

Bangladesh Water Partnership Monthly Report October 2014

The following activity was carried out during October 2014.

Activity-1: Meetings in Sri Lanka from 10-12 October 2014

1. 20th Regional Council (RC) Meeting:

The 20th RC Meeting was held from 10-11 October 2014 at the Yellow River Auditorium of International Water Management Institute, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The following members from Bangladesh Water Partnership participated in the meetings:

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| a) Dr. Nilufa Islam | RC member |
| b) Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed Chowdhury | RC member |
| c) Dr. K. Azharul Haq | Vice President |
| d) Ms. Mukta Akter | Country Coordinator (observer) |

The meeting commenced by welcome address from Ms. Kusum Athukorala, Chair, Sri Lanka Water Partnership and chaired by Mr. Iswar Raj Onta, Regional Chair, GWP-SAS. A total number of 21 agenda were discussed in the Meeting. Ms. Priyanka Dissanayake, Regional Coordinator, GWP-SAS presented Action Report/Adoption of Minutes of the 19th RC Meeting held in Thimpu. Ms Angela Klauschen, Senior Network Officer, GWPO made a presentation on GWP Strategy towards 2020. In her presentation she informed that GWPO has a vision to develop a water secure world. The strategy contains 3 goals and 6 themes.

One of the major issues discussed in the meeting was role of RC and sub-committees. In the discussion it was proposed that the working guidelines will be developed by sub-committees and submitted to RC Members for review. The guidelines will be finalized as per recommendations of the RC members. Role of HI also was also discussed in the meeting. Some important decisions taken in the meeting is cited below:

- a) Next Regional Chairmanship will go to Bhutan
- b) Proposal for creating the position of Vice Chair has been dropped by RC.
- c) From now on minutes of the RC meeting will be signed by Regional Chair.
- d) CWP's will reinforce their efforts to raise funds locally.
- e) Corrected version of the work plan for 2015 will be placed to the 6th GA
- f) Dr. Lam has been identified as a coordinator to draft TOR of Sub-committees.
- g) Draft TOR of the sub-committee will be placed to GA for approval.
- h) Pakistan will host the next RC meeting.

The meeting was ended with vote of thanks from the chair, Sri Lanka Water Partnership and followed by a dinner party organized by Mr Iswer Raj Onta, Chair GWP SAS at TAJ SAMUDRA HOTEL.

2. 6th General Assembly (GA):

The 6th General Assembly was held in during the morning session on 12 October 2014. GA started with welcome address by Iswar Raj Onta, Chair, GWP-SAS. Two partners from BWP Begum Samsun Nahar and Mr. Emaduddin Ahmed were invited to participate in the GA.

The main agenda of the GA were:

- a. Adoption of the Agenda.
- b. Introduction of Partners
- c. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting and reporting on the action taken on the decisions.
- d. Resolutions for adoption of the proposed amendments to the Working Guidelines by General Assembly.
- e. A brief activity report of the GWP-SAS for 2012 – 2014, audited accounts 2013, and Work Plan / Budget 2015, 3 Year Work Program (2014-2016) were also presented.

A key note paper was presented in the assembly by Mr. Surya Nath Upadhyay, Secretary General, Nepal. As requested by the event Chair, Dr. K. Azharul Haq, Vice President,

BWP shared info of Regional Day which was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad on 23 - 24 June 2014. He informed that he was representing the Chair, GWP-SAS.

After agenda wise detailed discussions the GA has taken some important decisions. Some of them are given below:

- i. The 19th RC meeting minutes and reporting on the action taken on the decisions have been adopted.
- ii. The Draft TOR of the sub-committee has been approved.

3. Sub Regional Consultative Group Meeting for 7th World Water Forum (WWF) 2015 Korea

The group meeting was held back to back with GA in the second half on 12 October 2014 at the same venue. The session was chaired by Mr. I.R.Onta and Co- Chaired by Ms. Angela Klauschen. In the meeting decided that the following countries will make presentations on the topics listed in the 7th WWF:

- Sri Lanka: Drinking water issues
- Pakistan and Bangladesh: Water and Food security
- Nepal and Bhutan: Case Study on Water related disasters
- India and Sri Lanka: Case study on IWRM

The meeting was moderated by Ms. Priyanka Dissanayake and Mr. Lal Induruwage was the rapporteur of the session.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks from Co-Chair Ms. Angela Klauschen, Senior Network Officer, GWPO.

4. Country Coordinators (CC) Meeting:

The CC meeting was held on 12 October 2014 in the post lunch session. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Angela Klauschen. Ms. Priyanka Dissanayake, Regional Coordinator presented 2015 Workplan & Budget on Core activities & Mr Lal Induruwage, Project Manager, WACREP presented 2015 Workplan & Budget on WACREP activities. They

also jointly presented Monitoring and Evaluation report for 2014. In the meeting Ms Angela Klauschen discussed the 2015 templates. In her discussions she suggested arranging training for the young country coordinators to make the templates more clear. She assured that she will convey the message to the GWPO Head Quarter and will pursue on it.

The meeting was ended with vote of thanks from the Regional Coordinator, GWP-SAS and followed by a closing day dinner hosted by Sri Lanka Water Partnership (SLWP) at “Nelum” Restaurant. Hotel Waters Edge.

❖ Activities outside the work plan of BWP

Activity- 01: Associated Program on Flood Management (APFM) with World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Bangladesh Water Partnership is association with Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) has organized two day national 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” as per schedule on 24-25 October 2014 in BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka.

More than 100 professionals from Government, Semi-Government, Autonomous bodies, NGOs, CBOs etc working in the coastal flood management participated. The workshop was followed by a 2 day field trip in the coastal area of Dacope Upazila. The honorable minister of Water Resources Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud was the chief guest in the workshop. Mr. Shahidul Hassan, President, BWP presided over the meeting, The honorable State Minister of Water Resources Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam, Bir Protik and Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources were special guests. Mr. Bal Krisna Prasai the Former Secretary, Government of Nepal and Mr. Paul Pilon, Chief of Hydrological Forecasting and Water Resources Division, World Meteorological Organization were present as special guests.

Dr. K. Azharul Haq delivered the welcome speech. The honorable Minister, in his speech thanked the organizers for organizing a workshop on such a vital subject. He indicated the coastal areas were most vulnerable to different types of floods like storm surge, tidal flood etc. which expected to be ever more destructive due climate change. He therefore, asked the organizers to prepare and implement the pilot project. Most of the speakers including the chairs of the workshop dealt with different aspects of coastal flood management and its importance in Bangladesh.

Two keynote papers were presented in the 1st technical session, one by Professor Ainun Nishat and another by Mr. Paul Pilon of WMO.

In his keynote paper of Prof. Ainun Nishat discussed the definitions and the differences between flood and inundation. He also discussed about flood management and the way to approach it by structural and non-structural measures. He informed the audience about four types of flood in Bangladesh which demand different approach to manage:

- **River Flood/ Flash Flood**
- **Storm Surge**
- **Drainage Congestion**
- **Tidal Flood from spring tide**

He identified following 3 components for the pilot activity in his presentation.

- i) Infrastructure
- ii) Institution &
- iii) Operation of infrastructure.

He also discussed on Flood Forecasting, Warning and Goals of Water Management as well.

He also identified some key issues which need to be taken into consideration:

- Cropping pattern has changed since construction of polders in 1966-1969.
- Water logging in South Western part of the country is a serious issue
- The conflict between shrimp and paddy culture is getting more complex.
- The area is highly vulnerable to storm surge;

- Sea level rise and reduction of flow from upstream region has increased salinity to such a high level that supply of drinking water is a big challenge;
- Un-predictability of weather will be a major factor in IWRM practices

Finally he recommended going for IWRM/IWFM practice within one of small polder whose dyke is being upgraded by BWDB as one of the pilot projects.

The second keynote paper presented by Dr. Paul Pilon on Lessons of Coastal Zone Flood Management in International Perspective.

In his paper he shared lessons on current issues and opportunities in addressing flood management methods and practices in Bangladesh and in the region. A case on Integrated Coastal Zone Management from Andhra Pradesh, India and Polder management Experiences from the Netherlands were presented.

He also shared data on Disasters and related deaths: 1970–2012 in Asia through pie chart and maps. He observed that it is difficult to estimate losses from future flood hazards. However, using population increase in the flood-prone area, it is possible to look at trends in the number of people exposed per year on average at constant hazard (UNISDR, 2011). The figure also showed that population growth will continue to increase exposure to floods.

To understand flood he identified the following points:

- Floods cannot be fully controlled; it should be accepted as a permanent fact of life;
- it is a perfectly natural phenomenon in terms of probability of occurrence and should be approached following a risk management process;
- Floods is not necessarily a problem as such and do not always lead to situations which require development of capital-intensive flood protection infrastructure;
- A Flood protection effort: attempt to mitigate flood damage.
- Disasters from flooding are the result of a random act of nature combined with poor risk management, uncontrolled development and mis-management of natural resources. He shared the formation history of Associated Programme on Flood Management, its

functions, missions and its objectives and also how they jointly initiative with GWPO and other contributors as well.

He informed that mission of the Associated Programme on Flood Management is to support countries in the integrated management of floods, within the overall framework of Integrated Water Resources Management..

He pointed out that Integrated Flood Management is not merely about preventing floods, which are a natural unavoidable phenomena, and neither generally about preventing inundations, because it is known to all that floods and flood plains are serving benefits to societies.

He informed that Integrated Flood Management is rather a development policy concept to balance flood risk and development needs, and if anything in it is to be prevented – it is disasters.

He emphasized on the following objectives of AFPM

- To Create a community than can protect itself with an optimal set of measures (both short and long term, structural and non structural)
- Maximizing net benefits: ensure livelihood security, poverty alleviation and managing vulnerability
- Minimizing loss of life in particular through end-to-end FF&W Systems and preparedness planning for extreme events
- Sustainable development: balancing development needs and flood risks
- Environmental preservation ecosystem health & services

He also emphasized on flood management that must be embedded in the overall economy.

He showed the following aspects of Integrated Flood Management

Aspects to be included

Economic aspects

Legal and institutional aspects

Social aspects and stakeholder involvement

Environmental aspects

He also showed a step by step logical structure on Coastal Flood Risk Management. In this section he informed that Coastal flood risk management needs to be logically structured along the steps which should be taken to formulate a management plan. In reality the procedure would of course differ according to the context of a country with its specific hazards, development phase, socio-cultural identity and institutional structure. The steps also require iterations and side-steps and should therefore be regarded as building blocks rather than a blueprint.

He shared case study from Andhra Pradesh, India with outcomes. He also shared Polder Management Experiences from the Netherlands as well as examples of Storm Protection by Mangroves an application in Bangladesh and entire South-East Asia.

There were 5 technical sessions in which a total number of 16 technical papers were presented. In the 5th and final session discussion was held about the development of the pilot project. It was agreed that the proposal for the pilot project will be submitted to the WMO by 31st December 2014 as per agreement.

As a part of the workshop a team consisting of 9 members, including two members from APFM, went on a 2 days field trip in the coastal area of Dacope Upazila on 27-28 October 2014. The purpose of the visit was to observe the present coastal flooding due to the effect of climate change and corresponding mitigation measures to be implemented under Coastal Embankment Improvement Project, Phase-1 (CEIP-1).

A detailed report of the workshop will be submitted in December 2014.