

# **Bangladesh Water Partnership**

## **Monthly Report**

### **June, 2017**

BWP has implemented the following activities in June 2017.

#### **❖ Under Core Workplan**

##### **01. Celebrating the World Environment Day 2017**

To create awareness and underline the importance of the Environment Day under the theme “Connecting People to Nature”, Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) celebrated the Day jointly with its area partner organizations in Barishal District (the southern costal area of Bangladesh) on 12 June 2017 at Jahan conference center.

It was an awareness building program titled “Conserve Environment and Save Our Ecology” through participatory approaches. The event was followed by a keynote paper, open discussion and debate competition by young leaders of youth parliament of Barishal district. A total of 65 participants including environmental experts, representatives from local government agencies, Government Officials concerned & involved with environment & ecology related issues, BWP Officials and members, CSO representatives, stakeholders, youth leaders and media personalities participated in the celebration.

The keynote paper of the seminar was presented by Dr M. Hasinur Rahman, Dean, Faculty of Biology, Barisal University, Barisal. Dr. Khandokar Azaharul Haq, President of Bangladesh Water Partnership ( BWP ), attended as the Chief Guest of the meeting along with special guest Mr. Md. Sajidur Rahman Sardar, Chief Engineer, Water Development Board, Barisal, Mr. Arefin Badal, Assitant Director, Department of Environment, Barisal, Dr. Sayed Habibur Rahman, Chairman, Monnobodhikar Jot ( Collaboration for Human Rights ) Barisal, Ms. Israt Aman Rupa, Councilor, Barisal City Corporation.

During the event, the local partner organizations of BWP shared their working experiences as well as success and lessons learnt on environment conservation issues.

Recognizing Youth as 'Prime Mover' of the society they also suggested that if they can get proper support youth will be able to play an active role through their innovative ideas in overcoming the challenges of environmental degradation issues.

To promote and build awareness on environmental issues, aiming to stimulate and encourage children and youth to take active role in the discussion on environmental issues, a debate competition was held during the celebration. The title of the debate was ‘the developed world's indifference is the main reason of environmental imbalance’. Six young college students from Barisal debating Society participated. Among the debate participants 4 were girls and 2 boys.

The keynote speaker, the chief guest and other distinguished speakers emphasized the need for connecting with the nature not only for the short term benefit of the population but also to protect the nature for deriving long term sustainable benefits through empowering the youth.

At the concluding session the participants of the debate competition were awarded with prize, certificates and trophies were given to the winner and the runners up teams. Guests attending the ceremony also distributed trees among the participants as a simple of protection of nature.

The news was covered by the social, electronic and local printed media.

Media link:

<http://gmnewsbd.com/barisal-environment-meeting-gwp/>  
<http://dailynotunvor.com/2017/06/13/%e0%a6%ac%e0%a6%b0%e0%a6%bf%e0%a6%b6%e0%a6%be%e0%a6%b2-%e0%a6%aa%e0%a6%b0%e0%a6%bf%e0%a6%ac%e0%a7%87%e0%a6%b6-%e0%a6%b8%e0%a6%82%e0%a6%b0%e0%a6%95%e0%a7%8d%e0%a6%b7%e0%a6%a3-%e0%a6%ac%e0%a6%bf/>  
<http://www.alltimebdnews24.com/?p=8547>

## **02. Training for Building Capacity on Coping with Climate Vulnerability and Climate Change through Partnership**

Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) in association with its partner organization Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) organized a 5- day training program from 13 to 17 May, 2017 at the IWM training room in Dhaka.

A total of 09 trainees participated in the program who came from different organizations i.e. from Bangladesh Water and Development Board (BWDB), Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Water and Resources Planning Organization (WARPO), Department of Disaster Management (DDM), NGO Forum, Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) and Institute of Water Modelling (IWM).

The objective of the training program was to build capacity on coping with climate vulnerability and climate change through partnership. Topics of training sessions included the following issues which were presented by various experts from respective fields' i.e. Adaptation for Irrigation Management, Adaptation for Health with respect to water borne diseases with regards to climate change, Policy and Strategies for Adaptation with respect to water and climate vulnerability, Adaptation for Urban Sanitation with regards to climate vulnerability, Adaptation for Urban Water Supply under partnership approach, Adaptation for Energy / Power supply using hydropower, Long Lead Time based Flood Forecasting, Adaptation for Industries with regards to water and environmental safety, Urban Flood Management Adaptation, Adaptation for Road /Railways with regards to climate change, Adaptation for Crop Diversification under changing water availability status, Coastal Flooding, Flood Insurance & Early Warning; Dissemination, Navigational Channel Development and River Bank Erosion Protection through low cost approach, Salt tolerant crop varieties for adaptation with climate change, Adaptation for Gender under in a changing climate, Adaptation for Rural Water Supply relating to climate vulnerability, Adaptation for Market Chain and Infrastructure, Adaptation for Rural Sanitation with regards to water and environmental pollution,

The above topics were selected in line with the core objective of the training and to boost existing knowledge of the participants about climate change adaptation. Given the diverse

background of the participants, there were regular lively interactive discussions and debates on the issues raised by the trainers and trainees.

The trainers were selected from Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology (BUET), International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B), Bangladesh Centre for Advance Studies (BCAS), Power Cell, River Research Institute, Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA), NGO Forum, Sweden Embassy, Bangladesh Agricultural University and Institute of Water Modelling (IWM).

Certificates among the participants were awarded on the closing day by Prof. Dr M Monowar Hossain, Executive Director, IWM while the ceremony was attended by Mr H. S. Mozaddad Faruque, Vice President, BWP along with Deputy Executive Director (P&D) and Manager, HRD of IWM.

### ❖ Under WACREP Workplan

#### **Activity-01: Sustainable Access to Water in the Coastal Area of Bangladesh: Challenges & Adaptation Practices for Livelihoods, Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

BWP is implementing the activity “Ensuring sustainable access to water supply for the communities, living in the coastal areas, especially those of women and youth to bring about a qualitative change in their livelihood with special reference to climate change adaptation.”

under strategic goal-02 & package-07. The Center for Environmental and Geographic Information System (CEGIS), a partner organization of BWP, has been identified to implement this activity.

The progress of the activity is as follows:

#### **Progress of the Study:**

- Out of 19 coastal districts, 6 districts were selected through cluster sampling. The criteria for selection includes: vulnerability to water related problems, and location of districts such as sea-facing and non-sea facing. Thus, 3 sea facing and 3 non-sea facing districts were selected. Following same criteria, 6 upazilas of these 6 districts were chosen, and 6 unions of chosen 6 upazilas were selected. A field team was mobilized to collect data from the selected unions. Before going to the field, a semi-structured questionnaire was prepared, and following this, the study team collected data.
- A draft report based on the primary and secondary collected data is in near in completion stage.
- After preparing of the draft report, three dissemination workshops are planned to be organized in the study areas.
- A final report will be then prepared incorporating the suggestions and feedback received from workshops.