HSAF - Letter of Acknowledgement

Dear Dr. Abdel-Malek,

In 2008, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) was invited to become a member in the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Forum (HSAF) – an initiative of the International Hydropower Association (IHA), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF). BMZ welcomed the industry-NGO initiative to begin a new multi-stakeholder dialogue on hydropower sustainability and mandated the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to be an Observer to the HSAF.

BMZ acknowledges that the process leading to the Final Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol (HSAP) has been open and transparent. The final product summarizes the collective input from all the Forum members and also demonstrates areas of non-consensus, as communicated in the Statement of Conclusion.

BMZ values the HSAP as a new approach to broaden the discussion on sustainability of dam projects and to provide guidance on measuring and implementing sustainability criteria. The HSAP should be available for broad application.

German development cooperation has committed to apply the recommendations of the World Commission on Dams (WCD), which will continue to be our point of reference for the development of hydropower projects. At the same time, we value HSAP as a structured
assessment framework to produce sustainability profiles of hydropower projects and to improve the performance of the dam industry. These profiles are intended to open dialogue and to inform political and business decision-making processes.

BMZ provided targeted resources to the HSAF in order to extend and strengthen the dialogue with non-industry stakeholders. The direct engagement of the civil society, including dam affected communities, during the HSAF consultation rounds provided constructive critique that enriched the content of the final product.

Hereby we would like to acknowledge the significant progress made during the two and a half years of cooperation among the Forum members. The level of consensus reached in many important points in the HSAF is a clear success for all members of the Forum.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Franz Marré

Head of Division: Water, Energy, Urban Development, Geosciences-Sector
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development