

Bangladesh Water Partnership
Monthly Report
June, 2015

The following activities were carried out under Strategic Goal 2&3 during June 2015.

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 2015

A).Boat Rally on World Environment Day

To create awareness among the population, Bangladesh Water Partnership in association with Bhairab Area Water Partnership, Initiative for Right View (IRV) and Southwest youth water forum observed the day on theme “Seven Billion Dreams. One planet. Consume with care” on 4 June 2015 through an exclusive Boat Rally from Jaikhana Ghat, Khulna.

The day was observed due to raise awareness among all stakeholders to enhance water security and climate resilient development.

Md. Mostafa Kamal, Deputy Commissioner, Khulna was present as chief guest and inaugurated the boat rally. The session was chaired by Mr. Mokbul Hossain Mintu, President, Khulna Press Club. The rally was coordinated by Marina Juthi, Secretary, Bhairab Area Water Partnership and Associate Coordinator, IRV. Among the participants representatives from Bangladesh Manobadhikar Andolan, Bangladesh Manobadhikar Bastobayan Sangstha, South-west Water Youth Forum, Khulna, United Nations Youth and Student Association of Bangladesh were present.

The Chief Guest thanked the organizers for organizing innovative Boat Rally. He emphasized and requested all to keep clean and pollution free rivers. He also encouraged all towards adopting sustainable lifestyles.

Mr Mokbul Hossain Mintu, President, Khulna Press Club said that World Environment Day (WED) is a United Nations event that rallies people and organizations across the

world to take part in rising awareness for the environment and encourages positive action around select themes.

People of all age groups were actively involved in the celebration. Youths in large number took part in the celebration.

The Rally participants raised the following demand

1. To conserve the environment
2. To conserve the river
3. To ensure equitable water distribution
4. To stop river grabbing
5. To stop river pollution

Outcome: It helped empowering people to become active change-agents of sustainable development and advocates multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of the environment.

b) Knowledge and Awareness building seminar on “Halda River, Proper Water Management and our Responsibility”

An open discussion and awareness raising seminar with Youth and Community Beneficiaries was held on 6 July, 2015 by Bangladesh Water Partnership in association with Halda Area Water Partnership in Chittagong.

The theme of the year to celebrate the World Environment Day is ‘Seven Billion Dreams, One Planet, Consume with Care’. The program was held in Dakkhin Madarsha Union Parishad Hall, Hatahazari, Chittagong. Dr. Khondaker Azharul Haq, Vice President, Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) attended the meeting as the Chief Guest. Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary of BWP was invited as special Guest and made a presentation on “Towards a Green and Sustainable Planet”. Ms. Naima Nazir, Research Asst. of BWP was present as observer.

A keynote paper under the caption “Water Management and Climate Resilience at Halda River Basin Area” delivered by Prof. D. Muhammad Ali Azadi, Department of Zoology, Chittagong University. In her presentation, Ms. Akter informed about BWP’s activities have being organized on World Environment Day over the previous years. She specially encouraged the youth to become more aware of saving their environment. The meeting

was followed by an open discussion. A lively discussion was held by the participants in this session.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Khondaker Azharul Haq emphasized on the slogan of this year's Environment Day which is one of the prime concern of today's world, explained the importance of saving the environment not only on the basis of region but the entire world context in brief. He also emphasized raising voice to sustainability and advised to become aggressively proactive on this issue.



Ms. Mukta Akter with the students of Akboria School & College, Hathazari, Chittagong

The program was conducted by Mohammad Imam Hossain Chowdhury, Chief Executive of NOWZUWAN. Approximately two hundred fifty participants from different multi-disciplinary organizations including Political leaders, representative from Dept. Of Fisheries, UNO Office, NGOs, Teachers, Social worker, Students, Journalist were present in the meeting and made it a fruitful one.

Outcome:

- i. Raise awareness for an environment friendly planning and development activities.
- ii. Provide knowledge for protecting the environment of Halda River.
- iii. Suggestion for an improved river eco-system, water management system.
- iv. acquiring knowledge and awareness on climate change and water resource management
- v. Enhancing Youth Participation for saving the environment

- vi. Policy makers, relevant GO and NGO officials have been sensitized in saving the river Halda as Permanent Fish Sanctuary.

A video clip of the program has been uploaded in the following link

<http://www.bwp-bd.org/>

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: 49th Executive Committee Meeting of BWP

The 49th Executive Committee (EC) Meeting of Bangladesh Water Partnership was held on 14 June 2015 at BWP secretariat. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan, President, Bangladesh Water Partnership. A total of 6 members out of 19 were presented in the meeting.

The main agenda of the meeting were as follows:

- Confirmation of the minutes of the 48th EC Meeting held on 15 Feb 2015.
- Implementation status of 2015 Work Plan under Core Funding
- Implementation status of 2015 Work Plan under WACREP Funding Phase-II.
- Discussion on the devalued conversion rate (Euro to BDT) for Core and WACREP funded activities in 2015.
- Discussion on Newsletter Publication of BWP for the year 2015.
- Report on Constitutive Assembly of Pakistan Youth Parliament for Water (PYPW) and Conference on Water and Sustainable Development – Role of Youth.
- Report on 4th Asia Pacific Youth Parliament for Water (APYPW) and 7th World Water Forum (WWF)

This was the 2nd EC meeting of BWP for the year of 2015. After detailed discussion the Executive Committee of BWP expressed their satisfaction on the progress on activities along with the implementation of work plan under Core. The EC also expressed concern about the non release of fund for implementing the WACREP activities.

❖ Activity Outside the Work plan 2015 of BWP

Observance of World Environment Day 2015

To observe the World Environment Day an open discussion was organized by Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), a partner organization of Bangladesh Water Partnership, jointly with Department of Environment (DoE) on 07 June, 2015 at Hoimanti Conference Room, Forest Department, Agargoan, Dhaka.

Approximately 80 participants from different multi-disciplinary organizations were present in the discussion and made it a fruitful one.

The Honorable Minister Mr. Anisul Islam Mahmud MP, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The program was chaired by Dr. Jafor Ahmed Khan, Secretary of Ministry of Water Resources, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Mr. Md. Rousul Alam Mondol, Chief Director of Environment Department; Mr. Maik Robson, Representative of Bangladesh Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nation and Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Acting Secretary of Environment and Forest Ministry, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh were present as special guests in the program. Dr. Ainun Nishat, Professor Emirates, BRAC University of Bangladesh was present as a Guest of Honor.

A key note paper titled "Threats to Natural Resources; Our Position" was successfully delivered by Eng. Md. Uazi Ullah, Executive Director of CEGIS. The paper specially informed about the present scenario on environment worldwide and the threats to the next generation due to lack of proper management of natural resources. He also emphasized on developing interaction between natural and human resources nationally and globally for potential solutions.

The event was followed by an open discussion session. A lively discussion was held by the participants during this session.

Honorable Chief Guest Mr. Anisul Islam Mahmud MP urged on preserving natural resources for healthy living to our next generation.

The discussion was ended with a vote of thanks from the Chair.