

**Bangladesh Water Partnership
Monthly Report
March, 2017**

BWP has implemented the following activities in March 2017.

❖ **Under Core Workplan**

01. World Water Day-2017

In the year 2017, BWP has celebrated the World Water Day through a number of events in association with its partner organizations centrally and locally. A summary report on the celebration is provided below:

Celebration Locally

Marking the World Water Day 2017, BWP organized a daylong seminar jointly with the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE), Shajalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) at the academic building in Sylhet on March 20, 2017. (Sylhet is a Divisional City 200km north-east of Dhaka)

The event was attended by over 76 participants including department's students, teachers and relevant stakeholders working in the water sector. The seminar was presided over by Professor Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed, Head of the department CEE. The event was graced by the participation of the chief guest Prof. Dr. Md. Aminul Haque Bhuyan, honorable Vice Chancellor of SUST.

The experts and participants emphasized on the importance of the waste water management in a holistic way. They regarded waste water management as an important issue where industrialization of the country is moving at a fast pace.

They emphasized that wastewater management is very essential to cope with the growing global challenges. A Keynote paper on “Celebrating of World Water Day 2017: Managing Wastewater” was also presented by Dr. Md. Misbah Uddin, Associate

Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, SUST, Sylhet. Mr. H S Mozaddad Faruque, Vice President of BWP and Former Director General of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) participated in the celebration as the special guest. In his speech, he shared the activities that BWP has been working, since its establishment in 1998. He informed that following the Global Water Partnership (GWP) objective, BWP is fostering the application of Integrated Water Resources Management including wastewater and climate change adaptation & mitigation strategy.

A detail report on the celebration will be sent to the Regional Office, GWP-SAS in the 2nd week of April.

Celebration Centrally

Centrally, BWP celebrated World Water Day on 22 March 2016 jointly with Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) and its partners organization namely Centre for Environment and Geographical Information System (CEGIS), Institute of Water Modeling (IWM), Bangladesh National Committee of ICID (BANCID), Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO), Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and Department of Water Resource and Engineering (WRE) of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). The celebration consisted of a half day seminar on “Wastewater” and took place in Bangabandhu International Conference Center, Dhaka.

The seminar was attended by more than 2 thousand participants including senior officials from the MoWR, other Govt. and Non Govt. organizations, Academic Institutions, Research organizations, Developing partners working with water resource management in Bangladesh, A significant number of young water professionals also participated and shared their views on the theme of the day “Wastewater”.

The event was graced by the participation of the chief guest- Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud, M.P, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR). He acknowledged that water has very close relationship with development. During his speech, he informed that the water flow in the Ganga reduced significantly, which has become a big challenge for the region. At the same time he pointed at the climate

change hazard which has been identified as an another challenge for wastewater management. Considering the country's pragmatic scenario, he urged to take urgent action on waste water management as it has been contaminating the fresh water constantly.

On behalf of BWP the president Dr. K. Azharul Haq, Executive Secretary Ms. Mukta Akter and a number of Executive Committee Members participated in the celebration.

2. International Women's Day

This year, the international Women's Day was celebrated through 29th Steering Committee Meeting of Bangladesh Women and Water Network (BWWN). The meeting was held on 12 March 2017 at BWP secretariat. The Meeting was presided over by Begum Shamsun Nahar, Coordinator of Bangladesh Women and Water Network. A total of 6 steering members participated in the meeting.

To draw attention on the theme "Be Bold for Change", the discussion was held on the following agenda:

- a. Road map on BWWN Action Strategy for 2017 and onwards
- b. Discussion on the project "Empower Young Women through Rain Water Harvesting on Small Scale Farming" will be implemented in 2017

The meeting was ended by highlighting the following:

- a. Women have rooms to play a major role in domestic water management.
- b. Women are typically responsible for collecting, storing, and using water and for disposing wastewater.
- c. Meaningful participation of women could be a major step for wastewater management.
- d. Explicit tools and mechanisms can help women to get involved in the process that could be economically and environmentally viable for the future to wastewater management.

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

01. World Water Day.

A number of BWP's local partner organizations celebrated the world water day on 22 March 2017.

To make aware and draw attention on the theme "WASTEWATER", Social Economic Development society (SEDS) jointly with district administration & water development board, Barishal have celebrated World Water day on 22 March in grand manner with a rally and seminar. This meeting was chaired by District Commissioner Dr. Gazi Saifuzzaman. He emphasized on the importance of waste water management and urged that immediate steps need to be taken for processing waste water by treating and recycling.

Another partner organization of BWP Reach to Unreached (RUN) celebrated the WWD by arranging a daylong seminar on 22 March 2017 in Barishal in collaboration with Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB). The discussion was on "Wastewater Management and Sustainable Development".

To protect and restore the local rivers, the organization Reach to Unreached (RUN) celebrated the International Day of Action for Rivers on 14 March 2017 in Barishal District. The celebration was followed by a discussion meeting with local stakeholders, developing partners, Non Govt. Organizations working to protect and rescue rivers from illegal encroachment.