

Associated Program on Flood Management (APFM)

The Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) was launched in 2001 as a joint initiative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Global Water Partnership (GWP). APFM is housed in WMO's Climate and Water Department to meet the needs of 189 Member States and Territories regarding flood management issues. Over the course of the Programme, APFM has been financially supported by the Governments of Japan, The Netherlands, and Switzerland. Projects and training activities are also supported by other countries and donor agencies, for example, in-kind contribution of personnel to the Programme has been granted by the Governments of Italy and Germany; USAID has pledged funds for the conduct of demonstration projects. Donors can contribute to international cooperation in flood management efficiently through WMO's world-wide network.

Objective of APFM

Promote the principles of Integrated Flood Management world-wide and support countries to implement IFM in the field.

WMO/GWP Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) supported workshop

A two days long National Consultation workshop on 'Integrated Flood Management with Focus on Coastal Zones of Bangladesh: Development of a Pilot Project on Coastal Flood Management in Selected Areas of Bangladesh' was held in BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 24th and 25th October 2014. The workshop was jointly organized by Bangladesh Water Partnership and Institute of Water Modelling in association with World Meteorological Organization, Global Water Partnership and Associated Program on Flood Management. The workshop was attended by Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud, MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of Bangladesh; Mr. Iswar Raj Onta, Chair, GWP SAS and Dr. Paul Pilon, Chief, Hydrological Forecasting and WRD of WMO.

Mr. Mohammad Nazrul Islam, Bir Protik, MP; Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources and Mr. M. Shahidur Rahman, DG, BWDB were also planned to attend the inaugural session, but due to some unavoidable reasons they could not attend. However, Mr. A L M Abdur Rahman, ndc, Additional Secretary, MoWR attended as special guest.

About 75 water professionals working in different government organizations, academic institutions, research organizations, NGOs and Water management Organizations participated in the workshop. A field visit to two coastal polders was followed after the workshop.

The broad objectives of the consultation workshop are;

- ❖ To share lessons, knowledge and experiences for understanding the complex nature of flooding patterns in the coastal zone of Bangladesh.
- ❖ To develop a “Pilot Research Project in the Coastal Area of Bangladesh based on the principles of Integrated Flood Management”.

The specific objectives of the workshop are;

- ❖ To share lessons on current issues and opportunities in addressing flood management methods and practices in Bangladesh and in the region.
- ❖ To promote regional Co-operation among the countries of South Asia focusing Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna Basins for improved and integrated flood and water management.
- ❖ To share water and climate related lessons and experiences.
- ❖ To come up with a proposal and devising pilot project in the coastal area of Bangladesh and conduct action oriented field level research.

Implementation of pilot projects

Soon after successful completion of the National Consultation Workshop held on 24-25 October 2014, a two-day long field visit was conducted in the coastal districts of Khulna in Bangladesh.

Objective of the field visit

The main objectives of the visit were to

- Visit two polders, polder 32 and 33 in Dakop Upazilla of Khulna district to have an idea about the coastal flooding;
- Interaction meeting with local people about the physical environment of the area;
- Assessment of socio-economic condition of these areas by discussing with local people;
- Observe the present embankment condition i.e. crest level, side slope , soil condition etc; for protecting coastal polders from both inundation and flood.
- Observe the existing drainage structures to have a clear idea about their operating system for flood control and easing drainage congestion.

Outputs/Outcomes/Follow-up

- Bangladesh Water Partnership proved to be very effective in bringing together the key actors to discuss flood management challenges in the country.
- Workshop Report to be finalized as per the WMO/GWP agreement with Bangladesh Water Partnership and its lead partner for this activity, IWM.
- First draft of the pilot project will be developed by Coordinating Committee in Bangladesh. WMO/GWP APFM will be requested to comment and provide intellectual backstopping.
- Bangladesh Water Partnership will continue discussion with financial partners in the country and present proposal to Minister of Water Resources, who indicated in his opening remarks and informal discussions an interest in the activity and the availability of funds.
- Pilot project proposal to link to the GWP/Delta Alliance 'Enabling Delta Life' initiative in Bangladesh.