

Webinar on Capacity-building to Address Climate Change in Bangladesh

Objective: To address the long-term Capacity Building needs for different stakeholders in Bangladesh



Webinar Brief

6th August 2020 | Time: 4.00-5.00 PM

- Welcome Remarks by Prof. Saleemul Huq, Director, ICCCAD**

Prof. Huq welcomed everyone and shared the agenda of the discussion. The aim of the discussion was to initiate a long-term collaboration with various actors to embark upon a 10 years journey in making Bangladesh a resilient nation, focusing on capacity-building (CB) in the climate change arena.

- Presentation by Prof. Mizan R. Khan, Deputy Director, ICCCAD**

- Majority of the NDCs have mentioned CB as a pre-condition to meet the global goals whereas Bangladesh's NDC projects a weaker role of CB in climate change adaptation. Article 11 of the Paris Agreement is the first global approach that works as a paradigm shift for the CB arena.
- Earlier, CB has mostly done on ad-hoc and short-term project based. A sustainable approach requires understanding the problem, strengthening CB of the government at national level planning and finally, building negotiation skills to articulate the national interest at the global level. Hence, a new CB framework has been proposed that can operate under the convention.
- Universities have a big role to play as a sustainable CB institution. Government can play the coordination role in this. Also, government should appoint a focal point for CB at national level to supervise the activities of CB.

Prof Huq mentioned "*We need to think about long-term investment in CB to adapt to climate change. Ad-hoc basis CB is suitable for short-term program but long term impacts require collaboration among government, NGOs, academicians etc. Each actor needs to understand the problem of climate change to raise awareness, where Bangladesh has already reached a great point. In longer term, it is important to know what to do next, that depends on who we are, where we are and what's the problem. Hence, a mutual efforts can help Bangladesh to become a resilient nation, nearly within a period of 10 years journey.*"

- Remarks by Panelists:**

Prof. Shamsul Alam, Member (Senior Secretary), GED, Bangladesh Planning Commission

- Even though Bangladesh drafted a timely Delta Plan 2100, this country lacks skilled manpower in the arena of climate change. It is thus utmost important to build capacity of the people, with higher emphasize on science-based education and technological innovations.
- Universities can definitely play a big role in building skillful generation. Long-term investment also has to be planned to sustain this efforts. Lastly, CB require a long-term collaborative among actors.

Ms. Sultana Afroz, Chief Executive Officer (Secretary), PPPA, Prime Minister's Office

- Globally, Bangladesh is well-known for its DRR and adaptation practices but still highly challenged by poverty and socio-economic difficulties, which calls for a long-term partnership among actors. Private sector has a big role to play in terms of CB in Bangladesh.
- However, are we doing enough with Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) to invest in this arena? To explore this potential, higher focus should be given to PPP in different courses/training on climate change adaptation and mitigation. Also, the current institutional mechanism has to be analyzed to understand their readiness. Hence, a local to global level partnership is required to enhance CB in the climate change sector.

Rear Admiral Qazi Sarwar Hossain, Advisor, BIMRAD

- The impact of climate change on the marine system is multi-diverse. Hence, it is important to develop a strategy and guideline at the national level with inter-ministerial coordination to enhance CB to adapt to this crisis.
- He proposed to transform the Blue Economy cell of Bangladesh government into a Blue Economy Division under the authority of Prime Minister Office to look after the entire maritime domain of Bangladesh.

Ms. Farah Kabir, Country Director, ActionAid Bangladesh

- CB has to be focused in both community level and national level. Negotiation skills also need to be developed at the both national and global level to represent local scenarios. Hence, a comprehensive CB mechanism is essential to develop by bringing multiple stakeholders to intervene into different levels to provide knowledge and mutually share learning across various sectors.
- It's also important to consider the last 10 years effort as a building block to do the upcoming planning of the next 10 years journey. Higher emphasize on policy coherence is also needed to promote green growth. Finally, indigenous knowledge also need to be prioritized alongside with the scientific education.

Md. Enamul Karim Pavel, Head of Renewable Energy, IDCOL

- CB is important in terms of climate change mitigation. Bangladesh's NDC has identified 3 priority emission areas; Energy, Industry, and Transport. It has further identified that improving industrial energy efficiency, expanding renewable energy and modernizing transport and infrastructure are the key areas of intervention.
- He also highlighted that to achieve NDC goal and Master plan, substantial amount of investment is needed. At the same time, CB at national, international and local level are required to ensure a sustainable investment.

• Guest Speaker

Ms. Catharien Terwisscha van Scheltinga, Director Project Officer, Wageningen University

- CB interventions require a long-term commitment and the 10 years journey can be a starting point of this for Bangladesh. It's important to combine both field level and theoretical knowledge as part of the educational curriculum. Lastly, open-sharing of the data and knowledge is indeed very important for a sustainable CB effort and at the same time ensuring that no one's left behind.

• Closing Remarks by Prof. Saleemul Huq

Prof. Huq thanked everyone for joining the discussion. He welcomed everyone to come together to work with CB in the climate change arena in making Bangladesh a resilient nation. He also mentioned about the upcoming webinars/discussion on CB and the Gobeshona Conference in January 2021.

This report has prepared by Farah Anzum, Research Associate, ICCCAD and Adiba Bintey Kamal, Project Associate, ICCCAD.

About the Organization

International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) is an international research and capacity building training institution based in IUB since 2009. ICCCAD's mission is to generate and disseminate knowledge on climate change in Bangladesh, with specific attention to capacitate future leaders on climate adaptation and development issues.

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