

Minutes of the 5th National Steering Board Meeting of Bangladesh Water Multi-Stakeholder Partnership

Chair: Mr. Mohammad Shafiul Alam, Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Division, Government of Bangladesh

Venue: Cabinet Division Conference Room, Level 4, Building 1, Bangladesh Secretariat

Date & Time: February 13, 2018 at 11:00 am

1. The 5th meeting of the National Steering Board (NSB) of Bangladesh Water Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) was held on February 13, 2018 at 11:00 am. Mr. Mohammad Shafiul Alam, Cabinet Secretary, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh chaired the meeting. The attendance list is attached as Appendix-A.
2. Welcome remarks were made by Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) followed by brief recap of the institutional structure of the Bangladesh MSP and its four Work-Streams. He emphasized on the necessity of coordinated activity plan to achieve targets under SDGs and sought guidance, appraisal and decisions from the NSB on the recommendations from the Work-Streams.
3. The Minutes of the previous meeting was confirmed after correcting the name of the Ministry of Environment and Forests which was previously misspelled as Ministry of Environment and Forestry.
4. Mr. Sayef Tanzeem Qayyum, Coordinator, Bangladesh Program, 2030 WRG, updated the NSB on the progresses made by Work-Streams since the 4th NSB meeting. He also shared updates on the decisions taken in the 4th NSB meeting.
5. Under the Water Governance and Sustainability work stream, Mr. Mohammad Yousuf, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources pointed out that the work-stream organized workshops on developing methodology for valuing water for urban, agricultural and industrial sectors and recommendations and workshop findings will be shared by the resource persons in this NSB meeting. He also shared that, the Bangladesh Water Rules 2017 has been submitted to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs for its vetting, after the approval of the Executive Committee of the National Water Resources Council (ECNWRC). Regarding institutional strengthening for WARPO, he mentioned that a proposal for opening of new offices in eight divisions for WARPO has been sent to the Ministry of Public Administration for approval.
 - i) It was recommended by the Chair that the institutional strengthening plan should accommodate manpower for both Head Quarters and field offices for all 64 districts and manpower deployment can be done on the basis of water situation and budgetary provisions in phases.
 - ii) Dr Asaduzzaman, Consultant, 2030 WRG, presented progress made so far regarding Economic Policy Incentives, where specific pilots / demonstrations were proposed with BWDB surface water schemes, BADC Deep Tube Well (DTW), Shallow Tube Well (STW) and BMDA DTW areas to implement or enhance volumetric pricing schemes which promote efficiency in water use. Dr Asad also requested that, except for the BWDB/surface water pilot, remaining three pilots / demonstrations should be handed over from Water Governance and Sustainability Work-Stream to Agriculture Water Work-Stream for further development and implementation. In this regard,

Dr Ainun Nishat, also requested that all four pilots should be handed over to the Agriculture Water Work-Stream as BWDB doesn't have necessary agricultural expertise. But, any pilots related to BWDB projects will require cooperation from BWDB.

iii) Dr. Umme Kulsum Navera, Professor, BUET initiated the discussion on Valuing Water by mentioning that the current initiative is planning to develop an over-arching framework for water valuation for agriculture, urban and industrial sectors which has not been established in Bangladesh yet. This initiative on Valuing Water is not about the price of water but rather to establish the value of water in a particular context. This exercise has been identified as priority action to achieve sustainable Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). Jennifer M. Gulland, Consultant, 2030 WRG, presented the position paper on the Valuing Water Initiative in Bangladesh, in which best practice methodologies for valuing water has been showcased and specific recommendations provided to establish water valuation in Bangladesh. The paper also includes case studies on Barind tract, Dhaka textile industry and Halda River and recommended specific pilots in these areas to be implemented. The Chair recommended that a high-level committee to be setup to coordinate this initiative and take forward to implement the pilot initiatives. The Chair proposed that the committee can be chaired by the Principal Coordinator, SDG Affairs, Prime Minister's Office (PMO) since this initiative has strong relevance for the High-Level Panel for Water (HLPW) and several SDGs. Other members of the committee may include the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Industry and any other relevant government and non-government agencies.

6. Under Agriculture Water Work-Stream, progress update on the Scoping Study on North-West Region: Enhancing Agro-Water Productivity and Reducing Groundwater Extraction, was presented by Mr. Sirajul Haider, ndc, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture. The NSB appreciated the completion of the Scoping Study for the North-West region. With regard to the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Scoping Study for the South-West Region: Agro-Water Productivity and Salinity Intrusion, it was decided that the NSB doesn't need to deliberate on technical matters and such decisions can be made at the Work-Stream level. Since, the Agriculture Water Work-Stream has already approved the ToR for the South-West region, no further approval is required for ToR of this study. After this, Mr Shadab Khan, CEO of Coca-Cola Bangladesh, presented the progress update of the project called "Demonstration Design on Proving Water Efficient Solutions".
7. Regarding the two main activities under the Greater Dhaka Watershed Restoration (GDWR) Work-Stream, viz., (i). Water Quality Monitoring System (WQMS) for Greater Dhaka (ii). Urban Waste Water Management in Gazipur City Corporation (GCC), a progress update was provided by Mr. Sayef Tanzeem Qayyum, Coordinator, Bangladesh Program, 2030 WRG. A discussion on innovative approaches to Project Financing and Implementation in the municipal wastewater and faecal sludge management sectors that may be replicated to other cities in Bangladesh was held. It was agreed that the focus of the work should include the replication and scaling up of this innovative approach to other cities and not just the pilot initiative in GCC area. The Chair agreed to this bigger frame of focus on potential replication and scaling up in other cities and advised this may be taken towards implementation under the leadership of the Local Government Division (LGD).
8. Under Industrial Water and Waste Water (IWW) Work-Stream, ToR for the Work-Stream was shared with the NSB which was approved with one modification with regard to the inclusion of

Secretary, Ministry of Industry as an alternate Chair of the IWW Work-Stream along with Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority.

9. The following **decisions** were made during the 5th NSB meeting:
- i. Institutional Strengthening of WARPO should include personnel and financial requirements for all 64 districts which can be implemented in phases based on budget and priorities.
 - ii. The pilots/demonstrations recommended for agricultural water use under the Economic Policy Incentives study would be handed over to the Agricultural Water Work-Stream from the Water Governance and Sustainability Work-Stream for further development and implementation. BWDB is requested to extend cooperation to the Agricultural Water work-stream, if necessary.
 - iii. A high-level committee to be setup to lead the initiative on Valuing Water. The NSB proposed the Principal Coordinator, SDG Affairs, PMO to chair the committee. Other members of the committee may include representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Industry and any other relevant government and non-government agencies as per the discretion of the chair of the proposed committee.
 - iv. LGD was requested to lead development of innovative and replicable approach to project financing and implementation mechanisms for municipal wastewater treatment and faecal sludge management with potential for nation-wide up-scaling and starting with the proposed pilot project on Gazipur City Corporation.
 - v. ToR for Industrial Water and Waste Water (IWW) Work-Stream approved with one amendment to add the Secretary, Ministry of Industry as one of the alternate chairs.
 - vi. An interactive website will be developed to ensure the institutional memory of Bangladesh Water MSP activities by the IFC.

10. Mr. Mohammad Shafiul Alam, Cabinet Secretary and Chair of the NSB thanked the four Work-Stream members for their tremendous effort in preparing the NSB meeting and sharing a number of commendable progress updates. He also thanked all the participants and observers from the Government, Private Sector, Civil Society and 2030 WRG for making the meeting effective by providing valuable suggestions and cooperation. The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks.

Signed/-
28.02.2018
Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan
Member Secretary, NSB
&
Senior Secretary
Ministry of Water Resources
Government of Bangladesh.

Signed/-
28.02.2018
Mohammad Shafiul Alam
Chair, National Steering Board,
Bangladesh Water MSP
&
Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Division
Government of Bangladesh.

