

## Coastal Zone Policy

The coastal zone of Bangladesh is characterized by a combination of multiple vulnerabilities and development opportunities, which reflects the interface between land and sea and asks for a distinctive management. The government of Bangladesh recognized that better harmonization and coordination of policies, strategies and interventions of different public and private agencies active in the coastal zone would contribute to the processes of improvement of livelihood of the coastal people and also lead to a more optimal use of resources. However, increasing population, competition for limited resources, natural and man-made hazards, lack of economic opportunities, important ecological hot spots, etc, calls for distinctive coastal management. The Government of Bangladesh realizes this need, and special reference to coastal issues has been repeatedly made in government policies, strategies (including the national strategy for poverty reduction) and planning documents. With these notions Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) has been adopted as an approach to the development of the coastal zone. One of the key outputs in ICZM process is the Coastal Zone Policy (CZPo) that has been finalized and approved by the Government of Bangladesh on 17 January 2005.

The coastal zone policy is unique in the sense that it is a harmonized policy that transcends beyond sectoral perspectives. The CZPo initiates a process that commits different Ministries, Departments and Agencies to agree to harmonize and coordinate their activities in the coastal zone and elaborates the basis for a firm co-ordination mechanism. The Government considers three reasons for initiating the coastal zone policy; (a) the coastal zone is lagging behind in socio-economic developments on many aspects; (b) poor initiatives to cope with different disasters and gradual deterioration of the environment; (c) the coastal zone has the potential to contribute much to national development

### Purposes

The objectives of this policy are mainly; (i) to consider the coastal zone as a special management area; (ii) to present a framework for integrated planning acceptable to all; and (iii) to create an enabling institutional environment.

### Goal

The CZPo formulated the goal of integrated coastal zone management is: "to create conditions, in which the  
*(more in page 2)*

## Water Resources Secretary Visits WARPO

The newly appointed Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Mr. Abdul Aziz, ndc visited WARPO on 15th January 2005. The Director General welcomed him in WARPO and gave a presentation on WARPO and its activities. The following points came out during discussions:

- ☐ NWRD (National Water Resources Database) of WARPO.
- ☐ Inter relationship of WARPO with other water related organizations.
- ☐ Situations of surface water and ground water.
- ☐ Clearing House role of WARPO.
- ☐ ICZMP Project and Coastal Zone Policy.
- ☐ Probable Impacts on Bangladesh for the Proposed River Linking Project of India and Strategy to face this problem.

After discussion, the honorable Secretary advised WARPO officials to work hard to maintain its reputation and assured all possible cooperation from the ministry.

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### Development Objectives

More specifically, the following development objectives are identified in the CZPo: (1) to enhance economic growth in the coastal zone with the objective of poverty reduction; (2) to meet basic needs of the coastal people and enhance livelihood opportunities for coastal communities; (3) to reduce vulnerabilities and enhance coping capacities; (4) to ensure sustainable management of coastal resources; (5) to enhance an equitable distribution of resources and economic benefits across social strata and ensure the rights of the neglected and disadvantaged groups; (6) to enhance empowerment of coastal communities; (7) to enhance women's advancement and promote gender equity; and (8) to preserve and enhance the conditions of critical ecosystems.

The policy framework should be integrated into the wider fabric of national policies and priorities, as well as the international agreements and obligations to which Bangladesh is a signatory. The CZPo states that the coastal development process aims to comply, on an overall basis, with: the National Goal for Economic Growth, Poverty Reduction & Social Development; the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; the Code of Conduct for Responsible

## WARPO as Clearing House

Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO), an Apex organization for macro-planning of water resources, is mandated by National Water Policy (NWPo) to act as "Clearing House" for all water sector projects prepared under different Ministries. The role of "Clearing house" is seen as a means to assist Planning commission through screening of projects as per guidelines made in the NWPo and National Water Management Plan (NWMP) before the projects can be included in the Annual Development Plan (ADP), three-year rolling plan or Five-year plan etc.

Water being a crosscutting sector requires a coordinated approach in the implementation of projects/programs of the NWMP. It is expected that it would be possible to effect the policy coordination in the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) through implementation of the "Clearing house" role of WARPO.

Resolution of conflicts, avoidance of duplication of projects, coordination of conflicting interest of different sectors, upholding equity, efficiency and sustainability of projects are the important objectives of the activities and

procedures of "Clearing house".

The procedure would be formulated to fulfill explicit requirements to conform to the framework of NWMP. It would be ensured that relevant guidelines including Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Guidelines for Participatory Water Management (GPWM), Guidelines for Peoples Participation, Guidelines for Social Impact Assessment (SIA), Guidelines for Project Assessment etc and any other guidelines that may be instructed by the government from time to time are satisfied.

The role of WARPO as "Clearing house" has been emphasized by the recently approved NWMP and "unlocking the potentials: National strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction" (Draft), December 2004. It is necessary to implement the directives of NWRC given in 31st March 2004.

Presently WARPO has been engaged to develop awareness among the stakeholders about the importance of the process envisaged under the "Clearing house". For more detail on "Clearing house" see [www.warpo.org](http://www.warpo.org). Comments are invited.

## WARPO Professional - PhD Award



Md Aminul Haque, a Scientific Officer of the Engineering Section of WARPO has obtained his PhD degree in Water Resources Engineering from Universiti Putra Malaysia in December 2004. His research title was "Decision Support System for Water Management in The Besut Rice Irrigation Scheme". He has published a good number of scientific papers in local and international journals. He attended a number of national and international training courses both at home and abroad. He

## Data Dissemination from National Water Resources Database (NWRD)

Collection, compilation and dissemination of data and information is one of the main primary functions of WARPO. Data are being collected continuously from primary and secondary sources. WARPO mainly collates data from the secondary sources i.e. from the Data Collecting Agencies (DCAs). Primary data is being collected through different surveys such as Ground Control Points Survey for image geo-referencing, Extraction of geographic features through interpretation of satellite images, GPS survey for location of point information etc. Secondary data such as Demographic information, Fisheries statistics, Agriculture statistics, Environment statistics and Hydro-meteorological observations are collected from the records of concerned Ministries and Departments.

The relevancy of WARPO's function of data-dissemination originates from the Act no. 12 of 1992, enacting WARPO and the National Water Policy (NWP) published in January 1999 by the Government of Bangladesh. One of the functions of the organization, enumerated in the Act 1992, is the: "Collection and review of information regarding water resources and arrange to disseminate the information". Looking forward to it, WARPO has signed a number of MoU to DCAs' regarding data sharing and protocol establishment with the agencies.

A draft Data Dissemination Policy is prepared after collecting base information from DCAs' regarding the legislation and data sharing mechanism. There is always a common consensus about the easy accessibility of data. However, free access of information does not exist due to the complexity of data ownership and lack of legislation. DCAs' have their own rules and regulations for dissemination and pricing. NWRD summarizes the information defining the data ownership and accessibility using the information collected from the DCAs'. The policy describes which

data to be disseminated, terms and condition of data dissemination, confidentiality information and cost of the data. The policy would help WARPO to implement the dissemination process as well as can create a larger data user group among the agencies.

Demand for data is increasing tremendously especially in a readable form on computer tapes/diskettes/CDs etc. Such demands are made by various Government/Semi-Govt., Non Government Organization (NGOs), Research Institutions, and Universities etc. within and outside the country. In this age of information technology, the researchers/users are extending their demands for data at micro level. NWRD can help the agencies, researchers and individual users with quite reliable information from a single source. In this regard, NWRD promotes to the agencies regarding data dissemination and sharing. Data Dissemination tool is developed for data extraction from the NWRD to a user defined format allowing the existing set rules and accessibility options. Figure-1 shows the main data dissemination interface. The quality of the data set can be improved through data sharing process and a greater number of clients can be served with appropriate and authentic information.

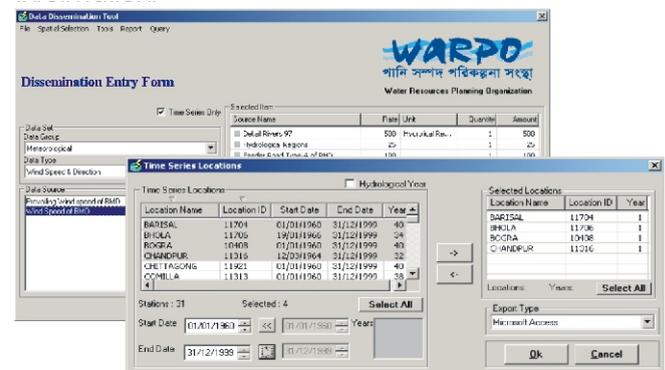


Figure 1: Data Dissemination Interface

## Fourth Task Force Meeting on Policy and Strategy of ICZMP

The fourth Task Force meeting on policy and strategy of ICZMP was held on 6 April, 2005 in the Conference Room of the Ministry of Water Resources. Honorable Secretary of the Ministry of Water Resources Md. Abdul Aziz, ndc presided over the meeting, where previously scheduled five points were discussed. In addition to the representatives of the Ministry of Water Resources, the representatives from the Ministry of Forest and Environment, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, Ministry of Land, Planning Commission, WARPO, and ICZMP were present in the meeting. Four important decisions were taken in the meeting after details discussion.

- ✍ Minute of the previous meeting was agreed and approved.
- ✍ PCU will be presented in the next meeting for further discussions and improvement.
- ✍ TPP on follow on phase will be prepared and submitted in the Ministry of Water Resources within two weeks.

## Ground truthing inventory of islands in the coastal zone

The coastal zone of Bangladesh consists of 147 upazillas of 19 Districts and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Bay of Bengal. This area of the country, has huge resource potential as well as prone to vulnerability like cyclone, storm surge etc.

Integrated Coastal Resources Database (ICRD) which is one of the 6 outputs of ICZM, will provide better information and better understanding of coastal conditions and processes. ICRD has an important function in structuring a sustainable ICZM. The aim in developing ICRD is to structure a database and information to make usable information available and accessible to all stakeholders of the coastal area.

For ICRD to be the most important component of the assessment framework for the ICZM planning process, important knowledge gaps need to be filled. Remote sensing techniques combined with ground-truthing and additional field investigations have to be used for upgrading and updating the information on physical processes and land use. Thus the 'ground truthing inventory of islands in the coastal zone' is one of the components for the knowledge gap filling.

The overall objective of the study is to investigate the condition of the coastal islands.

The specific objectives are to gather information on the location and area; demography and livelihood condition; socio-economic condition; opportunities, infrastructure; communications, vulnerabilities, government and non-government organizations / institutions.

Existing sources of information on the islands has been reviewed for identification of islands. Satellite images have been used for preparing a base map for field survey and finally will be used for identifying islands, estimating area, location, distance from mainland etc. Secondary data through different sources is being collected. A checklist/questionnaire has been prepared after preliminary screening of the available information and having discussions in working groups. A database has been developed incorporating all the information found from PDO-ICZM Paper No.06. This paper contains information on altogether 139 islands. Using LANDSAT image of 2003, FINMAP, SoB Topo Sheet, Muaza Database of CEGIS and Disaster Map published by Disaster Management Bureau (DMB) the location of these islands are being corrected. After locating the islands correctly, the islands will be categorized and number of islands of each class will be estimated.

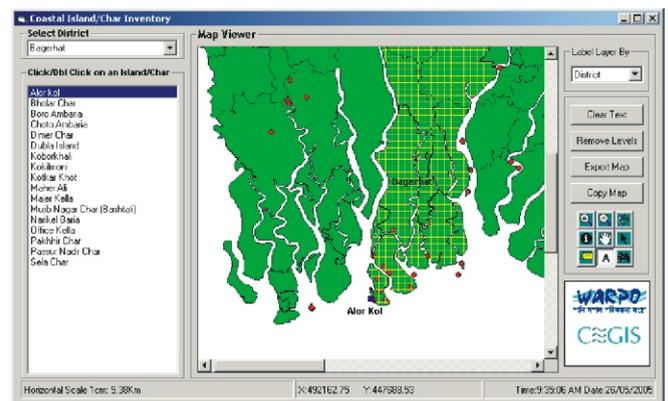
A fact sheet has been prepared on islands compiling and synthesizing extracted information. This fact sheet has been used in preparing structured questionnaire/checklist for field survey. Two teams already have been formed (each team composed of two persons). Local administration and NGO's working in the coastal area are being consulted.

The list of information that are being collected are:

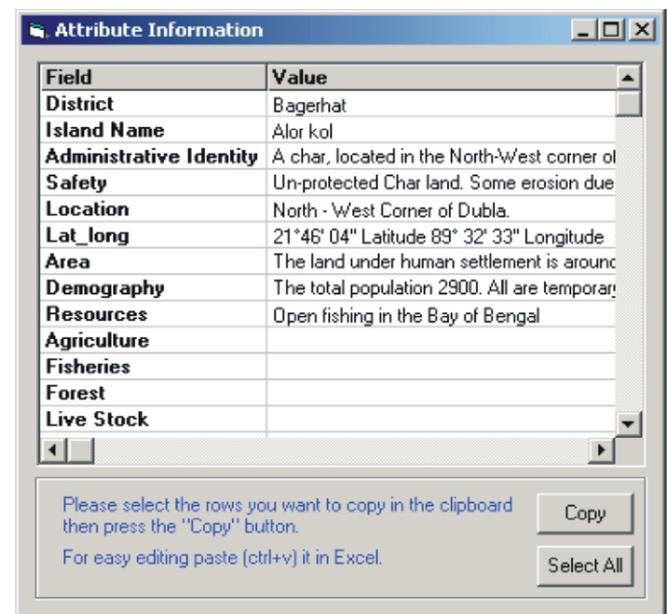
Administrative Name and location, Local Name, Char Type, Latitude, Longitude, Resources (Agriculture, Forest, Fisheries, Livestocks, Tourism, Gas, Oil, Mineral etc.), Occupation, Infrastructures, Status of Houses (Tin, Bera, Chon etc.), Mode of Communication, demographic data, Development Opportunities, Problems & Constraints (Natural & Manmade), Flood Protection Measures, Education (male, Female), Poverty, Women's Social Condition (Income generating activities), Hospital, Death Rate, Organization information (NGO and others) etc.

An Island Information Management System (IIMS) is being developed. The front end of the system is designed with Visual Basic and the back end is with MS Access.

A Map Viewer tool is developed to facilitate user to view, search and print the island map. Map viewer tool has a generic map view area where an user can view, search, zoom, identify, label and export the map. Maps stored in digitally in user's computer the file. Map viewer tools support ESRI .shp , NT coverage, Grid ,Images different file format. It has the facility to view both the information from the database and also information already linked with the map.



Coastal Island/Char Information System



Attribute Information

## Workshop on "Monitoring and Prediction of Erosion" under EMIN Project

On 18th September 2004 WARPO and CEGIS jointly organised a workshop on 'Monitoring and Prediction of Erosion' under the Environmental Monitoring Information for Water Resources Project (EMIN) at the BRAC Centre. Mr. Hafizuddin Ahmed, Bir Bikram, Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh graced the workshop as chief guest. The inaugural session of the workshop was chaired by Mr. H. S. Mozaddad Faruque, Director General, WARPO and the technical session was chaired by Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Additional Director General (Planning) of Bangladesh Water Development Board. Dr. Md. Omar Faruque Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources and distinguished participants from Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Bangladesh Water Development Board, Water Resources Planning Organization, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Institute of Water Modelling, Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services, Local Government Engineering Department, Directorate of Agriculture Extension, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, Disaster Management Bureau, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Canadian Embassy, Royal Netherlands Embassy, Food and Agricultural Organization, Media were present in the workshop.

The key note paper was presented by Mr. Maminul Haque Sarker, Morphologist, CEGIS, whereas the EMIN project was presented by Mr. Sidney Tupper, Team Leader EMIN Project and Erosion product and feedback was presented by Mr. Md. Arzel Hossain Khan, PSO, WARPO.

Mr. Haque in his key note paper mentioned that most of rivers of Bangladesh are very large and dynamic and every year these rivers and their estuaries eroded about 10,000 ha valuable land every year. Nearly 80,000 people living in the floodplain and coastal plain lose their lands and settlements. Almost same number of people living in the chars are displaced by erosion. Mr. Haque's presentation was on the Jamuna River, a highly dynamic and complex characteristics river of the country.

Morphological changes are predicted using tools such as physical modelling, numerical modelling and empirical modeling. CEGIS has been working on empirical modeling tools and improved the same significantly through EMIN project. CEGIS has applied the method for predicting morphological changes in the Jamuna River at the Pabna Irrigation and Rural Development Project site for the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 and at Kamargani and Bahadurabad for the year 2004. The results were quite satisfactory.

One of the limitations is that the prediction of scour depth or velocity is not possible using this method.

The advantages are that (i) it is the cheapest among all other available tools for predicting bank erosion and (ii) Minimum time is required for making predictions.

Mr. Hafizuddin Ahmed, Bir Bikram, Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources thanked the organizers for holding seminar on such an important subject. He mentioned that, the presentation was excellent. The key note paper gave only the guidelines, and the rest can be worked out from the valuable comments and discussion.

Dr. Md. Omar Faruque Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources mentioned that the result of erosion monitoring and prediction activities may be used by national organizations like BWDB, WARPO, DMB etc. The system will be institutionalized expecting that the erosion monitoring and prediction products would help these organizations to maintain records of damage, take necessary actions for prevention of erosion and plan for rehabilitation of affected people.



From left: Mr. H.S. Mozaddad Faruque, DG, WARPO, Dr. Riaz Khan, Executive Director, CEGIS, Mr. Hafizuddin Ahmed, BB, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Water Resources.

Mr. H. S. Mozaddad Faruque, Director General, WARPO indicated the severity of erosion. It is not just a river course changing by a couple of meters per year it is even in the scale of km/year. He also mentioned that erosion is not considered as a disaster of great magnitude. It should treat as a water related national disaster deserving special attention.



Participants of one of the Group Discussion Sessions of the Workshop

## Ad hoc expert Group Meeting on Water Use Efficiency Planning at Bangkok, Thailand

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) organized an Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on Water Use Efficiency Planning, which was held at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand during October 26-28, 2004. The overall objective of the meeting was to strengthen national capacities in the formulation and implementation of Water Conservation policies with emphasis on water use efficiency programmes and plans.

As the efficiency of water use is very uneven among the countries of the region, by organizing this meeting, UNESCAP intends to identify, analyze and facilitate dissemination of good practices in the formulation and implementation of water use efficiency programmes and plans.

The meeting included a three day discussion cum workshop. The meeting were attended by 17 (seventeen) participants from UNESCAP; member countries of Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Pakistan, Phillipines, Srilanka and Thailand. Representative of the Water Commission, National Infrastructure, Israel and Ecothai Consultants, a consultancy company based in Bangkok, also attended the meeting. Dr. Nilufa Islam, Principal Scientific Officer of WARPO attended the meeting from Bangladesh.

The three day discussion meeting was started with an opening statement by Mr. Rae Kwon Chung, Chief, Environment and Sustainable Development Division, the UNESCAP Secretariat. He mentioned the Johannesburg plan of implementation, adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in September 2002, had called for the development of water efficiency plans by the year 2005. He also pointed out that more efficient usage of water resources would also facilitate the implementation of the challenging task of rapid expansion of water supply and sanitation services to hundreds of millions of underprivileged people in order to meet another Johannesburg summit goal of halving the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation by the year 2015. In conclusion, he expressed his confidence that the meeting would come up with valuable recommendations on future activities for improving water use efficiency across the UNESCAP region.

In the Breakout session Mr. Thosapale Hewage, Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development and Water Supply, Srilanka was elected chairperson, Mr. Jorge Marlang Estioku, Chief, Water Resources Development Officer, National Water Resources Board, Phillipines, was elected Vice-Chairperson and Mr. Les Taylor, Managing Director Ecothai Consultants, Thailand was elected Rapporteur.

The participants of all countries including Bangladesh made presentations covering various aspects of water resources development, management and planning, including water conservation and water-use efficiency. It was observed that there was a need to accord higher priority to urban water-use efficiency. In a number of the countries, there had been

inadequate progress towards the WSSD goal of developing water-use efficiency plans by 2005 due to compulsions of other national priorities such as flood and drought management and expansion of water supply to the uncovered population.

Although none of the participating countries had a comprehensive and integrated urban water-use efficiency plan yet, most of the countries had integrated elements of such a plan into their broader water resources management plans.

From the discussions, the following actions were identified as the key to the success of urban water-use efficiency in national and regional policy:

Designation, where appropriate, of a responsible agency as the national focal point on water-use efficiency;

Establishment of a legal framework and related standards for developing higher efficiency water supply systems;

Establishment of water-efficient standards for consumer devices and fixtures;

Metering water service and rationalization of charges based on actual cost of service taking into account the real value of water to facilitate efficient water use;

Allocation of more funds for water efficiency measures, and placement of a higher priority on funding water supply projects which include water-use efficiency plans or considerations;

Promotion of the private sector's involvement in water-use efficiency projects and activities;

Establishment of a database on water consumption patterns, breakdown by sector, as a prerequisite for drawing up effective water efficiency plans;

Development and implementation of extensive communication models and strategies that promote sustained public awareness and education programmes;

Documenting and disseminating information on successes and lessons learned from pilot and full-scale schemes, in order to refine future water-use efficiency planning and possible replication.



*Dr. Nilufa Islam on Adhoc Expert Group Meeting*

## New Professionals at WARPO



**Mohammad Alamgir, B.Sc (Hons), M.Sc (Forestry)**

Mr. Mohammad Alamgir completed Four(4) years professional B.Sc (Hons) course in Forestry from Institute of Forestry, Chittagong University in 1993(Held in 1995). Later on he obtained M.Sc(Thesis) in Forestry from Institute of Forestry & Environmental Sciences, Chittagong University in 1997(Held in 1999). He joined WARPO as a Senior Scientific Officer (Forest) on 4th November 2004. Before joining in WARPO he had been working with the consortium of JPDevelopment Ltd (Finland)-HCL-DUL as a Forestry Consultant under Coastal Embankment Rehabilitation Project (CERP). He has good working experiences in Water, Coastal and Forestry issues. He also attended a number of Seminars/ Conferences at national level.



**Eng. Md. Rezaul Karim**

Mr. Md. Rezaul Karim completed his B.Sc. in Civil Engineering and Post Graduate Diploma in Water Resources Development from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in 1993 and 2004. He has been working in water Resources development in Bangladesh during last 12 years. His major work is Geometric Characteristics and Morphological Evolution of Gorai off take. Recently it has been published by Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB). He joined WARPO as a Senior



**Md. Jahid Hossain**

Mr. Md. Jahid Hossain completed his B.Sc. in Water Resources Engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in February, 2004. He joined WARPO as Scientific Officer (Ground Water) on 8th November, 2004.



**A.K.M. Khusrul Amin**

Mr. A.K.M Khusrul Amin completed his M.S. in Agronomy from Bangladesh Agricultural University in 2002. He joined WARPO as Scientific Officer (Crop) on 2nd November,



**Md. Akhtaruzzaman**

Mr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman completed his B.Sc. in Civil Engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in February, 2003. He joined WARPO as Scientific Officer (Public Health) on 3rd November, 2004.



**Krishna Chandra Bhadra**

Mr. Krishna Chandra Bhadra has completed his BSc. in Computer Science and Information Technology from Comilla University in July, 2001. He joined WARPO as Scientific Officer (Assistant Programmer) on 8 November, 2004.



**Syed Abu Shoaib**

Mr. Syed Abu Shoaib completed his B.Sc. in Civil Engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in February, 2003. He joined WARPO as Scientific Officer (surface water) on 8 November, 2004.



**Nahid Sultana**

Nahid Sultana completed her B.Sc. (Hons.) from the Department of Soil, Water & Environment, University of Dhaka in 2003. She Joined WARPO as Scientific Officer (Soil) on 10th November, 2004.



**Kazi Saidur Rahman**

Mr. Kazi Saidur Rahman completed his B.Sc. in Water Resources Engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in February, 2004. He joined WARPO as Scientific Officer (Navigation) on 8th November, 2004.



**Md. Masud Alam**

Mr. Md. Masud Alam completed his B.Sc. in Water Resources Engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in February, 2003. He joined WARPO as Scientific Officer (water resources) on 2



**Md. Hasan Shahriar**

Mr. Md. Hasan Shahriar completed his M.Sc. in Geological Sciences from Jahangirnagar University in 2002. He joined WARPO as Scientific Officer (geology) on 3 November 2004.

## Gender Equity in the Modernization of the Ministry of Water Resources' Financial Management Capability Project

This three year project follows on the Modernization of the Bangladesh Water Development Board Accounting System, Phases I and II which were also funded by CIDA. This new CIDA/MoWR project has five Outputs:

1. Modernization and computerization of the accounting systems in the MoWR Secretariat, RRI, WARPO and JRC
2. Computerization of the Pension, Provident Fund, Employee Loans and Audit Objections of BWDB, and then the upgrade of the present computerized accounting systems in BWDB
3. Human Resource Development Training in computers, software and accounting
4. Enhanced Financial Management
5. Gender Equity

In this newsletter we will address the Gender Equity Output of the project. In subsequent newsletters we will discuss other Outputs.

A comprehensive Gender Equity Strategy and set of CIDA Gender Results Based Management (RBM) tools were developed and included in the Project Implementation Plan (PIP). Gender activities commenced at the Project's RBM workshop in the spring of 2003. Since Project implementation commenced, three Gender Committee coordination meetings have been held.

The first coordination meeting was held at an off-site location in Dhaka. The meeting was facilitated by the Project's Gender Equity Consultant. The Project Director and BWDB Controller (Finance & Accounts) Mr. A. K. M. Jashim Uddin, FCMA, provided the opening speech setting the tone for the meeting and the gender Output for the entire Project. A guest speaker from the CIDA's PLAGE project led one of the day's discussion sessions. A Committee has been formed with one GFP and one BGFP from each institute. All Project Gender Focal Points (GFP) and Backup Gender Focal Point (BGFP) members attended this inaugural coordination meeting.

The second Gender Committee coordination meeting was held at WARPO. The meeting was facilitated by the Project's Gender Equity Consultant Ms. Lailun Nahar Ekram. The DG of WARPO, Mr. H.S. Mozaddad Faruque provided a stimulating opening speech. GFP and BGFP from all stakeholders attended the meeting. Additional selected WARPO employees also attended the meeting to provide input from their institute's perspective. A tour of WARPO was provided by Mr. Shahab Uddin Mahmood the GFP Committee Co-coordinator and Deputy Secretary at WARPO.

The GFP's last meeting was held at RRI which is approximately 4 hours southwest of Dhaka. Mr. Hossain Mollah, Director of Admin and Finance at RRI provided the opening remarks as Chief Guest. A tour of RRI was provided as most GFP participants had never previously visited RRI. BWDB and Regional Accounting Center (RAC) facilities in Faridpur were also visited. Selected personnel from RRI were invited to participate to expose as many RRI personnel as possible to the Project's gender Output.

In addition to the above, the Project was invited to participate in a Gender Equity Round Table in the spring of 2004. One MoWR Project Gender Focal Point committee member Ms. Nazmun Nahar Chowdhury of WARPO accompanied the Project representative to this round table discussion. The round table was sponsored by CIDA through their BUET and the University of Alberta Linkage Program. The topics of discussion included "Identification and removal of barriers in employment of women in technical professionals" which was very relevant to our Project.

Ms. Azizun Nessa, also attended a Gender Equity Strategy workshop in the summer sponsored by the Royal Dutch Embassy and their CDSP Project. Ms. Azizun Nessa was able to share her experiences at the workshop and reported back to our Gender Focal Point committee.

The Project has also held discussions with the Gender representatives of the DFID and Dutch funded Financial Management Reforms Program (FMRP) along with representatives of the Canadian High Commission and CIDA.

Excellent progress has been made in this Gender Equity Output. The GFPs and BGFPs making up the Gender Equity Committee have been very active in moving this Output's activities and tasks forward. Every training held to date by the Project has included women participants as either or both trainees and trainers. Sometime up to 26 people have attended the Gender meetings. The Project has provided Gender talks at every training session to date.



*1st workshop on Gender Equity*

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