

# Proceedings of a Multi-stakeholder Consultation

## Water Resource Management in Southwest Region Peoples' Perspective and Participation

Jointly Facilitated by Uttaran and Paani Committee



28 January 2008

Institute of Development Research and Training (IDRT)  
Tala, Satkhira, Bangladesh



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Paani  
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## **Water Resource Management in Southwest: Towards a Collective Journey**

Southwest coastal region in Bangladesh is faced with a challenge to manage water resources and river basins. Development interventions since sixties, to increase food production, though resulted in high crop yield, have disrupted the unique ecological systems of the region. Undermining the indigenous ecological knowledge and community practice of water management has resulted in a massive waterlogging crisis rapidly spreading to the whole region. The river system of the region is passing through a critical time. Failure in urgent action will unleash an environmental and humanitarian disaster of unprecedented extent.

The way forward is to work collectively, to bring the stakeholders together, towards finding solutions that is embedded in local traditions of water management. Local communities have unique knowledge about the region. Initiatives and projects without consulting them will only lead to failure and aggravate the situation.

It is really an encouraging moment to see that stakeholders are coming together to discuss the problems and finding solutions. Uttaran has been working on river basin management issues in southwest for decades, facilitating communities and peoples' movements. In 2006 we proposed the idea of formation of a multi-stakeholder forum (MSF) for water resource management in southwest region. It's our pleasure to see that authorities and agencies have accepted the idea and working to establish such a forum. We would like to emphasise that such a forum can only be effective if communities are allowed adequate policy space to come up with their own ideas and proposals.

This publication, documentation of a consultation we organized jointly with Paani Committee, will contribute towards setting up a dialogue among stakeholders. We are hopeful that the collective journey, stakeholder cooperation, will continue, and we will work our way to mitigate the environmental problems of the region, ensure livelihood of the people, and manage the environment for the generations to come.

**Shahidul Islam**  
Director, Uttaran

## **Multi-Stakeholder Consultation: Solving the Problems Collectively**

On 28 January 2008 Uttaran and Paani Committee jointly organized a consultation on water resource and river basin management in southwest coastal region in Bangladesh. The consultation brought the stakeholders together to discuss the environmental problems plaguing the regions for decades and the long-term solutions needed. This publication is the proceedings of the multi-stakeholder consultation, titled "Water Resource Management in Southwest Region: Peoples' Perspective and Participation'. The consultation was chaired by A.B.M Shafiqul Islam, Chairperson, Paani Committee.



### **Purpose of the Consultation:**

- ◆ To present and discuss the current context, problems and challenges of the water resource and river basin management in southwest coastal region;
- ◆ To sensitize and secure the community perspectives, challenges and proposals for action to solve the water logging crisis;
- ◆ To gain support from the major stakeholders, donor agencies, government agencies and other key development actors and stakeholders on the water resource management issues and concerns in southwest region;
- ◆ To sensitize stakeholders on the imperatives of forming a people's platform through Multi-Stakeholders' Forum; and
- ◆ To come up with workable proposals and calls to action on sustainable water resource management in southwest region.

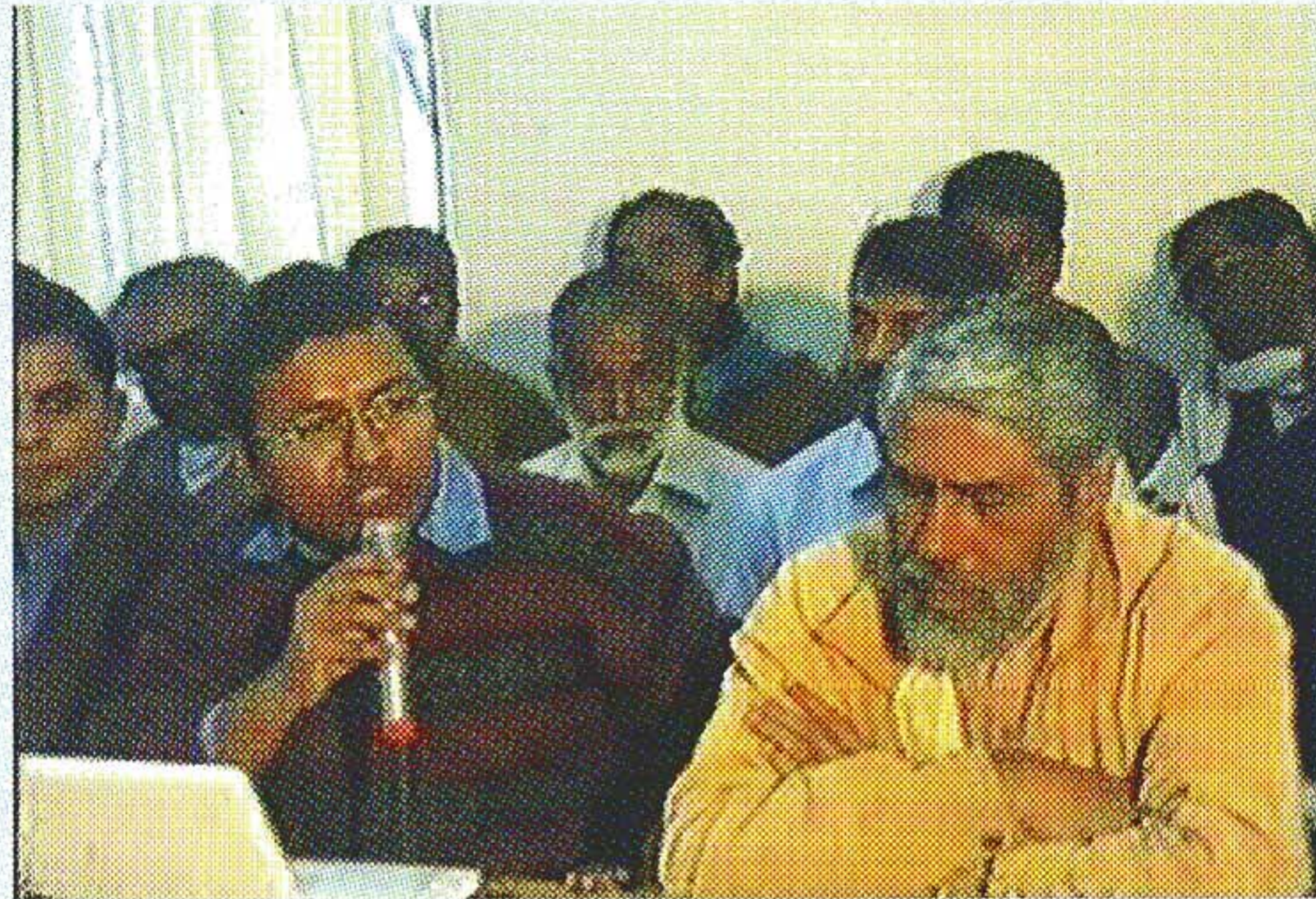
**Welcome Remarks:**  
**by A.B.M. Shafiqul Islam, Chair of the Consultation**

On behalf of the Water Committee and Uttaran, I welcome Mr. Kenichi Yokohama, ADB representative, Niels Veenis, First Secretary of the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Bangladesh, Zahir Uddin Ahmed, the representative of Asian Development Bank (ADB) and all other representatives of Water Committee, UP Forum, Water Management Association, Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Institute of Water Modeling (IWM), Centre for Environmental Geographic Information System (CEGIS), and the local government to this view exchanging meeting. People of the south-eastern region of Bangladesh are suffering since long from different problems including water logging, drinking water and salinity. We held another views exchange meeting on 2006 in this regard. Representatives from Asian Development Bank (ADB), Oxfam, ActionAid, Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and local eminent personalities were present at that time. In that meeting, importance of community participation in development projects was flagged to solve this problem. How far we have progressed to that end and what more needs to be done are the objectives of convening today's view exchanging meeting. I hope you will speak out your views at this meeting.

Then the Chairperson starts the introductory section by introducing himself first. At this stage, all participants introduced themselves. As the introductory section was over, Mr. A.B.M. Shafiqul Islam, the Chairperson, said, "We have been struggling for a long time to initiate various water management systems including TRM to solve the problems of our areas. We have been demanding to adopt a coordinated system for this area." After these remarks, the Chairperson requests Mr. Zakir Kibria, adviser of Uttaran on water governance and community based river basin management issues, and Director, BanglaPraxis, for a backgrounder presentation on the features, problems and solutions of the water management system of the southeast region of Bangladesh.

# **Backgrounder Presentation on Water Resource Management in Southwest Region: Peoples Perspective and Participation**

By Zakir Kibria, Adviser of Uttaran and Director, BanglaPraxis



## **1. Description of Area**

- ◆ River Basins: Mathabhanga, Kabodak and Bhairab
- ◆ District: Kushtia, Chuadanga, Jhainadah, Jessore, Satkhira and Khulna
- ◆ Upper areas non-tidal and lower areas tidal

## **2. Challenges: Non-tidal Area**

- ◆ Rivers in upper southwest disconnected from Ganges-Padma-Mathabhanga
- ◆ Ecological degradation of Mathabhanaga river and distributaries .
- ◆ Groundwater depletion in upper southwest

## **3. Challenges: Tidal Area**

- ◆ Water-logging crisis: severe in convergence point of tidal and non-tidal areas
- ◆ Death of rivers: Hamkura, Jaikhali, East Salta, Jhopjhopia
- ◆ Almost dead: Buri Bhadra, Harihar, Salta, Kabodak, Morichap etc.
- ◆ Rapid intrusion of saline water
- ◆ Endangered Sundarbans mangrove forest: siltation, increased salinity, disruption of germination etc
- ◆ Climate change and sea level rise
- ◆ Land subsidence
- ◆ Depletion of groundwater

- ◆ Scarcity of safe drinking water and arsenic contamination
- ◆ Biodiversity loss

#### **4. Peoples Perspective and Proposals: Reconnecting Upland Flow**

- ◆ Reconnecting upland flow of Ganges-Padma river through Mathabhanga river
- ◆ Connecting Mathabhanga river with Bhairab river at Darsana point
- ◆ Re-excavation of Mathabhanga, Bhairab and Kabodak river
- ◆ Reconnecting Bhairab with its distributaries: Teka-Muktswari
- ◆ Reconnecting Kabodak river with distributaries: Harihar and Buri Bhadra
- ◆ Loop cut: Kabodak river at required points
- ◆ Exploring the possibilities of creating water reservoir in required points

#### **5. Peoples Perspective and Proposals: Tidal River Management (TRM)**

- ◆ TRM according to the concept and design developed by the communities and technically validated by CEGIS
- ◆ Simultaneous TRM in all river basin in critical water-logged areas
- ◆ Compensation for affected communities
- ◆ Environmental Management Plan (EMP)

#### **6. Peoples Perspective: Redesigning the Polders**

- ◆ Taking into consideration: active and non-active delta, pit basin, tectonic movement and land elevation
- ◆ Removing the obstacles and dysfunctional structures on rivers in tidal southwest to allow free flow of water
- ◆ Interconnecting beels (wetlands)
- ◆ Taking account of land elevation in developing infrastructure
- ◆ Infrastructures should have water inlet and outlet both options
- ◆ Infrastructures should allow fish migration and river transportation
- ◆ Polder embankments should consider sea level rise and tidal surge
- ◆ Environmental Management Plan (EMP)



## **7. Peoples' participation: Beyond Rhetoric**

- ◆ Communities as active participant not passive recipient of projects
- ◆ Operationalizing Participatory Water Management Guidelines
- ◆ Right to Information: adequate, timely, predictable and in local language
- ◆ Social and environmental safeguards: compensation for permanent and temporary displacement
- ◆ National Policy on Involuntary Resettlement
- ◆ Environmental Management Plan (EMP)

## **8. Peoples Participation: Multi-stakeholder Forum (MSF)**

- ◆ Multi-stakeholder Forum (MSF): need to be a peoples platform/institution
- ◆ Independent and free from control of government, donor agencies and service providers
- ◆ Concerned departments and service providers accountable to MSF
- ◆ Basin-wise (two tier: basin representatives and regional apex body)
- ◆ Elected/nominated by the community
- ◆ Concerned government department and service providers non voting member
- ◆ Independent secretariat for MSF
- ◆ Role clarity: separate from project implementation and service providing
- ◆ Coordinating, planning, monitoring and advice
- ◆ Capacity/power to enforce decision

## **Open Forum: Views, Challenges and Proposals for Action**

**Dr. Avijit Reaz Quazi**

Acting Director, Uttaran

On behalf of Uttaran, I welcome Mr. Kenichi Yokoyama, ADB representative, Mr. Niels Veenis,, First Secretary of the Royal Netherlands Embassy, Action Aid, the donor group, and the representatives of the civil society from Tala, Satkhira, Khulna and Jessore who are affected by the



water logging problems to this view exchanging meeting. The Kapatakha has narrowed for two-thirds of its width in 2006 when Mr. Yokoyama visited. The next time that he will visit, perhaps the Kapatakha will no longer be there anymore. It will be filled up totally by that time. Everybody is feeling bad watching the bridge over the Kapatakha. Without any consultation with the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Local Government Engineering Directorate (LGED) adopted this plan and implemented it.

The short-term projects have many popular demands which have negative consequences in the long run. Due to public demand, many actions have been taken that aftermath considerable negative impacts in the area. On this very meeting, representatives from the government and the people are present. Therefore, we will hope that what we could demand for the development of the area that are feasible. We may demand for the development that will bear long-term yet sustainable benefits for the area rather than the limiting ourselves to short term gains. We proposed formation a multi- stakeholders' forum through series of consultations and meetings on the ground. Today's discussion is the formal meeting of creating the multi-stakeholders forum. We demand to formation of a formal multi-stakeholders' forum. We have discussed about it for several times previously. The multi-stakeholders forum is not for the implementation of the project; it is required for decision making, observation and creation of opportunities for expression and ventilating the opinion of the people concerning the local problems. I hope two issues will get importance in your discussion- establishment of a multi-stakeholders forum and providing views on how the water logging problem of the area can be solved.

## **Abul Kashem**

Secretary, Central Water Committee



We need to identify our problem and find out its solution. BWDB officials, who plan in this regard, are present here today. We, the Paani Committee, work as volunteers on behalf of the people in the area, in particular on the issue of drinking water crisis and the water logging problem. We hope that everybody will work to resolve these crises. We want proper implementation of TRM (Tidal Rivers Management) for solving the waterlogging problem of southwest region of Bangladesh. We want that you plan in accordance with TRM and finance substantially for its implementation.

## **Abdur Rajjak Molongi**

Chairman, Godaipur Union Parishad, Paikgacha

Our problem is water logging and salinity. We also have the shortage of drinking water as well. To solve the problem of water logging, it is urgently required to enhance the navigability of the rivers. At the same time, we need to reduce the salinity of the area. If the Padma and the Kapatakha could be connected, the supply of drinking water and current of the water will increase. I agree with you about that many of the flora and fauna of the area have become extinct by now. In view of that we hope that you will adopt plans after having considered all these issues and finance those plans as required.

## **Md. Motiur Rahman**

Chairman, Shorulia Union Parishad and Convenor, Kapatakha Water Logging UP Forum

The way the Kapatakha is losing its navigability makes us worried that we will lose the Kapatakha within next 1 to 2 years. I demand to take steps to enhance the navigability of the Kapatakha to solve the water logging problem of this area

## **Wahiduzzaman Loni**

Chairman, Cholisa Union Parishad

Tidal River Management (TRM) is being implemented at the high riparian of the country whereas at the lower riparian of the Sri Hari river's navigability is at the minimum. As such, TRM has to be implemented at the beels of the low areas in order to enhance the navigability of the rivers. Otherwise, we will be victims of severe water logging in the days to come.

## **Md. Kamruzzaman**

Convenor, Jessore-Khulna-Satkhira Water Logging Forum and Chairman, Nehalpur Union Parishad

At the recent World Conference on Environment at Bali, only 10 countries had been identified as countries facing severe threats posed by climate change. Bangladesh has been enlisted as one of them. It has been apprehended that within next twenty years two third of Bangladesh will be inundated due to the environmental disaster. We have noticed that many channels of the Kapatakha and the Betna were connected with the Mathabhanga earlier. Opening of only two of those channels could have solved the water logging problem in Keshabpur and Monipur village to a greater extent.



I think Dhap Cultivation (hydroponics) can be considered as an alternative livelihood. I myself have been successful and benefited in this cultivation. If we proceed, we must take into considerations the lessons learnt from the past we will be benefited. Where there will TRM be implemented, steps to cultivate fish and mele will enhance the scope of livelihood of the area.

## **A. Malek**

Social activist and a freedom fighter

There is no alternative to TRM. While one TRM is going on, the location of another one has to be identified. We will not waste our time given the

gravity of our problem. Gradually we can carry out TRM in many beels from Bhabadhah to Madhukhali. And if we will do so, the lower areas will be benefited; the Bhadra will get navigability up to Ghangrail. Implementing TRM, we have to keep the provision of compensation. By excavating the river it is not possible to enhance the navigability of the river. Even then the excavation of the river is carried out; the extracted soil should be disposed away from the river bed.

### **Shantiranjana Dutta**

WMA, Zone-D

I think the border of our area has to be demarcated up to Mongla Port and Shibsha. We demand the re-excavation of the Hamkura. At present, the Beel Dakatia area has been water logged again. In view of that the Beel Dakatia area has to be brought under the project. 48 thousand hectares of land were waterlogged during the implementation of KJDRP. At its implementation, 44 thousand hectares of land had been freed from water logging; the rate of poverty has reduced to 57% from 72%. There was no allotment for public organization at the KJDRP Project. This is not correct to say that the public organization of the KJDRP had failed. I do not know the justification of setting up of a multi-stakeholders forum while we are there. We are the beneficiary. We, along with the Water Management Committee can take steps to solve the problems of the area together. Let us work together under one organization. Let us save our people from water logging and salinity by our concerted efforts.

### **Moshiur Rahman**

WMA, Zone-F

The upper riparian part of the Kapatakha at Sagar Dari is not navigable. The Humkura river has died due to the lack of proper management of water flow. The river cannot exist, if there is no excavation in order to bring back the natural flow of the river. It requires concerted efforts to solve water logging problem.

### **A B M Shafiqul Islam**

Chairperson of the Meeting

The upper riparian of the Kapatakha is quite navigable. It does not require any more excavation.

## **Mohir Uddin Bishwash**

Director, ISAM

An extensive study needs to be undertaken to determine what to do to solve the problems of this area. New efforts need to be done after having analyzed why all the plans since the sixties kept failing rather than solving the problems. The Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), IWM, DC, LGED, Water logged Union Forum must keep involve in all the activities. I urge to integrate environment with IWRM planning.

## **Advocate Abdur Rahim**

Senior Lawyer, Judge Court, Satkhira

The natural flow of the river has to be maintained. The water logging problem of Khulna and Satkhira will be resolved if the normal navigability of the river can be brought back. We have noticed that the river-bed has gone higher than the beels. Rather than "river traqining", we should have adopted projects on the basis of 'keeping the follow the river'.

## **Professor Abu Ahmed**

Journalist, The Daily Star

We do not become sensitized unless we suffer. At present, our sufferings have reached the optimum level. It is time to act on a more serious note. Let us hope that today's meeting does not degenerate into a conventional one. We have to ensure that the decisions taken in this meeting are made effective. Let us make a plan concerning the increase of the flow of the river, with the aim to solve the water logging problem in this region.

## **Sheikh Iman Ali**

Director, Satkhira Unnayan Shangsthya (SUS)

Within a few moments of its construction of the Pucca (paved) road at Nowapara in Khulna, Satkhira, got inundated due to water logging. The sluice gate at Gopalganj was filled with silt. We, the NGOs, have kept the Kapatakha alive by excavating its beds. I think, all the representatives from the GOs and NGOs gathered here should work for the implementation of tide and ebb project (jowar-bhata), in order to bring an end to the crisis.

## **Rezaul Karim**

Lecturer & Member, Water Committee

Many people have created water logging by blocking the canals, which they lease. Since there is no flow in the upper riparian, silts get accumulated in the lower riparian. As a result, the river has died its natural death. Majority of the population are demanding enhancement of the navigability of the river. We hope that before local communities become agitated and movement gets intense, the higher authority will take steps to resolve the crisis.

## **Md. Shaheb Ali**

Journalist, Convenor, Coastal Area Media Cell

May the unplanned harmful projects be scrapped. Let no projects be adopted in future without any consultation with the local communities. For the development of the region, the project devised by the local elected bodies, Union Parishads,, should be implemented.

## **Ashraful Alam Tutu**

Coordinator, Coastal Development Partnership (CDP)

People from all walks of life have had told me that today's view exchanging meeting has been successful to a great extent. But due to lack of time, representatives from ADB and WAPDA are yet to meet the organizations, demonstrating in respect of water logging and water management. I urge them to take very effective and feasible steps for the development of this region. If the WMA is a very effective organization, relationship may be maintained with them, for the successful implementation of development activities.

There should be a relationship among WMA, public organization and civil society groups. But Water Development Board has submitted a project without having any consultation with people. Is development of a region feasible this way? It needs to be determined how LGED, BWDB and other government agencies will work together.

Having set the multi-stakeholders forum up, shall we limit ourselves within the water management plan? Or shall we be alternative agencies to the WAPDA? While raising the demand of setting up of the multi-stakeholders forum, it was said in accordance with public opinion that it will have distinctive features and it will act as a voluntary organization. It was demanded taking into account the whole situation

and necessity. It has to be decided whether a multi-stakeholders forum will be formed or every one will work together under WMA.

While talking about the success of KJDRP, The Beel Dakatia affairs have been referred to. But our study revealed that KJDRP project had failed. The Beel Dakatia still suffers from water logging. Due to water logging the farmers of the Beel Dakatia have opted for aquaculture rather than cultivation of paddy. As such, it cannot be termed as a success. We may take lessons from that.

### **Sheikh Ashrafuzzaman**

Secretary General, Khulna Development Movement Coordination  
Committee

A short term project should be adopted only after the short term, the midterm and the long term planning have been finalized. Some areas of Bagerhat should be integrated with it. Owing to construction of unplanned culverts and bridges frequently, we are in such a miserable condition. During the ebb, one can cross the river on foot. All the organizations have to work together to solve the problems of the region.

### **Abdul Majid Molla**

Executive Engineer, POR,  
Bangladesh Water Development Board, Jessore

We are supporting all the proposals tabled by different proposals for addressing the problems in this region. We have improved the water logging situation of the region by implementing some short term programs. At present, TRM is being implemented at Beel Khukshia. TRM will continue at the Beel Kapalia up to 2011. We have heard a lot about the Kapatakha. We have proposed to conduct a study for the Kapatakha in Kapilmuni, Satkhira and Jessore. Besides, a study has to be undertaken to cover the whole south-western region. Some portion of the Kapatakha was excavated in 2001 to 2004, which has been filled up again. I have proposed for TRM along side re-excavation of the river in order to maintain its navigability. Without TRM, the re-excavation of Kapatakha will be of no use.

### **Mohammad Yakub Ali**

Director, Unnayon Procheshta

I think the Kapatakha river will die within next six months. Our main problems are WAPDA dam and siltation. We want to know what you can do to put an immediate end to this problem.



## **Abdul Majid Molla**

Executive Engineer, POR, Water Development Board, Jessore

The honourable advisor has said that this problem could not be solved within a short period. It will take time to excavate the river in order to make it navigable for undertaking TRM.

## **Advocate Kamruazzaman**

Chairman, Nehalpur UP

We proposed that BWDB and the three affected districts seat together and device a coordinated project. Implement TRM without any delay where the river is navigable enough.

## **Tauhid Ibne Farid**

Representative, Action Aid Bangladesh

BWDB should undertake projects after having taken into account the public demand, need and the gravity of the crisis. While adopting any project LGED, BWDB and other agencies should seat together. We should not look for the alternatives for everything. We ourselves have to frame our own policies. I do not know how many amongst us were involved while making plans for DPP. I know whenever there is a good project; the issues of lack of resources and manpower come up. However, the implementation of negative project does not face the shortage of money and manpower. We have to guard against it. I think time has come to change this practice. We think this is the responsibility of the government to ensure transparency in appropriation of public money.

## **Sharif Uzzaman Chowdhury**

Deputy Executive Director, Institute of Water Modelling (IWM), Dhaka

30 years back, I was working at BIWTA. You have raised many issues. We cannot go back to 30-40 years. Polders were built at the sixties to produce more food. Now, it has negative impacts in the region. The Farakka Barrage was built for the people of the West Bengal. Now the Indian Government has been digging number of canals from the Farakka for irrigation in Bihar and North Province. The people of the West Bengal are protecting against this move. We have submitted a ten page concept paper to the Water Development Board. Its implementation will improve the situation to some extent.

It is imperative to adopt short term and long term projects through coordinated efforts. No farmers were consulted when polders were

built 40 years back. Now public opinion is required. It needs to be considered how the people, whose land will go down water due to implementation of TRM, will live by. People of the concerned area, for which the project has been adopted, needs to be consulted.

**Md. Asif Ahsan**

Assistant Commissioner, Land, Tala, Satkhira

I greet you all on behalf of Tala Upazila administration. The relationship between GO and NGO at Tala is very good. I hailed from Jessore. Therefore, I am also a victim of water logging. I can see water logged areas frequently, while coming from my home. The administration and the Water Development Board will definitely take actions to implement the outcome of today's meeting. When we will take development activities, we need to take into consideration how sustainable it will be. For implementation of development projects, concerted efforts of Water Development Board, the Government, non-government organizations, donor agencies and citizen's forum are required.

Undoubtedly the major demand of the people of the region is the excavation of the Kapatakha and maintenance of its flow. At Tala, we have allotted lands for paddy cultivation only, under one year allotment scheme which are 150 m away from the river.

**Sheikh Nurul Ala**

Executive Engineer, BWDB, Jessore

I have been working in this region since 2005. 6000 hectares of land went under water last month. On 15<sup>th</sup> Jan, this year, it has reduced to 3700 hectares of land. Meeting was calm as long as it discussed the matters related to the Vabadaha. It has been perturbed the moment the issue of Kapatakha has been raised. It implies that the water logging problem of Vabadaha area has reduced. Since the water logging situation of Vabadaha area has improved, I hope similarly the Kapatakha will also be resolved. We may hold a meeting regarding the Kapatakha crisis.

The Deputy Commissioners and the LGED officers of Satkhira and Jessore should have been present at today's meeting because the decisions of the meetings, which are held at their presence, reach the concern ministries directly.

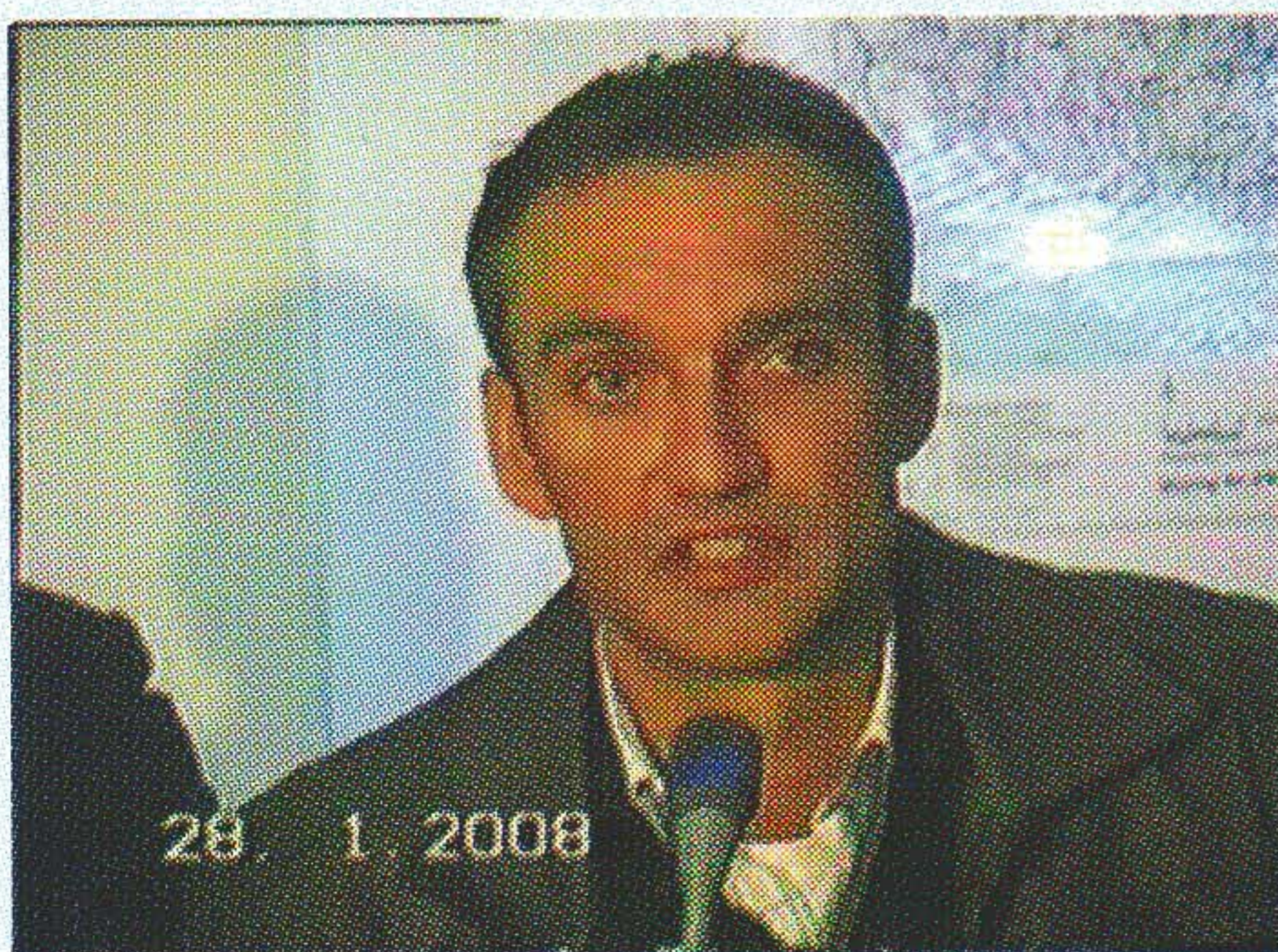


I shall discuss the proposal of Kamruzzaman with the Divisional Commissioner. Shrimp farming has turned into cash crop. As a result, rain water cannot go down to the rivers directly. Rivers are losing navigability due to siltation. Adaptations of coordinated projects are urgently required for this region. I urge Mr. Kenichi Yokoyama to adopt a coordinated project for south-western region. There are two proposals to set a multi-stakeholders' forum.

It is necessary to work together under one umbrella. If you propose to me to implement TRM in a particular beel, I will start working on it from the next day.

### **Niels Veenis**

First Secretary to the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Bangladesh,  
Dhaka



For the last 30 years, my country has been working with Bangladesh on water resources. I have been aware of the problems of your region within a few days of my stay here. You are aware of your problems. I have come to know about the reasons of your problems. One of the

reasons of your problems is reduction in the flow of the water from the

Farakka. This region has many problems such as water logging, rise in sea level, destruction of bio-diversity, climate change, salinity and so on. Since the problems are manifold, it is not possible to address all these problems in a short period. We shall seat together frequently and discuss the problems. This will create a possibility to solve these problems. We should not stop this process. It is done in every country. Problems are resolved through discussions. Many issues were repeatedly raised in your discussion since you have manifold problems. The multi-media presentation projected how the multi-stakeholders forum could be formed. However, it did not come up in later discussion. You are affected by a number of problems. As a result, it is the problems which surface when you discuss. Both the short and the long term solutions are needed to address the problems of the region. This project must be participatory and the multi-stakeholders forum should also be formed.

### **Kenichi Yokoyama**

Representative, Asian Development Bank



Last July 2006, I heard of a number of water related problems. Due to some actions taken in this regard, the water logging situation has improved to some extent now. I thank you for that. I also thank those who have made deliberation and raised the problems of the region. ADB will cooperate in the projects adopted after considering all these issues. The formation of the proposed multi-stakeholders forum is crucial. Steps have to be taken in this regard. There might be a number

of perspectives regarding the formation of the multi-stakeholders forum. In view of that, it is necessary to continue discussions in respect of this forum. And setting up of the forum is required. We may discuss about the short, the mid and the long term programs. Especially the short term projects may be implemented right now. DPP might be an issue to be discussed. Bangladesh Water Development Boards has said that this project was adopted after having discussion about it. So discussions can be held for this issue as well. Discussions about the 11 crore project, which will be implemented this year may be held in the multi-stakeholders forum. We shall be able to consider the demands regarding the Kapatakha, if the government seeks for our cooperation. Discussions regarding the implementation of TRM at Beel Khukshia should be held right now, so that unnecessary time is not wasted in this regard. Some reservations could be sensed in the statement of the water committee. However, we have to proceed with this idea.

Discussions are required if the long and the mid-term projects are to be adopted. In this regard, the multi-stakeholders forum might play a role. There is scope to form this forum on basis of discussion. It will be better if we could form it. But I do not have any commitment about it. DPP will consult with multi-stakeholders forum regarding annual planning. Multi-stakeholders forum can play a very important role.

### **Concluding Remark by the Chair**

The chairman of the meeting thanks all the participants for attending the meeting and seeking their future commitment to collectively work at resolving the crisis faced by the people of the Southwest region. Hence support undertakings that aimed towards addressing the current crisis and improving the lives of the people in the area. Nonetheless, the chairman reminded all participants that a follow up meeting is to be held soon. Again, he thanked all participants. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.

## Annex # 1: List of Participants

No	Name	Organization/Address
1.	Md. Nazimuddin	WMA
2.	Kenichi Yokoyama	ADB/Philippines
3.	Zahir Uddin Ahmad	ADB/BRM
4.	Niels Veenis	First Secretary, The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Bangladesh
5.	A. Mazid Molla	XEN, BWDB, Jessore
6.	S. Hedayetullah	Staff reporter, The Daily Destiny
7.	Sk Ashrafuzzaman	Secretary General, Greater Khulna Unnayan Sangram Parishad
8.	Aditya Kumar Mandal	Secretary, WMA Zone-A
9.	Shukla Chandra Mondal	Secretary WMA Zone-B
10.	Abdul Motleb Golder	Chairman WMA-D Zone
11.	Miss Suphia	Member-WMA
12.	Md. Mohiddin	Uttaran
13.	Md. Badiuzzaman	Uttaran
14.	Kazol Sarkar	Uttaran
15.	Shishir kumar	W.M.A Zone-C
16.	Abdul Malek Biswas	Secretary of Federation
17.	Swapan Kumar Par	Member, WMA
18.	Abul Kashem	Secretary, Panni Committee
19.	Gulshan Ara	Director, Nari Unnayan Sangastya, Tala
20.	SK Abdul Quayum	Citizen Forum
21.	Md. Shahed Ali	Staff reporter, Daily Purbancal
22.	Avishekh Dey	Khulna Correspondent, Daily Amader Shomoy
23.	Shimh wshve Shelley	Daily Prabaha, Khulna
24.	Haiduzzaman	Member, Paani Committee
25.	Md. Mashiar Rahoman	WMA. F Zone
26.	A.K Zaman	NSI, Satkhira
27.	Mahamad Mahiuddin	NSI, Satkhira
28.	Hasina Parveen	Uttaran
29.	Shantiram Dutta	WMA, Zone-C
30.	Rezeul Karim	Director, Shamadhan

No	Name	Organization/Address
31.	A.K Sirajuddin	Member, Pani Committee
32.	Tauhid Ibne Farid	Action Aid Bangladesh
33.	A.K.M Shafiqul	Secretor WMA Zone-G
34.	Mrs. Manzo Parvin	WMA, Zone-G
35.	Kazi Babar Ali	Uttaran
36.	Abul Kalam Azad	Tala
37.	Wahiduzzaman Loni	Chairman, Chalisha UP.
38.	Ad. Kamruzzaman	Convener, Water Logged Up Forum & Chairman, Nahalpur Union.
39.	Abdur Razzak Molongi	Chairman, Godipur UP
40.	Mozzafar Rahaman	District Reporter, Daily Jonmobhomi
41.	Sheik Ariful Islam	Electronic Channel N.T.V
42.	Sheik Maruf Hossain	K.B.A.M
43.	Rohul Amin	Reporter, Daily Dinkal & Loksamaj
44.	Asgar Ali	Adviser, WMA
45.	Ashraf Ul Alam Tuto	Co-ordinator, CDP
46.	Md. Khan Islam	President WMA Gone-G
47.	Md. Asif Ahsan	Tala AC Land
48.	Safiqul Islam	Director, Rupali
49.	Md. Khalil Uddin	Tala
50.	Zakir Hossain	President Tala Reporters Club
51.	Golam Sorowar	Daily Bangla Bazar
52.	Musfikur Rahoman	Daily Purbanchal
53.	Mohamad Mustafa	Chanel I (TV Channel)
54.	Asaduzzaman Salem	Member, Paani Committee
55.	Goutam Raha	Daily Purbanchal
56.	Gobinda Ghosh	Mukti Parishad
57.	Shikh Nurul Ala	SE, O&M Circle Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Jessore
58.	Md. Sharifuzzaman	Institute of Water Modelling (IWM)
59.	Md. Mobassarul Hassan	Institute of Water Modelling (IWM)
60.	A.K.M. Mazibur Rahman	Executive Engineer, Satkhira
61.	A.B.M Safiqul Islam	President, Paani Committee
62.	Avizit Reaz Quazi	Acting Director, Uttaran

No	Name	Organization/Address
63.	Md. Matiar Rahoman	Chairman, Sarulia Union
64.	Abdul Malek	Freedom Fighter
65.	Mahiruddin Biswas	Director, ISAM
66.	Ad. Abdur Rahim	Senior Lawer, Satkhira
67.	Pro. Abu Ahmed	Journalist, The Daily Star
68.	Zakir Kibria	Uttaran & BanglaPraxis
69.	Hashem Ali Fakir	Consultant, Uttaran
70.	Sheik Eman Ali	Director, SUS
71.	Rezaul Karim	Member, Paani Committee
72.	Mashud Karim	DECO, BWDB, Jessore
73.	Enamul Huq	Principal & Member Paani Committee
74.	Mohamad Shaeb Ali	Journalist & Convenor Coastal Media Cell
75.	Yakob Ali	Director, Unnyan Prochesta
76.	Selim Akter Swapan	Convener, Humkura River Restoration Movement Committee





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