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Director General Attended Fifth World Water Forum held in Istanbul Turkey from 16 - 22 March 2009 as a member of the Bangladesh Govt. delegation

Director General WARPO attended Fifth World Water Forum held in Istanbul Turkey from 16 - 22 March 2009 as a member of the Bangladesh Govt. delegation; his participation was sponsored by UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme. One of the most important events of the 5WWF was the launching of the 3rd edition of the United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR3), which is a joint effort of 25 UN agencies. The launching ceremony of the report took place on the first day of the forum (16 March) in the afternoon.



DG. WARPO and Others are seen in the picture

Bangladesh is one of the country partners that contributed to the WWDR3 through submitting a national report dealing with water resources and their management. The executive summary of the Bangladesh National Water Development Report is included in the WWDR3 to share with the global community the water related challenges facing the society and the actions that are being taken to address these issues. A particular session on 17 March in the 5WWF focused on the selected case studies of the WWDR3. Director General WARPO was given the floor in this session to make a brief presentation on water management in Bangladesh.

As a member of Bangladesh Govt. Delegation, Director General WARPO actively participated in Senior official level meetings and assisted the Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources and Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources of Bangladesh. Director General also attended other relevant technical sessions particularly those relevant to Climate Change. He also attended the reception function by the Mayor of Istanbul.

2nd International Conference on Water and Flood Management



Dr. Nilufa Islam, Director(Technical), Present a Paper on Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan.

A three day long International Conference on Water and Flood Management was held at Bangladesh-China friendship conference center, Dhaka from 15-17 March organized by Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM), BUET. Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO) was one of the key collaborative partners with the organizer IWFM, BUET. A total of 89 papers on 8 themes were presented in 14 technical sessions. Total number of participants were around 200, including 45 foreign participants from 13 different countries. Professor Abul Fazal M. Saleh of IWFM, BUET was the Chairman of the organizing Committee. Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management was present as the Chief Guest of the inaugural ceremony. Professor Dr. A.M.M. Safiullah, Vice-Chancellor of BUET and Mr. Fritz Meijndert, Head of Development Cooperation and Deputy Ambassador, Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands were the special guests of the inaugural ceremony.

Identification Mission on Integrated Coastal Zone Development Programme, 2009

Coastal zone is different in a number of aspects from rest of the country. A participatory and integrated approach holds the promise of reducing conflicts in the utilization of coastal resources and optimum exploitation of opportunities. The Government, therefore, has formulated and approved the coastal zone policy (CZPo) in 2005 and the coastal Development Strategy (CDS) in 2006. Funding of the activities to implement the strategy outlined in CDS was explored at that time but did not materialize. The need for integrated coastal zone management was also made clearly visible again after cyclone Sidr and Aila. On the longer term, ICZM will also play an important role in climate change adaptation in Bangladesh.

In October 2006, the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands (EKN) expressed its commitment to this approach in a letter to the Secretary, MoWR. The GoB with support of the LCG sub-group has decided to field an identification mission, consisting of representatives or nominees from interested donors. The goal of this mission was to explore an agreed programme to ICZM among development partners and key GoB agencies. The mission was fielded in 14th January-1st February, 2009 and submits their report on March, 2009.

The mission suggested three different phases for the next ten years, which is:

- phase 0: from March 2009 to June 2010 (start of FY 2010/11)
- phase 1: from July 2010 to June 2014 (start of FY 2014/2015)
- phase 2: from July 2014 to June 2018 (start of FY 2018/19). More Phases can be expected after 2018/2019

The mission also recommended some specific task under phase 0 and phase 1 i.e. regional planning studies; maintaining Integrated Coastal Resources Database and Updating the State of the Coast; information dissemination on ICZM; providing support to ICZM/Climate Change Focal Points; knowledge based support to the Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee on ICZM.

A list of summaries of Portfolio projects have also prepared where climate change adaptation and mitigation actions also prioritized.



Participants from different organisation in the picture.

International Training Course on Integrated Watershed Management

An International Training Course on Integrated Watershed Management was held in Thailand during 18-30 August 2008. The course was organized by Kasetsart University, Bangkok and supported by Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA). A total of 25 participants from 20 Afro-Asian countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Botswana, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Timor Leste, Vietnam, Uganda and Thailand took part in the course.



Ecotourism in Doi Inthanon National Park, Thailand

From Bangladesh, Mr. Mohd. Enamul Haque, Assistant Chief (Planning), MoWR and Fahmida Akhtar, Senior Scientific officer of WARPO attended the course. The training course provided knowledge from both lecture sessions and field trips. It entailed principles of integrated watershed management, watershed ecosystem, people participatory process, and other effective watershed management schemes employed in Thailand such as check dam, watershed classification, vetiver grass for soil erosion control, early warning for flash flood and landslides, ecotourism, GIS application, EIA, highland watershed management etc. There were 10 field trips at national parks, hydrological research center and early warning system, head watershed, highland upper watershed and royal development study center etc. The expected results of the training course were to build up participants capacity in integrated watershed management and to create a participants network for future cooperation. The end day consisted of country presentations by the participants on integrated watershed management and lessons learnt from this training course.

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WARPO Professionals attended in Twenty-First Bangladesh Science Conference, 2009

The Twenty-First Bangladesh Science Conference was held on 18-20 February, 2009 at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Joydebpur, Gazipur. The conference was jointly organized by Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) and Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University. The theme of the Conference was "Science for Food Security". The three days scientific programme has included Symposiums and Technical Sessions. M. Aminul Haque, Senior Scientific Officer and Nahid Sultana, Scientific Officer from Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO) has attended in the conference, where Dr. Aminul presented a paper in the technical session of section-V (Geology, Geography and Environmental Sciences). His topic was "An Economic Analysis of Ground Water Irrigated Crop under Lower Gangetic Plain of Bangladesh".



Dr. Aminul Haque, SSO and Nahid Sultana, SO, WARPO are seen in the Conference.

WARPO signs contract for consultancy services of Maintenance, Updating and Dissemination of NWRD

WARPO has signed a contract with CEGIS for consultancy services of Maintenance, Updating and Dissemination of National Water Resources Database (NWRD) under Component 3B-2 of Water Management Improvement Project (WMIP) on 19 May 2009. Mr. Jalaluddin Md. Abdul Hye, Director General, WARPO chaired the signing ceremony. Mr. Narayan Chandra Day, Joint Secretary, MoWR, Mr. Mollah Ruhul Alam, Project Director, WMIP-PCU, BWDB, Mr. Md. Taslimul Islam, Deputy Secretary, MoWR and WARPO officials were present in the occasion at WARPO conference room. Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Executive Director, CEGIS and Mr. Md Shahjahan, Director (Planning), WARPO and Project Coordinator, WMIP-Component 3B signed in the contract document on behalf of the respective organizations.



Mr. Jalaluddin Md. Abdul Hye, DG WARPO, Mr. Narayan Chandra Day, Joint Secretary, MoWR, and other officials are seen at the contract signing ceremony.

Sharing Experience on Water and Environmental Issues

A discussion meeting on Water and Environmental Issues was held at WARPO Conference Room on 3 March, 2009. Dr. Ing Rolf Baur, Head, Centre for International Postgraduate Studies on Environmental Management, Technical University of Dresden, Germany was the key Resource Person in the discussion meeting. Mr. Jalal-Uddin Md. Abdul Hye, Director General, WARPO chaired the discussion meeting. Dr. Rolf Baur, gave a presentation on water resources management in Germany. European Water Frame Work Directives, Policy, Plan, Transboundary Water Management issues were the main discussion point of his presentation. Mr. Anwarul Haque, Addition Chief Engineer of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Chief Water Management, Director Planning of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) were present to share their experience in the discussion meeting. Most of the WARPO professionals were present in the discussion meeting.



Dr. Ing Rolf Baur, Technical University of Dresden, Germany sharing his experience on Water and Environmental Issue.

Activities of the XXIII Twinning Mission(TM)

The Twinning Mission XIII visited Bangladesh from 29 March to 08 April 2009. During their stay they met Director General, WARPO on 31 March 2009 and discussed about the objectives of Twinning Arrangement-III, goals to be reached at the end of 2009, the progress of WARPO Task Force activities etc. After the meeting two discussion sessions were held between the TM and WARPO Task Force members.

The TM members met again with the WARPO Task Force members in a pre wrap-up meeting on 03 April, 2009. Mr. Tom Van der Weeken, Team Leader, TM presented the draft report on the progress of Action Plan and exchanged views with the WARPO Task Force.



Twining Mission and WARPO officials are seen in the meeting

A wrap-up meeting with TM-XIII was held in the Ministry of Water Resources, chaired by Ms. Riti Ibrahim, Additional Secretary, MoWR on 08 April, 2009. Mr. Tom Van der Weeken, Team Leader, TM presented the overall progress of sub-group activities of WARPO Task Force. Director General, WARPO made few observations mentioning low progress of WARPO activities in terms of Monitoring & Evaluation, continuous upkeep of NWRD, NWMP update etc. He said that all these works are not progressing in line with ODP Action Plan because of shortage of man power. In view of increased mandates of WARPO, DG made a proposal in the meeting requesting EKN through Twinning Committee to assist WARPO in providing some T.A Consultants (junior & mid level) until the additional manpower is recruited in WARPO. Representative from EKN and Team Leader of TM agreed in principle and suggested DG to proceed this issue in prescribed format as done by BWDB earlier.



Congratulations to Naima

Our heartiest congratulations to **Naima Akhter** for her successful achievement in the HSC examination with GPA 5.00 for the year 2008 from Sofiuddin Sorkar Academy and College, Tongi, Gazipur. She is daughter of Mrs. Nazma Begum and Mr. Md. Abdul Momin Staff of Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO), Under the Ministry of Water Resources. Naima wants blessing from all.

Editorial

Climate Change and Global Warming
A challenge of IWRM

Climate change is the most important menace ever known to Earth's biodiversity, natural resources, agriculture and access to food, poverty eradication and water availability. It is now widely accepted that climate change will lead to an intensification of the global hydrological cycle and will have a major impact on regional water resources. It is also clear that, in many parts of the world, variability in climate conditions, next to many socio-economic and environmental developments, is already having major impacts and that such variability is increasing. Both present variability and long term climate change impacts are most severe in the developing world, and particularly affect the poor in these regions.

Climate change and its direct and indirect effects are amongst the key environmental and development issues that the Government of Bangladesh is seriously addressing. Bangladesh is very much aware and concerned about environmental degradation and global warming and their detrimental effects. The low-lying topography, funnel shaped coast exposing the land to cyclones and tidal surges, seasonal flooding, widespread poverty, large population base, poor institutional development etc. have particularly made Bangladesh vulnerable to climate change. A number of previously published studies examined the potential impacts of climate change on Bangladesh assuming certain change in the climate and corresponding sea level rise. Some of the studies show that following a rise of one meter in the sea level, Bangladesh would face a catastrophic situation, including permanent inundation of about 15%-18% of its low-lying coastal areas, loss of Sundarbans, displacements of over 10 million people and loss of vulnerable agricultural land and extended Salinity intrusion (OECD, 2000). These studies identified critical impacts on drainage congestion problem, reduction in fresh water flow, and disturbance of morphologic processes, increase intensity of disasters.

For water sector, the realities of climate change have a greater impact. Weather and rainfall patterns are changing, with two contradictory effects: water scarcity and flooding. The problem of scarcity -- resulting from hotter, drier summers -- is exacerbated by an increase in demand for water. For the water sector, the fact is that there is no single cure for climate change. Coping with climate change requires a joined-up partnership approach to risk assessment and strategic planning. It is impossible for a single sector to reduce the risk of flooding, manage the water supply, protect the aquatic environment and predict and adapt to impacts of climate change without the cooperation of other sectors. Moreover, human ability to predict the weather is limited, and what may seem a priority now could be easily overtaken by unforeseen factors. Sea level rise resulting from global climate change may be greater than currently predicted. Our response will need to be flexible, and, above all, collaborative. Collective thinking and cooperation between all relevant stakeholders will be necessary to lead to a secure future of integrated water resources management.

Contributors list

- Md. Shahjahan
- Dr. Nilufa Islam
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- Md. Rezaul Karim
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- Fahmida Akhter
- Dr. Aminul Haque
- Syed Abu Shoaib
- Nahid Sultana

National Workshop on Draft Bangladesh Water Act

A day long National Workshop on Draft Bangladesh Water Act (from left Dr. Asif Nazrul (DU), Dr. Ayub Miah, Secretary MoWR, C.S Karim, former Advisor DG, WARPO and Dr. Inun Nishat) was held on 30 October 2008 at BRAC Centre for Development Management (BCDM), Rajendrapur, Bangladesh. The workshop was organized by Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO). It was a process development for preparing and implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). Dr. C. S. Karim, Former Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was the chief guest of the workshop. Dr. Mohammad Ayub Miah, Former Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources presided over the workshop. The key-note paper of the workshop was presented by Dr. Asif Nazrul, Professor of Law, University of Dhaka. Water experts of different organizations and institutes were participated in the detail discussion on the act especially on its legislative part. Regional Technical Assistance (RETA) supporting Integrated Water Resources Management (Bangladesh) experts are working on the finalization of this first Bangladesh Water Act.



Participants are seen in-group discussion session

WARPO Participated in a Consultation Workshop on “Sustainable Water Resource Management for Development in the Asia-Pacific Region” from 11-12 December, 2008 at Manila

Dr. Nilufa Islam, Director, WARPO participated in a Consultation Workshop held in Manila from 11-12 December, 2008. The workshop was held based on the conclusions of the Spain Workshop for validating the first draft of the Programme Proposal on Sustainable Management of Water in the Asia-Pacific Region, held on 22 -30 October, 2007.



Dr. Nilufa Islam, Director (Technical), WARPO & other participants are seen in the picture

A group of technical personnel from the government, non- government, academic and multilateral organizations, representative from six Asian countries (Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines) attended the workshop. The Philippines involved in the Spain Programme and again met to discuss, clarify and consolidate the final Programme Proposal.

The main objective of the Consultation Workshop was to validate and elaborate a final Programme Proposal that will serve as a basis for future cooperation of AECI, the Spanish Cooperation Agency, in the field of water resources management in the Region. The Workshop also provides an opportunity to learn about the role of the institutions participated in the Workshop and exchange views and comments which enriched the Regional Programme Proposal.

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