

Bangladesh Water Partnership Monthly Report June, 2014

The following activities were carried out under Strategic Goal 2&3 during June 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.

A. World Environment Day Celebration 2014

Activity-A.1: Open Discussion on Impact on Sea Level Rise on Environment

An open discussion had been organized on 7 June, 2014 by Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) in association with Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) and Department of Environment (DoE) to celebrate the World Environment Day, 2014. The program was held in Haymonti Auditorium of Department of Forest (DoF) situated at Agargaon in Dhaka.

Mr. Anisul Islam Mahmud, MP, honorable Minister, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh attended the occasion as Chief Guest, while Dr. Jafar Ahmed Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh was present as Special guest. Dr. Khandaker Azharul Haque, Vice-president of Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) warmly welcomed Chief Guest, Special guest, Chairman of the Program along with all the

participants and organizers of the open discussion. He then emphasized on the tag line of this year's Environment Day which is one of the prime concern of today's world, explained the impact of sea level rise not only on the basis of region but the entire world context in brief. At the end of his speech, he gave a message that at present situation



Dr. K. Azharul Haq, Vice President, BWP delivering his welcome speech

we should not raise voice against activities that make sea level rise but should be more proactively aggressive on this issue. The discussion was chaired by Mr. Md. Raisul Alam Mondol, Director General of Department of Environment (DoE).

Approximately more than one hundred and fifty participants from different multi-disciplinary organizations were present in the discussion and made it a fruitful one.

The main part of the open discussion started by the keynote presentation under the caption “Ecosystem based Planning and Management” successfully delivered by Engr. Md. Waji Ullah, Executive Director, Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS). Later, Dr. Sultan Ahmed, Director, Natural Resources Management and Research Wing, Department of Environment (DoE) presented another paper in context of sea level rise. The theme of his presentation was “Climate Change and Sea Level Rise and Impact of Haor Wetland Ecosystem”. At last Mr. Md. Salim Bhuiyan, Director General, WARPO made a presentation on “Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Impact of Sea Level Rise, Bangladesh Perspective”.

After the completion of presentation, discussion, questioning, comments, views were shared by participators.

Outcome:

- i. Raise awareness for an environment friendly planning and development activities.
- ii. Provide knowledge for protecting the environment.
- iii. Suggestion for an improved river eco-system, water management system.

Activity-A.2: Seminar on Political Economy of Climate Change



View of participants

A daylong Seminar on Political Economy of Climate Change was organized on 19 June 2014 in the Daily Purbanchal Dialogue Center by Initiative for Right View and Bhairab River Area Water Partnership with the support of Bangladesh Water Partnership. Dr. Tarun Kanti Sikter, Director, Department of Environment was present as Chief Guest and Anwarul Quadir, Executive Director; Sundorban Academy was present as special guest. The seminar was chaired and facilitated by Gourango Nandy, Sr. reporter, Kaler Kantho, a national Bangla daily.

Professor Dr. Shahnewaz Nazimuddin Ahmed of Khulna University presented the keynote paper on **Political Economy of Climate Change and its impact on Developing Country**. In his paper he identified climate change a great threat for the globe.

He shared information that in the last 100 years the sea level has been raised by 15 cm. to 25 cm. which was 10 time higher from the last 300 years. Environmental scientists apprehended that if this increase goes on in the next decade the sea level will be raised 30cm to 40 cm. Due to global warming every year 5 lakh people will die by 2030. 10 percent of people of the planet will face extreme natural calamity.

The seminar had an open discussion session. A lively discussion was held by the participants in this session.

As the Chief guest Dr. Tarun Kanti Sikter suggested to go with the global initiative and should raise our voice against the sea level raise.

Following recommendations have made during the discussion.

Recommendations

- National level appropriate representatives should be selected for proper bargaining for climate deal
- Proper evidence of climate change loss should be find out through research and based on that evidence bargaining will be conducted in global level
- Developed countries should be bound to provide compensation and product support.
- The compensation should be provided directly to the affected country.
- There should be no intermediate between this compensation deals.
- We should not only aware about the reduction of carbon but also raise our voice against tricks of carbon business
- effected community, civil society voices should included in planning

Activity-3: workshop on “climate change impacts and its possible mitigation”.

Environment and Population Research Centre (EPRC) a partner organization of BWP has organized a workshop on 27 June 2014 at public library auditorium, Narail, in collaboration with and participation of district and sub-district education officers, teachers, students and members of CN-AWP and GARNET-SA. The workshop included class room training was followed by essay competition, information exchange workshop on “climate change impacts in your area and its possible mitigation” among the youths. The class room training issues consists of, water resources and impacts of climate change, IWRM, drinking and agricultural water management and other aspects.

At the programme, 4 schools were selected by Chitra–Nabaganga Area Water Partnership in Narail (CN-AWP) and about 400 students from those 4 schools participated in the essay competition. At the end of the programme, certificates, awards were given to the students from the District Education Officer that will encourage them to acquire more knowledge.



Students of the best school by essay competition

Outcome: This workshop tried to identify the specific local problems and appropriate practical ways to solve them. So the improved new practical knowledge, though brief, has built some capacity to address the situations and introduced interests for new knowledge among the youths.

- i. Level of knowledge about emerging climate change issues and its adaptation among youths improved through appropriate training at secondary schools.
- ii. Integration of class room lecture and essay competition contributed to increased and visible improvement in knowledge
- iii. Participation of educational department in the research contributed to increased interest in participation of the schools as well as students.
- iv. The integration of training and essay competition encouraged the students to further study the books.

Strategic Goal #3: Strengthen Partnerships

Focus: This goal focuses on enhancing the network's resilience and effectiveness through stronger partnerships, good governance, measuring performance to help learning and financial sustainability.

Activity-1: Strengthening Meeting of BWWN

A special meeting on strengthening partners of Bangladesh Women and Water Network (BWWN) was held on 2 June 2014 in the meeting room of BWP secretariat. The meeting



Participants of the meeting

was chaired by Begum Shamsun Nahar, Coordinator of Bangladesh Women and Water Network. 6 members of BWWN were present in the meeting.

The main agendas of the meeting were to review of previous activities of BWWN and discussion of activities for 2014. After detailed discussion the committee decided to organize a workshop on climate change issue in the costal belt area in Cox's bazaar along with two cyclone centre visitation.