

## THE LEARNING HUB EVENT ON MONITORING & EVALUATION TRACKING CLIMATE FINANCE EFFECTIVENESS



April 6, 2015

Venue: NEC Conference Room, Planning Commission  
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

Writer: **Galib Ahmed Chowdhury**

Editor: **Yousuf Mahid** and **Riadadh Hossain**

Contributors: **Findley Mostyn, Noor Elahi, Zinat Fatima Papia,**

Photography: **Syed Tasfiq Mahmood** and **Saqib Huq**

**GENERAL ECONOMICS DIVISION, PLANNING COMMISSION;  
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT (ICCCAD)  
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (IIED)**

Learning Hub Event (LHE) aims to support the Planning Commission (PC) of Government of Bangladesh to set up learning/ knowledge hub for enabling knowledge exchange and dialogues on climate resilient development planning. LHEs help policymakers by providing exigent contexts in which they can develop policies and examine whether the scope of concern for policies and investments includes the right issues.

## Third Learning Hub Event Context

This seminar was hosted by the General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission and supported by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) at Independent University, Bangladesh and International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) which took place in the very well-equipped NEC Conference Room at the Planning Commission Premises. More than 50 participants came from different ministries and divisions, Bangladesh Bank, development sectors, and research organizations participated in the event.

The third Learning Hub Event (LHE) was chaired by **Prof Dr Shamsul Alam** (Senior Secretary), Member, General Economics Division (GED), who gave a well-structured introduction to the event and provided an overview of climate change scenario of the country and worldwide.

The objectives of the seminar were to provide an insight in the environmental project Monitoring & Evaluation issues, to identify the contextual influences, and to discuss the possible approaches for formulating and implementing policies.

**Dr Saleemul Huq** commenced his speech, emphasizing on the successful joint collaboration between GED, Planning Commission, ICCCAD and IIED and expressed an interest to continue holding similar events on a regular basis in the future.

He shared his experience on how GED-ICCCAD-CCAFS collaborated with the **Seventh Five Year Plan (SFYP)** of the Government of Bangladesh during the first learning hub event. He mentioned that this joint collaboration aims to build more robust systems of climate change issues mostly in the case of climate finance and development. In order to draw more climate finance into Bangladesh, it is our indispensable duty to ensure proper Monitoring & Evaluation systems in climate change development projects. He stressed that the overall intention of these learning hub events is to help the people of Bangladesh better tackle climate change.

**Bowen Wang** addressed the key issue of why climate finance is important for developing countries. He said that his way forward will be to improve the current system.

### Presentation 01

Tracking Climate Finance

**Mr. Bowen Wang**

Climate Change Policy Research Consultant  
Visiting Researcher, ICCCAD

In his presentation importance was placed on understanding the interests and incentives of different key actors in climate finance. The presentation was structured with five outlines which included: Climate Finance – definition, complexity, and current landscape; why tracking climate finance matters; Challenges for developing countries; how to move forward and ICCCAD's work

on tracking climate finance. He organized it systematically and tried to cover all the outlined issues with proper evidences.

## Question-Answer Session

During the discussion following Bowen Wang's presentation, certain issues were raised:

**Md. Shamsuddoha**, Chief Executive, CPRD (Centre for Participatory Research and Development) asked about the out of total amount of money how much for the developing countries and if the funds are available then how much money for the vulnerable countries and how much money should really go for them. He further stated that there has less information on instruments of that amount of money. He said, "We are taking loans rather than as grants."

**Shikha Sarker**, Deputy Chief (Planning), Ministry of Environment and Forest talked about instruments existing in this country is very clear. She raised questions about insufficient institutional arrangement, unclear roles and responsibilities for different players.

**Dr Nurun Nahar**, Senior Assistant Chief, Planning Commission raised question about further detailed explanation of limited stock and lack of capacity and poor database systems that were mentioned in the presentation.

National Climate Fiscal Framework in Bangladesh

**Dr Krishna Gayen**

Joint Secretary

Finance Division, Ministry of Finance

**Dr Gayen** began by stating that since Bangladesh is a vulnerable country to

climate change, development issues surrounding mitigation and adaptation should be prioritized in Bangladesh. Her presentation focused on the building blocks of Climate Fiscal Framework, including the demand side issues and supply side issues and its performance, as well as other issues relevant to Climate Finance in Bangladesh. She also spoke about the achievement of Government of Bangladesh regarding climate change.

Finally referring of Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2014 by Germanwatch, Dr Gayen mentioned that Bangladesh has been ranked fifth among 10 of the most vulnerable countries to climate change in the world. Therefore, it is crucial to draw donors' attention towards approving more development funds on climate change issues.

## Question-Answer Session

After congratulating Dr Krishna Gayen for her nice presentation, Dr Saleemul Huq agreed that it was a comprehensive and matched with the agenda of the event. He also mentioned that the people of Bangladesh will really be benefited by the Climate Fiscal Framework which is done by the Ministry of Finance.



Dr Krishna Gayen, (Left) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, presenting on National Climate Fiscal Framework

**Zakir Hossain Khan** from Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) discussed about the sustainable mechanism over the period to run any project. Subsequently he stressed the issue on linkage between the departments of different ministries regarding planning, fund releasing and cooperation. He addressed several issues regarding the methodology of incorporating

General Monitoring & Evaluation of Development Projects

**Mr. Md. Shamimul Haque**

Deputy Director

Implementation Monitoring & Evaluation Division (IMED)

knowledge from Civil Service Organization (CSO) during the Monitoring & Evaluation of any project and consideration of this knowledge for the process of the program.

**Md. Shamimul Haque** gave his presentation on 'General Monitoring &

Evaluation of Development Projects'. He mentioned that IMED has successfully been able to develop and implement the practice and management of monitoring and evaluation with core organizational competences in programme monitoring and evaluation, mass communication, and project information systems. In the end, he briefed that in future IMED aims to Introduce Result Based Monitoring and Evaluation (RBME) System and also on-line Management Information System (MIS) with concerned Ministries/Divisions and Agencies. Regarding incorporating climate change programmes and projects he also marked that IMED has the capacity to implement the M&E tools and systems in climate change related projects and he seeks the cooperation from the expertise institutions like ICCCAD and IIED.

## The Open Discussion Session

The floor was then opened for discussion from participants of the conference to raise thoughts of what had been said or theories on what to do for the presenters to answer the questions where they could. This session was the liveliest part of the workshop. It went very smoothly and it cascaded some key issues regarding effective climate finance mechanism. It was very much interactive. Some highlighted issues of open discussion are discussed here.

**Shikha Sarker** from Ministry of Environment and Forest raised the issue regarding existing monitoring and evaluation systems of IMED and its capacity to enhance the effectiveness of climate finance. She also elevated some key points about integrating climate change initiatives into the Annual Development Programme (ADP) process so that they can be monitored and evaluated by the IMED.

**Tanjir Hossain** from ActionAid mentioned regarding implementing climate change related projects that it very much imperative to concentrate at the quality part of the development rather than quantity. He also pointed out the National Adaptation Programmes of Action



Md. Shamimul Haque, Deputy Director, IMED, presenting on General Monitoring & Evaluation of Development Projects



(NAPA) process which is a sectoral approach and suggested all the development partners to follow that process and to think on the real vulnerable people of the country.

**Ali Reza** from Ministry of Planning stressed on identifying the right project which is very important on the issue of development. He also emphasized on the double counting of the development projects.

## Concluding Remarks

**Dr Saleemul Huq**

**Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)**

Dr Huq concluded the session where he pointed out that there is a difference between development assistance and climate change finance. There are built in issues with development assistance for receiver countries when complaining about the money donations. It is beneficial to discuss the problems under a treaty; however, there is no treaty for development assistance.

**Dr Atiq Rahman**

**Executive Director, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS)**

Dr Rahman started his speech mentioning Dr Huq's statement as Bangladesh being ahead in many ways. A lot of progress has been made, but everyone must continue implementing their knowledge that they gain from the learning curve. The government needs to fast track the process of adopting and implementing the Climate Fiscal Framework. This will ensure better synergy among financing intermediaries to leverage investments that are greater than the sum of their parts.

**Mr. Mohammad Rafiqul Islam**

**Joint Chief, General Economics Division (GED)**

The event was concluded by Mr. Islam. He gave a brief speech about the vulnerability of Bangladesh and the interventions that have been taken by the Government of Bangladesh. He mentioned that not everything is attributed to climate change and that it is useful to be very specific about not overdoing it. He thanked all presenters for disseminating their research and sharing very important and helpful information. He finished by urging everyone to continue with monitoring, evaluation and learning and added that coordination between private and public sector is vital for positive outcomes.