

Southern Voice

A quarterly news bulletin from Network on Climate Change, Bangladesh (NCC,B)

Network on Climate Change, Bangladesh

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Stakeholder consultation in four Divisions

Demanding local adaptation plan and equitable fund allocation

Barisal, 27 Dec'12: NCC,B and its member organization Sharee jointly organized the divisional stakeholder consultation at Chamber of commerce Auditorium, Pirojpur.

Co-convener of Climate Change Advocacy Forum of Pirojpur Mr. Afzal Hossain Lavlu, presided the meeting, while Vice Chairman of Pirojpur Sadar Upazilla council Shahnaz Parvin Shanu was the chief guest. Panel Mayor of Pirojpur Municipality Abdus Salam Baten was also present at the meeting as the special guest. The session was moderated by Moinul Ahsan Munna.



Key note presenter Mizanur Rahman Bijoy, Advocacy Coordinator of NCC,B expressed his concerns to allocation of only nine GOB projects for the Barisal division from BCCTF fund, has deprived the

vulnerable people of this region (see page 2).

Rajshahi, 14 Jan'13: NCC,B in association with its member organization Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB) organized the divisional consultation meeting at the Conference Hall of Hotel Mukta.

Adv. Moinul Ahsan, Convener of District Climate Change Advocacy Forum, Rajshahi took over the chair in the meeting, while Honorable Member of Parliament Mr. Fazley Hossain Badsha was present at the meeting as a chief guest and the key note presentation was by Mizanur Rahman Bijoy of NCC,B.

Mr. Fazley Hossain Badsha (MP) expressed his deep concern about the unwise distribution of climate change projects (see page 2).



Khulna, 28 Dec'12: NCC,B jointly with Nabolok and Unnayan Dhara organized the Khulna Divisional Stakeholder Consultation at CSS Ava Center.

Chairman of Nabolok Adv. Abdullah Hossain Bachhu presided the meeting, while Dr. Tarun Kanti Shikdar Director, Department of Environment of Khulna was present as the chief guest. Participants from Bagerhat, Jhinadaha, Magura, Khulna and Satkhira participated in this consultation.

Among others Prof. Zafar Imam, Prof. Mozaffar Hossen, Adv. Firoz Ahmed, Sanker Ranjan Sarker of Nabolok, Shahidul Islam of Unnayan Dhara, Babul Sardar of Daily Janakantha of Bagerhat and Abdur Rauf from Magura took part in the discussion.



The gathering prays for the quick remedy of Mr. Kazi Wahiduzzaman, Chairperson of NCC,B and Chief Executive of Nabolok (see page 2).

Sylhet, 24 Jan'13: NCC,B jointly with Assistance for Slum Duelers (ASD) organized the divisional level stakeholder consultation meeting at the Sunamganj Public Library hall. Dhurjatee Kumar Basu, Veteran Educationist took over the chair in the meeting, while Tahmina Rahman Chowdhury, UNO of Sunamganj Sadar was the chief guest. Associate Professor of SUST A.K.M. Mazharul Islam Dr. Md. Abdul Mottaleb and Haji Abul Kalam were present in the meeting as special guest.



In his key note, Mizanur Rahman Bijoy of NCC,B expressed the concerns to allocate of different GOB projects under BCCTF fund, has

Khulna

(from 1st page) In the key presentation Mizanur Rahman Bijoy of NCC,B said that despite of having two funds to support adaptation and mitigation practices, the question of ensuring justice for the most vulnerable people still in low concern. Participants expressed their concern on less priority on agriculture, livelihood and DRR measures, which are equally important for the most vulnerable south-west coastal region. The speakers also demanded that the BCCRF should be governed by the national authority not the World Bank and a expectable monitoring system should be followed in the project implementation.

Barisal

(from 1st page) Most of the audience concern to the lack of people's participation as well as transparency in the decision making process. They also expressed their serious concern about the low attention on Barishal division in fund allocation, despite of the exposed vulnerability of Barisal. In the meeting Jagat Prio Das and A.F.M Rezaul Karim from district Agriculture Office, Rezaul Islam Shamim from the daily independent, Ranjan Bakshi Nupu from Sharee, farmers representative Altaf Hossen and Nurjahan Begum Dulu were also present .

Rajshahi

(from 1st page) The participants placed their opinion to formulate a need-based local adaptive planning with emphasis on increasing trans-boundary water sharing, food production, sustainable irrigation and livelihood security. Among others Momotaj Begum Mukti, Mozibur Rahman, Daize Ahmed, Afzal Hossain, Farmers representative Abdul Hossain, Mr. Imran Kibria and Nadira Parvin of CCDB, were participated in the consultation.

Sylhet

(from 1st page) According to the view of the North-East regions people in the meeting, agriculture and environment should be protected for sustainable agriculture. The meeting discussed on effectiveness of current initiatives of Government to reduce the vulnerabilities and increase their adaptation capacity. Expressing their due concern regarding transparency and effectiveness in climate change projects, the participants urge to the Government for considering the regional vulnerability in distribution of fund allocation. They demanded to provide adaptation subsidy for the farmers and as well as called to the government to ensure local people's participation in implementing climate related projects.

Doha Gate Way: a deal of controversy

UNFCCC finally declared the CoP-18 outcome on early hours of 9th December, termed as Doha Climate Gate Way (DCG). Just after the conclusion of the final plenary at Doha leaders of Civil Society groups gathered and made clear that it is still business as usual with little progress in negotiating emission reductions. The Bangladeshi civil society groups also considered this as outcome for more inaction and injustice to mother earth and particularly for the climate vulnerable countries (CVCs) by trapping them between life and death.

Second Commitment Period as Life Support to KP: At Doha the most important expectation was to extend it to a legal form for 5 years, then to review and decide, before the Durban Platform (ADP) comes into operation in 2020.

But due to insistence from the EU, the final outcome leads to an eight year second commitment period of the Kyoto protocol to come into effect in January 2013. This Second Commitment Period adopted by 35 developed countries (whose total emissions amount to only 15% of the global total) without any enhancement in ambitions. It is not correlated to scientific forecast, which 40 to 45 % is cut from the 1990 level. US has kept his right to withdraw if they fell later. Russia, Canada, Japan and New Zeland declared that they are not going for the second commitment period.

Loss and Damage, towards International Compensatory Mechanism: Loss and damage is a relatively new issue in the UNFCCC negotiation but it has progressed, and raised expectations of achieving some tangible outcome at COP-18. The expected deliverables of

COP-18 on loss and damage are: (a) Finalization of work programme and comprehensive response to loss and damage; (b) Establishment of a mechanism to assess diverse risks and approaches; (c) Consider the concept of a "Multi-Window Mechanism" put forward by AOSIS (Association of Small Island States) as a basis for future negotiations. Multi-Window Mechanism consists of three inter-dependent components, namely insurance, rehabilitation/compensatory payments, and risk management.

In conclusion parties decided to establish institutional arrangements, such as an international mechanism to address loss and damage by COP 19.

Adaptation, NAP and Annual Adaptation Forum: One of the major progresses of COP 18 is to come in an agreement to prepare the National Adaptation Plan (NAPs) for the least developed countries (LDCs) and other concerned developing countries in response to their national needs and circumstances. The COP also requested the Global Environment Facility to provide funding for the preparation of the national adaptation plan process from the Least Developed Countries Fund, to meet the agreed full cost, as appropriate.

Long Term Climate Finance, Ignorance to Historical Responsibilities: Industrialized (Annex-1) countries committed through the Copenhagen accord to provide USD 30 billion as Fast Start Finance (FSF) for the period of 2010- 2012 and thereafter, to mobilize USD 100 billion per year by 2020 as long term finance (2013-2020) for climate

vulnerable people of developing countries. But in Doha, except key polluter USA other annex 1 countries announced to provide around one tenth of the demand from developing countries to mobilize at least USD 60 billion until 2015 as interim arrangement. But COP18 just urged to annex 1 countries to scale up their commitment all together, and to reach 100 billion USD from 2020 for both adaptation and mitigation. It is the clear deviation from the commitment made by annex 1 countries and reflection of negligence of the historically responsible polluter countries those failed to consider the incurring immense loss and damages of the climate vulnerable communities.

Technology Transfer and IPR and Ignorance: Cop 18 decided to provide advice and support both in capacity building and elaboration of Technology Center and Network (CTCN)'s role to identify available climate friendly technologies for adaption and mitigation and the linkages of technology transfer with the financial mechanism of the convention, particularly to the Board of Green climate fund. But this will not ensure the universal access of developing countries to green and clean technology; rather in response to demand from developing countries to extend IPR beyond 2013, the industrialized countries refused to accept it and suggested to discuss it in the so called 'appropriate platform' of WIPO and the WTO.

Agriculture and Mitigation, Debacle Avoided So Far: Umbrella group (mostly non EU developed countries except USA), Uruguay and South Africa including WB, FAO, CGIAR pushed for mitigation in agriculture in COP18. Their intention was to provide overwhelming clearance to giant agribusiness companies and conglomerates. This approach was placed to divert focus on the liability of gigantic polluters to reduce GHG's emission at source point in developing countries.

However, due to strong obstacles of developing countries on mitigation in agriculture at Doha meeting other unresolved issues including agriculture, aviation and maritime emission have been pushed to discuss in the next COP.

Developed countries final nail on Equity and CBDR principles: At COP 18 developing countries tried but failed to bring all in a consensus on Equity and CBDR (Common but differentiated responsibilities) principles in the Doha Climate Gateway, one of the main principles of KP (Kyoto Protocol), where developed countries has accepted the historical responsibility and thereby to take differentiated responsibilities to take a bigger cut in mitigation and bigger financing in the future.

In Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) which planned to finalize a new framework of negotiation may come into force in 2020, also failed to include equity and CBDR principles. Final decision has adopted that the work

of ADP as mentioned "shall be guided by the principles of the convention". The developing countries have also tried to reference of RIO + 20 outcome document "the future we want", where equity and CBDR has mentioned. However it was opposed by the developed countries led by US saying that RIO+20 is a political decision and UNFCCC is a treaty, which makes it inappropriate to refer to a political decision.

New Polarization in Grouping: Among the main negotiating groups, G-77+China has hardly been able to play a challenging role, same as by LDC group led by Gambia this year. While, we have observed new polarization led by Philippines delegation as title "Like Minded Developing Country Group (LMDC)"; it is because of positioning and mobilization of the Philippines delegation. LMDC has also included countries from South Asia namely, India, Pakistan and Srilanka. While, Bangladesh has an opportunity to mobilize the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) along other climate vulnerable countries, had not play any vital role.

Conclusion: The global civil society leaders came to Doha with low expectations but those low expectations got even lower. Any government walking out of these negotiations saying that this was a success is suffering from a terrible case of cognitive dissonance. When the science and the reality both telling us that we are running out of time, therefore we need much greater ambition and we have to call this a substantial failure. The Doha Climate Gateway may save the negotiation, but not save the planet. Therefore, huge work ahead in coming years for both the government of the most vulnerable countries and the global civil society to scale up the Doha outcomes in the right direction, and still we have a long road ahead (by **Mizanur Rahman Bijoy**, *Coordinator-Advocacy, NCC,B*).

Urge for a Protocol for Climate Migrants

Qatar, 30th Nov'12: Twelve International civil society network from Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America and seven Bangladeshi Civil Society network in a jointly organized a side event urged developed country to take responsibility of climate forced migrants, as the developed countries are historically responsible for all climate change and high level of carbon emission.

The networks are 350.Org USA, Beyond Copenhagen, Parivi and BJVJ from India, Jubilee Debt Campaign and WDM from UK, PACJA from Kenya, PMCC and JSAPMDD from Philippines, LDC Watch and SAAPE from Nepal; BAPA, BIPNet, CCDF, CFGN, CSRL, EquityBD and NCC,B from Bangladesh. The networks has organized the seminar title "Need of a New UN Protocol, Climate Forced Migrants: On the Question of Rights and Responsibilities" at QNCC.

Bangladeshi CSOs blamed Developed Countries in delaying negotiation

Doha, 6 Dec'12: Bangladeshi CSO leaders expressed frustration and condemned the attitude of developed countries especially of USA, to make a deal based on science and consider due compensation as repaying of climate debt. They have also expressed worried as if there are no deals means somehow a collapse of multilateralism, meaning accepting climate genocide in poor countries.

D. Abdul Matin of BAPA., Dr. Ahsan Uddin Ahmed, Rezaul Karim Chowdhury of EquityBD and Md. Golam Rabbani of CCDF expressed the position of the group.

In the previous press conference (03 Dec'12) seven Bangladeshi civil society networks (BAPA, BIPNetCCBD, CCDF, CSRL, CFGN, EquityBD and NCCB) urged to the developed countries to take historical responsibilities and to endorse emission reduction and adopt a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol to be implemented from 1st January 2013.

The press conference was moderated by Ziaul Hoque Mukta of CSRL, key note paper was read out by Dr. Ahsan Uddin Ahmed and other speakers were M Zakir Hossain Khan of CFGN and Mizanur Rahman Bijoy of NCC,B.

In the key note paper the alliance placed major demands: (i) countries who already pulled out, should brought in the board of KP (ii) BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) country must consider their equity demand should comply holistic approach of justice, (iii) Increasing of public finance substantially with a clear road map for the period of 2013 to 2020 for the Green Climate Fund and other funds, (iv) resolving technology transfer and intellectual property right issues for the interest of LDCs, and (v) take action under Cancun Agreement framework in including climate migrants issues.

Mizanur Rahman Bijoy expressed concern on progress of Loss and Damage discourse in CoP 18 process and he urged countries to include climate migrant's issues and compensatory mechanism in the process.



BD Civil Society Slams Doha outcome

Dhaka, 17 Dec'12: Seven climate networks expressed its frustration over the outcome of the recently held global climate change conference (COP-18) terming it 'more inactive and injustice' for combating climate change.

Their comments were made at a press conference held at the National Press Club titled "Doha Gateway: In Between Life and Death" dedicated to the COP-18 that was held between November 26 and December 09 in Doha, Qatar.

The activists and experts of the network termed the Doha Climate Conference outcome as 'climate injustice for climate vulnerable countries like Bangladesh'. "It has also given developed countries opportunity to remain inactive considering finance transfer and carbon emission issues," they said.

Mizanur Rahman Bijoy from Network on Climate Change, Bangladesh (NCC,B) presented the keynote which mentioned several fundamental weaknesses in Doha

The paper criticized the commitment by the developed countries to reduce carbon emission only by 18 percent and termed it as unscientific as earlier commitment was to reduce carbon emission by 40-45 per cent from the 1990 level.

Climate specialist and executive director of Dr Ahsan Uddin Ahmed mentioned the COP-18 as a tiger without nails and teeth. He also emphasized on appropriation of proper climate adaptation programmes by Bangladesh with her own funds to avoid unnecessary interferences.



On behalf of NCC,B we express our deep concern about the illness of NCC,B Chairperson and Chief Executive of Nabolok Mr. Kazi Wahiduzzaman. He is under extensive treatment and we pray to the almighty for his quick remedy.

Southern voice is a quarterly news bulletin from Network on Climate Change, Bangladesh (NCC,B) and this bulletin has completed its first year successfully. This volume mainly focused on the events organized by NCC,B on its CoP-18 campaigning and a brief analysis of Doha outcomes has been presented here.

Again NCC,B welcome cooperation from its member organizations and its readers with valuable suggestion and relevant articles for publication.

With thank

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