

In Quest of a Better World

The planet Earth is in great peril now. The continuous snippets being aired by the CNN, BBC and other international media updating the people of this world on the impending dangers of global warming, the diminishing arctic glaciers are ample testimonies. The world is today wide awake about the massive disaster we are going to encounter in the not too far future. The leading scientists, academics and the intellectuals are now forging together to face the imminent danger. While most of the World's scientists and social activists are today more united than ever that it is already late and something must be done immediately, a handful of short sighted politicians who still play the dominant role in the global arena are still to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Hegemony is the core of their hearts where they cherish that they would dominate and dictate everything come whatever may even at the cost of millions of lives of millions of people due to the sea level rising. The recent climate summits COPs held in Paris and then in Spain has however struck a new chord in the global thinking. The youth of the world have raised their voice in unison. They claimed that a few powerful politicians should not be allowed a free hand any more to play with the fate of billions of people at their selfish whims. They have roared together "Enough is enough"- it is time now for the youth to assure their due role in matters relating to the health of planet Earth. The Swedish teen aged girl Greta Thunberg has now become the flag bearer. The youth all over the Europe, America, Australia and Africa are now daring to take the leadership roles in their individual domains.

Workshop on Technical Feasibility, Economic Viability and Social Acceptance of Solar Powered Pumps for Irrigation and Drinking Water Supply - 2018



The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has envisioned the need to diversify the sources of energy to meet the future demand of power consumption in all the sectors. For such, the GoB has been encouraging the use of renewable energy where possible for quite some time now. Of the renewable energy sources, solar source is the most suitable and Bangladesh is in an advantageous geographical position for solar energy. This has brought the idea of use of solar power into discussions and there have been several success stories in the recent past. For instance, Bangladesh has the largest number of Solar Home Systems (SHS) in the world. However, there are other sectors those

can yet become part of such success stories. The use of solar powered pumps in irrigation and drinking water supply are two such sectors. Not that these options have not been ventured yet but there have not been enough growth of solar powered pumps in these two sectors. There are probably multi-faceted socio-economic and/ or technical reasons as to why these two sectors have not been able to take full advantage of solar powered systems.

Thus, a workshop on technical feasibility, economic viability and social acceptance of solar powered pumps for irrigation and drinking water supply was organized by Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) in collaboration with Global Water Partnership – South Asia. The main goals of this workshop have been to identify the reasons those could potentially be holding back the expansion of solar powered pumps and the ways forward to change the current rather stalemate scenario.

The objective of holding this workshop was to bring on the table the current scenario of solar powered pumps used for irrigation and drinking water supply in Bangladesh for discussion and to share the experience and opinions of the experts.

The workshop was organized in the Meeting Room No. 3 of BRAC Centre INN, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 on 15 December 2018.

Lessons Learned from the Workshop

The participants with various backgrounds yet with keen interest on the topic of the workshop got their opportunity through this workshop to learn about different concepts, terminologies, and techniques that are already in place or upcoming in the near future through this extremely informative workshop. The following sections describe the lessons learned from this workshop.

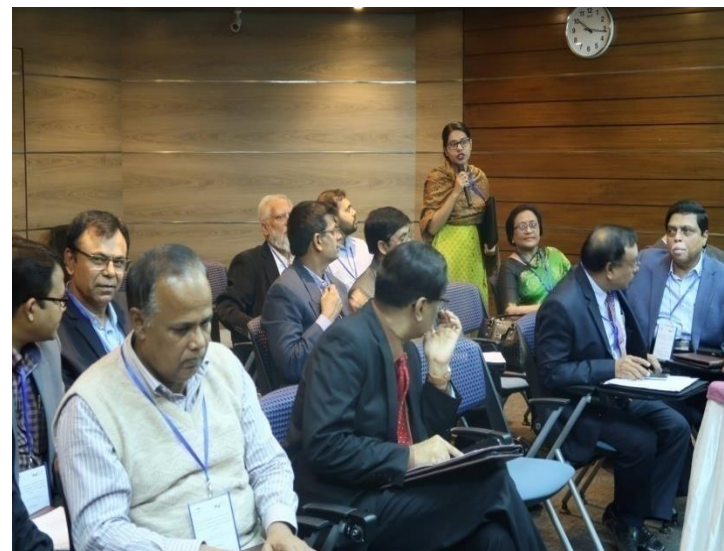
Current Scenario in Irrigation and Drinking Water Supply

The Power System Master Plan (PSMP) 2016 discusses the target of obtaining 15% of the energy source of Bangladesh from renewable sources. This is nowhere near as aggressive as Marcus's target of 100% by 2050 but it would still require significant investment in the renewable energy alternatives as Bangladesh would likely see a tremendous boom in energy consumption in the coming decades. At present, less than 2% of the installed capacity is coming from renewable sources, of which, most is hydro. This, although does not advocate the SHSs of over 5 million homes in Bangladesh, is still significantly low. Currently there is 22MW of Solar based power in Bangladesh. There are room for improvement in the existing scenario and options to add-on in new sectors. Irrigation and drinking water supply have been two of many such sectors where use of solar power can bring socio-economic benefits. The target is to reach 53MW by 2020.

There are currently 1.31 million diesel operated pumps used in irrigation sector of Bangladesh, covering a 3.1 million hectare of land and consumes nearly 1.0 million tons of diesel per year, worth almost 0.9 billion US\$ and almost a third of the figure is subsidized. There are currently 0.31 million electricity operated irrigation pumps, covering 2.2 million hectare of land and consuming 1500MW of electricity, which is almost a fifth of the present generation of the country (as per the study report conducted by the CEGIS in 2018).



View of workshop



View of workshop

Coastal regions are heavily affected by salinity resulting in severe scarcity of fresh water. Solar powered pumps have been implemented in these regions on test case bases and have been quite successful. The system used in these regions consumes 4.2kW of solar energy to run centrifugal pumps. These pumps have successfully been serving around 1500 people of 300 households in the North Kadamtola of Syamnagar Upazila, Satkhira. These pumps draw around 80,000 litres of deep tube-well water every day. Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) is hopeful to provide 200 additional households in the near future, using the same system in place. Introduction of solar powered pumps in drinking water system has saved on average two hours of effort to fetch fresh water mainly by women and to some extent by children of the locality daily. The daily time saved in return has been allowing the households to flourish in other productive activities.

Bangladesh, with a coastal area of 47000 sq km, where more than a quarter of the total population of the country is residing, may provide a huge opportunity to implement more solar powered pumps for drinking water supply like North Kadamtola.

Solar Power and the Challenges

In 2010, Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) planned for a 100% grant based Solar Irrigation System (SIS) in Dhamrai in collaboration with Raheem Afroz. However, the project did not succeed due to poor management and non-cooperation from the farmers.

An alternative approach was taken in the following years when a project in Borguna with 10kW system involved farmers group, but then it fell flat immediately after the UP elections, as there had been visible conflict amongst the members of the farmer group.

Additionally, the farmers' groups expressed their unwillingness to pay for the systems. They wanted government funding instead, as they were not ready to invest in unproven systems.

Subsequently, business models were developed using the experience of Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL). Donors, development partners and experts were involved in the decision making process to come up with the way forward for SIS.

Meanwhile, REB introduced 40 grant based SIS, which did not perform well similar to 2010 approach to enhance the use of solar powered irrigation system in Bangladesh.

The key reasons were identified to be a) the farmers group were uninterested, b) farmers were not ready to invest on largely unproven systems, c) these systems are mainly applicable for low water requirements i.e. cannot be used for paddy, but vegetables mainly, d) improper operation of the systems and e) lack of adept management, which were primarily local.

The workshop was very successful in connection with the sharing of experience and work based opinion through open discussion on the present and future scenarios on use of solar powered pumps for irrigation and drinking water supply. The workshop provided the foundation to build a bridge between organizations with different agendas but with the common goal to build a better Bangladesh.



View of workshop

Knowledge Exchange Workshop on South Asia Drought Monitoring System (SADMS) in the Drought Prone Areas of Bangladesh – 2018



View of Workshop at Hotel Rigs Inn

Climate change effect on changing of hydrological conditions and agricultural practices in Bangladesh have gradually converted it into a drought prone country. Especially the water shortage during the dry period is adversely affecting the agricultural, social and economic development of Bangladesh. The growing imbalance between water demand and supply in this period is expected to deteriorate further. Trends become visible of both reducing water availability and increasing demand, while many water "users" are becoming more sensitive to water shortage conditions (e.g., widely cultivated HYV crops which are generally more sensitive to water shortage). However, the water stress condition in the soil impact on the crop very quickly and consequences results in yield reduction. Water stress condition denoted the drought which impacted environment, agriculture and livelihood. So far Bangladesh faces three

categories of droughts which are (i) meteorological drought, (ii) hydrological drought, and (iii) agricultural drought.

Drought is not the problem of only Bangladesh, other South Asian Countries as well as India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka etc. are also facing challenges. The drought modeling has become important issue to solve the drought related problems. The climate change issues are also aggravated the drought severity problems in South Asian Countries. The agricultural drought is highly sensitive with the food security because the growing population in the sub-continent and South Asian countries. So, customized drought model and its application to assess the drought severity of the region as holistic approaches would be benefited to scientists, engineers, decision makers and planners for proper mitigation measures.

Recently, IWMI/GWP has developed South Asian Drought Monitoring System (SADMS) to monitor the drought severity monthly and fortnightly and event daily. Further, SADMS model has the options for drought severity index calculation using the outputs from satellite images. Following-up of the Delhi Workshop, BWP organized "**Knowledge Exchange Workshop on South Asia Drought Monitoring System (SADMS) in the Drought Prone Areas of Bangladesh**" on 13 December 2019 at Hotel Rigs Inn, Gulshan-1, Dhaka, Bangladesh with technical assistance from Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS). The workshop is aimed to disseminate the benefit of SADMS for further implementation of it's at drought prone areas of Bangladesh.

Objective of the Workshop

The main objective of this Knowledge Sharing workshop was to exchange the knowledge on drought monitoring using SADMS and determine the road map for operationalization of SADMS in different drought prone regions of Bangladesh. However, the specific objectives of the workshop were:

- Exchange the drought related innovative activities taken by different stakeholder organizations of Bangladesh
- Explore and discuss the present and past drought management initiatives by the different

- Disseminate the concept and understanding of SADMS including potential application in Bangladesh to the relevant stakeholders
- Explore the SADMS with respect to
 - Model domain
 - Software platform and system requirement
 - Identification and generation of Input Data/Parameters
- Informing the workshop participant about the application of Remote Sensing and GIS in SADMS
- Determine road map for operationalization of SADMS in different drought prone regions of Bangladesh
- Identification of ways and process for full scale Implementation of SADMS in Bangladesh.



Dr. Altaf Hossain (starting from left), Mr. H.S Mozaddad Faruque, Dr. Akkas Ali, Dr. Fajle Rabbi, and Engr. Jahangir Alam (Right and standing for delivering presentation)

Enhancing Knowledge and Building awareness of Youth about Sustainable Safe Water Management and Climate Change Adaptation - 2018



The objective of the study is to improve knowledge and enhance awareness of school youths focusing gender response Climate Change adaptation towards sustainable water management. One behalf of BWP, the program was implemented by Environment and Population Research Centre (EPRC), a partner organization of BWP.

Due to its geographical location, climate change is a great a matter of concern for Bangladesh. As a result, the area where the scarcity of safe drinking water is visible to the school students is emphasized in the selection of the study area. According to the DPHE-British Geological Survey, the worst Arsenic (90%) affected District was Chandpur (BGS and DPHE, 2001). The project activities were conducted at selected four schools located in Matlab Uttar Upazila in Chandpur district. Matlab Upazilla is located on the left bank of the lower Meghna and downstream of the confluence of Meghna and the Padma within the Meghna Dhonagoda flood control and irrigation project. Overall, about 1242 students were directly and indirectly benefited by the intervention of the project.

Training Program on Concept and Practice of Integrated Water Resources Management - 2018



View of the closing ceremony

The main purpose of the training program was to introduce the IWRM concept, its principle and to share application experience to district level as well as regional level water managers and experts, from different organizations so that they can utilize and allocate their knowledge and experience in their respective working area and can conduct similar training to others of his/her organization. The theoretical courses were conducted through a full day program starting from 22 till 26 September, with a half day lecture scheduled on 27 September (last day lecture) and followed by closing ceremony. On behalf of BWP, the training was

Strengthening Bangladesh Women and Water Network (BWWN) - 2018

To find challenges, opportunities and women professionals' involvement in water sector, a workshop on "Challenges in Water Sector and Opportunities for Women Professionals" was held jointly with BWP and BWWN on 22nd December 2018 at the Conference Room-1 in Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Dhaka. A total of 19 participants participated in the workshop. The workshop was presided over by Dr. Nilufa Islam, Vice President of BWP and Former Director General of Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO). Dr. K. Azharul Haq, President of BWP delivered the welcome speech in the workshop. A Keynote paper on the workshop title was presented by Prof. Dr. Umme Kulsum Navera, Department of Water Resources Engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology (BUET).



View of the Workshop

Emergency General Meeting (EGM), 2018 of Bangladesh Water Partnership – 2018



The Emergency General Meeting (EGM) 2018 of Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) was held at the conference room of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Farmgate, Dhaka at 01:30 pm on 7 July, 2018 (Saturday). The meeting was convened to obtain post-facto approval of the general body on the reconstituted EC which was submitted to NGOBA to obtain its registration which has been made mandatory by government, to access foreign funds.

View of EGM

The 16th Annual General Meeting (AGM) - 2018



Views of the 16th AGM

The 16th AGM of BWP was held on 22nd December 2018 at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) complex, Dhaka. Chaired by Dr. K. Azharul Haq, President of BWP forty four (44) members participated in the meeting. Welcoming the participants Mr. HS Mozaddad Faruque, Vice President, BWP gave a brief resume of the BWP's activities for the year 2017 and acknowledged the assistance provided by the members and partners for successful implementation of the BWP work program.

In his report for the year 2017, the Secretary General informed that all the 9 planned activities were successfully completed on time and within budget. Ms. Mukta Akter, the Executive Secretary (ES) then presented the Work plan for 2019 which the AGM approved with the observation that the workplan should also include budget allocation for each activity.

A summary of the Auditors report including the management letter was presented by the Executive Secretary. As the Audit report presented was only a formality as the report was approved by the GWPO, the AGM suggested that BWP should hold its AGM for prior/or immediately after sending the audit report to GWP-SAS.

Considering that the present Executive Committee's (EC's) tenure will expire on 31 Dec 2018, the AGM elected a new 15 members EC for the period 1 Jan 2019 – 31 Dec 2021 with Mr. HS Mozaddad Faruque as the president and Mr. Siddiqur Rahman as the Secretary General.

Executive Committee (EC) Meetings of BWP - 2018



Views of EC Meetings

Three meetings (60th, 61st and 62nd) of the Executive Committee (EC) of BWP were held respectively on 29 March, 4 June and 18 Nov' 2018. The meetings were chaired by Khondaker Azharul haq, President of BWP. The main agenda of the meetings were: i) Rescheduled the quarter wise activity for 2018; ii) Discussion on New projects and update on the implementation status of projects under GWP funds and Locally raised funds; iii) Update on BWP registration with NGO Affairs Bureau; iv) Discussion on Learning Delta Asia Initiative (LDAI) Phase-II; v) Appointing new audit firm for the consecutive three year 2018 to 2020; vi) Monitoring the activities by responsible EC members; vii) Monitoring the activity performance of BWP Secretariat; viii) participation in a number of regional and international events (e.g. 24th RC meeting of GWP-SAS in Sri Lanka , Training on GCF funding in Manila etc.); x) Discussion on holding the 16th AGM of BWP and Secretary General Report. The committee expressed its satisfaction on the overall performance of BWP in the year 2018.

The 8th World Water Forum - 2018



Event during the 8th WWF in Brasilia, Brazil



Mukta Akter is in the high level panel discussion on Urban Poverty & Water

The 8th World Water Forum was held from 18 to 23 March at the Ulisses Guimarães Convention Center and the National Stadium in Brasilia, Brazil. The Forum was organized in collaboration with World Water Council and the Government of Brasilia. Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary of BWP participated in the forum and represented the GWP-South Asia. She was invited by the World Youth Parliament for Water (ISW).

World Water Day-2018



View of WWD 2018

Bangladesh National Committee of ICID (BANCID) celebrated the World Water Day 2018 on 5 April 2018 at the seminar room of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB). The BWP secretariat and the Executive Committee (EC) of BWP participated in the seminar.

Cap-Net Core Group Meeting in Bangladesh

Core Group meeting of Cap-Net, Bangladesh was held at the conference room of Bangladesh Centre for Advance Studies (BCAS) on 9th August, 2018. The meeting reviewed the previous activities of Cap-Net Bangladesh and plan for major capacity building activities for 2018 and 2019.

The meeting also discussed ways to promote implementation of IWRM concept more effectively. The core group also decided to hold a separate meeting with BWP to discuss about further strengthening collaboration between BWP and CAP-Net, Bangladesh.

Finance Training in Colombo, Sri Lanka

The finance training of GWP-SAS was held on 4-6 September 2018 at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Colombo, Sri Lanka. There were eight participants participated from the region and the training sessions were facilitated by Salman Riaz, Finance Officer of GWPO. The training was consisted of plenary discussions, presentations and group exercises in aiming to provide clarity on the GWP Financial Guideline, discussion problems and solutions of completing the financial template as well as its submission on time. The training workshop also designed for strengthening the procurement and policy of GWP for a Green Operational Capacity Assessment of country water partnerships of GWP-South Asia. On behalf of BWP, the Executive Secretary participated in the training program.

GWP's Annual Networking Meeting-2018



View of GWP's ANM 2018

The GWP's Annual Networking Meeting, 2018 was conducted in a "Follow-the Sun" format (virtually) incorporating GWP's all country sites. As one of the country sites of GWP, BWP arranged the meeting with its members and partners on 27 September 2018 at CEGIS conference room in Dhaka. The objective of the meeting was to engage as many of GWP's Partners as possible in a meaningful way by incorporating everyone's commitment and feedback. It was a 24-hour "journey" around the world, with a series of regional sessions, with hand-over from one session to the next, culminating in a summary and a forward-looking global session at the end.



Ms. Mukta Akter is representing the group after a group exercise on GOCA

The 24th RC Meeting, the Project Preparatory Meeting and HELP-GWP consultation on Draft Principles on Investment and Financing for Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction in Colombo, Sri Lanka.



The 24th RC Meeting and Project Preparatory Meeting

The above mentioned three meetings were held back to back from 9 to 12 October 2018, in the Yellow River Auditorium of IWMI Office, Colombo, Sri Lanka. On behalf of BWP three delegates participated in the meetings:

- I. Dr. Khondaker Azharul Haq, President of BWP
- II. Begum Shamsun Nahar, Regional Council Member, GWP Bangladesh
- III. Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary/Country Coordinator of BWP

A brief summary of the three meetings are provided below:

GWP-SAS Project Preparation Meeting

The meeting was held on 9 to 10 October 2018 followed by group discussions, exercises and presentations. The 2-daylong meeting was presided over by Dr. Lam Dorji, Regional Chair of GWP-SAS and the working group sessions were led by Dr. Yumiko Yasuda, Senior Network Officer & Molly Robbins, PRM Team, GWPO. The objective of the meeting was to develop three regional projects documents/framework under the following themes:

- A. Urban water issues-water supply and waste water
- B. Improved water management and technical options in agriculture and food production
- C. CCA in water and agriculture sector.

The house was informed that the minimum requirement to develop one regional proposal is to involve at least three countries. At the end of the sessions, BWP has been identified to develop a concept note for a regional proposal under the theme-A in involving Bangladesh and two other countries.

HELP-GWP consultation on Draft Principles on Investment and Financing for Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction

The major objective of the consultation was to prepare for strategic collaboration with GWP-SAS and HELP, Japan on draft principles on investment and financing for water related disaster risk reduction in GWP-South Asia. The consultation was chaired by Dr. K. Azharul Haq, President, BWP. The opening remarks and welcome address were delivered respectively by Dr. Monika Weber-Fahar, Executive Secretary/CEO, GWPO and Prof. Kenzo Hiroki, Professor, GRIPS Coordinator HELP, Japan.

The 24thRegional Council (RC) Meeting

The 24th RC meeting was held on 11 October in the same venue. The meeting was followed by five discussion sessions. In the introductory session, the participants were welcomed by Mr. Jayatissa Bandaragoda, Chair of Sri Lanka Water Partnership (SLWP) and addressed by the Regional Chair of GWP-SAS, Dr. Lam Dorji and the Senior Network Officer of GWPO, Dr. Yumiko Yashuda. Adoption of 2018 RC agenda was the only item on the menu.

The GWP Strategy session was addressed by Dr. Monika Weber-Fahr, Executive Secretary & CEO of GWPO and Dr. Claudia Sadoff, Director General of IWMI. Dr. Sadoff informed that IWMI has a long involvement with GWP-SAS in Water Resources Management. She also told that they will take this collaboration a higher level to reach vulnerable community for development and benefits.

During the session Dr. Monika deliberated in details on ten strategic questions on GWP strategy.



View of the consultation

Workshop on “Ensuring sustainable access to water supply for women living in hilly district (Rangamati) under the climate change scenario” - 2018



View of the workshop

The workshop was conducted by Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), a partner organization of BWP, on 6th December 2018 in ASHIKA Conference Hall, New Market, Rangamati. It was a half-day long workshop with the objectives of sensitizing women on the water supply challenges, building awareness about the adverse impacts of climate Change on Water Supply and improving their understanding about efficient water Management. The workshop was chaired by Engr. Mr. Waji Ullah, Executive Director, CEGIS. It was a participatory based workshop, where participants actively participated to formulate recommendations to overcome the existing challenges to ensure sustainable access to water supply for women, living in hilly district (Rangamati) under the climate change scenario.

Study on Ground Water Sustainability assessment for the Greater Dhaka Watershed area – 2018

Bangladesh Water Partnership in association with Water Resources Group 2030 with financial support from H&M, worlds one of the leading Apparel and Fashion brands, has been commissioned to conduct a preliminary ground water sustain ability projection for the Greater Dhaka Watershed Area. Following are two specific objectives of this study as envisioned: (i) Conduct Preliminary Ground Water Sustainability Projection for the Greater Watershed Area up to 2030. (ii) Prepare design of Stakeholder Information Network for coordinated streaming of ground water data from all relevant stakeholders. The analysis of ground water abstraction and water levels reveal that the aquifer is almost entirely controlled by excessive abstraction of water in the area. The rate of decline has reached 3 meter/year in recent years in the main part of the city which may reach to 3.8 meter in 2021 and 5.1 m in 2030.

Sample Baseline Survey of Household Sanitation Facilities in Gazipur District – 2018

A baseline survey of Household Sanitation Facilities was organized by Bangladesh Water Partnership with the help of 2030 Water Resources Group, World Bank IN Gazipur District. The objective of this baseline survey of the house hold sanitation facilities in Zones 1 and 3 of Gazipur city corporation (GCC) was to understand existing practices and facilities for water and sanitation at house hold/premise level, broadly assess area sand type of premises lacking facilities for safe sanitation and make an informed, ball-park estimation of type, number and capacity of existing septic tanks/holding tanks.

Introducing Water Efficient Technologies in the Barind Tract Project -2018

The Bangladesh water Multi- Stakeholder Partnership (BWMSP) has been established in December, 2015 with an aim to contribute to addressing challenges in the water sector. The BWMSP Working Group on Agricultural Water has set its primary objective to 'Achieve significant farm productivity in a sustainable manner by introducing efficient irrigation and other relevant technologies and management practices by building farmers adaptive capacity, and resilience, and increase farmers income through crop diversification and gradual shift to high value, low water intensive crops'. The project core activities were:

1. Enhance agro-water productivity.
2. Reduce ground water extraction and rationalize groundwater decline.
3. 'Increase net income of 4,000 participating farmers.' in order to secure the business case for greater groundwater sustainability.
4. Strengthening institutional alignment in the Barind Tract, the study area.

TOT on IWRM to build capacity of water professional for better understanding of IWRM principles and practices for its implementation - 2019

BWP in association with Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), a partner organization of BWP, has implemented the “TOT on IWRM to build capacity of water professionals for better understanding of IWRM principles and practices for its implementation from 20th to 24th October 2019” in Dhaka. Participants from mid level water managers and professionals from different Government Department, Autonomous organizations, NGOs, research institutions and academia participated in the training program. This ToT module was designed to facilitate dissemination of knowledge on IWRM among upper/mid-level professionals and academics of higher educational institutes who will be responsible for promoting the concept of IWRM and overseeing implementation of IWRM themselves. The objectives of the TOT course on IWRM was to:

- Transfer knowledge to the participants on IWRM concept and principles;
- Develop the capacity of the participants to apply the integrated and participatory water resource management;
- Develop the knowledge and skills of the trainees capable in conducting the training course on IWRM in their respective organizations on IWRM application;
- Motivate and organize different groups of stakeholders to carry out their activities according to IWRM principles.

The training covered a duration of 5 days which included a day for field visit to DND project in Shimrail, Narayanganj. A total number of twenty lectures to address various aspects of IWRM approach were delivered in the training program. The interactive lecture sessions were designed to sensitize the participants with theoretical concepts while keeping major emphasis on group activities such as role play simulation exercises, poster presentations and group discussion sessions. In the inaugural session of the program, Mr. Hossain Shahid Mozzadad Faruque, President, BWP, was invited as the Chief Guest and Mr. Md. Siddiqur Rahman, Secretary General, BWP was invited as Special Guest and delivered their speeches. In the concluding session, Dr. Khondaker Azharul Haq, Regional Chair, GWP-South Asia and Dr. Nilufa Islam, Vice President, BWP were invited as special guests and shared their valuable experience regarding implementation of IWRM.



Dr. Haq is delivering his speech in the concluding session

Enhance youth and gender Capacities about to improve sustainable Water Management and Climate Change Adaptation including WASH through schools and Local Organizations/Partner Organizations - 2019



Exercise during training session



Prize distribution in the workshop

BWP in partnership with Environment and Population Research Centre (EPRC) implemented the project “Enhance youth and gender Capacities about to improve sustainable Water Management and Climate Change Adaptation including WASH through schools and Local Organizations/Partner Organizations”. The project was started in September 2019 and ended in October 2019 in Kaliakair Upazila, Gazipur. The primary objective of the project was to build appropriate knowledge and enhance awareness of youths among school students focusing safe water management and climate change adaptation in disaster prone and industrial waste related water polluted areas of Gazipur district. The other objectives were to:

- build knowledge among the school students (youth both boys and girls) about climate change adaptation and safe water management through training sessions;
- arrange essay competition among the students of the three selected schools;
- water quality test of drinking water sources in the schools.
- sharing knowledge through an Upazila level workshop and prize distribution on essay writings.

The workshop on “Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Safe Water Management” was held on 24th October 2019 at Upazila Livestock Training Centre, Kaliakair, Gazipur. A total of 32 participants including the Upozela Secondary Education Officer (USEO) of Kaliakair Upazila; Headmasters, Assistant teachers and students of the three selected schools of Kaliakair participated in the workshop.

The main objectives of the workshop were (i) discussion on the workshop topic: Climate change adaptation and sustainable safe water management by the resource panel; and (ii) to distribute prizes among the winning students.

The workshop was Chaired by Dr. Md. Abdur Rahid, treasurer of BWP and Former Head of Institute of Water Management (IWM) Division, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI). Mr. Md. Delwar Hossain, Upazila Secondary Education Officer graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary of BWP was present as a Special Guest and delivered her speech focusing the Importance of youth involvement on Climate Change Adaptation & Sustainable Safe Water Management.

Workshop on "Empowering Women Professionals in Water Sector: A Key to Improving Water Resources Management" - 2019



View of the Workshop

The workshop was organized in collaboration with Bangladesh Women and Water Network (BWWN) and Department of Water Resources Engineering (WRE), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) on 30 March 2019 at WRE Building, BUET.

It was a half day workshop with the objective to encourage and empower women professionals in water sector to improve water resources management. Participants were present from diverse professions and different geographical locations. The workshop was followed by speeches of two female guest speakers from Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO) and Institute of Water Modeling (IWM). It was an interactive workshop, which sensitized the participants about enhancing women professionals in water sector and recommended how to empower women more inclusively in water sector and improve water resources management by focusing 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

Capacity Building Training on Climate Change Adaptation in the Water Sector - 2019



View of the training session

To understand climate change better and to explain related frameworks, tools and techniques to facilitate planning and designing of community based adaptation projects in water sector of Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) has implemented a Capacity Building Training on "**Climate Change Adaptation in the Water Sector**" in association with Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), a partner organization of BWP, under GWP Funded WACREP project. It was a five (5) day long training program started from 8 Dec' to 12 Dec' 2019 at the CEGIS training room. A total number of 19 professionals, who involved in Water Resources Management, Climate Change, Natural Resources Planning and Management, participated in the training from the following Govt. organizations:

Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO), Department of Bangladesh Haor and Wetland Development (DBHWD), Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED), Joint River Commission (JRC), Bridge Division, Roads and Highway Division, Agricultural Division, Planning Commission, Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Department of Fisheries, Department of Forest, Department of Environment, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE).

The objective of this training was to enhance the knowledge and experience of Water Resources professionals about the concepts of Climate Change and familiarize its application at project planning, design and implementation level. This training was designed to strengthen participants' capacity pragmatically, so that they are able to apply the knowledge in their own organizations during implementation of projects considering climate change impacts and integrating appropriate adaptation into their project cycle.

The course was based on the Harvard Case Method, which conveys teaching messages mainly through interactive practical work by trainees. The training was adapted to the context of Bangladesh, based on real life conditions and challenges.

In the inaugural session of the program, Mr. Moshir Rahamn PEng, President of BWP was invited as the Chief Guest and Md. Siddiqur Rahaman, Secretary General of BWP was invited as a Special Guest and delivered their speeches. In the Concluding session, Dr. K. Azharul Haq, Chair of Global Water Partnership-South Asia was invited as the Chief Guest where Dr. Nilufa Islam, Vice President of BWP and Md.



View of group discussion

Siddiqur Rahaman, Secretary General of BWP were invited as Special Guests. In their speeches, they shared their valuable knowledge, experience on Climate Change Adaptation in the Water Sector and encouraged the participants to apply the knowledge from the training in their working arena.

Executive Committee (EC) Meetings of BWP - 2019



View of the 65th EC Meeting

Foundation and between BWP & SYNGENTA Foundation under Coca Cola funded under Introducing Water Efficient Technologies (IWET) in Barind Tract Project; Implementation status of work plan 2019 under Coca-Cola Funded IWET Project; Update status on of a project on SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme from Global Water Partnership Organization (GWPO); Discussion on GWP's initiative "Proposed procedure for SDG 6.5.1 workshops in 2020"; New initiative: (a) Contact with the Netherlands Water Partnership; Nomination of Regional Council (RC) Member (male) for the period 2020 to 2022; Discussion on holding the 17th AGM of BWP and Secretary General Report. The committee expressed its satisfaction on the overall performance of BWP in the year 2019.

A number of five EC meetings (63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th and 67th) of BWP were held respectively on 20 January, 20 April, 20 July, 23 Sept' and 26 Nov' 2019. Major agenda of the meetings were: hand over/takeover of charge of BWP Secretariat; Formation of Recruitment Committee; Implementation status of work plan 2019 under GWP Funds; Approval of agreement/MoU between BWP & DASCOH



View of the 67th EC Meeting

The 17th Annual General Meeting (AGM) - 2019



View of 17th AGM

The 17th AGM of BWP was held on 2nd November 2019 at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) complex, Dhaka. Chaired by Mr. H S Mozaddad Faruque, President of BWP. A forty Seven (47) members participated in the meeting. Welcoming the participants Dr. Nilufa Islam, Vice President, BWP gave her welcome speech and thanked the members and partners for their participation in the AGM. The Secretary General's report was delivered by Md. Siddiqur Rahman, Secretary General of BWP and the Audit Report, Program update of 2019 and the work plan for 2020 were delivered by Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary of BWP. All these reports were approved by the house with minor observations. There was another major Agenda on "**Selection of New President of BWP**".

The Chairperson started this session following the BWP's constitution on selecting the new president through consensus from the participants. The participants proposed the following three names for the 'President's' position:

- Dr. Abu Taher Khondaker, Former Director General of WARPO and Member of BWP
- Dr. Nilufa Islam, Former Director General of WARPO and Vice President of BWP
- Mr. Moshir Rahman, PEng Former Secretary General of BWP; Former Superintending Engineer, IWRM Unit of LGED and EC Member of BWP

The house agreed that the President must be experienced on water & related sectors, have adequate knowledge about 'Modus Operandi' of BWP and GWP and acceptable to all. After detailed discussion Mr Moshir Rahman, PEng was selected as the 'PRESIDENT' by consensus in the AGM for the remaining part of 2019 and years 2020 and 2021 which will be effective from 03 November 2019. Mr Moshir Rahman, PEng, accepted the proposal. After the selection of the President the house and the Chair of the session cordially welcomed the new President.

25th Regional Council (RC) Meeting in Bhutan



Participants of 25th RC Meeting

The 25th RC meeting was held on 19-20 October 2019 at Ro-Chog Pel Hotel, Thimphu, Bhutan. On behalf of BWP three delegates participated in the meetings:

- i. Dr. Khondaker Azharul Haq, President of BWP
- ii. Prof. Dr. Umme Kulsum Navera, Regional Council Member, GWP Bangladesh
- iii. Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary/Country Coordinator of BWP

In the introductory session, the participants were welcomed by Mr Chukey Wangchuk, Chair of Bhutan Water Partnership (BhWP) and addressed by the Regional Chair of GWP-SAS, Dr Khondaker Azharul Haq and the Senior Network Officer of GWPO, Dr. Yumiko Yashuda. Since there were no additional items proposed by the participants for the 25th RC meeting draft agenda, the draft was adopted as the final.

A total of 19 agenda were discussed in the meeting. During the discussion, Dr. Yasuda introduced the GWP New Strategy 2020-25 to the RC and explained the ambition of change in three thematic areas of GWP and theory of change. She explained the forecasted resources for the strategy period to achieve the stated objectives. Mr Lal Induruwege, Regional Coordinator, GWP-South Asia presented the draft 3YR GWP SAS work plan developed with the inputs from CWP. He said the Strategy Framework for the three-year period (2020-2022) was developed based on the South Asia priority list. It is also aligned with the GWP vision "water-secure world" and the impact statement "Water secure, sustainable, inclusive and resilient development". All the participants agreed on the Regional Level Impact Statement, which is "Water security, climate resilient, economic growth and human development".

REGIONAL TRAINING/WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE RESILIENT WASH AND CLIMATE FINANCING 2019



Participants of the workshop

The training/workshop was held on 16 to 18 July 2019 in Kathmandu, Nepal. This training was a collaboration between UNICEF ROSA, UNICEF HQ and GWP to develop the capacity of WASH Practitioners in the region on climate resilience and financing. From the GWP Bangladesh, Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary was nominated and participate in the training workshop.

The training workshop was facilitated by Mr. Jose Gesti Canuto, Climate Expert, GWP and Ms. Fiona Ward, WASH Specialist, UNICEF HQ. The workshop was guided by Ms. Therese Dooley, Regional Adviser, WASH, UNICEF ROSA.

A total of 45 participants participated in a three day long training workshop from the following SAARC countries:

- (i) Afghanistan; (ii) Bangladesh; (iii) Bhutan
- (v) India; (v) Nepal, (vi) Pakistan; (vii) Sri Lanka

Delegation from each country was formed from the Government counterpart, UNECEF WASH Specialist and Country Coordinators of GWP-South Asia.

The approach was learning and sharing through interactive discussions and different sessions. The intervention helped to learn about current climate change trends and impact on WASH Services including tools to assess them; understanding problems and delivering solutions.

The training covered the important aspects of climate financing and options for accessing climate-related WASH. The presentations, group discussion & exercises helped us to be familiar with available options for climate resilient WASH; climate hazards; monitoring and way forward and good understanding on national WASH strategies and plans, and understand the issues around capacity development for climate resilient WASH.

The following members from Bangladesh were invited to participate in the workshop and the team delivered a group presentation on the topic **“Bangladesh the “best teacher” to learn from about climate change adaptation”**.

1. Dr. Rashid Nahid, Additional Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance.
2. Md. Khaled Salahuddin, Executive Engineer, Training Division, DPHE
3. Md. Nahid Mahmud, Program officer, UNICEF Khulna region
4. Christine Klauth, Programme Specialist, Climate and Environment, Water Sanitation & Hygiene Section, UNICEF
5. Ms. Mukta Akter, Country Coordinator/Executive Secretary, Bangladesh Water Partnership

The intervention provided knowledge on good capacity on mapping and designing programs to go extra miles on the initiative. The training marked the kick-off for the “help desk” function of the GWP-UNICEF Global Collaboration. It helped in prioritizing components for developing proposals; to integrate with WASH Sector in climate resilient issues; it provided us a table to bring ideas on WASH to collaborate with different agencies and line ministries and also networking with other country offices to learn and share knowledge for doing action as well as focus on existing mechanism that Govt. is working with. The presentations and discussions also helped in providing opportunity to scale up WASH programming in ROSA. The workshop also culminated with the initial steps to develop action plans for each of the participant countries.

Action Points/Way Forward

- Develop proposals ensuring water security for the urban and rural poor including other vulnerable groups in hard to reach area on WASH issue.
- Develop linkage with UNICEF related to WASH action focusing on climate change impacts.
- Advocacy with Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance and relevant agencies
- Develop proposals for climate financing/ Green Climate Funds (GCF) for WASH programs
- Create awareness on urban water supply and sanitation in collaboration with UNICEF
- Develop special sanitation and hygiene program for girls which is expected to reduce school dropouts significantly.
- Use school students as change agent to improve sanitation and hygiene in their own communities.



View of the workshop

Introducing Water Efficient Technologies for Barind Tract Project - 2019



In the year 2019, the trainings of 1500 mango farmers (in 50 groups) on Ultra High-Density Mango Plantation were conducted along with the refresher trainings of 1200 mango farmers of last year on Ultra High-Density Mango Plantation. The implementing partners completed selection of 1600 rice farmers and formed 80 groups for training and intervention on Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) method in rice. The also selected locations of 4 farmers' hub, entrepreneur and started set up of the farmers' hubs. A first draft of baseline Survey on Mango report was prepared and shared to stakeholders for further review and finalization.

Workshop on gender, water and empowerment among ready-made garment workers of Bangladesh - 2019

Coventry University, Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Dhaka University and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) jointly conducted a research study on "Gender, water and empowerment among ready-made garment women workers in Bangladesh" funded by the UK Department of International Development as part of the REACH - Improving Water Security for the Poor Programme, led by Oxford University <https://reachwater.org.uk/>.

The workshop was held on July 29, 2019 at Dhaka University, where they shared key findings and policy recommendations. AKM Enamul Hoque Shameem, MP; Honorable Deputy Minister, Ministry of Water resources presented as the chief guest in the workshop and Professor Dr. A I Mahub Uddin Ahmed Supernumerary Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Dhaka chaired the session.

The objective of the workshop was to disseminate the key insights of the research in different ways with relevant stakeholders including the important policy level. Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary of BWP was invited and participate in the workshop.

Training workshop on 'Climate Change, Water and Health - 2019

To strengthen the capacity of the water and public health professionals of the government organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), non-government organizations, academicians as well as research institutes and to exchange and share experiences, lessons learned and good practices of climate resilient water and health based on the venerable areas of Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), the secretariat of CapNet Bangladesh, organized a national-level training workshop on 'Climate Change, Water and Health' on 4-5 November 2019 in Dhaka. On behalf of BWP, Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary of BWP was invited and participate in the workshop.



Participants of the workshop

The expected outcome of the workshop were as follows:

- i. Capacity strengthening of targeted water professionals and practitioners working on Water and Health sector focusing on climate change
- ii. Enhancing capacity of WASH and Public Health professionals in planning, assessing and formulating sustainable methodologies on effective Water and health related issues.
- iii. Compilation of the follow up plan of the participants.

National Level Dialogue with Multi-stakeholders (GOs/NGOs/CSOs/Research and Academicians) to voice the issues, concerns and recommendations for upcoming COP 25



View of the event

The Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) and UN Women Bangladesh organized the National Dialogue on 11 Nov'2019 in Dhaka. The National Dialogue was one such event to provide an opportunity for grassroots women to share their experiences and challenges to the policy makers from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Department of Environment, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, and other national climate change experts, many of whom will be joining the upcoming UNFCCC COP 25. The line policy makers were invited to hear the concerns of the women who are fighting the climate change impacts on day to day basis and the recommendations from them as to what should be the key

aspects the Bangladesh delegates should be discussing at COP. On behalf of BWP, Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary of BWP was invited and participate in the National Dialogue.

WASHBAT National Consultation - 2019

To share, disseminate and discuss the findings of the at scale eight divisional WASHBAT exercises in Bangladesh, the National WASHBAT consultation was held jointly with key sector stakeholder with the leadership of The Local Government Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives (MoLGRD&C) in Dhaka on 12 December 2019, at Hotel Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden. This consultation also served as a platform for sector financiers, policy planners and stakeholders (government ministries, line department and development partners), to share information, communicate perspectives, and identify strategic steps to system strengthening and creating enabling environment for WASH sector development.

As part of the workshop, the Local Government Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives and UNICEF Bangladesh also conducted a "mini-WASHBAT" focusing on climate change & DRR issues for the WASH sector, where Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary was invited as a participant.



View of the consultation



View of the meeting

The GWP's Annual Networking Meeting, 2019 was conducted in a "Follow-the Sun" format (virtually) incorporating GWP's all country sites. As one of the country sites of GWP, BWP arranged the meeting with its members and partners on 25 September 2019 at CEGIS conference room in Dhaka. The objective of the meeting was to engage as many of GWP's Partners as possible in a meaningful way by incorporating everyone's commitment and feedback. It was a 24-hour "journey" around the world, with a series of regional sessions, with hand-over from one session to the next, culminating in a summary and a forward-looking global session at the end.

Condolences



Dr. K. Azharul Haq



Mr. Touhidul Anwar Khan

We the BWP fraternity express our deepest condolences on the sad demise of Dr. Khondaker Azharul Haq, Regional Chair of Global Water Partnership-South Asia (GWP-SAS); Former President of Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) & Former Managing Director of Dhaka WASA as well as Mr. Touhidul Anwar Khan, Regional Council Member (RC) of Global Water Partnership-South Asia (GWP-SAS); Former Secretary General of Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) & Former Member of JRC Bangladesh (*inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un*), who passed away respectively on 27 June 2020 and 05 July 2020. Dr. Haq was a person of stature in the Integrated Water Resources Management and well-known for his deep knowledge, articulated views, moderate attitude and forward looking approach, excellent leadership and active contribution to the network in water regime at all levels: country, regional & global and so do Mr. Khan on Trans-boundary area as well as in sustainable water management solutions. As a Water Champion Dr. Haq brought passion, wisdom, and expertise in speaking up for, and taking action on water resources management and the relevant sectors. Dr. Haq and Mr. Khan were expressively amicable, trustful with a rare blend of wisdom & humor and impressed everyone with a deep commitment to their work. Both Dr. Haq and Mr. Khan used their unique technical knowledge and skills to help overcome many issues that restrain progress toward integrated water resources management and achieve sustainable water management solutions. They were truly a blessing for the water sector; nationally and globally and we must continue their legacy. Their contributions and dedications to BWP is a remarkable milestone, which takes the BWP into a different height to become a brand name in the water sector. This is a great loss to BWP as well as an irreversible loss to the entire water sector. Dr. Haq and Mr. Khan will always be remembered for their visionary ideas about water management initiatives nationally and globally.

May the almighty Allah bless their souls with eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss.

Bangladesh Water Partnership

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