

National Dialogue on Adaptive Approach Delta Plan and Innovation for Addressing Water Management Issues



From left, Professor Dr. M. Fazlul Bari, Member, Planning Commission; Mr. Shaikh Altaf Ali, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources; Mr. Shahidul Hassan, President, BWP; Mr. Md. Azizul Haque, Director General, BWDB; Md. Waji Ullah, Executive Director, CEGIS attend the national dialogue. Dr. Khondokar Azharul Haq (right), Vice President, BWP welcomes the participant

In association with Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) the Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) organized national dialogue on Adaptive Approach for Long Term Delta Plan and Innovation for Addressing Water Management Issues in Bangladesh on 28 September, 2013 at BRAC Centre, Dhaka. Mr. Shaikh Altaf Ali, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was present as Chief Guest. Professor Dr. M. Fazlul Bari, Member, Physical Infrastructure Division, Planning Commission and Mr. Md. Azizul Haque, Director General, Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) attended as Special Guests. Mr. Shahidul Hassan, President, BWP chaired the inaugural session. The participants were from multi-disciplinary organizations including Ministry of Water Resources, Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC), Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), Department of Environment (DoE), BWDB, Institute of Water Modeling (IWM) The Netherlands Embassy, Department of Fisheries (DoF), Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (IWTA), Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA), Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO), FAO and IUCN, Bangladesh. In his welcome speech, Dr. Khondokar Azharul Haq, Vice President, BWP explained the rationale, background of the dialogue. Md. Waji Ullah, Executive Director, CEGIS in his key note presentation described the goals and major objectives of the dialogue. He shared his views and innovative ideas on the adaptive Delta Plan.

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Regional Workshop

A regional workshop on Training Needs and Gaps Assessment on Adaptation and Resilience to a Changing Climate in South Asia was held from 4 to 5 September, 2013 at Kathmandu, Nepal. The participants were from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal. GWP- SAS regional office, ICIMOD, GIZ, IWMI, US Embassy in Nepal, APAN, UNEP, SACEP, UNDP, SAWI, NARBO, Japan Water Agency and ADB also sent their representatives to attend the workshop. S. M. Tarique, Deputy Director (EIA), DoE, and Prof. Dr. Bilquis Amin Hoque, EPRC attended from Bangladesh. Mr. Tarique presented a paper on Urban Water security: Challenges and Options, Examples from the City of Dhaka. The objectives of the workshop were assessment of the gaps and needs to improve the absorption capacity in national planning system, increase level of awareness on the relevance of water security and IWRM.

Regional Council Meeting



Regional Council Meeting in Bhutan

The 19th Regional Council Meeting was held from 21 to 22 November, 2013 in Bhutan. Mr. Iswer Raj Onta, Regional Chair and Ms. Priyanka Dissanayake, Regional Coordinator, GWP-SAS; Mr. Jacques Ray, Network Support and Programming, Dr. Induruwage Lal, Program Manager of WACREP, regional council member from each CWP and observers from Bhutan Water Partnership Secretariats attended the meeting. On behalf of BWP Dr. K. Azharul Haq and Dr. Nilufa Islam, Regional Council Member and Ms. Mukta Akter, Country Coordinator were present. Mr. Jac Ray, the acting Head of Network

Operations desired in the meeting to develop stronger linkage with WACREP and other GWP-SAS with China. He expected workable planning to pursue building of strong water partnerships in the global arena with greater contribution and strong participation.

Water and Climate Resilience

GWP-SAS secured €300,000 and €500,000 respectively for 2013 and 2014 to carry out Water and Climate Resilience Program (WACREP) by CWPs and Regional Office. DFID has provided the fund. GWP-SAS prepared budget and implementation plan for the WACREP. The specific template BWP received from Mr. Induruwage Program Manager, WACREP was duly filled with the support provided by Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Adviser, CEGIS and submitted in time. BWP proposed funding of €151,800 for implementation of 10 activities during the period of September 2013 to March 2015. In consultation with GWP-SAS and Program Manager WACREP, the proposal was finalized in August 2013. Subsequently, 6 activities were approved and €86,250 was provided. The activities proposed in 2013 included a national dialogue on delta issues and their effective solutions to assist on the preparation of Delta Plan and organize a regional workshop to share lessons on current issues and opportunities in addressing deltaic regions in Bangladesh.

Consultation on Sharing Experiences: Regional initiatives in the GBM Region

As invited by IUCN and nominated by GWP-SAS, Dr. K. Azharul Haq, Vice President, BWP participated the consultation on Sharing Experiences: Regional initiatives in the GBM Region held in Bangkok on 13 December, 2013. Dr. Haq presented a paper on GWP's initiatives in GBM basin to introduce water, food and Eco-System Security. In his presentation he described programs implemented by GWP-SAS to improve governance of transboundary rivers for ensuring water, food and ecosystem security.

Water Week

Dr. K. Azharul Haq, Vice-President, BWP attended the Stockholm water week. He presented a paper on Launching the Delta Alliance Joint Program of Activities: Experiences from Bangladesh. In his paper he focused on the opportunities and challenges faces Bangladesh. Dr. M. Monowar Hossain, Executive Director, IWM was a designated discussant. He pointed out the dynamics of delta issues related to water management and protecting the ecosystem of the deltas was emerging as prime consideration for over all delta management.

International Conference

An International Conference on Water Resources in South Asia: Conflict to Cooperation (IC WRSA CC) was held in Dhaka on 4 and 5 January 2013. BWP was a co-organizer of the conference with Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA) and Bangladesh Environmental Network (BEN). The purpose of this conference was to bring experts, activists and stakeholders together to review the current state of water-related planning and management efforts and find out ways of raising the cooperation to a higher level in order to protect and harness water resources of the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers for the benefit of all co-riparian countries. Participants of the conference were none-resident Bangladeshi and from South Asian region as well as from other part of the world including India, Nepal, USA, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Germany. Forty four technical papers were presented covering various aspects of trans-boundary rivers water management. Emphasis was given on proactive cooperation among the co-riparian countries for comprehensive management of the common rivers creating a win-win situation.



Dr. Khondaker Azharul Haq, Vice-President, BWP, delivers his speech

The conference provided the participants opportunity to take the interests of the rivers and the population inhabiting their basins as a whole into consideration for water-related planning and management. Water development efforts of the countries lying in the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers basins, examined the philosophies and approaches that have guided these efforts, identified the strengths and weaknesses of the approaches and reviewed the specific hydraulic projects that have followed the approaches. Experience of basin wise, multilateral cooperation practiced elsewhere in the world was also reviewed with respect to need and potential of the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers basins. Recommendations for the government and people in countries sharing the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers basins on approaches and policies with regard to protection and utilization of resources of these basins were formulated by the participants. The conference would sensitize the people of the region and the international community about the current problems in water development in the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers basins as well as the potentials in respect of approach and multilateral cooperation. The conference was expected to establish unity among experts and activists of the region through free exchange of ideas and opinions.

Country Coordinators

The country Coordinators meeting was held from 8 to 9 October, 2013 at Regional Office, GWP-SAS in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Regional Chair, Regional Coordinator, Network Support and Programming-GWP, Monitoring Officer-GWP, Regional Council Member-Sri Lanka, Communication Officer of GWP-SAS and country coordinators attended in the meeting. Ms. Mukta Akter represented the BWP in the meeting. The issues discussed by Mr. Jacques Rey, Network Support and Programming, GWP in the meeting included water security and food, energy, ecosystems, urbanization and Climate resilience; transboundary waters; and GWP SAS annual work plan.



Country Coordinator meeting in Colombo

Country Coordinators Meeting in Bhutan

The country Coordinators meeting was held on 23 November, 2013 in parallel to regional meeting in Bhutan. Participants from BWP were present as observers. The meeting discussed on collaboration with UNDP-GEF-WACREP and Joining GWP SAS and GWP SEA Water and Climate Programs.

Workshop on Knowledge Sharing for Delta Management in a Changing Climate



Terwisscha van Scheltinga, IUR in Dhaka presents report on Delta Alliance – International linkage

In collaboration with Partners of Delta Alliance Bangladesh Wing, IWM organized a half day workshop in Dhaka on Knowledge Sharing for Delta Management in a Changing Climate with the mission of improving the resilience of the world's deltas. Mr. Shaikh Altaf Ali, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources was Chief Guest in the workshop. Mr. Carel de Groot, First Secretary, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Md. Azizul Haque, Director General, BWDB were special guests at the workshop. Prof. Dr. M. Monowar Hossain, Executive Director, IWM presided over the event. Mr. Zahirul Haque Khan, Director, CPE, IWM, Mr. Sarafat Hossain Khan, Project Coordinator, CEIP, Dr. Maminul Haque Sarker, Deputy Executive Director, CEGIS and Terwisscha van Scheltinga and Catharien, Wageningen UR in Dhaka on Delta Alliance – International linkage presented papers.

Collaborative work with WMO in developing a project for APFM

BWP formed a committee as proposed by the AFMP of WMO to discuss project proposal in July, 2013. The committee designated IWM to lead the APFM activities. APFM has agreed to initiate their program in Bangladesh with a regional workshop. It proposed BWP to prepare a proposal for funding assistance.

Efficient Use of Technologies for Water Conservation



Urban water supply

The main challenges related to urban water supply in Bangladesh is water loss. Rural water supply in the country is almost entirely based on hand pumps and deep well extraction in the country. The urban areas need system for adequate water supply in terms of quality and quantity. About 40-45% of the total water piped in urban areas under the existing system is lost before it reaches to the users. Efficient use of water through reducing loss, sustainability of source and supply and cost-effective system operations thus emerged as strong demands. BWP has carried out a study on efficient use of plumbing and other technologies for water conservation. The study examined how the plumbing industries follow the recommendations made in

the design of the plumbing fixtures for water conservation. The study found that the Dhaka water supply system can be significantly improved by training the plumbers in identification and repairing of the leakages with use of appropriate tools and quality fixtures. Mr. Abul Basher Khan, Senior Water and Sanitation Specialist, was assigned to carry out the study. The study identified four leakage management activities for efficient use of water - i) pressure management, ii) active leak control, iii) speed and quality of repairs, and iv) water supply system management, maintenance, and renewal. These were demonstrated to social workers and civil society group for awareness building. With review of DWASA supply network a small residential area located in the northern part of Dhaka city (DWASA Zone-4, Dhaka City Corporation ward no. 15 and the Cantonment Thana or police station)

was selected for demonstration. The demonstration involved community in different phases. It showed that water supply system needs extensive repairs, replacement of long service line (50-100 meters) with regular pipelines, installation of new or repairing existing house connections, fixing of water meters, stop cocks and float valves, identification of un-registered connection in addition to the regular ones to the same household. The demonstration supported that quality plumbing fixtures are important factor for improvement of system pressure and efficient water use by reducing none-revenue water supply. Following the installation of quality plumbing fixtures through the iterative process of pressurizing, identifying and repairing leaks, pressure control and awareness creation in the demonstration area it was possible to bring the delivery pressure in the network to 1.5 bar, 24 hours supply and quality water availability to the consumers who reported drinking water without boiling and no use of suction pump. The combined effect of these interventions resulted in a significant reduction in system loss through leakages.

Application of IWRM Principles in Water Supply and Sanitation

A round table discussion was organized on Application of IWRM Principles in Water Supply and Sanitation by BWP in association with Environment and Population research centre (EPRC) and DWASA on 29 December, 2013 at Dhaka WASA. Mr. SDM Quamrul Alam Chowdhury, Deputy Managing Director (O&M), DWASA was present as Chief Guest. Mr. Shahidul Hassan, President, BWP chaired the discussion. The participants of the discussion were from DWASA, BWP and EPRC. Dr. Khondaker Azharul Haq, Vice President, BWP described the elements of IWRM in his welcome address. Prof. Dr. Bilqis A. Hoque, Dean School of Civil, Environment and Industrial Engineering, Uttara University and President, EPRC presented a paper on Study on Analysis of Application of IWRM principles in Water Supply and Sanitation Projects in Dhaka. In her presentation, Prof. Dr. Bilqis specified the study was to evaluate the IWRM application in the selected projects of DWASA based on the reports and interviews with officials, stakeholders and community people. The study identified that baseline survey and feasibility studies were conducted for implementation of the DWASA projects. Project's goal was set for the operation of urban water supply services. Following the implementation of the projects, water quality was monitored on regular basis and the monitoring system was evaluated for improvement. The water users were given more responsibilities though the participatory approach was not adequately addressed in the project preparation cycle. The lack of the stakeholders' involvement in the decision making process was identified as a weakness in the project preparation. Project area was selected without stakeholders' consultation. The projects did not emphasize on gender involvement adequately. The study recommended for focusing on stakeholders and beneficiaries participation, co-coordinating mechanism, gender issues, capacity development and empowerment of women and other disadvantaged groups. In open discussion it was informed that DWASA adhered to IWRM principles in its projects implementation and experienced visible impacts as described in the final reports. In the concluding session the Chief Guest appreciated the progress made by DWASA on IWRM. He encouraged for further improvement and informed about the emphasis given by DWASA on sustainable and environmentally friendly water supply system with the help of development partners. Mr. Shahidul Hassan, President, BWWP appreciated the DWASA efforts in drafting a gender policy. He desired further strengthening of relationship between DAWSA and BWP through IWRM activities.



Prof. Dr. Bilqis A. Hoque presents paper at the discussion

Knowledge Building and Promotion of Total Sanitation

Bangladesh Folklore Research Institute (BFRI) and Gorai Area Water Partnership (GAWP) in Kushtia district carried out a five-month long Water, Sanitation and Hygiene program. The program beginning from January 2013 covered 20 schools in Sadar Upazila of Kushtia district. The participants of the program included 200 students and 20 teachers. Prior to initiate the program a training module was developed on awareness building among school children in view of IWRM and sanitation. A youth forum was planned to organize for sharing IWRM and sanitation knowledge among the stakeholders. BFRI and GAWP sent a team to visit the schools and discuss with teachers and students. They were informed about the necessity of undertaking this type activity since most of the schools were without proper gender friendly sanitation and separate toilet facilities for girls. The goal of the program was reinforce knowledge sharing and communications.



A student speaks on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Proposal for Building Climate Resilience in Delta

BWP received a pilot project proposal for funding on climate resilience activity. The title of the project was Building Climate Resilience in the Bangladesh Delta: Managing for Effective Water Solutions. Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Adviser, CEGIS submitted the proposal. The proposal was accepted to review for submission to GWPO for funding. GWP and Delta Alliance are funding for pilot project on climate resilience.

BANCID Meeting

BWP members attended a meeting of Bangladesh National Committee of the International Commission on Irrigation & Drainage (BANCID) on 20 August, 2013 at BUET. The meeting was chaired by Prof. M. Mirjahan, Dean, Faculty of Civil Engineering, BUET.

Steering Committee Meeting of BWWN

The 20th Steering Committee Meeting of Bangladesh Women and Water Network (BWWN) was held on 27 August, 2013. The main agenda was strengthening of BWWN. A workshop on BWWN will be held as decided in the meeting.

BWP Executive Committee

The 42nd Executive Committee Meeting of BWP was held on 31 July 2013. The principal agendas of the meeting were review of progress of the implementation of BWP annual work plan and on additional activities. Out of 16 activities planned to carryout in 2013, 10 were already completed and the remainders were on per schedule as informed in the meeting. The progress on other activities in addition to the 2013 work plan was also informed in the meeting.

The 43rd Executive Committee Meeting was held on 6 October 2013. Review of the progress of the implementation of annual work plan and progress on the WACREP activities were the main agenda of the meeting. With regard to the progress it was informed that 13 were completed out of 16 activities planned to achieve in 2013. The meeting approved the report prepared by Secretary General, BWP for presentation at the annual general meeting and updated the committee formed for WACREP activities. It was the 4th Executive Committee Meeting in 2013.

Annual General meeting

The 11th Annual General Meeting of BWP was held on 26 October 2013 at Conference Room of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC). The meeting was chaired by Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan, President, BWP. BWP Secretary General presented his annual report on BWP activities in 2012. The auditing findings on BWP for 2012 were also reported. The reports were approved in the meeting with minor observations. BWP members and observers attended the meeting.



BWP Annual General Meeting

Training of Trainers on IWRM Practices



Dr. Azharul Haq, Vice President, BWP at the TOT course

In promoting water as a key part of sustainable development BWP supported to organize a Training of Trainers (ToT) course on IWRM Practices in Real World Situation. The course was organized by CEGIS and Uttaran from 1 to 6 June, 2013 in two sessions. The first session on IWRM concept and principle was held at CEGIS premises from 1 to 3 June, 2013 with the closing ceremony on 6 June, 2013. The second session on field application was from 4 to 5 June, 2013 at Uttaran in Tala Upazila of Satkhira district. The course contributed to share experience on IWRM application among the water managers and experts working at the district and regional levels. Twenty four participants from BWDB, DoE, Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), WARPO and Khulna University attended the course. DoE, EPRC, DoF, DMB, DPHE, BIWTA and CEGIS representatives having diverse experience were present in the TOT course. Dr. Maminul Haque Sarker, Deputy Executive Director, CEGIS, and Mr. Azharul Haq, Vice President, BWP were present at the opening session. The participants received certificates of completion and hard and soft copies of training materials. The TOT course will enable the participants to bring an improvement on integrated water management in their working fields.



Field visit in Tala, Satkhira

National Dialogue on Adaptive Approach (From page 1)

Following the key note presentation, Dr. Samar Kumar Ghose, Joint Chief, General Economic Division, Planning Commission; Professor Dr. Md. Abdul Matin, Department of Water Resources Engineering, BUET; Mr. Md. Shahjahan, Director (Planning), WARPO and Dr. Sultan Ahmed, Director, Natural Resources Management, DoE shared their opinions as designated discussants and provided suggestions for consideration in Delta planning process. The technical session was chaired by Dr. M. Monowar Hossain, Executive Director, IWM. Mr. Malik Fida A Khan, Director, Climate Change Study Division, CEGIS; Mr. Md. Zahirul Haque Khan, Director, Coastal, Port & Estuary Division, IWM and Mr. Saiful Alam, Principal Scientific Officer, WARPO focused on issues relevant to the delta planning in their presentations. Among other, Mr. T. A. Khan, Executive Secretary, BWP; Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Adviser, CEGIS; Dr. Emaduddin Ahmed, Consultant, IWM; Mr. H.S. Mozaddad Faruque, Water Resources Expert, CEGIS; Mr. Abu Saleh Khan, Deputy Executive Director (Operations), IWM; Mr. Zahirul Islam, Chief Planning, BWDB; Ms. Kamrun Nahar Khanam, Additional Secretary, MoWR were present in the sessions. The national dialogue was organized to promote water as a key part of sustainable development. It provided opportunity to participate in the formulation of the upcoming Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100.

Training Climate Change and Emerging Challenges of Food Security

A training program on Climate Change and Emerging Challenges of Food Security was organized by BWP and IWM on 24 to 25 April, 2013 in Dhaka. The goal of the training was coping with critical water challenges through partnerships. The training helped dissemination of knowledge on food security at the event of climate change impacts and sharing of experience and professional networking of the participants from different organizations. Contents of the training covered effect of climate change on groundwater, coastal area adaptation on food security, climate change and effects on droughts, effects of climate change on disaster management and in deltas areas, climate change adaptation - global perspective, climate change issues- Bangladesh perspective, change in agriculture, food security and irrigation water supply. At the end of the program a presentation on the Delta Alliance was given by Prof. Dr. M Monowar Hossain, Executive Director, IWM. The presentation covered a brief outline on the alliance activities. Mr. M. Shahidul Hassan, President, BWP was present in the closing session. The participants of the training received certificate. It may be noted that the Government of the Netherlands supports Delta Plan Project in Bangladesh.



Presentation by Dr. Azharul Haq, Vice President, BWP



Dr. Monowar Hossain, awards certificate to participants

Strengthening of BWWN



Md. Shahidul Hassan, President, BWP speaks at the workshop

A workshop was held on Strengthening Bangladesh Women and Water Network (BWWN) and its Activities on 14 September, 2013 at WARPO Conference Room, Dhaka. Most of the participants were female officials from government and non government organizations as well as from various districts in the country. BWP supported the BWWN to organize the workshop. Ms. Begum Shamsun Nahar, Coordinator, BWWN and member of BWP presided the workshop. Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan, President of BWP was present as Chief Guest and Dr. Nilufa Islam, Director (Technical), WARPO as Special Guest. Dr. Salma Begum, Professor, Environmental Science Discipline, Khulna University presented a paper on IWRM: Involvement of Women in Water Management. She emphasized on participatory water management and increased involvement of women in water sectors. Ms. Mukta Akter, Assistant Executive Secretary, and Member Secretary, BWWN presented a report on BWWN activities. In her presentation on Mainstreaming Gender in Water Management, Begum Shamsun Nahar elaborated the definition of gender and IWRM, how women can be involved in mainstreaming and highlighted gender issues in all sectors.



Bangladesh Water Partnership

House No.79, Road No. 12/A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1209, Bangladesh

Tel: 04477500213, Fax: 880 2 9110055

E mail: bwpp@dhaka.net, Web: www.bwp-bd.org