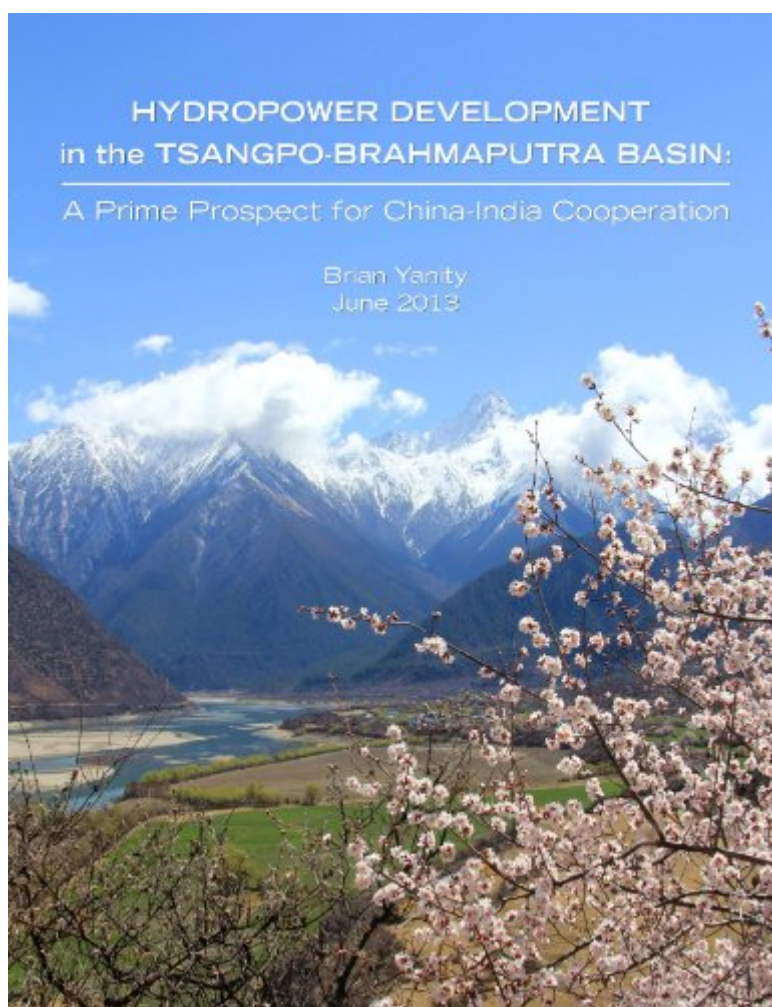


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Hydropower Development In The Tsangpo-Brahmaputra Basin: A Prime Prospect For China-India Cooperation



Synopsis

This review article provides an overview of India and China's hydropower development plans for the Brahmaputra watershed, specifically on the Yarlung Tsangpo/Siang River straddling the border region of the two countries. It is predominately a qualitative literature review, providing a high-level engineering discussion of the alternatives of hydroelectric development on the Great Bend of the Yarlung Tsangpo with a minimum amount of ecological and social impact. This site is the world's greatest single hydroelectric power potential, with more than 40 GW of feasible power generation capacity. The Brahmaputra basin as whole has over 200 GW of hydropower potential, less than 1% of which has been developed, all within a feasible electric power transmission distance of over one billion people. The possibilities and mutual benefits of cooperation between India and China, and the exceptional magnitude of hydropower potential on this shared Himalayan river basin, are discussed. To facilitate such cooperation, there is a great need for increasing collection and sharing of accurate technical and scientific information, particularly hydrological data. Such transparency and increased scientific knowledge is required to guide the socially responsible development of infrastructure projects in the Tsangpo-Brahmaputra basin, to conserve and protect natural resources, help build trust and reduce the likelihood of conflict between the two regional superpowers.

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Customer Reviews

Yannity provides a thoughtful and thorough analysis of the current state of hydro-electric development, as well as the fantastic development opportunities that exist in the region. While a lot of the things he writes about are somewhat technical, his work is still engaging and interesting, even to the non-engineer. A great read not just for people interested in hydro-power, but also for anyone interested in development and the politics of the region.

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