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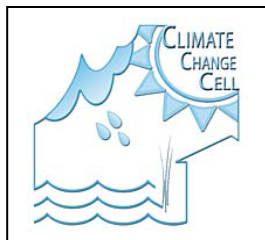
Calendar: Upcoming Activities

LDC-GEF Consultation, Dhaka, 4-6 April

9th LEG Meeting, Dhaka, 6-8 April

Editorial Team

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COP11/COP-MOP1 Landmark progress

Canada hosted the first meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in Montreal in conjunction with the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention.

The conference was an historic event. The Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) met for the 11th time, while marking the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol. At Montreal, the first ever meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (MOP) ran parallel to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP). The United Nations Climate Change Conference was the largest intergovernmental climate conference since the Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1997. Some 10,000 participants attended.

After what seemed like a deadlock, the conference agreed on future critical steps to tackle climate change, closing with the adoption of more than forty decisions that will strengthen global efforts to fight climate change. Reflecting on the success of Montreal 2005, the Conference President, Canadian Environment Minister Stéphane Dion said: "Key decisions have been made in several areas. The Kyoto Protocol has been switched on, a dialogue about the future action has begun, parties have moved forward work on adaptation and advanced the implementation of the regular work programme of the Convention and of the Protocol."

Key decisions were made that outline the path to future international action on climate change. Under the Kyoto Protocol, the process for future commitments beyond 2012 got underway. A new working group was established to discuss future commitments for developed countries for the period after 2012. It will start work in May next year.

Under the Convention, a dialogue on strategic approaches for long-term global cooperative action to address climate change was also launched. A series of workshops is planned to develop the broad range of actions needed to respond to the climate change challenge.

During the first week of the conference, the rulebook of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol was adopted, the so-called 'Marrakesh accords'. Richard Kinley called this "an historic step", which had set the framework for implementation of the Protocol. "There is now certainty for a sustained and effective global carbon market. One of the main successes was the strengthening of the clean development mechanism. Under this unique mechanism, developed countries can invest in sustainable development projects in developing countries, helping the developing nations to improve the quality of life for their citizens while also allowing developed nations to earn emission allowances", UN Climate Secretariat's acting head said.

This decision is key to ensure that the Parties to the Protocol have a clear accountability regime in meeting their emission reductions targets.

A major break-through was the agreement on the compliance regime for the Kyoto Protocol. The compliance committee with its enforcement and facilitative branches was elected.

Adaptation to the impacts of climate change was also an important focus of the conference. It adopted a five-year work programme on adaptation to climate change impacts.

Landmark progress *continues from page 1*

This programme paves the way for concrete steps to identify impacts and measures to adapt to climate change. To this end, the conference also agreed on a one-year process to define how the Adaptation Fund will be managed and operated. This unique fund will draw on proceeds generated by the CDM and will support concrete adaptation activities in developing countries.

In Montreal, developed countries committed themselves to fund the operation of the clean development mechanism with over USD 13 million in 2006-2007. The process for methodologies under the clean development mechanism (CDM) was simplified and its governing body strengthened.

In addition to this, the second Kyoto mechanism - Joint Implementation - was launched. Its governing body was set up. Joint Implementation allows developed countries to invest in other developed countries, in particular central and eastern European transition economies, and thereby earn carbon allowances which they can use to meet their emission reduction commitments.

Technology was at the centre of discussion on efforts to reduce emissions and adapt to climate impacts. Countries agreed on further steps on promoting the development and transfer of technologies. One technology that raised particular interest was carbon capture and storage - a technology that involves storing carbon underground. It is estimated to have the potential of reducing the costs of mitigation by up to 30% . The discussion was based on a special report recently published by the IPCC. Parties agreed to move forward with deeper analysis of this technology.

COP11/COP-MOP1: Bangladesh's role and achievement

On adoption of Marrakech Accord and Compliance Regime

- Bangladesh coordinated LDC and AOSIS position to resist amendment proposal of some countries to delay the process of implementation of the Kyoto Protocol
- Ensured proper representation of LDCs in Compliance Committee – 5 LDC members including Dr. Ainun Nishat were elected

On Post Kyoto Commitment

- Bangladesh mobilized opinion for deeper emission cut and binding adaptation funding
- Advocated for broadening the participation for commitment in second and subsequent commitment period
- Floated the concept of Adaptation Framework with binding fund commitments

On LDCF and SCCF

- LDC group under Bangladesh leadership met Chief Executive Officer of GEF and discussed about the modalities for quick operationalization of LDCF and SCCF
- GEF agrees to organize a LDC-GEF Consultation Meeting in Dhaka in April 2006
- GEF also agrees to organize Pledging Meeting on LDCF in April 2006

On NAPA

- Bangladesh NAPA was presented and highly appreciated
- Has been able to mobilize support of donors for implementation of NAPA
- CANADIAN Government has expressed their interest toward NAPA implementation during bi-lateral meeting with LDCs

On SBSTA Five Year Work Program

- LDC viewpoints have been inserted

These include:

- Institutional Strengthening of Climate Change Focal Points
- Strengthening Assessment and Prediction Capabilities
- Strengthening Modeling Capabilities and Monitoring Systems, etc.

Bangladesh was Elected in many capacities

- Re-elected as the LDC Chair for another term (one year) – Mohammad Reazuddin, DoE
- Elected as the Chair of the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) – Dr M Asaduzzaman, BIDS
- Elected as Alternate Member from non Annex-1 countries of the Compliance Committee (Enforcement) – Dr Ainun Nishat, IUCN
- Elected as Member of LDC Experts Group (LEG) – Mahmood Hasan Khan, DoE

LDC-GEF Consultation Workshop on Programming Paper for Operationalizing Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), 4-6 April, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Hosted by the Government of Bangladesh, the Workshop is scheduled to be held during 4 to 6 April, 2006 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The meeting will focus on the follow up to the decision on LDCF of the COP11 to the UNFCCC, where GEF has been entrusted as the operational entity for the LDCF. Accordingly, the UNFCCC has provided guidance to GEF to expedite NAPA implementation through accelerated funding. As a part of fulfilling its mandate, GEF seeks to develop the operational guidelines and modalities to enable funding for NAPA implementation through this consultation meeting. The upcoming Consultation Workshop in Dhaka is also aimed at strengthening the ongoing dialog among the LDCs and the GEF with respect to issues related to adaptation to climate change in general and the role of the LDCF to support LDCs to meet their adaptation needs in particular. The outcomes of this workshop will be incorporated in the LDCF programming paper to pave the way towards the NAPA implementation phase.

The Consultation Workshop will be divided into two sessions: the first session, to be held during the first day, will be focused on the outcomes of the NAPAs in view of their implementation. This session will include presentations of completed NAPAs followed by a technical analysis of their results carried out by the participants. The second session, to be held during the second day, will be focused on how to translate UNFCCC guidance to the GEF on the implementation of NAPAs. This session will include a discussion of the LDCF programming paper, which outlines operational modalities and rules of procedure to access LDCF resources for the implementation of the NAPAs under the LDC Fund. The results of the two sessions will be presented during the final day, and will be subsequently integrated into the LDCF programming paper. This endorsed LDCF programming paper will be placed at the pledging meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 28 April 2006, and at the GEF Council meeting, in June 2006.

Bangladesh also prepares to host the Ninth LDC Experts Group (LEG) Meeting in Dhaka

Bangladesh, responding to a request from UNFCCC, is also hosting the Ninth Meeting of the Least Developed Country Expert Group (LEG) in Dhaka, during 6,7, and 8 April back-to-back with the LDC-GEF Consultation Meeting. The LEG, under the mandate given by COP11, will benefit from the GEF-NAPA Consultation. The meeting will involve approximately 15-20 participants over a two day period. The last day will be used by the LEG to interact with Bangladesh's NAPA team.

Adaptation Research Update

The Climate Change Cell, assisted by its Technical Advisory Group and other stakeholders, identified a set of research priorities related to climate change and adaptation in Bangladesh:

- Adaptive crop agriculture including innovative farming practices in coastal zone, *haor* basin and floodplains;
- Climate change and health focusing on safe drinking water and sanitation
- Measuring economic impacts of climate change
- How to address climate risks through crop insurance in Bangladesh
- Impact of CC on vulnerable groups (including women in flood prone community, island and char dweller) and adaptation options

The Climate Change Cell is currently in the process of developing Calls for Proposals for each of these topics. It is expected that the Calls for Proposals will be issued in April 2006.

Workshop on "Livelihood Adaptation to Climate Change (LACC) in drought-prone areas of Bangladesh"

This workshop was organized on 22 and 23 February 2006 by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Bangkok, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Dhaka, and held at FAO premises in Dhaka. It was aimed at presenting research findings on climate change impacts in the agricultural and allied sectors in drought prone areas of Bangladesh and to evaluate adaptation options identified by ADPC for future demonstrations.

Participants included staff from DAE, national level Technical Implementation Working Group Members of the LACC project, FAO, BMD, DoE, SPARSO, BARI, BRRI, North South University of Bangladesh, Department of Relief, Department of Livestock, Department of Fisheries, CDMP, UNDP and others. Participants provided feedback on the adaptation options that had been identified. It is expected that a final report on climate change impacts and viable adaptation options menu will be available in April 2006.

The First Batch of Government Officers complete **Training Course on Climate Change and Bangladesh**



Mr. Jafarul Islam Chowdhury, Honorable State Minister of the Ministry of Environment and Forests gave the inaugural speech as the Chief Guest, while Mr. Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury, Secretary of the same Ministry chaired the session. Ralf Ernst, Technical Adviser of the Climate Change Cell, is also in the picture.

A Training Course for Government Officers was organized during 28 February, 1 and 2 March 2006 in Dhaka. Organized by the Climate Change Cell of the Department of Environment, Government of Bangladesh. The three day course offered basic knowledge on the changing climate, what impacts are likely to happen in Bangladesh, and how to respond to the changes so that development is not compromised.

The objective of the Course was to facilitate professionals serving in various official positions in government ministries, departments, directorates, agencies and organizations to recognize how climate change will affect the scope of their work, duties, role and responsibilities in the various decisions they take, particularly in making policies, programs and projects for development in respective sectors and in addressing key national priorities and concerns.

More specifically, the course presented the case for learning about climate risks and challenges for Bangladesh, particularly in the context of government post-holders in a way that encourages them to carry the message forward in their respective scope of work.



Participants listen attentively to a Module Instructor.

There were thirty six participants from nine government ministry, department, agency, training and research institutes. Instructors for the Modules included eminent scientists, researchers, academicians, and practitioners. The Course was divided into eight modules.

Module 1 Climate Change: Basic Concepts (science, causes and consequences)

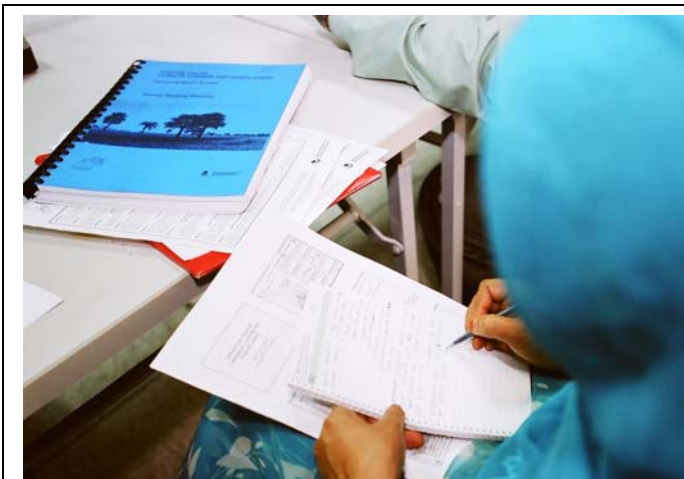
The first module addressed the key issues and concerns with regard to climate change, with current scientific knowledge and understanding on: how is the climate changing? What is causing the climate to change? What are the impacts of this changing climate? What are primary physical effects of the climate impacts? What can happen where? Who are likely to be affected most?

Module 2 International Processes to address Climate Issues, Concerns

This module provided a brief walk through history of the international process evolving to address the climate issues and concerns. More specifically, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol was discussed, but first building upon the historic landmarks, the story for mitigation so far, and how adaptation is being recognized over time. Also, the role of Bangladesh in the international process was highlighted to put relevance and perspective for participants.

Module 3 Bangladesh: Impacts of Climate Change and Climate Variability (sectors and livelihoods) - Impacts, Vulnerability and Risks

This module draws on evidence, documents, scientific studies and reports as well as local perceptions and knowledge on climate change and climate variability with regard to Bangladesh. This module also outlined possible impacts and concerns for different sectors, including key risks and vulnerability aspects.



Participant taking notes during a module. A compilation of essential reading materials for the Course is seen on the table.

Module 4 Climate Change and Sustainable Development

The module described both current and possible scenarios for the future with regard to climate change and climate variability, highlighting the economic, social and environmental burden associated with these. Planning sustainable development and managing the process requires the integration of risks and challenges that may well overturn the realization of goals and targets. Climate challenges the sustainable development process, particularly in Bangladesh. What are the challenges? How can we prepare to respond to the challenges?

Module 5 Planning Process and Climate Change: Drawing on Local Knowledge and Building Participation

Development planning processes need to recognize and build in considerations to tackle additional challenges posed by adverse impacts of climate change and climate variability on the setting and achievement of goals and targets. Planning at all levels, across different sectors, organizations need to build participation of all stakeholders, especially those vulnerable, to identify and incorporate climate change considerations, incorporating local knowledge where relevant. This module described how Participatory Action Plan Development (PAPD) can integrate climate related risks and responses to overcome them.

Module 6 National Efforts Addressing Climate Change (Policies, Institutions and Processes, National Communications, NAPA, CDM, Climate Change Cell)

Climate change is a global issue with significant local concerns. Bangladesh, like other countries need to recognize how climate change affects national priorities and performances toward achievement of goals and aspiration. This module outlined key in-country processes, programs and activities that focus on addressing climate issues and concerns. Current knowledge on these efforts will also be shared, providing guidance on who is doing what.

Module 7 Toward a National Framework on Adaptation to Climate Change

For any country, adaptation to climate change will require systematic and holistic approaches in its assessment, planning and policymaking processes. What key aspects should be considered while contemplating a national Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change? A National Framework would provide guidance to different actors and institutions on their respective role and responsibility. This module presented a framework for mainstreaming adaptation to climate change, drawing on synergies and inter-relationships across different sectors, stakeholder groups which need to be considered in this respect.

Module 8 Way Ahead: How do you address Climate Change?

Government organizations and respective post-holders need to identify climate change related threats and challenges relevant to cope with their work and mandates. What key considerations need to be taken on board to initiate a process of responding to climate change? What can you do? How can you engage or facilitate? The module attempted to provide guidance on how one can approach this vital step in addressing climate change concerns.

The Course concluded with Certificates awarded to participants for attending the Course.

Government offices, training institutes are encouraged to contact us to send participants to this course in future and also to explore how similar learning activities can be integrated in existing training processes.



Dr. A. Atiq Rahman explain the science of climate change, causes and consequences



Dr. Ahsan Uddin Ahmed explain impact of Climate Change and Climate Variability on Bangladesh



Md. Anisul Islam explain how Participatory Action Plan Development Processes can integrate climate related risks and responses to overcome them.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT PREDICTION MODELING WORKSHOP PROVIDES A



Mr. Tariqul Islam, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Environment and Forests, speaks as the Chief Guest in the inaugural session.

Bangladesh is already experiencing climate related hazards like floods, droughts, cyclones and others which are aggravating following climate change and change in the climate variability. A significant part of the coastal region is threatened by salinity intrusion and submersion due to sea level rise. The general predictions are - more floods, untimely floods, more droughts, drainage congestion, salinity intrusion, more cyclones with higher intensities. To understand climate impacts and risks, a number of Key Questions to which answers are needed are: Will these hazards be more frequent, more intense, and more in magnitude? Which locations are vulnerable? When these hazards are likely to occur? And what shall be possible impacts? For example- A farmer would like to know the precipitation pattern while planning his crop calendar, preparing his land, sowing, harvesting, etc. Obviously the development practitioners, professionals and policy makers need to gather this knowledge to provide extension and other services to the primary stakeholders.

About sixty professionals spent a day and a half (26-27 February) in the BIAM Foundation sharing needs and state of knowledge on climate change impact modeling in a Workshop organized by the Climate Change Cell, Department of Environment.



Abu Mustafa Kamaluddin from the Climate Change Cell is setting the Context for the workshop through participant expectations.

Mr. Tariqul Islam, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Environment and Forests inaugurated the Workshop as the Chief Guest, Mr. Zafarullah Chowdhury, Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Environment and Forests addressed the participants as Special Guest. The Inaugural Session was Chaired by Mr. Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury, Secretary, MoEF. Mr. Khandaker Rashedul Haque, Director General, Department of Environment welcomed all to the Workshop.

The 1st Technical Session “*Climate Change Impact Prediction Modeling: Needs and Expectations for Adaptation*” included the following presentations.

- **Climate Change Modeling in the Context of CDMP**, by Ralf Ernst, Climate Change Cell
- **Setting Context: Expectation from the Workshop**, by Abu M Kamaluddin, Climate Change Cell



Md. Reazuddin, Director, Department of Environment, presenting the Keynote address.

- *Needs and Expectation of Agriculture Sector from Modeling*, by Dr. Zahurul Karim, Arrannayak Foundation
- *Needs and Expectation for Risk Reduction*, Dr. Latif Khan, Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme
- *Needs and expectation from participants*

In the 2nd Technical Session “*Modeling for Predictions of Impacts of Climate Change in Bangladesh*”, the following presentations were made

- *Climate Prediction Model PRECIS: Application for Bangladesh*, by Dr. Nazrul Islam, BUET (on behalf of working group BUET, SPARSSO, BMD, SMRC)
- *Climate Prediction Model RegCM*, by Dr. Ahsan Uddin Ahmed, BUP
- *Cyclone and Surge Modeling (considering Sea Level Rise)*, by Dr. Anwar Ali, Ex Chairman, SPARSSO

ROAD MAP FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- *Cyclonic Surge Computation*, by Jalaluddin Md Abdul Hye, Institute of Water Management (IWM)
- *Agriculture Water Demand and Drought Modeling*, by Dr Sk Ghulam Hussain, Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC)
- *Salinity Intrusion/Coastal Flooding and Fluvial Flooding*, by Zahirul Haque Khan, Institute for Water Management (IWM)
- *Water Availability Model, CLASSIC/GUAVA*, by Professor Zahiruddin Chowdhury, Arpana Rani Dutta Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM), BUET
- *Impact of Sea Level Rise on agriculture: a case study*, Ahmedul Hassan, Centre for Environment and Geographic Information System (CEGIS)



Professor Nazrul Islam from BUET presents the climate model PRECIS



Zahirul Haque Khan of Institute of Water Management presents a model on intrusion/coastal flooding.

Down scaling of GCM and or RCM and interfacing them to the geo-physical models (flood, drought, cyclones etc) and geo-physical models with livelihood models (economic models) is necessary to provide relevant actors and institutions, stakeholder groups in Bangladesh with the predictions of the impacts of climate change and climate variability.

The 1st Technical session surfaced the needs and expectations from the modeling to pursue sustainable development in the country.

The 2nd Technical Session provided what the models offer in the light of the demand placed by the users. Discussion following presentations clarified questions regarding presentations and presenters answered the specific questions raised by the participants.

The distinguished panelists put light on the expected demand on and supply from the models, with a view toward streamlining and mainstreaming modeling activities in the country.

The workshop outcome provides the basis for the Climate Change Cell in pursuing the following

- Analysis of the findings (matching needs and outputs)
- Compatibility among various models
- Discussion meetings with modeling institutions and professionals
- Developing profiles of the institutions engaged in modeling
- Design and implement nests (modeling house) for climate, geo-physical and application modeling
- Initiate data cleaning mechanism immediately
- Identify and support capacity building for climate modeling
- Concept notes for streamlined modeling activities including all suits (climate, geo-physical and application modeling)



Dr. Anowar Ali, former chairman of SPARRSO shares with Dr. Ahsan Uddin Ahmed of Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad between presentation.

About the Climate Change Cell

The Climate Change Cell has been established in the Department of Environment in 2004 under the Comprehensive Disaster Management Program (CDMP) of the Government. It responds to the recognition that Bangladesh is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and that the number and scale of climate-related disasters is likely to increase. . The Cell provides the central focus for the Government's climate change related work, operating as a unit of the Department of Environment (DoE) under the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). Its objective is to enable the management of long term climate risks and uncertainties as an integral part of national development planning. This will contribute to the primary objective of the wider Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme, which aims to strengthen the capacity of the Bangladesh disaster management system to reduce unacceptable risks and improve response and recovery activities.

Meeting these objectives will enable more effective and sustained poverty reduction through the reduction of disaster and climate risks within the overall development process.

The Climate Change Cell's work program focuses on four main areas:

Building the capacity of Government to coordinate and integrate climate change issues in mainstream development activities across government. It also acts as a secretariat to coordinate other national climate change activities such as National Communication preparation, the NAPA process, and the Clean Development Mechanism.

Strengthening existing knowledge and availability of information on impact prediction and adaptation to climate change. This includes compiling and synthesizing existing studies, and filling some of the gaps, as well as improving information exchange between science and policy-makers.

Awareness raising, advocacy and coordination with partners across government, NGOs, civil society, private sector and donor organizations. Using a variety of mechanisms and information products, the Cell is working to promote the integration of climate change adaptation and risk reduction in development activities, especially within climate sensitive sectors and the disaster risk reduction process.

Improving capacity to adapt livelihoods to climate change in the agriculture sector. Working with FAO, we are field-testing livelihood adaptation strategies with farmers to better respond to disasters and climate change risks. This includes translation of climate change modeling into agricultural response options and livelihood adaptation practices. The initial focus is on drought conditions, with a view to facilitating replication elsewhere.

The Climate Change Knowledge Network

The Climate Change Cell is supporting the development of a virtual climate change knowledge network aiming to collect, analyze and disseminate climate change related information. Through this network the Climate Change Cell hopes to build information on climate risks and adaptation options, disseminate the results and support the translation and communication of information into a format useful to government line departments, local government and NGOs working with vulnerable communities.

We invite you to participate in the Network to help service climate change related knowledge needs and services. Please share with us your interests, concerns, viewpoints, knowledge and resources that can enable others engage effectively in meeting the climate change related challenges.

The Network is organizing a meeting (see upcoming events) to engage with relevant actors, institutions and stakeholders with an effort to deliver its mandate. To participate, please write us expressing your interest.

Upcoming Events

LDC-GEF Consultation Workshop on Programming Paper for Operationalizing Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), 4-6 April, Dhaka

April - Ninth Meeting of the Least Developed Country Expert Group (LEG) in Dhaka, during 6,7, and 8th April, Dhaka

Mid- April - GEF Community Based Adaptation (CBA)

End April - Climate Change Knowledge Network – 1st Meeting

1st Week May - Brainstorming Workshops: Bangladesh's Vulnerability and the Poverty-Climate-Adaptation Linkage

15 – 26 May - UNFCCC 24th SBSTA and SBI session, Bonn,

Mid-June - Training Course on Climate Change and Bangladesh for Government Officers (2nd Batch)

Contact us

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