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## National dialogue on developing coordination mechanism and strengthening apex body in the water sector in Bangladesh



Mr. Quamrul Islam Siddique, President, BWP, M. Inamul Haque, DG, WARPO, and others are seen in workshop

Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO) & Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) jointly organised a national dialogue at the Local Government Engineering Department Auditorium on August 1, 2007 on the issue for ensuring integrated water management in Bangladesh by strengthening the Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO) which has the mandate to work as a clearing house of projects of the water sector as per the National Water Policy and the National Water Management Plan adopted by the government.

Representatives from government and non-government organizations working in the water sector, international agencies and development partners took part in the programme chaired by Mr. Quamrul Islam Siddique, president BWP.

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## Experts Consultation Meeting in Singapore



DG, WARPO visits the state of the art laboratory in Singapore

Director General, WARPO attended the Experts Consultation Meeting on the Draft Asian Water and Development Outlook (AWDO) held in Singapore on 23 August 2007.

The purpose of the Asian Water and Development Outlook (AWDO) is to enable leaders and policy-makers to understand their respective national situations, to appreciate their present sector performance and the key issues in their country and, by learning from the experiences of other countries, to encourage them to take effective action to tackle those issues.

## UNESCO- WWAP WORKSHOP

A workshop on UNESCO's World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) was held at Spectra Convention Centre, Dhaka on 21 June 2007. The workshop was jointly organized by UNESCO-Bangladesh and WARPO. Mr. Syed Mohammad Zobaer, Secretary Ministry of Water Resources was the Chief guest of the Workshop, but due to illness he could not attend the Workshop. Mr. H. S. Mozaddad Faruque



Mr. Kazi Golam Mustafa, the then DG-WARPO, Mr. Arzel Hossain Khan and others are seen in the workshop

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## Contract signing ceremony

A contract signing ceremony was held at WARPO conference Room on 29 April 2007 for the study *Impact Assessment of the Proposed Indian River Linking Project for Inter Basin Water Transfer*. The study comprises of two components, namely Water Resources Support/Mathematical Modelling and Environmental Support. Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) and Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) in association with Development Design Consultant (DDC) Ltd have been contracted as consulting firm to carry out the study of Water Resources Support and Environmental Support component respectively. DG WARPO, Executive Director of CEGIS and IWM and other officials of the concerned organizations were present in the ceremony.



*Contract Signing Ceremony of Impact Assessment of Indian River Linking Project for Inter Basin Water Transfer between WARPO, IWM and CEGIS in association with DDC on 29th April 2007 at WARPO*

## Support to WARPO under Extended Twinning Mission Arrangement (2006-2007)

First Twinning Arrangement was signed between the GoB and GoN in 2000. The arrangement was initially agreed for five years, coming to an end in November 2005. Later the first extension was made for 2006 and 2007. This extension will come to an end on December 31, 2007.

Support areas of extended TM arrangement were broadly as follows:

The TM may continue to build synergies among BWDB, WARPO and MoWR towards changes through regular visits & monitoring of progress & making strategies. The TM may pay special attention to the implementation of the inception phase of ODP through the priority tasks under “Human Resources Development” & Clearing House & PCU role of WARPO. It is proposed that TM take some initiatives to arrange tour programs/field visit for BWDB-WARPO professionals in Netherlands. Review of ToR of the MoU signed between GoB and GoN in November- 2000 and; to assist to complete the incomplete process of ODP.

In view of above objectives TM under extended Twinning Arrangement (July 2006 to June 2007) visited 3 times in Bangladesh. Last visits were made from 2-14 June 2007. Objectives of TM-17 visit were: Review of WARPO Taskforce (TF) progress of activities, Consultation session with sub-groups and discussion about forthcoming actions; Discussion on Management Training for WARPO management level; Twinning Arrangement beyond 2007; Determination and linking of WMIP activities with Action Plan of WARPO Organizational Development Plan (ODP)

The focus issues were presented and discussed during last visit (TM-17) were: An overall presentation were made reflecting development phase activities of ODP action plan as of TM-16 strategic advice; Presentation on MIS formats, were developed so far by M & E section of WARPO for monitoring NWMP 84-program implementation; Brief Presentation on WARPO HRD plan and its linkage with WMIP; Status of “Clearing House” function of WARPO; Status of WMIP projects and its linkage issue with ODP action plan; Twinning Mission Support to WARPO in view of implementation of WMIP during 2008 -2014. Activating NWMP update issue through monitoring & evaluation of NWMP program implementation.

Until now cooperation between Bangladesh and Netherlands, within the framework of Twinning Arrangement, was very successful. So second extension is underway as agreed in wrap up meeting, which was held on 13, June 2007, in MoWR.



*Meeting between twinning mission and WARPO professionals*

### Flood Monitoring Cell

Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) has opened a Contact Centre for monitoring the flood situation at room no 413 of building no. 6, and will remain open everyday of the week including holidays from 8.00am to 9pm.

Contact Number of the Centre:  
Phone No 7165931 and Fax No 7162400.

### Congratulations to Shahla

Our heartiest congratulations to Shahla Ferzan (Trina) for her successful achievement in the SSC examination this year (2007). She obtained GP: 5.00 from Uttara High School, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka. She obtained A+ in eight subjects out of nine. She is daughter of Mrs Afroza Begum and Mr. Md. Shahjahan, Director, Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO), Ministry of Water Resources.



## WARPO Professional Participated in 37th GARNET-SA workshop

The 37th National Workshop on “Capacity Building of Young School Teachers and Local Government Members for Environmental Health Issues in Coastal Areas” were jointly organized by Global Applied Research Network for water, sanitation, hygiene and environment (GARNET-SA) and Environment and Population Research Center (EPRC) at LGED conference room on August 06, 2007. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss and document the important progress, problems and the solutions regarding the theme of the workshop. About ninety participants from different government, non-government organizations, school teachers, local government members, development partners were attended the workshop.



The opening session of the workshop started with the introductory presentation on formation and activities of GARNETSA by Dr. Bilqis Amin Haque,

Clock wise Picture 1: Dr. Nilufa Islam, PSO, WARPO presenting her paper on ICZMP; Picture 2: Participants on the Workshop, Picture 3 & 4: WARPO officers are facilitating the group discussion session

Coordinator GARNET-SA & Director of Research, EPRC. Dr. Khandaker Rashedul Haque, Director General, DoE was the chief guest of the session. The technical session which was chaired by Simon de Haan, Chief Component Advisor, Danida ended with presentation of 3 technical papers. Dr. Nilufa Islam, Principal Scientific Officer, WARPO presented informative paper on “Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan” while other two papers presented by Mr. Abu Shumon, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, DoE and Mr. Mowdudur Rahman, Director, Center for Coastal Environmental Conservation, Khulna . At the end of the technical session two group discussions also conducted with the facilitation of WARPO professional. The workshop was ended with presentation of the findings and outcomes from group discussion.

## Fortnightly presentation by WARPO professionals



Mr. Abdul Baten, Former PSO (IDS) (Top) and Mr. Saiful Alam, PSO (Water Resources) (Bottom) delivering their presentation on Fortnightly Seminar Program of WARPO

The in-house capacity building program of the WARPO professionals is going on very intensely. Fortnightly one of the officers present a topic on his/her recent training, current concerning issue of our country as well as self learning topics including the topics related to the Water Resources Management and Planning. During the period of this newsletter a total of seven seminars were made which are given according to the presentation schedule.

Sl. No.	Name & Designation	Topic	Date
1	M A Baten, Former PSO (Computer & Information)	Issues and Programs for Main River (MR) in NWMP	3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2007
2	Md. Hasan Parvez, PSO (Engineering)	IWRM - Concepts and Principles	24 <sup>th</sup> May 2007
3	Saiful Alam, PSO (Water Resources)	Resources Assessment: Dry Season Surface Water	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2007
4	G.J.N Murshed, PSO (Economics)	Guidelines for Participatory Water Management (GPWM)	5 <sup>th</sup> July 2007
5	Mohammad Alamgir, SSO (Forest)	Climate Change, Causes and Its Impacts	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2007
6	G.J.N Murshed, PSO (Economics)	Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan (ICZMP) Project	2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2007
7	Akhter Hussain Bhuiya, Secretary	Personality Type	16 <sup>th</sup> August 2007

## Surface Water Pollution in Bangladesh

There is a proverb that we should keep in mind “If you hurt the nature with your right hand, today or tomorrow the nature will hurt you with her left hand”. Water is the most vital element among the natural resources, and is crucial for the survival of all living organisms. The environment, economic growth and development of Bangladesh are all highly influenced by water - its regional and seasonal availability, and the quality of surface and groundwater. In terms of quality, the surface water of the country is unprotected from untreated industrial effluents and municipal wastewater, runoff pollution from chemical fertilizers and pesticides, improper disposal of house hold solid waste and oil and lube spillage in the coastal area from the operation of sea and river ports. The Ganges-Brahmaputra delta is the largest delta in the world and the rivers contribute highest amount of sediment load of the global sediment transport to the world oceans. The rivers flow through 10 per cent global population and carry untreated rural, urban, municipal and industrial waste to the Bay of Bengal. The river Ganges flows through more than 700 cities and about 120 million liters of waste water added daily. Chemical factories, tanneries, paper and pulp mills, petrochemicals and fertilizer complexes, rubber factories and waste from about 6,000 large and medium industries and 24,000 small industries are operating in Bangladesh discharge untreated effluents directly to the rivers without any regard to environment. The most problematic industries for the water sector are textiles, tanneries, pulp and paper mills, fertilizer, industrial chemical production and refineries. A complex mixture of hazardous chemicals, both organic and inorganic, is discharged into the water bodies from all these industries usually without treatment. The organic pollutants are both biodegradable and nonbiodegradable in nature. The biodegradable organic components degrade water quality during decomposition by depleting dissolved oxygen. The non-biodegradable organic components persist in the water system for a long time and pass into the food chain. Inorganic pollutants are mostly metallic salts, and basic and acidic compounds. These inorganic components undergo different chemical and biochemical interactions in the river system, and deteriorate water quality. The highest numbers of industrial establishments in the country are located in the North Central (NC) region, which comprises about 49 per cent of the total sector. About 33 per cent of the industries in the NC region are textiles, apparels and tanneries, of which Dhaka district accounts for almost half and Narayanganj about 32 per cent. About 65 per cent of the total chemicals, plastics and petroleum industries are also located in the NC region, and concentrated in and around Dhaka, Narayanganj and Gazipur districts (WARPO, 2000). Region-wise numbers of industrial establishments and most polluting industries are shown in Table-1.

The River Buriganga, which runs through Dhaka City, is at present one of the most polluted river in Bangladesh. The another polluted river is the Shitalakhya, flowing from the east of Dhaka. Water of the river Balu is badly contaminated by urban and industrial wastes. In the rivers Balu and Turag, water quality in the dry season becomes worse.

**Table1: Region-wise Number of Industrial Establishments and Polluting Industries**

Region	No. of Establishments	Textiles, apparels & tanneries	Paper, paper products & printing	Chemicals, plastics & petroleum	Non-metallic minerals manufactures
North West	4,403	545	113	181	360
North Central	12,133	4,093	707	1,242	733
North East	1,117	55	20	47	132
South East	2,518	346	68	83	549
South West	849	72	39	42	1199
South Central	1,408	128	29	77	157
South East	2,506	475	102	231	229
Total	24,934	5,714	1,078	1,903	2,359

Source: WARPO (2000), Annex G: Environment, National Water Management Plan (NWMP).

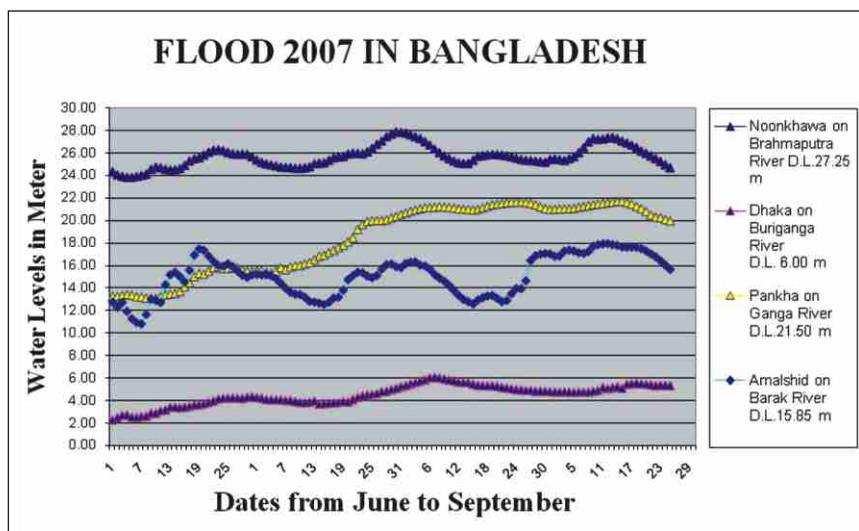
The polluting industries of Chittagong, the second largest city of Bangladesh, such as 19 tanneries, 26 textile mills, more than 50 large others different chemical industries, several soap and detergent factories and a number of light industrial units directly discharge untreated toxic effluent into Karnaphuli river and pollute the water. Other large cities in Bangladesh are also being polluted similarly. The government should inculcate the spirit of volunteerism among the citizens. A better environment can not be achieved if the citizen's total disregard to the environment results in a continuous proliferation of pollution. The spirit of belonging must be developed. "This is my home, my city and my country, and I must keep it clean" -- should be the spirit that drives one to pick up a glass bottle by the roadside and put it in the garbage bin. The government has a role in providing the infrastructure (access to garbage disposal cans, restrooms throughout the city and along major highways) for this to happen. The surface water pollution is alarming now due to lack of integrated planning among different agencies. A integrated holistic macro level planning and its proper implementation is required among different agencies in water sector to control the surface water pollution.

## RETA Supporting IWRM Project

To stimulate the adaptation of a more strategic and sustainable approach to water resources, the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development called for all countries to develop Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and water efficiency plans by the end of 2005. During summit, Ministry of foreign affairs of the Netherlands makes an initial contribution to Asian Development Bank (ADB), through a separate technical assistance for supporting the process of developing Integrated Water Resources Management plans in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Vietnam. For Bangladesh, the objective of the study is to facilitate and strengthen effective implementation processes of IWRM. Water Resources Planning Organization is the implementing agency and ADB is the executing agency. The project has been started on 01 August 2007 and will be completed on 31 January 2009.

## Monitoring 2007 Flood in Bangladesh by WARPO

Monsoon is characterized by excessive rainfall and surface runoff, which is mostly generated outside the geographical boundary of Bangladesh. About 78 per cent of the total rainfall occurs in the five months starting from June to October. The combined effect of surface runoff and monsoon rainfall makes the country vulnerable to flooding, which causes other water-related problems. Access to drinking water and its purity is one of the major concerns during floods. This year WARPO started flood-monitoring work with the help of FFWC of BWDB. BWDB provide the water level data of different stations to WARPO everyday. Director General WARPO has constituted a committee to analyze, interpret and visualize the data of flood 2007 under his guidance. Devastating floods in 1987, 1988, 1998 and 2004 inundated around 40-60% of the country. It reveals that the prime cause of flooding was the synchronization of peaks of the three major rivers the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna. It has been observed that this year flood peaks of three main rivers Brahmaputra, Ganges and Meghna synchronized during 30 July to 4 August like 1988 and 1998 but flood peaks was in Brahmaputra River at Bahadurabad date 31 July or 2 August but in Ganges at Hardinge Bridge point and Meghna at Bhairab Bazar flood peaks after 1 or 3 days than Brahmaputra river. If synchronization had occurred at the same day the flood could become more devastating. Figure shows water level at four stations of the four main rivers from June to September which represent water level rose above danger level at different stations on different time and flooded surrounding areas. Director General, WARPO gave a deliberation in power point in WARPO on flood management. In the presentation he explained the reason of previous and 2007 flood in Bangladesh. He also explained that 2007 flood occurred not due to heavy rainfall within Bangladesh rather water from the outside of Bangladesh.



## “The Midnight Sun Dialogue” on Climate Change - WARPO attended the experience sharing meeting

The International Cooperative Action on Climate Change “The Midnight Sun Dialogue” held at Riksgården, Sweden during 11-14 June 2007 where Environment Ministers and High Officials from 28 countries and the European Commission were attended. Dr. C.S. Karim, Honorable Advisor for the Ministry of Environment and Forest, represented Bangladesh in this high level Dialogue. The purpose of this dialogue was to allow in-depth discussions on key issues related to the future of international cooperation on climate change.

On 9<sup>th</sup> July 2007, the Honorable Advisor shared his experience from the high level discussion in a formal meeting organized by the



Dr C.S. Karim, Honorable Advisor, Ministry of Environment and Forest, describing his experience at the meeting (left) and participants includes senior government officers, experts, professionals and academicians at the sharing events (right)  
Source: Climate Change Cell, DoE

Climate Change Cell, Department of Environment (DoE). More than 80 participants from different government ministries, department and agencies, research and academic institutions were attended. Dr. Nilufa Islam, Principal Scientific Officer and Mr. Mohammad Alamgir, Senior Scientific Officer represented WARPO.

The Honorable Advisor informed the audience that the discussion had enabled a clear picture of the positions of different countries in

view of the forthcoming Conference of Parties in Bali this year. It is expected that the Bali Conference should establish a Road Map with a timetable and concrete steps for the negotiations on the future regime with a view to reaching agreement by 2009. Bali will thus provide an excellent opportunity to advance the important climate negotiations including a negotiating framework. It would be necessary before Bali to reach convergence on new or additional processes that may need to be established within the UNFCCC framework. Finally, the Honorable Advisor outlined possible actions for the Government of Bangladesh to have a clear picture of the country's position in view of the forthcoming Conference of Parties in Bali, Indonesia in December 2007 and requested the Climate Change Cell, DoE to organize consultation and discussions to facilitate toward this end.

## Water Management Improvement Project (WMIP)

A long awaited project WMIP, the Water Management Improvement Project is ready for implementation from this financial year. The revised DPP has been approved by the ECNEC and its administrative approval has also been issued by the Ministry of Water Resources on 17th June 2007.

The primary objective of the project is to improve national water resources management by involving the local communities to play an expanded role in all stage of the participatory scheme cycle management, from planning and design to operations and management. The secondary objective is to enhance institutional performance of the country's principal water institutions, particularly BWDB and WARPO. This is expected to result in reduced vulnerability and enhanced livelihood opportunities for the beneficiaries and will also create a favourable environment for improved water resources management by the core water institutions.

The project deals with the new approach to water resources management with stakeholders' participation and is implemented through three component (1) System Improvement and Management Transfer; (2) O&M Performance Improvement; and (3) Institutional Improvement.

The project will be implemented by BWDB and WARPO. WARPO's part of the project will be implemented following the component 3-B, the institutional improvement. Apart from Bangladesh Government's own fund the project will be implemented with the support of IDA loan and Dutch Grant. Starting from 2007-2008 financial year the project is targeted to be completed by 2013-2014 financial year.

The project will support two core activities of WARPO: (i) Organizational Improvement and Institutional Development; and (ii) Maintenance, updating and dissemination of National Water Resources Database (NWRD). The item (i) includes TA consultancy for institutional support, local and foreign training, workshops and seminars on integrated water resources management, office equipment and transport vehicle. The item (ii) includes a consultancy services of foreign and local consultants. It is expected that through the project WARPO's NWRD will be updated and its institutional capabilities will be improved to perform its extended responsibilities provided by the Act 1992, NWPO, NWMP and CZPo.

## NWRD: WARPO signs MoU with BWDB for data sharing



*Mr. H.S. Mozaddad Faruque, DG BWDB and Mr. M. Inamul Haque, DG of WARPO are seen at the MoU signing ceremony*

WARPO has signed an MoU with BWDB on 6 August, 2007 for data sharing. The objective of the MoU is to establish the relationship and framework of collaboration between WARPO and BWDB with respect to sharing of data. NWRD is the major source of water related data in the country and contains data of different agencies, organizations and projects. The NWRD maintains a countrywide database on administrative units, surface water, groundwater, meteorological, socio-economic, soil and agriculture, environment, forest, and fisheries information. Type of data that can be exchanged from BWDB includes mainly tidal and non-tidal water level, tidal and non-tidal discharge, river cross section, sediment concentration, rainfall, evaporation, groundwater level, groundwater quality and salinity. All of these data have already been purchased, value-added and incorporated in the NWRD, except the data collected in the recent years.

Data sharing among different organizations could result in significant savings for data collection, enhanced use of data, and better decisionmaking. Establishment of protocol (MoU signing etc.) for smooth data sharing and exchange with different organizations is one of

the effective ways to data collection and thereby to update the NWRD. Regular updating of NWRD is very important. Regular updating will enrich NWRD and its different users.

## UNESCO-WWAP Workshop (from page 1)

Director General of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) was present as special guest. Mr. Kazi Golam Mustofa former Director General of WARPO chaired the workshop.

This UN-wide programme seeks to develop the tools and skills needed to achieve a better understanding of those basic processes, management practices and policies that will help improve the supply and quality of global freshwater resources. Major goals of the programme are to assess the state of the world's freshwater resources and ecosystems, identify critical issues and problems, develop indicators and measure progress towards achieving sustainable use of water resources, help countries develop their own assessment capacity. Three papers were presented in the workshop specially focused on IWRM. Participants from different organization exchanged their views on World Water Assessment Programme during the discussion session of the workshop.

## Writing and Summary workshops on Groundwater Governance in Asia (GGA) project

The first phase of the project consisted of a formal 5-week intensive classroom interactive teaching session followed by a 15-week field level research phase. The aim was to train, equip and enable the present and future groundwater managers and researchers to grasp the complex challenges facing groundwater governance. A secondary objective was to obtain knowledge on the role and options of groundwater for providing sustainable livelihoods for specific rural societies within the Indo-Gangetic and Yellow River basins.

### Writing Workshop

Writing workshop held in New Delhi, India, from 19 – 26 March 2007, the workshop brought together all the fellows along with their respective supervisors so they could work on improving the quality of content and the style of presentation in their research reports, papers. Experts on various aspects of scientific writing and presentations made on topics ranging from ‘How to translate fieldwork data into a readable research paper?’ and ‘Do’s and don’ts of scientific writing’ to ‘Improving research communications’, including effective presentation of research results. Using the tools put forward

during the workshop, participants revised their drafts and presented their findings at a ‘mock’ presentation show.

### Summary Workshop

The summary workshop, which followed, was the culmination of the first cycle of the GGA project (2006-07). At this workshop, all fellows presented their research findings to an audience of all those involved in the GGA project including, IWMI scientists, national research partners, representatives from the University of Kansas in USA and the University of New South Wales in Australia and some high level representation from Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).



*Dr. Aminul Haque, WARPO from Bangladesh Group receiving their award for best group paper at the GGA summary workshop, India*

The final day was devoted to participatory evaluation of the project. An award ceremony was held on the last day of the Summary Workshop.

Dr. JS Samra, Deputy Director

General (Natural Resources Management), ICAR & Member, Central Steering Committee of CPWF delivered a valedictory address and awarded course completion diplomas to all the participants. First prize for outstanding research was awarded to Aminul Haque (WARPO Official), Anwar Zahid, Saiful Islam and AFM Mirza Hasan (Bangladesh group).

## Seminar on flood forecasting



*Mr. Arzel Hossain Khan, Director (Planning), WARPO delivering his comments as a discussant in the seminar*

A seminar on “Flood Forecasting in Bangladesh with focus on 2007 flood” was held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2007 at CIRDAP Auditorium, Topkhana Road, Dhaka organized by Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) jointly.

Two papers were presented in the seminar. At first “Increase of Lead time in flood forecasting – past experience and way forward” by Engr. Abu Saleh Khan, Head of Flood Management, IWM and then “Flood Forecasting in Bangladesh with focus on 2007 flood” by Engr. Saiful Hossain, Executive Engineer, FFWC, BWDB. Mr. Arzel Hossain Khan, Director (Planning), WARPO, one of a panel of designated discussants provided his valuable comments and opinions in this view. Four other professionals from WARPO also joined in the seminar. The seminar mainly focused on Flood Forecasting in particular and Flood Management in broader perspectives.

## National dialogue on developing coordination (from page 1)

At the beginning of the dialogue, Mr. Quamrul Islam Siddique, president BWP made a presentation on strengthening IWRM process in Bangladesh. Then Mr. M. Inamul Haque, Director General of WARPO made a keynote presentation about the clearing house role of WARPO. In the presentation he discussed the rationals of clearing house role of WARPO, scope of work of clearing house, institutional process for project clearance, two different option for clearing the water sector projects etc. After that Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Executive Director of CEGIS made a presentation on Capacity Building of Water Sector Institutions in Bangladesh.

Those who took part in the dialogue included Prof Ainun Nishat, Country Representative, IUCN, Bangladesh, Mr. Amir Khashru, Additional Director General, Water Development Board, Mr. MA Matin, Additional Director, Rural Development Academy, Bogra, Mr. Nurul Islam, Additional Chief Engineer, LGED, Mr. Shahidur Rahman Prodhan, Executive Director, DWASA, Dr. Azharul Haque, former MD, DWASA, Mr. Emaduddin Ahmed, Executive Director, Institute of Water Modelling, Mr. Rafiquzzaman and Mr. Minnatullah of the World Bank, Mr. Mukhlesuzzaman, former DG, BWDB, Ex Ambassador Mr. Muhammad Zamir, Ms. Shaila Khan of UNDP, Mr. Herb Weibe, consultant of ADB, Prof. Nazrul Islam of Dhaka University and Mr. Mostafa Kamal Majumder, Editor The New Nation. All of them suggested WARPO should be more resourceful and equipped and the capacity of WARPO’s professionals should be strengthened for carrying out the clearing house role of all water sector projects efficiently and effectively. They also mentioned to give the authority to WARPO to work as the apex body in the water sector.

## Editorial

Water is one of our most precious natural resource, and its proper utilization is of utmost importance in achieving our longterm goals and objectives. The main task of Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO) is to assist the Executive Committee of the National Water Resources Council (ECNWRC) in framing plans and rules for management of the water sector, and ensuring the multisectoral co-ordination between agencies for efficient management of our water resources.

The need for ensuring integrated water resources management in Bangladesh can easily be understood by the prevailing environmental situation. This can be done by strengthening WARPO which is the apex body in water sector. As per the National Water Policy (NWPo) and the National Water Management Plan (NWMP) adopted by the Government, it has the mandate to work as a clearing house of projects in the water sector.

Millions of Bangladeshi people have either limited access to safe drinking water or suffering from water borne diseases due to poor sanitation. Whereas bioenergy demands are diverting water for food production and on the other hand global climate change is affecting the overall water balance. Therefore a continued co-operation and assistance from all corners of the water sector agencies is urgently needed.

At present WARPO passing through a transformation phase and many new exciting initiatives are taken up in pursuit of achieving its organizational and professional excellence. WARPO has started updating the National Water Management Plan. It has also started to function as the Clearing House for water sector projects.

We are grateful to the contributors for their valuable articles, suggestions and information to enrich this Newsletter.

### Contributors list

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## New Director General Takes over



**Engr. M. Inamul Haque**, took over as the new Director General of Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO) on July 5, 2007. He was also the Director General of the River Research Institute, Faridpur and Bangladesh Haor & Wetland Development Board.

Mr. Inamul Haque did his graduation in Civil Engineering from the NED University of Engineering & Technology of Karachi in 1974. He did his Masters Degree in Water Resources System Engineering from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, England in 1986. Mr. Inamul Haque joined BWDB in 1975 and became Chief Engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board in 2004. During his long career he obtained several training in Home and abroad.

M. Inamul Haque is a poet, essayist & organizer. Presently he is the President of the Bangladesh Water Resources Engineers' Association and Vice President of Bangladesh Association for Advancement of Sciences (BAAS).

## Farewell to Director General – WARPO



*Mr. Arzel Hossain Khan, Director (Planning) presenting a crest to the out going DG, Mr. Kazi Golam Mustafa*

Farewell reception of Mr. Kazi Golam Mustafa, Director General, WARPO was held on June 24, 2007 in the conference room of WARPO. He was working for WARPO for nearly four months. During that period he tried to strengthen WARPO with his dynamic leadership and innovative spirit of WARPO officials. All officers of WARPO praised for his prompt, straightforward and instantaneous decision. He had a great interest to strengthen WARPO as much as it can achieve it's mission, vision and goal.

## Farewell to PSO (Computer & Information) - WARPO

A Farewell reception for Mr. M.A.Baten, PSO (IDS) of WARPO was held on 8 August, 2007 in the conference room of WARPO. He was working in this organization for nearly twenty years. He was the key man in the preparation of National Water Resources Database (NWRD) and its updating process. Integrated Coastal Resources Database (ICRD) was formulated through his leadership under ICZMP project. During his stay in WARPO, he tried to strengthen WARPO with his dynamic spirit & innovative work. He had a great interest to strengthen WARPO as much as it can achieve it's mission, vision and goal. He played a key role for the preparation of Organizational Development Plan (ODP) of WARPO. He has great interest on any innovative activities. All officers of WARPO praised his hard working and great contribution for this organization.



*Mr. M. Inamul Haque, DG presenting a crest to the out going PSO (IDS), Mr. M.A. Baten*

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