



## Symposium on Exploring Pathways to Sustainability

February 10 – 11, 2014



### **CONCEPT NOTE: SECURITISATION** **(SESSION 5: FEB 11, 11.30A.M-1.30P.M)**

**Theme: Comparing the Nexus along the Mekong – Ganga: The need for a more dynamic approach to Water, Energy and Food security**

The Water-Energy-Food (WEF) nexus is emerging globally as a research agenda and governance framework for understanding the relationship between water resources development and the energy and food sectors. Water storage is usually seen as a solution to hydrological uncertainty and water and climate (in)security, and therefore is also considered integral to the WEF nexus.

The aim of this session is to compare a set of case studies from Nepal-India and Thailand-Laos, two pairs of countries that each share transboundary rivers and that are increasingly tied together by jointly developed water resource development projects and cross-border power trade. Overall, we seek to understand how preferred solutions have emerged in the context of food, water and energy security debates, and how alternative pathways have been dismissed. We frame our analysis within the context of a new political economy of Asia and a new political economy of water -- both built upon the foundations of the old political economies -- that are imagining new visions for the future of Asia's major rivers.

The session would seek to address one or several of the following points:

- What can we learn from research and policy initiatives in the Mekong for the Ganga? The same for the Mekong?
- What are the characteristics of this new political economy of water in South Asia and South-East Asia? Who are the key actors driving the 'nexus', how and why, and what intended and unintended purposes does it serve?
- What are the new visions and imaginaries for the future of Asia's major rivers? What dominant narratives are driving energy, climate and water security at different scales? Is there a growing convergence between these various securities, and the way that they are framed? Which types of risk and uncertainties are formally recognised, which remain unrecognised -how and why?