

## EDITORIAL

*The Eleventh Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP 11) will be held in conjunction with the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP) in the Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Canada during 28 November to 09 December 2005. The United Nations Climate Change Conference is set to be the largest intergovernmental climate conference since the Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1997. This conference is a historic event in many sense.*

*This issue of ClimeAsia urges for bigger cut of greenhouse gas emission and need for more adaptation to address adverse effects of climate change. Stabilization of greenhouse gas concentration at a level to keep temperature rise of 2°C is pursuing by many developed countries including European Union. It means supporting bigger cut of greenhouse gas emission at global level.*

*This issue of ClimeAsia takes this opportunity to announce the new board Climate Action Network-South Asia (CAN-SA) as part of revitalization of its activities. This issue of ClimeAsia also reports on an international workshop held in Dhaka which focused on community adaptation to climate change impacts. ❧ ❧*

## DEEPER CUTS AND GREATER ADAPTATION

**ATIQ RAHMAN**

Executive Director, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) and  
Chairman, Climate Action Network - South Asia (CANSA)

### COP 11/MOP-1: A New Beginning

The world is entering a new phase in Climate Change Negotiations. The Eleventh session of the Conference of Parties (COP-11) of the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change to be held in Montreal during 28 November to 9 December 2005 will see the initiation of the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. This session besides becoming the COP-11, also becomes the First Meeting of the Party (MOP-1) of the Kyoto Protocol (KP).

Despite all the diplomatic efforts and misinformation campaign by the only a very few parties led by the greatest polluter and the only military superpower, the United States of America, the global community ratified the Kyoto Protocol in early 2005. This was made possible when Russia finally decided to ratify the KP. European Commission countries, Japan, Canada and most industrialized countries gave their full support as did most members of the group of 77 and China for bringing the KP into force. The Russian ratification ensured the KP to come into force meeting the requirements of the KP i.e., many more than the 55 countries ratified and

*Contd. to page 4 & 5*

## CAN-SA REVITALIZED

**- Moharram Ali Shishir, BCAS**

The Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA) has been revitalized recently in the General Assembly of CANSA in Dhaka. The meeting of CANSA on Southern Perspectives and CANSA *Contd. to page 7*



*Mr. Upasena Sapukotana of Munasinghe Institute for Development, Sri Lanka is Chairing the CANSA Assembly (in the left). Dr. Saleemul Huq of IIED, Dr. Atiq Rahman of BCAS and Prof. Ainun Nishat of IUCN Bangladesh are seen among others. — Source: BCAS*

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# COP11/MOP1: Important Events for South

The 23rd Session of the Subsidiary Bodies in conjunction with COP11 of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and MOP1 of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol will be held in Montreal, Canada from 28 November to 6 December 2005. Subsidiary Bodies for Implementation (SBI) will discuss a number of issues related to implementation of various decisions while Subsidiary Bodies for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) will discuss Scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts of, and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change along with other issues. In the context of South, a number of agenda items are important to follow-up to understand it better and raise southern voice.

SBSTA agenda items important for south are: 3) Scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts of, and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change; 4) Scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation of climate change; 8) Development and transfer of technologies: (a) Matters relating to the implementation of the framework for meaningful and effective actions to enhance the implementation of Article 4, paragraph 5, of the Convention, and (b) Work programme of the Expert Group on Technology Transfer for 2006; and 9. Research and systematic observation. Details of each agenda item can be found in FCCC/SBSTA/2005/5.

Decision 1 of the COP10 requested the SBSTA to develop a structured five-year programme of work for the SBSTA on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate

change. As a response to the request of the parties the secretariat organized an informal workshop from 17 to 19 October 2005 in Germany. The SBSTA will be invited to consider the outcome of the informal workshop, to complete the elaboration of the five-year programme of work and to forward a draft decision for adoption by the COP at its eleventh session.

Important agenda in teams in the SBI are: 5) Financial mechanism (Convention): (a) Special Climate Change Fund, (b) Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties, (c) Matters relating to the implementation of decision 5/CP.8, (d) Additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility; 6) Financial mechanism (Kyoto Protocol): (a) Adaptation Fund, (b) Guidance to the Global Environment Facility; 7) Article 6 of the Convention; 8) Capacity-building under the Convention; 9) Capacity-building under the Kyoto Protocol; 10) Implementation of Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention: (a) Buenos Aires programme of work on adaptation and response measures (decision 1/CP.10), and (b) Matters relating to the least developed countries. Details of each agenda item can be found in FCCC/SBI/2005/11.

Regarding Special Climate Change Fund, six parties including one on behalf from G77 and China and one behalf of European Community discussed this issue and Parties decided to continue consideration of this matter at their twenty-third session, on the basis of the draft text produced at SBI 22. Key contentious issue is to use Special Climate Change Fund to adverse effects of response measures.

Adaptation Fund under the Kyoto Protocol was established under the

Kyoto Protocol financed from the share of the proceeds on clean development mechanism project activities and other sources of funding to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in non-Annex I countries that are Party to the Kyoto Protocol. No guidance relating to the Adaptation Fund has yet been provided to the GEF. The SBI will be invited to consider this issue and recommend a draft decision for adoption by the COP/MOP at its first session.

## Beyond 2012 Issues

There will be discussion on Beyond 2012. A number of side events will be organized on this issue during COP11/MOP1. According to recent findings and erratic behaviour of climate adaptation would be required for all (developed and developing countries) and therefore an Adaptation Framework may be suggested to address adaptation beyond 2012. It may consist of all adaptation related agenda items in one place that will help discussion, inter linkage of different issues, and negotiation. It will also enable to bring this up at higher political level to decide contentious issues. Necessity to bring mandatory contribution to funds related to adaptation instead of voluntary contribution (present practices) is also important. Modalities for mandatory contribution may be proposed as per article 4.3 (...The implementation of these commitments shall take into account the need for adequacy and predictability in the flow of funds and the importance of appropriate burden sharing among the developed country parties). The funds may be distributed based on level of vulnerability. It may also be suggested for widening levy to generate more funds for adaptation through introducing levy in other mechanisms. x x

## Local Communities need to adapt better to Climatic Events

The international workshop on community level adaptation to climate change, the first of its kind, was jointly organised by the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) from UK, the Regional and International Networking Group (RING) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN). The workshop was sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agencies (CIDA) and the UK-Department for International Development (DFID), Bangladesh. Primary objectives of the workshop were to share experiences and lessons learned from community level adaptation projects, and to find mechanisms and ways of influencing the broader development agenda, as well as the adaptation funding mechanisms under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The workshop was attended by about eighty experts, policy makers, development partners, non-government organizations and grass-roots practitioners mostly from the Asia Pacific region, but also from Africa, Latin America, North America and Europe to discuss the possible impacts of climate change on the local communities living in the regions that are at risk to climate impacts and how to enable the vulnerable community to adapt to such climate change impact in future. In addition to inaugural and concluding sessions, the presentations and discussions held in eight technical sessions. Key thematic areas of discussion in the technical sessions were: a) understanding adaptation to climate change, b) partnership in adaptation, c) adaptation in practice, d) community responses, e) confronting vulnerabilities, f) mainstreaming adaptation, g) knowledge management; and h) responding to climate change.

Local level communities living in parts of the world at risk to climatic impacts such as heat waves, droughts, floods and



*Dr. Youssef Nassef of UNFCCC Secretariat speaking the inaugural session of the Dhaka International Workshop on Adaptation to Climate Change. —BCAS*

hurricanes, will need to adapt to climate change which will have a disproportionate impacts on such vulnerable communities around the world. This was the main conclusion of a three-day international workshop.

### ***Inaugural Session***

The two broad objectives of the workshop were: a) to share experience and lessons learned at community level related to adaptation to climate change; and b) to incorporate the adaptation issues within the broader development agenda. Renowned environmentalists and climate change scientists from home and abroad addressed the inaugural session of the three-day workshop. A number of high-level national policy makers from Bangladesh also took part in some of the various sessions and made observations. Barrister Moudud Ahmad, the Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs of the Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh, was the chief guest in the inaugural session of the workshop.

The Law Minister of Bangladesh, in his inaugural speech, said that while the poor countries (and poor communities in all countries) will

suffer the adverse impacts of climate change, the rich countries and rich people around the world, are the ones who are responsible for creating the problem of climate change. Speaking to them he said "you burn while our people die!". He highlighted the need for greater action on mitigation of greenhouse gases as adaptation can only be a partial solution to the climate change problem. "Unless the rich countries take greater action on mitigation no amount of adaptation will enable the world to escape the adverse impacts of climate change" he said. Chaired by Mr. M Fazlur Rahman, Secretary of the Ministry of Planning of the government of Bangladesh, the occasion was also addressed by Dr. Saleemul Huq, Director of Climate Change Programme, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), London, Professor Barry Smit of University of Guelph, Canada, Dr. Farhana Yamin of the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) at the Sussex University of UK and Dr. Youssef Nassef of UNFCCC Secretariat, Bonn. Dr. A Atiq Rahman, Executive Director of BCAS gave the welcome address to

*Contd. to page 8*

## DEEPER CUTS AND GREATER ADAPTATION

the requisite carbon reduction requirements were met. All the haggling, delays, disruptions and incorporation of issues which increases greenhouse gas leakages such as forestry have significantly weakened the Kyoto Protocol. Multilateralism finally won but at a huge cost to the increased threat of runaway climate change that would affect the poor and vulnerable countries and communities the most.

During the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, the world should have seen an absolute 5.4 percent reduction in the greenhouses gas emission in the atmosphere relative to 1990 level by 2008-12. Unfortunately, what we have seen is a greater increase of GHG release instead of committed reductions.

It is an absolute priority that the UNFCCC parties achieve deeper cuts in the GHG emission to meet the prime objective of UNFCCC i.e. to save the planet from the threat of runaway climate change. COP-11/MOP-1 must strive to achieve this.

### More Severe Impacts

Over the last five years the world has seen an unprecedented increase in extreme weather events including cyclones, floods, heat stress, drought, rapid melting of polar ice and glaciers etc. This has happened in many parts of the world across the rich industrialized countries as well as developing and least developed countries alike. This had exposed the vulnerability of many countries. The direct causal linkage GHG emission and severity of impacts may be difficult to assign but the trends are consistent with the predictions of IPCC and climate scientists. The impacts of these extreme weather events affected many countries, rich and poor, Annex-1 as well as non-Annex-1 countries. The devastating cyclones such as Katrina and Rita have exposed the vulnerability of Louisiana coast of the United States, Mexico and the

coastal regions and demonstrated the lack of preparedness and need for adaptation. It is well established that adaptation needs of the poorer countries is much higher, but all countries will and do need to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and induced increased extreme weather events.

Hence greater investment in adaptation, particularly for the vulnerable and poor countries and communities is a must. Thus we call for greater need for urgent attention and funds mobilization, research, social mobilization, planning and concomitant investment in adaptation efforts and measures.

### Mitigation Must – Adaptation Too

The Climate Convention and the Kyoto Protocol enshrine the simultaneous actions on mitigation and adaptation. The author has stated in other fora that in the final analysis “mitigation is the best form of adaptation”. In October 2002 issue of ClimeAsia it was asserted that adaptation is not a substitute for mitigation. The primary commitment of the industrialized (Annex-1) countries is to mitigate i.e. reduce greenhouse gas emission. Any delay in reduction of emission will only increase the need and cost of adaptation. Any delay in mitigation increases the risk of runaway global climate change with severe regional impacts.

The primary responsibility of UNFCCC and KP and all its member states and signatories and non-signatories is to reduce emission today and now. The industrialized countries must take the lead; the developing countries must do their utmost to reduce their emissions also and seek a path of development with a lower carbon emission.

### Weaker Kyoto Protocol Moves On

There is no doubt that the present

form of modified provisions of the Kyoto Protocol has significantly weakened its capacity to implement the total significant reduction in the Greenhouse Gas emission. The delay in coming to force of the KP has deprived the world a major opportunity for reversing the course of rapid increase in greenhouse gases. Kyoto Protocol was always intended to be the first small beginning. But that was also thwarted by a small group of countries led by the United States of America and Australia.

The cost to the US of departing from its leadership role in the climate change negotiations process in the hope of narrowly protecting the fossil-fuel industries interest has been at the expense of the interest of the US credibility and the reputation of its peoples in the world stage. Abandoning Kyoto Protocol has been one of the contributing factors in establishing the present US leadership as “unilateralist” over multilateralist or not being a leader of global consensus building. US credibility in the world over as a world leader today is probably at its lowest since the Vietnam War if not lowest ever. One only needs to note the embarrassment of the scientists and independent thinkers from the US about their present leadership in any international meetings on climate change or energy planning to feel how limited and yet strong are the anti-Kyoto groups in the USA.

Even a very close and dedicated hand-in-gloves friends of Bush-Cheney leadership in the war on Iraq, the British Prime Minister Tony Blair tried during the last meeting of the leaders of G-8 (Group of Eight most industrialized countries) to involve US in a global climate regime. Despite all this friendship and war-loyalty Blair was adequately snubbed and side-tracked by Bush at the G-8 meeting in Edinburgh. It is to be noted that Blair as chair of EU staked his personal credibility on two issues of Africa and Climate Change. But Bush put cold water on global climate change.

It is to be noted that despite all the efforts by Bush-Cheney and neo-conservative leadership of the White House, many interesting and laudable efforts in reducing GHG emissions are being undertaken all across the USA.

## DEEPER CUTS AND GREATER ADAPTATION

This is happening at the levels of technology innovation, research on energy, renewables and policy options. These are by different stakeholders including state and city governments across Democratic - Republican Party lines, by scientists and students at the universities, US citizens and church groups as well as many US industries.

### Isolated USA: The Loser

The greatest loser of delaying and trying to disrupt the Kyoto process is the US Administration. It is worthwhile to undertake serious research to assess international credibility lost by the US due to their role in the Kyoto Protocol process. Whatever be the outcome of such a research, it can be argued that the loss of US credibility in the global decision making process has been seriously undermined by their role in the Kyoto Process and the impacts are felt in many areas beyond Kyoto issues.

In this rapidly globalizing world it is neither desirable nor helpful to keep the greatest economy out as the US is not only the greatest GHG emitter, it also can play a key role in solving the problem of climate change with its scientific and financial capabilities.

Much of the world is waiting for 2008 to see a change of guards in the White House. But much more GHG will be emitted by then and world will be a more unsafe place. If the US Administration is serious about freedom across the world, then freedom from the increasing threat of climate change, particularly for the poor and vulnerable countries and communities must be part of the freedom equation.

Any future Post Kyoto efforts to be successful must be all encompassing. The emitted greenhouse gases entering the atmosphere do not distinguish the sources or whether the location of the emitted GHG belongs to a party or country who is signatory to KP or not.

As the US would not like to see a free-rider in the global trade regime, the US must not be allowed to be a free-rider in a climate regime. At the same time attempts should be made to ensure that the US can join any future regime within and beyond the first commitment period. This is going to be a major challenge with the present US Administration. But an

effective and rapid implementation of KP will demonstrate how isolated US and Australia have become. The press, enlightened members of congress, state and city governments, industries, research institutes and all other stakeholders in these countries should be encouraged to take the advantages of the Kyoto mechanisms as well as future efforts to develop a system with global consensus. This is going to be one of the key challenges of COP11 and MOP-1.

### The Kyoto Mechanisms Need Revitalizing

In the early days of Kyoto Protocol from CoP3 onwards there was a lot of hope that the Kyoto Mechanisms, namely Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), Joint Implementation (JI) and Emission Trading (ET) will find new opportunities for reduction of GHG through financial mechanisms. CDM was particularly perceived as a dynamic mechanism for involving the developing countries and assist in the reduction of their GHG emission. Initially many private sector organizations came forward enthusiastically assuming a major financial opportunity and a vast emerging market in carbon reduction. Many projects have come through but they have been mostly confined to a few major developing countries. The expected upsurge in CDM activities has somewhat limited materialization. Many of the countries have set up their Designated National Authorities (DNA), but the projects finalized and financed have been below their expectations. This has dampened some of the enthusiasm and the market size has been much smaller than was anticipated earlier.

The Adaptation Fund which was supposed to be a small fraction of the CDM transactions has also had little success. If CDM market can be stimulated, Kyoto Protocol will get a boost. The industrialized

countries should invigorate these financial opportunities and thus revitalize the Kyoto mechanism. Once a large CDM market can emerge, industries of the Annex-1 countries including those of USA could seek this opportunity and some of the resistance to KP could dwindle.

### Adaptation Moves On

Though mitigation has been stumbling, there has been progress in adaptation efforts. The increasing interest in adaptation may reflect the failure of mitigation. But there is substantive enthusiasm and advances in adaptation. Much of it is due to the interest from developing countries who have identified that adaptation has direct and reinforcing relationship to their national objectives of sustainable development, which is also one of the two key objectives of UNFCCC.

Adaptation advances also reflect a rebuff for the climate skeptics. Enhanced adaptation activities emphasizes the recognition that not only climate change is real and already here but the communities and ecosystems need to be protected from the potential threats of climate change.

Adaptation activities have been led by and initiated in many developing countries. The Least Developed Country group and its 48 member countries have started their National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA). Though GEF has given a meager support to the tune of US \$ 200,000 (two hundred thousand dollars) per country, the effort is laudable as many countries are developing their NAPAs with a view to identifying projects and activities that will integrate climate change initiatives to mainstream economic development of each country.

Though NAPA has been initiated in developing countries it is clear that this applies equally to industrialized countries. Recent heat stress in France, Katrina and Rita as major cyclones affecting southern US and demonstrated lack of preparedness

Contd. to page 9

## Hot From the Press: Softening the USA Position and the Debate around it

President Bush has softened his scepticism about the nature of global warming and the best way to tackle it. But his administration is still opposed to the approach in the Kyoto treaty, which set targets for the industrialised world, James Connaughton, chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality in the United States. Source: 810 clip, BBC Radio 4 premier news slot.

He was in Brussels to try to paint a picture of broad US engagement on climate change and to reiterate the 18% intensity target. Some of the points that Connaughton raised in his presentation on 'Partnerships for Clean Development, Energy Security and Climate Change' were the following:

- Action must focus on broad development agenda not CC alone
- Promote econ growth and reduce poverty
- Enhance energy security
- Reduce pollution (non-climate pollutions)
- Mitigate GHG emissions

These principles look good and China and others agreeing to them. Key question is where do money will come from and how to avoid non-fulfilment being attributed to lack of funding from Annex I. The US clearly does not want to go any further than it did in the Gleneagles Plan of Action in either of the UN fora and prefer to work in smaller groupings such as the Asia Pacific Forum. This work on technology might actually be complementary but the grave risk is that it stops at this and the overarching issue of mandatory reductions in the US and in the other Annex I countries is avoided. He had very little to say on how these new technologies would be implemented if there is no price on carbon.

Connaughton also stated that putting the world on an energy diet is not the solution as 2 Billion poor still have no access to modern energy services. He also tried to portray the US as making progress as

its emissions has fallen down by 0.8 percent over since 2001.

It is necessary to make the argument of not promoting the idea of developing countries curbing their energy use but clearly make the case for decarbonising their economies and their energy infrastructure so that they have energy for a sustainable development but stabilising and eventually declining GHG emissions. Discussions on how to do this is needed. Technology alone is not enough.

Connaughton argument that the US oppose any policy that would achieve reductions by putting Americans out of work, or by simply shifting emissions from one state to another, of from the US to another territory should be confronted with the fact that addressing Climate Change quite the contrary can help it grow as shown in the EU were the renewable energy sector features amongst the fastest growing with an annual turnover of 15 billion euros and more than 200.000 jobs created.

Interestingly enough he praised the goal setting in China were energy saving targets of 20% by 2020 are discussed. Is it true?

Is this something new in the softness e.g. on accepting the need for mandatory approaches or wishful thinking? Some critics stated that this is grossly misstates the US position, as well as it is not being done by the Bush administration. Source: *Extracted from CAN-TALK*. ❌ ❌

### Quick facts - How climate change affects hurricanes

While many people in the New Orleans region are still suffering from the destruction caused by hurricane Katrina, new hurricane Wilma threatens parts of Mexico and Florida.

Climate change has increased the earth's average temperature on land and sea surface by 0.6°C over the 20th century. Warmer sea surface temperatures are projected to continue to increase through the 21st century. According to scientists, this will likely increase the intensity and perhaps the frequency of hurricanes and tropical storms. It is also expected that rainfall from hurricanes and tropical storms could increase appreciably.

The rate of global mean sea level rise during the 20th century is between one and two millimetres per year. This rise is expected to continue throughout the 21st century, resulting in a global mean rise of between 0.09 to 0.88 meters by 2100. This sea level rise will lead to larger hurricane storm surges, with low-lying, coastal areas being at highest risk.

Recent scientific findings show that there has been a substantial increase in net hurricane power, both longer storm lifetimes and intensities over the last thirty years. However, historical data from the past several decades do not show an increased trend in the frequency of hurricanes and tropical storms. Scientists disagree on the question whether global warming results in an increase in the frequency of hurricanes and tropical storms or not.

Even if the frequency of hurricanes does not change because of human-induced climate change, the increased intensity that has been measured and is expected to continue will likely lead to storms of the highest categories. These storms will undoubtedly have highly destructive impacts on natural and human systems.

Such powerful hurricanes will likely have stronger winds, larger storm surges, and heavier precipitation events, increasing risk to human life, damage to infrastructure and coastal property, and more destruction and disturbance to coastal ecosystems such as mangroves, river deltas and coral reefs.

The 2005 hurricane season is predicted to become the worst in U.S. history. Already in 2004, nine hurricanes affected the U.S. causing an estimated US\$42 billion dollars in damage. Source: *WWF*

## CAN-SA Revitalized

*Contd. from page 1*

General Assembly were held on 29 October 2005 at the conference room of Rigs Inn Hotel in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), Secretariat of CANSA organized the meeting and the general assembly of CANSA.

Twenty-five participants from six South Asian countries (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka) were present in the meeting and the CANSA assembly. Many issues have been discussed in the scheduled three sessions of the meeting, which include: history of CANSA, North-South Negotiation, Equity and Fairness in Climate Change Discourses, Mitigation and Community Adaptation and participation of CANSA representatives in COP-11 in Montreal.

The objectives of the CANSA meeting were to:

- Clarify issues related to CANSA initiative and future mode of actions in the international climate change scenario;
- Formulate the strategy and determine positions of CANSA for COP11 and MOP-1;
- Improve communication and networking among the member countries on issues related to climate change; and
- Establish CANSA as an effective institution.

Mr. Mozaharul Alam, Research Fellow of Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies and Coordinator (Acting), CANSA welcomed all the participants. He appreciated all the international participants for their presence in Dhaka CANSA meeting.

Dr. Saleemul Huq, Chairman of BCAS and Director of Climate Change Programme, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), UK chaired opening session of the meeting. After welcoming all the participants, he spoke briefly about the background and objective of the meeting in the context of the

global climate change and CANSA initiatives. He also mentioned about the need for networking at the local-national-regional and global level and the importance of advocacy on climate change issues. The first session of the meeting discussed a number of issues, particularly the purpose of the meeting, brief history of CANSA and its activities, climate change related activities by CANSA member organizations and countries, opportunities and challenges, CAN processes and positions.

Dr. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director, BCAS and Convener, CANSA highlighted the purpose of the meeting and he emphasizes that the CANSA has to be more functional to come up with some fruitful initiatives on climate change issues in the South Asia through effective and strong coordination. He also mentioned that CANSA should be raise the voice of the South on climate change issues and new leadership has to be built. About the opportunities, Dr. Rahman pointed out that the credible research and development of individual skills would get high importance. The most challenges include lack of effective dialogues and fund limitations. Fund is to be raised for CANSA programmes, he observed.

Ms. Suruchi Bhadwal, Area Convenor and Associate Fellow, Centre for Global Environment Research, chaired the second session of the meeting. The discussants in the session brought the Southern Perspectives in the

context of global climate change, particularly climate change negotiation, equity and fairness issues, impacts and extreme weather events, adaptation, mitigation and community level activities for climate change adaptation. The participants also discussed about the participation of CANSA in the COP11 and MOP1 process in Montreal to uphold the Southern perspectives.

Mr. Upaseena Sapukotana from the Munasinghe Institute for Development, Sri Lanka chaired the Third session of the meeting. The discussion concentrated mainly on the CANSA institutional and capacity building issues. It also focused on election of CANSA Board Members, coordination, finance, projects and programme development and publications. All the participants discussed openly and spontaneously the matters and came up with a set of decisions.

The General Assembly of CANSA after the meeting selected the new Executive Board Members of CANSA for the next three years. The following table shows the names of the newly selected board members of CANSA. The General Assembly finally selected Dr. Anish Chatterjee, Environmental Scientist and Fellow of Development Alternatives, Delhi as the new Coordinator of CANSA for the term 2005-2007 and Mr. Moharram Ali Shishir of BCAS as Network Officer of CANSA. He will be assisting with communication support. However, BCAS will also provide necessary secretarial support to CANSA for the next two years. ✕ ✕

**Table 1: The list Executive Board Members of CANSA**

Name	Country	Position
Dr. A. Atiq Rahman (BCAS)	Bangladesh	Chairman
Dr. George Verughese (DA)	India	Member
Dr. Preety Bhandari (TERI)	India	Member
Dr. Mohan Munasinghe (MIND)	Sri Lanka	Member
Mr. Dipak Gyawali (NWCF)	Nepal	Member
Dr. Shaheen Rafi Khan (SDPI)	Pakistan	Member
Mr. Lam Dorji (RSPN)	Bhutan	Member
** Will be selected latter	Maldives	Member

## Local Communities need to adapt better to Climatic Events

*Contd. from page 3*

the audience while Dr. Mahfuzul Haque, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forest of the government of Bangladesh gave vote of thanks to the distinguished guests and the participants.

### **Technical and Scientific Sessions**

The three-day workshop was divided into eight technical sessions besides the inaugural and the concluding plenary. The technical sessions focussed on different interactive themes, which include: Understanding Adaptation to Climate Change; Partnerships in Adaptation; Adaptation in Practice; Community Responses to climate change; Confronting Climate Change vulnerability; Mainstreaming Adaptation in Development; Knowledge Management and Responding to Climate Change by different Actors.

Dr. Ainun Nishad, Country Representative of IUCN Bangladesh chaired the first technical session on Understanding Adaptation to Climate Change. Dr. Richard Klein of Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) from Germany made presentation on Concept and Science of Adaptation to Climate Change while Dr. Ashok Khosla, Director of Development Alternatives, Delhi spoke on Technology and Institution for Adaptation to Climate Change. Chaired by Dr. Saleemul Huq of IIED, the Second Technical session was addressed by Ms. Claudia Schaefer,

Project Coordinator, RVCC Project, CARE, Bangladesh, Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Thien, Vice Chairman of People's Committee, Thua Thien Hue Province, Vietnam, Brett Orlando, IUCN, Switzerland, Dr. Farhana Yamin, IDS, University of Sussex, UK and Dr. Ainun Nishad, Country Representative, IUCN Bangladesh. Ms. Schaefer spoke on Reducing Vulnerability through Awareness, Action and Advocacy; A Grassroot Adaptation Project being implemented in Southwest Bangladesh while Mr. Nguyen Benefits and Provincial Initiatives and Commitment for Adaptation to Climate Change: CACC Project". Dr. Nishad highlighted on the Strategies for Adaptation to Climate Change with Focus on Water Sector

"Although the recent Tsunami in the Indian Ocean was not linked to climate change, its impacts on some of the poorest and most vulnerable communities along the coasts have highlighted the vulnerability of these communities (and others like them around the world) to the potential adverse impacts of climate change in future" said Saleemul Huq, from the International Institute for Environment and Development in the United Kingdom. Richard Klein from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Research in Germany highlighted the need for enhancing knowledge of adaptation through learning from practice. Barry Smit from the University of Guelph in Canada stated that the impacts of climate change will affect not only the vulnerable communities in the developing countries but also those in

the developed countries and gave the example of the Inuit in Canada who claim to be observing adverse climatic changes already. Farhana Yamin from the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) in the UK highlighted the need to focus more on adaptation in the international negotiations on climate change and also the need to link climate change with development. She announced the setting up of a web-based network for Linking Climate Adaptation by the IDS to keep researchers, policy makers and practitioners in touch with each other. Murari Lal from the University of South Pacific highlighted the need to base messages to communities on solid science. Atiq Rahman from BCAS said that often local level communities have long-established coping strategies for climate variability, "the challenge is for researchers to learn from the local knowledge and provide further advice based on established practices rather than inventing new ways of doing things" he said. Ain un Nishad and Brett Orlando from IUCN highlighted the need to find ways to learn from local communities and find ways of providing them with scientific knowledge and information in a manner that helps them deal with climate as well as other stresses and impacts.

A number of local level community based adaptation activities were also presented from Bangladesh, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Samoa, Argentina, Mozambique, South Africa, Canada and India. Experiences of grass root activities from other arenas (and their relevance to adaptation to climate change) were also presented by eminent speakers such as Ashok Khosla from Development Alternatives, India and Mohammad Yunus from Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. Participants concluded with some shared lessons including: the need to identify the communities most at risk; to find ways of reaching and interacting with them (including using local languages and non-written means of communication such as folk songs, posters, etc); the need to simplify the messages while ensuring that they are based on credible science; the need for researchers and practitioners at the grass roots to work with and learn from each other; the need to strengthen adaptive capacities of local level communities, not only to adapt to future climate change but also to deal with current climate variability as well as other stresses; the need for the voices and experience of the local level communities to be heard at national and international policy making forum. ✕ ✕



*Dr. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director of BCAS addressing the concluding session of the workshop. Dr. Anail Gupta of CIDA, Canada, Dr. Tom Tanner of UNDP and Dr. Youssef Nassef of UNFCCC are seen with him. — BCAS*

and exposed vulnerability of Southern US States and communities brings into focus the need for their NAPAs or the necessity for adaptation measures.

It is interesting to note that several industrialized countries have initiated NAPA like activities or adaptation studies. Finland has undertaken a programme similar to NAPA. The UK has initiated its Climate Impact Programme. The Netherlands Government has moved on their response to potential sea level rise.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has focused the efforts of its Working Group Two of its Fourth Assessment Report to impacts and adaptation. The science of adaptation is also moving, new barrier are being crossed and knowledge on adaptation is emerging at a rapid pace. Methodologies of different adaptation activities are also emerging. GEF is also considering small grants on adaptation at the community level.

In January 2005, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) in collaboration with IED, RING and IUCN organized the pioneering "International Workshop on Community Level Adaptation to Climate Change" which was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh and attended by over 70 international experts and practitioners. It became evident that there is a huge reservoir of knowledge and experiences at the community levels which have accumulated over centuries of indigenous technologies, livelihoods and responses mostly to climate variability. These experiential and socially relevant and often ecosystematically appropriate episodes offered a basis for knowledge, practices and technologies that can be easily extended to the potential impacts of climate change.

More recently in the "Regional Workshop on Climate Change Negotiations in South and South East Asia: The Role of Bangladesh and Least Developed Countries"

organized by BCAS, IED and ECBI held in Dhaka in October 2005 the representatives of the regional governments, civil society, research and policy communities emphasized the role of capacity building needs for undertaking adaptations activities and negotiating skills.

For most developing countries climate related activities, which are consistent with and complementary to its own development goals, will get the support of its governments and stakeholders. This is both true for mitigation and adaptation efforts. While mitigation activities such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, waste management, improved and more efficient and low carbon emission technologies will find support, in the case of adaptation activities and initiatives the support will be for the reduction of vulnerability, enhancement of livelihood opportunities and disaster management technologies. These are likely to find favour of all sectors of these countries. Thus adaptation has to be focused to development. The march of adaptation will find new support and will become cost-effective investment if done with sensitivity and respect for local and national circumstances.

### What Limits to GHG Emission?

The UNFCCC ascertains its objectives as "stabilization of the greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous anthropogenic intervention with the climate system". But what is "dangerous" remains controversial and a scientific challenge. This can and has to be resolved politically. Achieving pre-industrial GHG concentration is unlikely in the near future and "high" concentration will stimulate runaway climate change at the peril of all countries and communities. The present concentration is already leading to heat stress, extreme weather events, polar ice melt, glaciers and

permafrost shifting, Biodiversity is also being affected in the impacted regions.

So have we reached dangerous levels? There is no consensus yet. But European Union is moving towards a 2°C increase as the limit of acceptability. That may translate into too high a concentration with very severe and intolerable impacts. In the absence of a global consensus of what is dangerous, one must come to the conclusion that emerging EU position of 2°C must be the absolute upper limit with a view to reducing this further. A global political consensus on this is essential. But the planet and the atmosphere cannot afford the luxury of delay and irresponsible and narrow minded leadership in certain countries. So 2°C increase must be treated as an absolute interim upper limit as more detailed scientific analysis clarify the impact of 2°C rise.

### Negotiating Blocks Asserting Themselves.

The UNFCCC was principally a process of North-South negotiations, Annex-1 countries representing the industrialized North and G77 + China representing the South. It is essentially an inter-governmental process. But the civil society, environmental, research, scientific and business groups have played key roles in influencing the governments to decide in favour of the planet as a whole above their narrow national or group interest.

The principle of "common but differentiated responsibility" was accepted by all parties and actors as a means of taking commitment or undertaking any responsibility. As would be expected, both these blocks of countries are heterogeneous in themselves with very different interests and different backgrounds. The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) asserted itself as a group of small and vulnerable Island Countries. It played a key leadership role and formed a more cohesive group with a number of common negotiating positions. Being small

Contd. to page 10

## DEEPER CUTS AND GREATER ADAPTATION

countries this group enabled their members to participate in many parallel sessions of a very complex set of negotiating issues.

Similarly the OPEC group emboldened by their oil resources and support of the fossil-fuel lobby of the USA raised a number of issues to protect their interest. Their strategy, though often effective and articulate, were widely condemned by the civil society actors as obstructionist and disruptive.

### LDC Group Maturing

Both the above groups are sub-sets of the G-77 and China. The decision of this block is always by consensus but often the interest of the least developed countries (LDCs) are not adequately attended to. Thus the 48 countries of LDCs, mostly from Africa and South Asia gradually organized themselves to negotiate their differentiated conditions, particularly being the poorest of the countries. By definition, they did not have adequate capacity to negotiate their own positions. Their inherent weakness, absence of financial support and lack of capacity to negotiate, lack of continuity in representation, low research capabilities, all these retarded this group to assert themselves and develop their common positions. Any opportunity to prepare themselves during the inter-sessional period or have joint meetings were virtually absent.

But there has been an increasing recognition of the particular needs of the LDC group. At the same time a group of research institutes from the south with their northern partners and some sympathetic northern government agencies undertook initiatives to strengthen the LDC negotiating capacities. The results are more visible.

The creation of a LDC fund, the initiation of the NAPA process, some informal inter-sessional meetings, negotiation training, briefing and exchanges have helped LDC group to organize themselves a bit better and exert their assertion and common positions.

There is still a long way to go. The LDC group will have to

ensure that NAPA projects can mobilize funds for their implementation. They must be able to assert their positions. Besides being in its early stages, it may be said that the LDC group is on their march towards maturity. A stronger LDC group will be in the interest of all the negotiating blocks. When the lowest does well, everyone does better. This maxim should encourage greater support for the LDC group, particularly from Annex-1 countries and the larger and more powerful members of G-77 and China.

### Beyond Kyoto Protocol: Towards A Second Commitment Period with Greater Equity and Fairness

The 2005 Conference of the Parties should have been a fertile ground for discussing the second commitment period based on the success of reduction of GHG by the Kyoto Protocol commitment of Annex-1 countries. This scenario would be accused today of over-optimism by realistic analysts. But those who were involved in the initiation of the climate convention from the stages of INC, through the COP process, to formulation of the Kyoto Protocol and finally coming into force of the KP, to them the follow up of KP's first commitment period would result in deeper cuts in the North and a more decarbonized economic development in the South.

Despite all the limitations and difficulties of the Kyoto Protocol coming into force, it is incumbent on the global community to establish a mechanism which ensures deeper cuts in the GHG emission and an absolute reduction during the present first commitment period. Once all the annex-1 countries have demonstrated their responsibility and sincerity can they ask the rapidly industrializing countries to decarbonize their development process.

In the final analysis, the Climate Change issue is an issue of consumption, production and environmental justice. Over the last years, despite all the problems, there is a lively debate beyond official negotiations of the climate regime. A number of initiatives and discourses on post-Kyoto architecture have already been initiated by different groups both in the North and the South. More progressive ones have combined researchers and institutes both from the North and South. A number of positions on equity, fairness and allocation of both responsibility and burden sharing have been suggested. One such example is the initiative on the "South-North Dialogue on Equity in the Greenhouse – A proposal for an adequate global climate agreement "by a group of thirteen reputed research institutes from North and the South.

The present structure of North-South negotiation and block formation may need to be revisited. But any future architecture must include all and particularly USA, the greatest emitter. It must also take into consideration the need and the right of the poor countries and communities to survive with their development needs met and minimum dignity ensured. There cannot be an isolated and fortified part of the planet free from the threat of climate change. Climate security has to be for the planet and all its citizens.

Earlier the global leaders recognized that a significant reduction in GHG and a fairer climate regime is going to be better for all. Freedom from the threat of climate change is one of the key freedoms for which each and every country will have to work and take their responsibility in this present twenty first century. Freedom from hunger, injustice, terrorism and dictatorship are as required as the freedom from the threats of severe impacts of climate change. If the freedom from climate instability is not ensured other freedoms could be equally threatened. ✕ ✕

# SouthSouthNorth (SSN) Group works for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

— Sarder Shafiqul Alam, BCAS

Southern communities are undertaking initiatives on climate change mitigation, adaptation and policy advocacy at different levels. It is recognized that the southern communities are more vulnerable than northern communities due to climate change impacts. Till today the main concern of these communities are on how to manage risk of climatic events and potential adverse impacts of climate change on their lives and livelihoods.

Existing international agreements on climate change, unfortunately, remain inadequate in ensuring adequate mitigation efforts that will avoid climate change — occurrence of the adverse impacts, therefore, can be aggravated in the near future. The world leaders and scientists have agreed that the problem is accelerating. Therefore, mitigating climate change is one of the most critical interventions necessary for supporting the sustainability of the world. At the same time, interventions for adapting to climate change, which directly target poor communities (who are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change), are a necessary for the sustainability of any poverty reduction. Hence, the SSN group seeks to engage outcomes which promote sustainability of the poor and which cope head-on with the stumbling blocks to the sustainability of the poor. These will involve the core themes of collaborative partnerships; capacity building; rationalization of resources; best practice; due diligence; systematic methodology; accountability monitoring; integration into policies at national and international level; replicability and above all sustainability.

SouthSouthNorth (SSN) is the trust which representing organization within the SOUTHSOUTHNORTH GROUP working on Sustainable Development and Environment; Cross-sectional environmental linked to economic and social development; Climate Change/renewable energy; technology innovation.

The SSN has been completed its first phases mainly on Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) related issues. The second phases of the SSN project has started in January 2005 for the period of four years. The Goal of the second phases of SSN project is as follows:

Structural and direct poverty reduction through increased southern capacity to secure sustainable development through climate change projects that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to the



SSN Team Members at the Capacity Building Workshop in Italy, 2005

Source : SSN

adverse effects of climate change, and transfer appropriate technology, and deliver applicable policy lessons.

**Activities:** Result oriented activities through implementing agencies within SSN Group of six countries (South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Brazil) will be implemented. Five coordinated programs; (a) Mitigation, (b) Adaptation, (c) Capacity building, (d) Technology receptivity and (e) Policy intervention have already been designed to achieve results over the four years project period and based on the creation of partnerships, the facilitation of project development, the building of capacity, and the development of enabling and supporting policy.

**Expected results** would be a set of Mitigation Projects, a number of adaptation projects and transfer of appropriate technologies for each project as well as building capacity among beneficiaries to receive and manage them, capacity development of partners and stakeholders in different countries. Lessons from projects would be delivered to policy markers.

### ***Developing and using robust methodologies:***

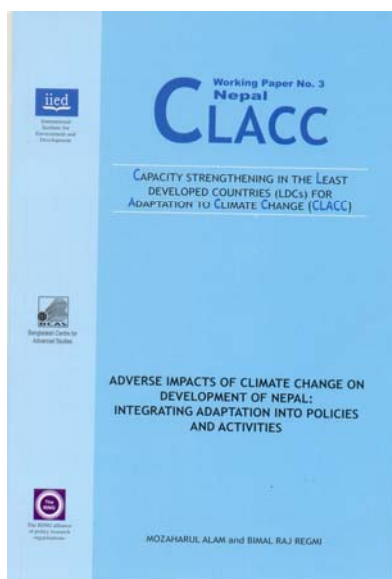
The SSN phase 1 project developed some very robust methodologies for developing and screening potential CDM projects. The CDM Board developed methodologies could be used as a template. In the second phases of SSN the adaptation activities are new and this component will develop comprehensive methodologies for implementation of activities with community and stakeholders.

Robust methodologies for climate change adaptation and mitigation projects will be developed which will include both top down and bottom up approaches using scientific information and local traditional knowledge and practices. The adaptation team of SSN has already developed a comprehensive methodology called SNNAPP in recent capacity development workshop in Italy, which also considered the seven steps methods of IPCC for assessment of climate change vulnerability and identification of strategies and action for adaptation at community and stakeholder levels.

### **Action plan**

The SSN-2 will developed robust methodologies and implement a number of Gold standard CDM projects in mitigation. Seven Adaptation projects will be implemented in six countries with local partners and stakeholders. The project has a plan for sharing lessons learning by doing or implementing project activities among project team members through its own FTP sits and development communication techniques. The project will regularly organize meeting, field visit and workshops for all country team members for learning and sharing experiences among themselves and relevant practitioner. Finally, the SSN2 will publish a number of articles and documents for sharing learning among relevant people, implementers, policy makers and community. The SSN group will also participate in UNFCCC – COPs and MOPs to influence global policy and decision making process in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation with their new understanding and experience gained from the community and stakeholders. ✕ ✕

## Resources

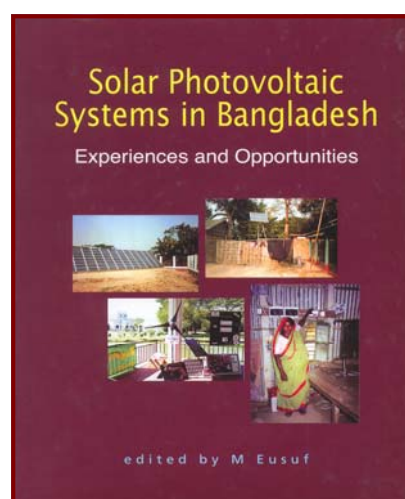


### CLACC Working Paper No.3

Published by: Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies

This working paper describes the adverse impacts of climate change on development of Nepal: integrated adaptation into policies and activities. Adverse impacts of climate change, variability and extremes would be additional burden for achieving the national development goals.

Change in water sector and flow regime found to be most critical under anticipated changes in climatic system as other sectors will be impacted significantly. Retreating glacier and volume of glacier lake outburst hazard is growing and presumably it will increase in future. Key water related disaster would be flood, drought, erosion and landslide that may occur with greater frequency or intensity in the future.



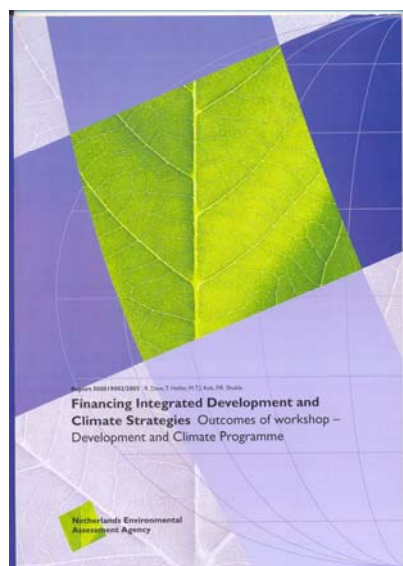
**Solar Photo-voltaic Systems in Bangladesh: Experiences and Opportunities**, edited by *M. Eusuf*. Jointly Published by *Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) & The University Press Limited (UPL) Dhaka* with support from *Winrock International and German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)*.

This volume brings together the presentation, dialogues, open discussions and a consensus report on recommendations. In a span of 22 chapters, this book records the present progress and proposes future steps to be taken for popularization of the use of solar energy in Bangladesh. This volume will also serve as a compiled reference and provide some food for thought to those who are engaged in research, development and dissemination of solar PV technologies.

### Financing Integrated Development and Climate Strategies: Outcomes of workshop - Development and Climate Change Programme

This report describes a variety of national and international financial mechanisms that could be used to help shift development pathways towards more sustainable climate solutions. As part of the Development and Climate programme, the first international workshop was directed at looking into the possibilities for financing integrated development and climate strategies.

The findings of the workshop indicate that early integration of development and climate could result in more cost-effective solutions for mitigation and adaptation. Too many development and investment projects are still leading to mal-adaptation to climate change because no climate impact assessment is made. The added value of integrated development and climate initiatives is illustrated by the positive examples presented by both large scale investors as well as investors focusing on local scale projects



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