

# Bangladesh Water Partnership Monthly Report July 2014

The following activity was carried out under Strategic Goal 2 during July 2014.

## **Strategic Goal #2: Generate and Communicate Knowledge.**

**Focus:** This goal focuses on developing the capacity to share knowledge and to promote a dynamic communications culture, so as to support better water management.

### **Activity-1: World Environment Day Celebration 2014**

The Halda River Water Partnership observed the World Environment day on the theme “Urbanization and Water Logging Threat to Coastal Towns from Sea Level Rise”. The



**View of participants**

principal objective of the program was to create awareness among the different stakeholders on the impact of sea level rise on the coastal towns.

Presided over by Dr. Zafar Alam, Director, Department of Environment, Chittagong the meeting was attended by 52 participants from different stakeholder groups. Dr. Hasan Mahmood Choudhury, Honorable Member of the parliament was present as the Chief Guest.

Two papers were presented in the seminar. One by Professor Syedur Rahman Chowdhury, Professor, Institute of Marine Science and Fisheries. Title of his presentation was “Sea level rise and urbanization”. The second paper titled “Urbanization, water resources, sea level rise and water logging” was presented by Architect AKM Rezaul Karim, Chief Town Planner & Architect, Chittagong City Corporation. The workshop was moderated by MD. Imam Hossain chowdhury, chief executive –NOWZUWAN.

The technical papers and subsequent discussion emphasized the adverse impact sea level rise will have on the Coastal towns including Chittagong the second largest city and the business capital of the country. The recommendations among others included the following:

1. Regular interaction among the Govt. Department, NGOs and CBOs dealing with climate change impacts and sea level rise.
2. Short, medium and long term planning for combating sea level rise.
3. Making adequate allocation in the national budget to face sea level rise.
4. Strengthening local government institutions to play effective role in minimizing affect of sea level rise.
5. Research initiatives from both academic and government sectors.
6. Mitigation and adaptation option identification and promotions.
7. Awareness building among the vulnerable groups.

### ❖ **Activities outside the work plan of BWP**

1. **Meeting on APFM to “Develop a mutually beneficial flood management program in Bangladesh”**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting for developing collaborative program with APFM (WMO) was held on 07 July (Monday), 2014 at BWP Secretariat at 5 pm.



**View of participants**

Main agenda of the meeting were about the discussion on the draft program, fixation of Date for the workshop and Identification of the Lead Institute/Organization.

The following decisions were considered for successful identification and implementation of the pilot project:

- (i) The study of flooding will be limited to flooding from the rivers or flooding from the storm surge or both.
- (ii) It will include both polder and non-polder areas.
- (iii) To determine if there are any duplication with existing research being conducted by any organization in the country including Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD)
- (iv) It was decided that Mr. Sarafat Hossain Khan, Project Director /Coordinator of CEIP( Coastal Embankment Improvement Project) of BWDB will be contacted to have his inputs for the pilot project.

- (v) One topic titled “Management of Coastal flood and inundation for integrated development of Polders” was suggested as a potential pilot project.
- (vi) Dr. Ainun Nishat suggested that an editorial board be established to preview the papers to be presented in the workshop with the objective of publishing a book. He agreed to lead the editorial board.
- (vii) He further agreed to present the Key note paper in the workshop.
- (viii) The draft proposal for the pilot project should be developed and distributed to participant of the workshop. With their feedback the pilot project will be finalized.
- (ix) A change in date suggested from 24-27 October 2014 for workshops and field visit.

## **2. Stakeholder Consultation Meeting to finalize Draft (GWP-SAS) APAN Synthesis Report FY 2013.**

A Stakeholders Consultation Meeting to discuss the aforementioned APAN Technical Report FY 2013 chapter by GWP South Asia was held by Bangladesh Water Partnership on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at Dhaka where 24 participants from different organizations, agencies and departments of Bangladesh related to water and environment, actively participated. The meeting elaborately discussed the Technical Report 2013 chapter section by section where comments came up from esteemed participants.

The report with comments has already been submitted to regional coordination of GWP-SAS office in SriLanka.



**View of participants**