

First Announcement:

The 8th International Symposium on Large Asian Rivers

The International Symposium on Large Asian Rivers is a well-established conference series dedicated to advancing understanding of river systems across Asia. The symposium provides a platform for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to discuss and share current research on river evolution and environmental change.

The upcoming 8th Symposium will be held as a joint international symposium with IAG Working Group of Advancing Theory and Modelling of River Systems. Under the theme **“Channel Variability, Sediment Dynamics, and Resilience of River Systems”**, the symposium will take place in Dhaka & Sirajganj, Bangladesh, from 21 to 27 February 2027.

The joint symposium will bring together leading experts in fluvial geomorphology, sediment dynamics, hydrology, river engineering, and environmental science to share their latest research findings and practical insights, with particular emphasis on advancing theory and modelling of river systems. In addition to scientific presentations and in-depth discussions, the programme will include a field excursion to the Jamuna River and opportunities for international collaboration and professional networking.

For further information and updates on the symposium, please visit the official website: <https://largeasianriver.com/>.

Conference Theme

Channel Variability, Sediment Dynamics, and Resilience of River Systems

Main Topics

- Fluvial geomorphology, channel variability, and river dynamics
- Sediment transport, sediment budgets, connectivity, and source-to-sink processes
- Quaternary river evolution and paleoenvironmental reconstruction
- Human-river interactions and the impacts of dams, land-use change, sand mining, and river engineering
- Climate change, hydrological extremes, and the resilience and recovery of river systems
- Monitoring, modelling, remote sensing, and adaptive approaches to sustainable river management

Objectives

The main objectives of the 8th symposium are:

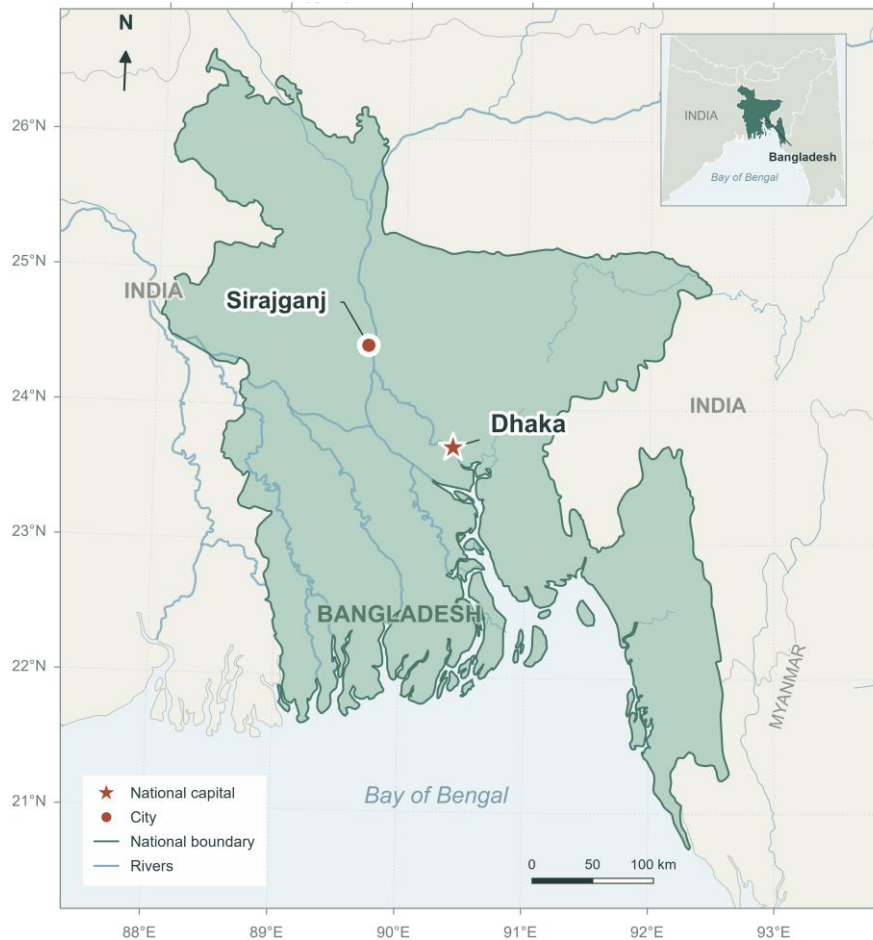
- To advance interdisciplinary research on channel variability, sediment dynamics, and the resilience of river systems.
- To promote international collaboration among researchers, institutions, river managers, and policymakers.
- To deepen understanding of the interactions among flow regimes, sediment transport, channel adjustment, climate variability, and human activities.
- To translate scientific knowledge into adaptive and sustainable approaches to river management, ecosystem restoration, and hazard mitigation.

Conference Location

Dhaka & Sirajganj, Bangladesh

Dhaka, the capital and largest city of Bangladesh, is the country's political, economic, and cultural center. With a long history as an important urban and trading centre in South Asia, the city combines historic districts, modern commercial areas, universities, cultural institutions, and a rapidly expanding metropolitan landscape. Dhaka is also one of the main transport and communication hubs of Bangladesh. Geographically, it lies at the southern end of the Pleistocene Madhupur Terrace, along the northern margin of the Ganges–Brahmaputra–Meghna delta plain. Its landscape includes elevated older alluvial surfaces as well as younger floodplains, wetlands, and river channels.

Sirajganj is an important district town and regional commercial center in north-central Bangladesh. The city has long been associated with river-based trade, agriculture, and textile production, particularly the traditional handloom industry. Its location near the Jamuna River and the major east–west transport corridor gives it an important role in connecting different parts of the country. Sirajganj lies on the western bank of the braided Jamuna River, upstream of its confluence with the Ganges. The surrounding landscape is characterized by active floodplains, shifting channels, sandbars, and river islands known as chars, which are continually reshaped by seasonal flooding, bank erosion, and sediment deposition.



The Location of Dhaka & Sirajganj

Conference Time and Schedule

- **18 December 2026:** Abstract submission Deadline
- **31 December 2026:** Registration Deadline
- **21 February 2027:** Arrival & Registration
- **22–26 February 2027:** Plenary, parallel sessions, and specialized workshop on the Jamuna River (Detailed schedule will be provided in the Second Announcement)
- **27 February 2027:** Departure

Organizers

Large Asian River Symposium Committee

IAG Working Group of Advancing Theory and Modelling of River Systems

Noakhali Science and Technology University

Co-Organizers

East China Normal University

China University of Geosciences, Wuhan

National University of Singapore

IAG Working Group of Climate Geomorphology: Processes, Responses and Futures

The Organization Committee

Chairs:

Xixi Lu, Professor, Department of Geography, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Golam Rabbani, Professor and Vice-Chancellor, Noakhali Science and Technology University, Bangladesh

Heqing Huang, Professor, China University of Geosciences (Wuhan) & Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research of Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

Hongming He, Professor, School of Geographic Sciences, East China Normal University, China

Scientific Committee Members:

Farida Begum, Associate Professor, Karakoram International University, Gilgit, Pakistan

Fengxian Bu, Professor, Shaanxi Normal University, China

Zhongyuan Chen, Professor, East China Normal University, China

Shibao Dai, Professor, Chuzhou University, China

Hui Deng, Professor, Peking University, China

Daidu Fan, Professor, Tongji University, China

Nufang Fang, Professor, Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Ministry of Water Resources, China

Md. Jaker Hossain, Lecture, Noakhali Science and Technology University, Bangladesh

G. Mathias Kondolf, Professor, University of California, Berkeley, USA

Zhongping Lai, Professor, Shantou University, China

Xiaoqiang Li, Professor, Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

Junsheng Nie, Professor, Lanzhou University, China

Baotian Pan, Professor, Lanzhou University, China

Qing Pei, Associate Professor, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, China

Ashok Kumar Singhvi, Professor, Physical Research Laboratory, India

Rajiv Sinha, Professor, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, India

Yongui Song, Professor, Institute of Earth Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

Fei Wang, Professor, Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Ministry of Water Resources, China

Xianyan Wang, Professor, Nanjing University, China

Fengbao Zhang, Professor, Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Ministry of Water Resources, China

Yaolong Zhao, Professor, South China Normal University, China

Jie Zhou, Professor, Kunming Branch, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

Call for Papers

Researchers and scholars are invited to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations. The deadline for abstract submission is **18 December 2026**. Abstracts should be submitted via email to the symposium organizers. Authors of accepted abstracts will also be invited to submit full-length papers. Further details regarding full-length paper submission will be provided in due course.

Registration

Participants are required to register for the symposium by **31 December 2026**. The registration fee includes access to all symposium sessions, field trips, and social events. The registration fee and payment details will be provided in the Second Announcement, and the deadline for payment is **29 January 2027**.

Contact Information

Mr. Md. Jaker Hossain: jaker.ocn@nstu.edu.bd

Mr. Tianyu Xiang: symposium.largeasianriver@gmail.com

Introduction to International Symposium on Large Asian Rivers

Background and Historical Context

The Large Asian River International Symposium series has established itself as a prominent platform for academic exchange and collaboration in river science and management. Since its inception, the symposium has sought to address the multifaceted challenges facing Asia's large river basins, particularly those arising from rapid environmental change and human activities.

The Symposium Series in the Past

The first International Symposium on Large Asian Rivers was held in December 2006 in Nanjing, China, and focused on interactions between fluvial and coastal zones. This inaugural event highlighted major human interventions in large Asian river basins, including land-use change, reservoir and road construction, and water diversion, which have significantly affected water and sediment discharge in rivers such as the Huanghe (Yellow River) and Changjiang (Yangtze River). The symposium provided an important forum for sharing research on how these changes affect estuarine and coastal zones and contribute to freshwater shortages, seawater intrusion, sediment depletion, coastal erosion, and pollution.

The second symposium, held in September 2007 in Nanchang, China, expanded the programme to include the effects of climate change on river basins, water-resources management, and the ecological consequences of human activities. It continued to attract international experts and fostered discussion of current and projected climate change, its effects on river runoff and sediment transport, and the need to integrate river-basin management with coastal-zone protection.

The third symposium, held in November 2008 in Urumqi, China, focused on climate change and watershed management. It addressed water scarcity in arid and semi-arid regions and the need for sustainable development and ecosystem conservation in large Asian river basins. Participants also explored the Tarim River, highlighting the local and global significance of these river systems.

The fourth symposium, held in July 2010 in Wuhan, China, addressed the ecological health of large Asian rivers and the effects of economic and other human activities. It was jointly organized with an international symposium on river ecology.

The fifth symposium, held in November 2011 in Nanjing, China, continued to develop these themes. The programme examined interactions between climate change and human activities, including land-use change, reservoir and dam construction, water diversion, and sand mining. It provided valuable insights into the climatic and hydrological processes affecting large Asian river basins and included field excursions where participants could observe these impacts directly.

The sixth symposium, held in May 2014 in Xi'an, Shaanxi, China, focused on the sustainability of aquatic environments and ecological security at the river-basin scale. The event underscored the need for multidisciplinary research into changes in large Asian rivers and the challenge of conserving biodiversity in the face of climate change. With more than 100 participants from over 10 countries, the symposium highlighted the global importance of these issues and reinforced the value of continued academic collaboration.

The seventh symposium was held from 11 to 17 August 2024 at the Institute of Technology of Cambodia in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Under the theme "River Evolution and Global Environmental Change from Historical and Modern Perspectives," the symposium brought together experts in river science, fluvial geomorphology, historical geography, and related fields to promote interdisciplinary research and international collaboration. The programme included academic presentations, a field excursion to the Mekong River, and discussions with local experts and policymakers, providing participants with a deeper understanding of the long-term impacts of natural and human-induced environmental change on river systems and potential strategies for sustainable river management.

Introduction to the Jamuna River

The Jamuna River is the downstream reach of the Yarlung Tsangpo–Brahmaputra River system, one of Asia’s great transboundary rivers. The river is known as the Yarlung Tsangpo River (雅鲁藏布江) in China, the Brahmaputra River in India, and the Jamuna River in Bangladesh. This continuity links research on the upper and middle reaches of the river system with studies of its highly dynamic downstream braided channels in Bangladesh.

In Bangladesh, the Jamuna is one of the world’s largest braided rivers, characterized by multiple interconnected channels, extensive sandbars, and river islands locally known as chars. Seasonal variations in discharge, particularly during the monsoon, drive sediment transport, bank erosion, and the formation and reworking of bars. These processes create a highly dynamic landscape in which channel positions and the distribution of land and water change rapidly over time.

The Jamuna River provides an important setting for investigating the relationships among flow, sediment transport, and river morphology. Research along the entire Yarlung Tsangpo–Brahmaputra–Jamuna system has contributed to understanding how large river systems respond to variations in water and sediment supply. At the same time, flooding and riverbank erosion threaten settlements, agricultural land, and infrastructure, directly affecting riverside communities.

The symposium’s field excursion to the Jamuna River will provide opportunities to examine these processes and discuss the practical challenges of riverbank protection and sustainable river management. These observations will complement the conference discussions on channel variability, sediment dynamics, and river-system resilience.



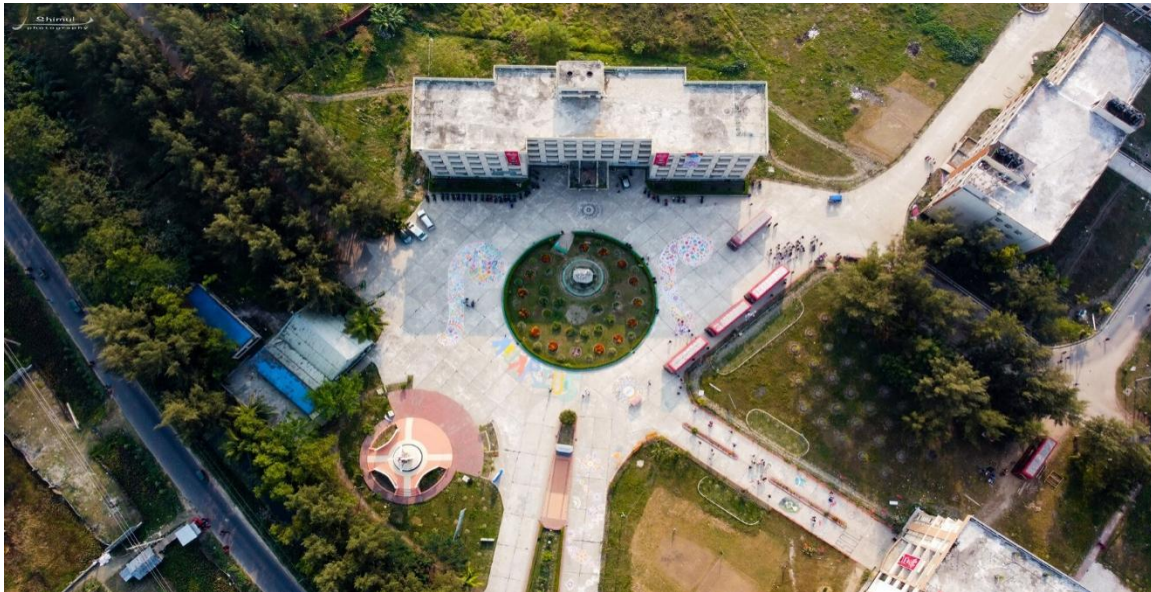
Braided channels and sandbars of the Jamuna River, Bangladesh

Introduction to NSTU

Noakhali Science and Technology University (NSTU) is a public university located in the coastal district of Noakhali, Bangladesh. The university has developed a multidisciplinary academic profile, with programmes spanning science, engineering and technology, social sciences and humanities, business, education, and law. Its academic activities combine teaching and research with an emphasis on addressing societal needs.

Disciplines relevant to the symposium include Environmental Science and Disaster Management, Oceanography, Fisheries and Marine Science, and Soil, Water and Environmental Science. Together, these fields provide a basis for interdisciplinary exchange on aquatic environments, environmental change, and natural resource management. The university's location in coastal Bangladesh also offers a relevant geographical context for considering the relationships among water, ecosystems, and human activities.

NSTU promotes international cooperation in education and research through its Institutional Quality Assurance Cell's International Collaboration and Cooperation Centre. As a host institution of the symposium, the university will help connect participants with the academic community in Bangladesh. The meeting will provide opportunities to exchange research findings, discuss shared scientific questions, and develop collaboration on river systems and environmental management.



The Campus of NSTU