



**SAWAS**

South Asian Water Studies

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Water crisis, is perhaps the most pressing problem affecting humanity today. By its very nature water touches upon every aspect of human existence: biological, environmental, social, economic, political, and cultural amongst others. However, in the complex world such as ours, we are unable to discern the interactions and interdependencies of the living and non-living systems that belong to this planet, and thus have fallen prey to compartmentalized and skewed thinking leading us to exploitation of natural resources like water indiscriminately.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the sheer gravity of the problem, manifested in the form of natural and manmade disasters, has begun to force us to think differently. The movement for holistic approach in the form 'Sustainable Development Discourse' has already begun. Holistic approach to development, 'integrated approach to management of natural resources' such as water and 'interdisciplinary research' are being recognized as the need of the hour.

The South Asian Water Studies (SAWAS) journal is our contribution to this “Movement” in the water sector. **SAWAS** was conceived in 2008 as an interdisciplinary journal with an aim to provide space for alternative and critical thinking on water, fostering debate, eliciting innovative approaches, promoting original analyses and critiques. The journal is being revived to accommodate the emerging themes and current issues in the sector.

Today, we are happy to bring out the first volume of this journal in its revived form with a resolve to strengthen the focus on the emerging theme of climate-water nexus, water-food-energy nexus, and water-health nexus. With a Pan-South Asia focus and outreach, it will attempt to provide a scientific platform for sharing knowledge and information on water related problems and solutions from across the subcontinent reaching out to all the stakeholders within the region and beyond. This, we hope, will also give enable enhanced understanding of the concerns and the problems of the countries sharing borders, in the case of international water disputes. It is envisioned that such an attempt will help promote regional cooperation in the long run.

In addition, in its revived form, the SAWAS Journal would like to reiterate its commitment to encouraging contributions from young water professionals that work on water related issues in South Asia. It is in this spirit, that this issue contains contribution from younger students and professionals. It is hoped that this will set a precedent and encourage other young students and water professionals to submit their research to SAWAS.

We would like to acknowledge the contributions of the editorial board, the reviewers and the SaciWATERS team in bringing out this issue, without whom, this issue would not be possible. We would also like to thank International Development Research Centre (IDRC)- Canada , for their support of SAWAS, through the IDRC-SAWA Fellowships programme.



Neena Rao  
(Managing Editor)

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