIPP is committed to the cause of promoting and defending Indigenous Peoples’ rights and human rights and articulating issues of relevance to Indigenous Peoples.

As Indigenous Peoples have inherent rights over Water, Land and Forest, the UN Water Process is one of the important avenues to engage and advocate for the Indigenous Peoples fundamental human rights to Water as one of the core areas of self-determination and self-governance in the lens of self-determined development as well as contribute the indigenous perspectives to the water process and its commitments.

The UN 2023 Water Conference has targeted five thematic areas to achieve the [Water Action Decade 2018-2028](#). Out of which AIPP has identified the thematic area ID 2 (Water for Sustainable Development) to organize a side event on **“Indigenous Knowledge and practices on water resource management are key drivers for “Water for Sustainable Development”** and to contribute to the water conference.

2. Objective

The water is one of the inherent elements of the Indigenous Peoples and their communities which is necessary to be highlighted in the UN Water Conference as the fundamental human rights of Indigenous Peoples and their communities for educating and sensitizing to the world. As ‘the water is life’ for the universe in general, the water is something more than that for the Indigenous Peoples and their communities because the water is an origin of identity of the culture, knowledge, wisdom, language, and way of life of the Indigenous Peoples and their communities. So, the side event aims to achieve the following objectives;

- Highlight the issues and problems related to water being faced by Indigenous Peoples and their communities in their land and territories.

- Share Indigenous Knowledge and good practices relating to water resource management and governance focusing to the water for sustainable development.
- Contribute to the UN 2023 Water Conference and its commitments by sharing indigenous way forwards relating to water resource management and governance.

3. Coverage and Participation

AIPP believes on networking, coordination, collaboration, cooperation and partnership for highlighting the indigenous issues and sharing the indigenous perspectives on the identified topics. The side event intends to bring the diverse indigenous and non-indigenous expertise and knowledge holders from different geographical regions with gender balance to present their experiences and practices relating to the water, especially focusing on water for sustainable development. The event has expected the participation of the representatives from diverse groups and geographical regions.

4. Date and time

The side event will take place on 22nd March 2023, Wednesday at 9:30 -10:45 AM New York Time at Side Event Room C with event ID no. HQ7.

Organizer and Partners

Lead Organizer:

- 1. Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)**

Partner Organizers:

2. Oxfam Mekong Water Governance Program (MRWGP)
3. Association of Artisanal Fishers South India
4. Sea Tribes, Indigenous Coastal Media
5. Network of Indigenous Women in Asia (NIWA)
6. Indigenous Knowledge and Peoples of Asia (IKPA)
7. Asia Indigenous Youth Platform (AIYP)

5. Guiding Questions

- What are pertinent issues and problems relating to water resources which indigenous communities facing, including the key concerns from gender perspectives?
- How are indigenous communities managing and governing the water resources in their areas? What are their knowledge and good practices?
- What recommendations that the UN Water Conference should address and include in its water action agenda?

6. Agendas:

TIME	AGENDA	RESPONSIBLE	REMARKS
09:30 – 09:33 (4 minutes)	Section 1: Welcome	Facilitator: Mr. Prem Singh Tharu <i>Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the agenda and objectives of the event
09:34 – 09:36 (3 minutes)	Opening remarks	Mr. Phoolman Chaudhary <i>Former Reps for Asia region to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome with keynote
09:37 – 09:40 (4 minutes)	Session 2: Asia context	Facilitator: Phan Thi Thu Huong <i>Oxfam</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the panel (3 speakers) to talk about Asia's issues, practices and recommendations to all stakeholders
09:41 – 09:46 (6 minutes)	Speaker 1	Dr. Johnson Jament (Mr.) <i>Asia Indigenous Youth Platform (AIYP) and Association of Artisanal Fishers South India</i>	"Sea water and livelihoods of coastal indigenous peoples, protection of marine biodiversity and including safe drinking water in the context of climate change and coastal urbanization"
09:47 – 09:52 (6 minutes)	Speaker 2	Ms. Seangrawee Suweerakan <i>Network of Indigenous Women in Asia (NIWA)</i>	Roles and contribution of Indigenous Women and their indigenous knowledge in protection of water resources and biodiversity
09:53 – 09:58 (6 minutes)	Speaker 3	Ms. Rojieka Mahin <i>PACOS Trust, Sabah, Malaysia</i>	<i>Indigenous water governance systems in protection of water, fish, biodiversity, and environment including health and hygiene.</i>
09:59 – 10:04 (4 minutes)	Session 3: Collaboration and partnership	Facilitator: Mr. Prem Singh Tharu <i>Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)</i>	Introduce the 2 speakers to talk about how they collaborate and do partnership to amplify the works of Indigenous Peoples
10:05 – 10:10 (6 minutes)	Speaker 4	Mr. David Hebart-Coleman <i>Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), Sweden</i>	How SIWI supports to indigenous organizations, networks and CSOs from Asia to raise voice in regional and international context? And commitment to follow up after the Water Conference.
10:11 – 10:16 (6 minutes)	Speaker 5	Dr. Nigel Crawhall <i>Chief, Local and Indigenous Knowledge Section, Natural Sciences Sector, UNESCO</i>	UNESCO's areas of support to indigenous peoples in Asia and the connection to water governance, management, culture and rights. What are the options after the Water Conference?
10:17 – 10:36 (20 minutes)	Q&A	Floor Open to all for Q&A and sharing	Questions and answer for panelists
10:37 – 10:45 (9 minutes)	Closing speech	Ms. Robie Halip <i>Energy Partnership with Indigenous Peoples (REP)</i>	Summary of the event with noted recommendations and vote of thanks
