

ICWFM7 - International Conference on Water and Flood Management 2019
With special focus on
Water Security Under a Changing Climate
2 March 2019, Time 11:30 - 13:00, CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka
Report of Plenary Session



Implementation of Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100: The Way Forward

Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 (BDP) has been approved in September 2018. This longer term, integrated, holistic and adaptive plan with 50 to 100 years' time frame also brings about the need to think practically how the implementation can take place, and how planning and implementation processes can be adjusted in this longer term while considering the policy implications. At the same time, there is also a pressing need for generating new capacities and knowledge. This is an enormous challenge with various practical questions. For instance, how to take into account the longer term planning objectives while preparing the next five year plan? How to incorporate climate change and other longer term issues in day-to-day implementation of water projects and programs? Do we know the water situation when considering future development of the country as well as climate change into account? How to engage multiple stakeholders? Do we have information services in place to inform people from local to national level while they are making their own plans and implementing them?

Various organizations involved have already started the work towards implementation of BDP. In this session an overall picture of the current situation was sketched, sharing both the vision as well as experiences with the initial steps, thus contributing to a better understanding on how to engage in this process with a wide group of stakeholders and implementing agencies.

The session focused on three areas important for BDP implementation – (i) Capacity building, (ii) Knowledge, research and education, and (iii) Policy implications and relevance. Seven eminent speakers briefly presented different aspects. This was followed by a short and broader discussion with the audience.

- **Mr. Md. Mafidul Islam**, Chief, International Economics Wing, General Economics Division (GED), Bangladesh Planning Commission: **“Challenges and steps needed for the implementation of BDP”**. In his speech he mentioned key features of BDP 2100 and BDP2100 implementation challenges and next steps: Immediate action has been taken for implementation by various ministries and a Delta Wing at GED will be formed to support and coordinate.
- **Mr. Peter de Vries**, First Secretary, The Netherlands Embassy: **“Lessons of the Netherlands bilateral cooperation: future perspectives and priorities”**. In his speech, he indicated that there is a need for re-structuring the intuitional arrangements to implement the BDP 2100, and that lessons can be learned from the review of the bilateral cooperation between the Netherlands and Bangladesh. For instance recommendations regarding the reform of the water sector are still valid.
- **Prof Eddy Moors**, Rector, IHE Delft: **“Capacity building and knowledge development for the implementation of BDP”**. Prof Moors indicated that there is a changing landscape with changing needs regarding capacity development. For Bangladesh, needs assessment for the implementation of the BDP2100 various implementing agencies have started and DeltaCap project provides support to it. There is a need for coordination and the Delta Center can play a role.

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- **Ms. Han van Dijk**, UDW-NWO: **“Linking Urbanising Deltas of the World research to adaptive BDP planning & implementation”**. In her speech Ms van Dijk highlighted key features of the Urbanising Deltas of the World (UDW) programme, like the transdisciplinary research approaches and linking research to policy & practice. Also she indicated that there will shortly be a new call providing opportunities to connect worlds of knowledge with practical new ideas.
- **Prof Umme Kulsum Navera**, BUET: **“Education and research needs for the implementation of BDP”**. Prof Navera in her speech focused on the need of delta knowledge in all education levels. She also indicated how capacities and knowledge are linked and stressed implementation in practical terms.
- **Mr. Mustafa A. K. Khan**, Managing Director, FloWater Solutions Ltd. (Private sector representative): **“Engagement of the private sector for the implementation of BDP”**. In the speech he mentioned that as a private sector company they would like to work together with the government in the investment of BDP implementation. He showed the activities of FloWater company and expressed that they have the capacity to support BD govt.
- **Prof Saleemul Huq**, Director ICCAD, Coordinator Gobeshona Platform: **“Capacity needs of the next generation to address long term climate change impacts”**- In his speech he stressed three priorities: 1. Capacity development, 2. Capacity development and 3. Capacity development. He related each one to a specific group: respectively students, professionals and the wider community. He also stressed the importance to reach large numbers of people.
- Questions from the audience were related to the importance of implementing agencies like LGED and BWDB to share their experiences regarding implementation of BDP and to the start of Delta Forum as a mechanism to share experiences. Another question asked about the balance between infrastructure and ‘soft’ developments required for the implementation of the BDP2100.

The Plenary session was moderated by Ms. Catharien Terwisscha van Scheltinga, DeltaCAP project. In the concluding remark she summarized the session with a three C’s: capacity development, change and collaboration. 1. Capacity development and knowledge needs need to be addressed, 2. We need to change the way of working; 3. Collaboration and sharing mechanisms are to be developed for the implementation of Bangladesh DeltaPlan 2100.



Organization:

DeltaCap in collaboration with General Economics Division (GED), Bangladesh Planning Commission, the Netherlands Embassy, Delta Alliance Bangladesh Wing, Urbanising Deltas of the World Program of the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (UDW-NWO), Joint Cooperation Program, Support for Implementation of Bangladesh Delta Plan, FloWater & ICCAD/Gobeshona.

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