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6th Parichalana Board Meeting of WARPO

The 6th meeting of the Parichalana Board of WARPO was held on 28th June 2006 in the Conference Room of WARPO. Mr. Hafizuddin Ahmad, Bir Bikram, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Water Resources and Chairman of the Parichalana Board presided over the meeting. The following decisions were taken in the meeting:



Mr. Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, B.B., Hon'ble Minister, Water Resources is seen in the Parichalana Board Meeting.

1. The issue of paying premium for life insurance of the officers and staffs of WARPO from the establishment budget should be taken up with the Ministry of Finance.
2. The revised guidelines of promotion of the 1st and 2nd class officers of WARPO have been approved. (see in page 2)

Training Course on Water Environment Monitoring and Management: Using Remote Sensing and GIS Technology



Participants seen with Syed Mohammad Zobaer, Secretary MoWR (seated third from left). Also seen seated, Mr Shahdev Singh, Programme Director, AIT (extreme left), Mr. Sharif Rafiqul Islam, DG BWDB (second from left), Mr H.S. Mozaddad Faruque, DG WARPO (fourth from left), and Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, ED CEGIS (extreme right).

A regional training course on Water Environment Monitoring and Management: using Remote Sensing and GIS technology was held at the Asian Institute of technology (AIT), Bangkok during June 5-9, 2006 to enhance the capacity for understanding the technology used in the Environment Monitoring Information Network (EMIN) project. The course was organized under the EMIN project of the Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO) and the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), and sponsored by the Canadian International

(see in page 3)

3. The guidelines of promotion should be included in the regulations of WARPO. WARPO will take necessary steps for the amendment of the regulations.
4. The guidelines of promotion should be followed on a temporary basis by the promotion committee for considering the promotion of 1st and 2nd class officers of WARPO.
5. In conformation to Article 18 of the Water Resources Planning Act 1995, the Director General, WARPO has been empowered to exercise financial power to approve/implement different types of civil works, purchase/consultancy services etc.
6. In pursuance of the circular issued by the Ministry of Finance, WARPO immediately formulated a proposal for the delegation of financial power for its officers.
7. The draft Financial Regulations prepared by WARPO will be sent to the Ministry of Finance for review through the Ministry of Water Resources.
8. The members of the technical committee or any other committee constituted by the Parichalana Board will be granted the same amount of honorarium as the members of the Parichalana Board.

Workshop for Government Officers (Focal Points) on Climate Change and Bangladesh

Climate Change (CC) scientists have recognized Bangladesh as one of the most vulnerable countries due to its geographical location, over population, poor economic condition and low coping ability with regard to the adverse impacts of climate change. It is imperative to mainstream climate change issues in the planning and decision-making process to mitigate/adapt to these adverse effects. Knowledge transfer is also an important tool in the mainstreaming process.

Focal points are the operational contact points of the organizations for liaison with the lead agency, Department of Environment (DoE) and the Climate Change Cell (CCC). Designated focal points will be a bridge between the CCC and his /her own sectors and will act as a catalyst towards enabling better understanding and integration of climate relevant aspects in their respective scope of work. They will provide proactive support in operationalizing the mainstreaming approaches.

The three-day workshop (11-13 July, 2006) was organized by the Climate Change Cell of the DoE. The CCC has been

designed for the nominated government focal points on climate change and aims to serve as a platform for:

- Sensitizing focal points on climate change, climate risk, risk management and adaptation
- Sharing concerns with regard to the role and expectation from focal points
- Identifying processes and areas to support mainstreaming in government departments, sectoral planning and programmes

A total of 24 focal points from 16 government agencies and departments under different ministries and line agencies attended the training course. Dr. Nilufa Islam, PSO (Environment, Forest and Fishery) and Mohammad Alamgir, SSO (Forest) attended the course as Focal Points from WARPO.

The training workshop ended with certificates awarded in recognition of the successful completion of the course. Dr. Khandaker Rashedul Haque, Director General, DoE distributed the certificates to the participants. He expressed his hope for collective and coordinated efforts of the Focal Points in combating CC issues using a holistic approach in their work.

4th World Water Forum: Mexico 2006 Achieving 100% Sanitation in Bangladesh by 2010

Mr. S.M. Jahurul Islam, Secretary, Ministry of LGRD & Cooperatives, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh presented a paper on "Achieving 100% Sanitation in Bangladesh by 2010". He highlighted sanitation movement, effects of inadequate sanitation, the MDG focus and the National Sanitation Goal. He mentioned that in response to the global call, the Bangladesh government launched a national sanitation campaign in 2003 and set the target of achieving 100% sanitation by 2010. Furthermore, the month of October has been declared as the "Sanitation Month" to accelerate the national campaign. In his presentation he clearly mentioned the important initiatives taken and strategies developed by the Government of Bangladesh to achieve the National Sanitation Goal. He referred to the 'Dhaka Declaration on Sanitation' (of SACOSAN 2003) stating that "significant improvements in the situation of sanitation and safe water will have large positive impacts on poverty reduction by improving health and productivity and therefore should have a central role in country's poverty reduction strategies". The paper also discussed the current sanitation status of the country as well as the partnership activities of NGOs, national and local government institutes, the civil society and others. He also mentioned the constraints and made recommendations for developing and enforcing "Appropriate Sanitation Laws".

Capacity Building for WARPO Professionals

The Director General of WARPO introduces a weekly seminar for the capacity building of WARPO personnel. Every Thursday of the week, one of the officers of WARPO makes a presentation according to the routine. The topics of the seminar are related to recent training or any subject related to water resources management. The first seminar started on 18th April 2006 and the presenter was Syed Abu Shoaib. In this issue a brief on the seven seminars is given according to the presentation schedule.



Syed Abu Shoaib, Scientific Officer, WARPO delivered a presentation on project management and proposal writing. He said that improved communication between stakeholders, ability to define control scope, and to identify, monitor, and track milestones, improved assessment and mitigation of risk, and prioritization of functional and project goals are the key aspects of project management. He explained the eight basic Elements of Proposal Writing.



Dr. M. Aminul Haque, Scientific Officer, WARPO presented his Ph. D Thesis and the Bridging Phase of ICZMP. His Ph. D Thesis topic was "Decision Support System for Water Management in the Besut Rice Irrigation Scheme". The objective of his study was to develop an in-time water management decision support system model in order to improve decision making with respect to water release policies and timely water distribution for the Besut Rice Irrigation Scheme in Malaysia. He also presented the activities of the ICZMP Bridging Phase.



A. K. M Khusrul Amin, Scientific Officer, WARPO delivered a presentation on Seedling Age Influences Growth of Fine Rice Varieties in Bangladesh. He showed that with all selected varieties, 35-day old seedlings gave better performance in different growth parameters and suggested practicing these selected fine rice varieties with 35-day old seedlings to get a better growth.



Md. Jahid Hossain, Scientific Officer, WARPO made a presentation on Project Preparation and Appraisal. He explained project life cycles and the criteria for selecting different types of projects. He mentioned that Project Appraisal means a pre-investment analysis of a project to determine whether it should be implemented or not. Project Appraisal is necessitated because of the fact that resources or means are limited as compared to the needs of the society.



Nahid Sultana, Scientific Officer, WARPO delivered a presentation on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in Development Projects. She explained EIA as a planning tool used in projects, which identifies a plan for environmental protection and enhancement on a project-by-project basis. She also said that with Environmental Assessment we can identify the likely environmental impacts of proposed plans, programmes and projects. The EIA stages are identified to make a quantified assessment of the beneficial and adverse impacts, which is a part of the basis for determining project costs and making decisions.



Mohammad Alamgir, Senior Scientific Officer, WARPO delivered a presentation on the Role of Forests in Environmental Conservation and in combating desertification. He showed the forest condition of Bangladesh. He focused on various issues like, Forest and Erosion Protection, Forest and Coastal Conservation, Vegetation and Embankment Protection, Embankment Protection Combining Engineering Structure and Vegetation, Mangrove Forest and Land Reclamation, Forest and Biodiversity Conservation, Forest and Soil Conservation etc.



Md. Akhtaruzzaman, Scientific Officer delivered a presentation on the findings of his preliminary research work on the limitations of the effluent discharge quality standard (EDQS) stated in the Environment Conservation Rules 1997 (ECR 97). He focused on the standards for the textile industries. He mentioned a number of limitations in the EDQS regarding textile industries. He proposed a new project to be undertaken by WARPO to nullify the limitations present in the existing EDQS and justified the reasons for taking up the project. He also proposed a methodology and identified several tasks to be performed by the different sections of WARPO.

Remote Sensing & GIS Training continued .../

Development Agency (CIDA) and the Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS). A total of 18 participants from the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), WARPO, BWDB, Planning Commission, Economic Relation Division (ERD) and CEGIS attended the course. Mr. Syed Mohammad Zobaer, Honorable Secretary, MoWR, Mr. H. S. Mozaddad Faruque, Director General, WARPO, Director General, BWDB and the Executive Director, CEGIS attended the program as resource persons.

EDITORIAL

DRAFT ODP APPROVED

The Organizational Development Plan (ODP) is a milestone strategic action list, which will shape up the future WARPO satisfactorily. The draft ODP is prepared by a Task Force group consisting of experts from WARPO and The Netherlands under a twinning arrangement between the Government of The Netherlands and the Government of Bangladesh. The full-blown action lists of ODP addresses the critical issues of WARPO like (a) stronger legislative platform for the overall planning of water resources, (b) coordinating, monitoring and screening water sector projects to ensure IWRM (c) effective and improved knowledge base and inter-agency information networking, as well as (d) human resources development.

The internal and external expectations from WARPO are quite high. Coordination, integration, harmonization, conflict resolution in the activities related directly or indirectly to water resources management are the long standing expectation which must be realized for the sake of the overall interest of people. On successful implementation of the ODP, it is expected that WARPO will be able to play the appropriate role for the benefit of overall water resources management in the country. We feel that stakeholders in the water sector are aware of the important role of WARPO in this regard. We will continue to update and inform our readers on the role of WARPO including implementation of the ODP action plan in the subsequent issues of the Newsletter.

Twinning Mission-XIV Visit

The Organizational Development Plan (ODP) of WARPO has been prepared (2002-2005) with support from a Twinning Mission, and is awaiting approval by the Govt. of Bangladesh. ODP contains the mission, vision, implementing role of WARPO, and action plans to be executed in three phases e.g. inception, development and implementation. TM-XIV visited Bangladesh over the period 19-31 May, 2006. The focus issues discussed with regard to ODP implementation were as follows:

Formal functioning of the Program Coordination Unit (PCU) of WARPO, as envisaged in the Coastal Zone Policy (CZPo) of Bangladesh.

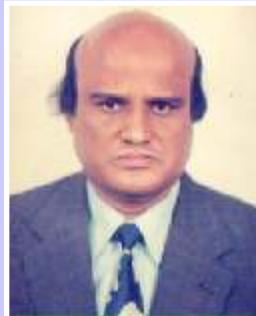
Updating of the National Water Management Plan (NWMP-2001)

The updating of NWMP is a routine task of WARPO. The present updating of NWMP may broadly adopt the following approach:

- Formulate different scenarios for updating and making deliberate decisions based on realistic contents, needs, cost estimates and timeframe
- Fill up the information and knowledge gaps of the existing NWMP
- Design an adequate process for updating, producing deliverables in time and of good quality

A cooperate with other ministries, line agencies, LGIS, private sector organizations, development partners, NGOs and stakeholders at grass root level.

New Director - WARPO



Mr Wafi Md. Quamrul Huda took over the charges of the Director of the Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO) on deputation from 6th September 2006. He graduated from Bangladesh Institute of Technology, Chittagong in 1976. He was serving as Superintending Engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) immediately before his joining in WARPO.

Farewell to Director - WARPO



A farewell reception for Mr. Md Abdul Haque Sardar, P.Eng., Director WARPO, was held on 4th July 2006 in WARPO Conference Room. Mr. Md Abdul Haque Sardar was working in WARPO for last one year approximately. During this period he was the project Director of the ICZMP-Bridging Phase. He visited Canada and India for training and seminar with a view to achieve further development of WARPO. He played a key role in the organizational development (ODP) of WARPO. He has a great interest in any proactive and innovative work. All officers of WARPO praised his hard work and contribution to this organization.



Md. Abdul Haque Sardar and Mr. H.S. Mozaddad Faruque, DG, WARPO are seen in the farewell program.

Water Resources Planning Organization