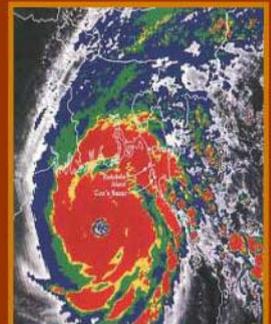


Climate Change Negotiations in South and Southeast Asia

Workshop Proceedings

November, 2005



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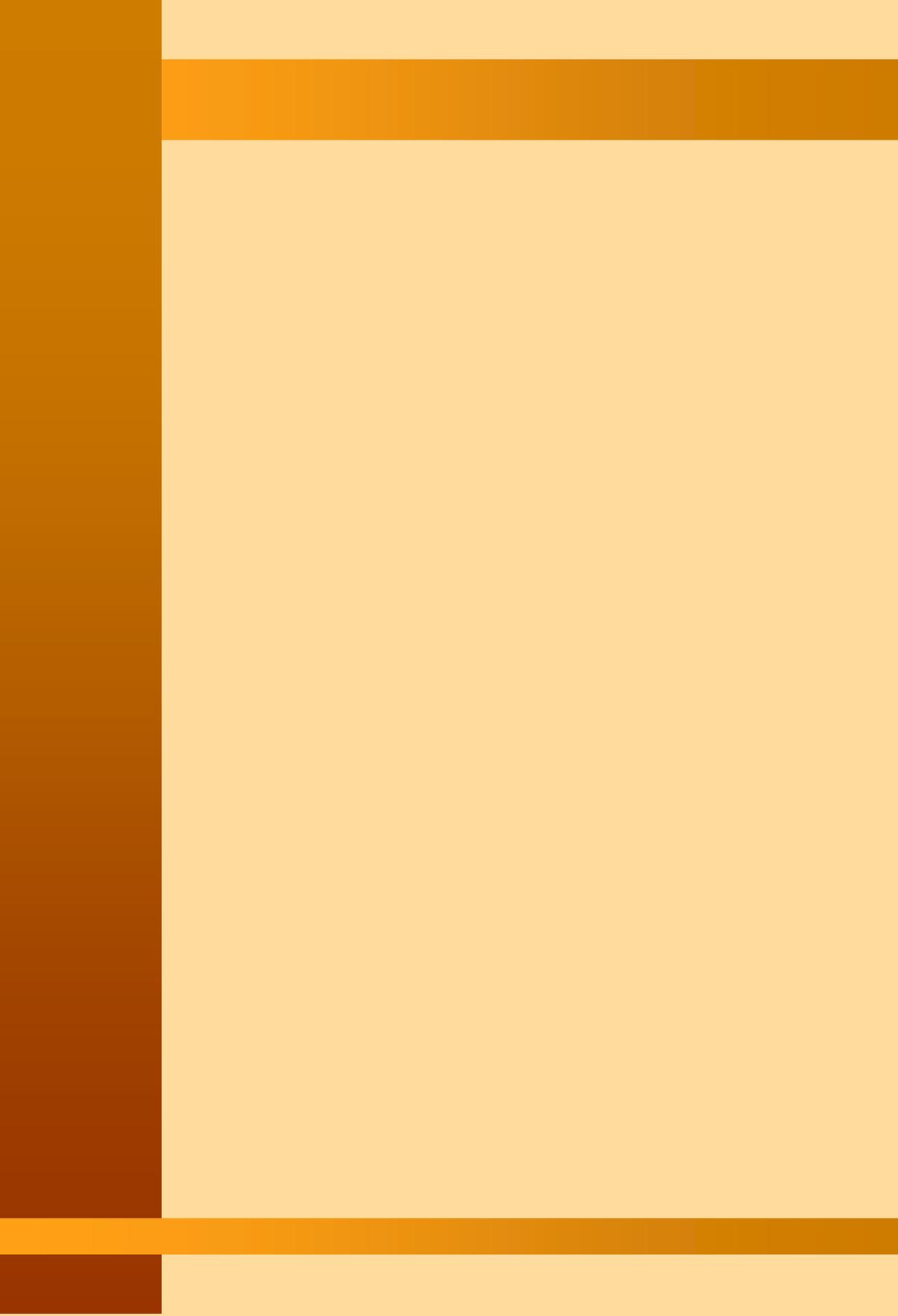
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Climate change is now at the forefront of all the other environmental problems due to its multidimensional aspect and the fact that it is a truly international problem affecting all countries of the world. While the science behind climate change has been recognized and accepted, the world community is yet to settle matters regarding policy, mitigation/adaptation measures, carbon sequestering, emissions control and other issues of importance in climate change. Since all countries, in some way or other, have contributed to the aggravated problem of climate change, they all should be willing to join in the effort to mitigate the problem. Unfortunately, the reality of the situation is very complex and it is very difficult to reach an agreement on actions. The main challenge is to decrease GHG emissions while carrying on economic growth and development activities. This is especially important for developing and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) which are trying to elevate themselves from the cycle of poverty, population pressure and scarce natural resources.

Negotiation is an instrument through which various countries/ parties can reach to a compromise on the issues related to climate change. Negotiating on climate change related matters have gained importance in the past years and is often used as a tool for power play. The developing and least developed countries are new to international negotiating processes of such complex nature. As a result, these countries are often overlooked or their national priorities do not get the requisite importance.

It was realised earlier on that one of the key limitation of the negotiations of the United Nations Framework Convention was the lack of a level playing field between the negotiating parties, especially among the developed and developing/LDCs. Keeping this drawback in mind, a group of like minded organization initiated a project titled the European Capacity Building Initiative (ECBI) whose main function is to enhance negotiating capacities in targeted groups of developing countries and also increasing the understanding of developing country positions among European negotiators and decision-makers. ECBI's initiative is to build trust and capacity amongst climate change negotiators participating in the Conference of Parties (COPs) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

(UNFCCC) from Europe and Developing Countries. The countries that were chosen for this program are:

- Advanced Developing Countries (such as Mexico and Turkey)
- Least Developed Countries (LDCs)
- The regional leaders of the Group of 77 and China (Brazil, China, India, and South Africa)

The ECBI carries out three integrated programmes, dealing with three complementary types of capacity and trust building activities that address the different aspects of negotiating capacity (analytic and procedural) and the different user groups (researchers/scientists and negotiators):

- A **Senior Fellowship Programme** for negotiators and other stakeholders from the targeted developing countries who are directly involved in the UNFCCC process. The Oxford Climate Policy (OCP), Oxford, UK, is leading the programme and it is directed by Dr. Benito Muller.
- A **Research Programme** provides analytic support for many of the participating developing countries. The Research Programme will allow experts from across Europe to collaborate with their developing country colleagues on timely analyses of issues of key concern. Dr. Christophe Boehringer, Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) Mannheim, Germany directs the Research Programme.
- A **Workshop Programme** to carry out capacity building activities for groups of stakeholders. The Programme also facilitates informal exchange of views between Developing Country participants. Two types of workshops are under this programme: Negotiating Workshops for negotiators and Research Workshops. Dr. Saleemul Huq, IIED, UK leads the Workshop Programme.

The workshop in Dhaka on "Climate Change Negotiations in South and South East Asia: The Role of Bangladesh and Least Developed Countries" is the second one in the year 2005 undertaken by the Negotiating Workshop Programme. The first workshop was conducted in Nanyuki, Kenya from 18-25 October 2005.

The Workshop

A two-day Regional Workshop on “Climate Change Negotiations in South and South East Asia: The Role of Bangladesh and Least Developed Countries” was held on 30-31 October 2005 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It was organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF), Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, the European Capacity Building Initiative (ECBI), the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), Dhaka, Bangladesh and International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), London, United Kingdom. The workshop was sponsored by the British High Commission (BHC), Dhaka, Bangladesh and Department for International Development-Bangladesh (DFID-B).

The regional workshop was attended by a total of about 70 experts, practitioners, scientists and policy makers. Participants from the government, civil society representatives from the selected countries in South and Southeast Asia and resource personnel from United Kingdom and the Netherlands attended the workshop. The workshop brought representatives both from the National UNFCCC Focal Point and development ministries of 10 Asian countries. The South and Southeast Asian countries that participated in the workshop are **Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Maldives, Nepal, Bhutan** and **Sri Lanka** from South Asia and **Cambodia, Laos** and **Vietnam** from Southeast Asia. For details of Workshop please see accompanying CD.



Inaugural Session (Left to Right): Dr Benito Muller, Dr Saleemul Huq, Sir Gordon Conway, Mr Jafrul Islam Chowdhury, Mr Tariqul Islam, Mr. Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury, HE Mr Anwar Chowdhury and Dr A Atiq Rahman

workshop was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 30 and 31 October 2005 to highlight the LDCs weaknesses in negotiations and measures/tools that can be used to strengthen their negotiation skills and common position formulation at COP 11. The workshop discussed issues related to potential impacts of climate change, adaptation options and mitigation opportunities and institutional development in the region as well as issues related to the climate change negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) including the climate regime after 2012 where Bangladesh will lead the LDC Group in the negotiations and poor Asian nations needs to assert themselves.

Objectives and Themes

The key objectives of the workshop were;

- I. To build capacity of government officials as well as civil society on climate change issues by bringing together officials, experts, practitioners and scientists from the South and Southeast Asian countries to discuss possible impacts of climate change, response measures, institutional development, negotiating capacity and integrating climate change into development at the national and regional levels;
- II. To discuss issues relating to the international negotiations on climate change under the UNFCCC (at its eleventh session of the conference of the parties to be held in Montreal, Canada) including both adaptation as well as mitigation issues presently and beyond 2012;
- III. To raise the profile of climate change issues within all the countries in South and South East Asia particularly LDCs such as Bangladesh, specially through bringing a wider group of people from the government, non-government, development partners, donor agencies, opinion leaders, policy makers and media in the widely invited inaugural, dinner and closing sessions.

The workshop was divided into five technical sessions along with inaugural and concluding sessions and a dinner lecture. About 200 guests from home and aboard attended the inaugural session as well as the closing reception. They

included ministers, government officials from ministries and departments, NGO representatives, civil society, diplomats, media and private sector.

Inaugural Session was chaired by Mr. Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The First Technical Session was on **Science, Development and Climate Change** chaired by Dr. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director of the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) and Chairman, Climate Action Network – South Asia (CANSAs).

The Second Technical Session was on **Climate Change Negotiations** chaired by Professor Sir Gordon Conway.

The Third and Fourth Technical Sessions were dedicated to country delegates for making their **Country Presentations**. Mr. Khan M. Ibrahim Hossain, Director General, Department of Environment and Forests (DoE), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh chaired the third session and Prof. Sir Gordon Conway chaired the fourth session.

The Fifth Technical Session was on "**Prioritizing the Issues**" which was chaired by Dr. Saleemul Huq. A number of the panelists including Prof. Sir Gordon Conway, Ms Mary Jane Mace, Dr. Benito Muller, and Mohammad Reazuddin discussed this issue in detail.

Concluding Session was chaired by Dr. A. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) and Chairman, Climate Action Network – South Asia (CANSAs).

Setting Out the Issues

The inaugural session of the workshop was chaired by Mr. Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF), Government of the People's Republic of

Bangladesh. Mr. Jafrul Islam Chowdhury, MP, Hon'ble State Minister, MOEF, Bangladesh was present as the Special Guest while the Chief guest was Mr. Tariqul Islam, MP, Hon'ble Minister, MOEF, Bangladesh. The keynote paper was presented by Sir Gordon Conway, Chief Scientific Adviser, DFID, London, UK. The British High Commissioner to Bangladesh HE Mr Anwar Chowdhury was also addressed the inaugural session.



Dr Saleemul Huq, Head of ECBI Workshop Programme and Director, Climate Change Programme, IIED, London, UK, in his opening statement stated the need for discussion of issues important to each country by the delegates of Asian

LDCs and developing countries prior to the forthcoming Conference of Parties (COP 11) of UNFCCC in Montreal. Stronger cooperation between regional groupings will enable capacity and skill development for all countries to strengthen their negotiating positions in the future of climate change negotiations and give the countries a chance to better share their experiences and develop common positions.

The role of European Capacity Building Initiative (ECBI) and its three different programmes regarding climate change issues was introduced by **Dr Benito Muller**, Director and Head of Fellowship Program, ECBI, Oxford, UK. ECBI started two years ago as a capacity building institute for the Europeans and to increase their knowledge of the situation of the developing countries, with special emphasis on LDCs in terms of capacity building. ECBI carries out two programs—fellowship and trust building between North-South and South-South; and policy analysis.



Back-to-back with the workshop, a civil society meeting was held on climate change issues, solutions to these problems and strengthening research, analytical and institutional capabilities to assist and cooperate with



the government agencies in South and South East Asian countries, particularly LDCs. **Dr Atiq Rahman** mentioned climate change as the greatest challenge because it is strongly linked to development and can threaten efforts to reduce poverty in this region. Extreme weather events combined with the threat of rising sea level and melting of the Himalayan snow caps is causing adverse impacts for Bangladesh and the whole region. Capacity building for climate change negotiations can go a long way towards taking necessary measures. We have to consider both mitigation and adaptation measures together for a successful development plan to combat climate change. He emphasized that adaptation is not a substitute for mitigation and stated that mitigation is the best form of adaptation and that adaptation must be integrated to national development plans and programmes.

Sir Gordon Conway in his keynote paper demonstrated that the science of climate change is becoming robust and there is



enough evidence to link global warming and many extreme events to the impact on atmosphere caused by increasing greenhouse gas emissions. He explained that climate induced extreme events such as floods, droughts, snowmelt have increased over the

years. The most important aspect of these events, according to Sir Gordon Conway, is that the poor bear the major brunt and their GDP and development processes are hampered by these disasters.

HE Mr Anwar Chowdhury, in his opening address, highlighted that the developed world contributed most to global warming, but the situation has reached such a crucial level that the western world needs the help of the developing countries including LDCs to mitigate the situation. He



stated that UK, as the current Presidency of the European Union, takes climate change very seriously. UK has formulated new policies by which it hopes to stabilize production of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) and take other initiatives. Adaptation measures need to be implemented in LDCs and other Asian developing countries since extreme climatic events are detrimental to their development. Bangladesh, as the present chair of the LDC Group, will have to be a voice for the LDCs and raise their concerns at the negotiations of the UNFCCC.

He emphasized that UK is a partner to most developing countries of Asia and all efforts are being made to increase capacity to address both mitigation and adaptation to climate change. This is essential to ensure that their development process is not undermined by devastating impacts of climate change and associated enhanced extreme weather related disasters.

State Minister **Jafrul Islam Chowdhury** in his address elicited the multiple steps taken by the Government of



Bangladesh in the area of climate change. Bangladesh has created a climate cell in the Department of Environment, has set up the Designated National Authority (DNA) for facilitating Clean Development Mechanism projects, and has completed the National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA). He emphasized that the Bangladesh NAPA was a participatory process building on the wide ranging capacities in the government and non-government research institutes in Bangladesh and its wide ranging and thriving civil society.

Science, Development and Climate Change

Climate change has been identified as a global environmental problem and in recent years has evolved into a development issue as well. Climate change is a global crisis that has an impact on the existing development actions of both the developed and developing world. The science behind climate change has already been proven and is accepted by experts and policy-makers worldwide. The impact of climate change on development is a much recent issue which some of the developed countries have already accepted while the developing and LDCs are still lagging behind. Some LDCs have started to include climate change and environmental issues into their national development plan, but the process has been slow. Since climate change is such a multi dimensional issue that is interlinked to almost every sector, the main problem faced by the LDCs and other developing countries is lack of coordination among institutions.

The presentation on **science, development and climate change** that was given by Prof Sir Gordon Conway highlights the direct relationship between science, development and climate change. The aspects of prediction and forecasting of weather patterns and extreme climatic events obviously falls under the science of climate change and this knowledge is required for both short and long-term development plans of a country. The increasing climate change has made the probability of drastic change a reality. To prepare ourselves in the event of an unpredictable situation, mapping of hazards and vulnerability, especially participatory mapping, is essential. According to the UNEP Observed Climate Trends, the

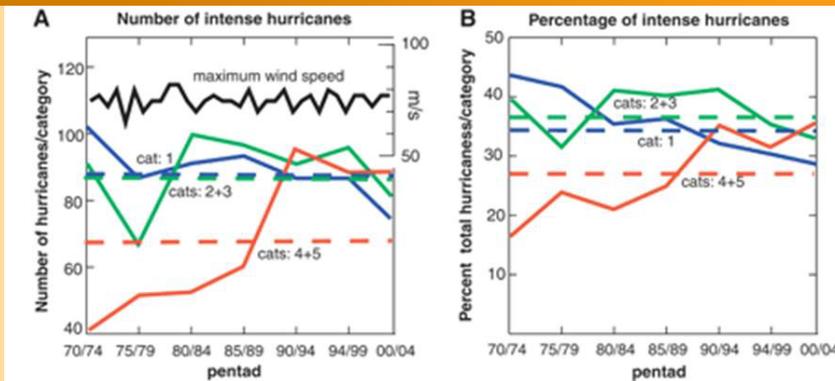


Figure 2. Hurricane frequency by severity
 Source: Webster et al, 2005

global sea level has risen by 10-20 cm in the past 100 years (UNEP Grid Arsenal) and the expansion of sea water due to climate change is already widely accepted by governments and scientists worldwide. The big unknown about climate change impacts are the Monsoon Season patterns and Tropical Cyclone intensity even though the relationship between climate change and cyclones have already been established. Comprehensive national development plans must have provisions for disaster management and emergency response. Ideas and actions must be cross-sectoral and have a strong people participatory approach to be successful. The framework of resilience that we are trying to attain must include reforms at the institutional, physical, environmental, agricultural and livelihood levels.

The History of UNFCCC Negotiation, Political Background and Forthcoming Issues beyond 2012 that was presented by Dr. Benito Muller looks into the climate change scenario after 2012 along with the negotiation processes. The importance of viewing climate change from a global perspective instead of the country perspective has been highlighted. All over the world, people have been affected by increased climatic conditions for the last 20 years. In Asia alone, 90% of the people are affected by weather related disasters and the coastal population of South and Southeast Asia are at higher risk. It has been predicted that about 550 million people worldwide will be affected to climate disasters by 2030. Sometimes international disaster management practices

have to be put into place and financial assistance is required. Foreign aid and donations have their own specific problems such as how it should be used, by whom etc. Also, in order to receive donations and aids, LDCs have to negotiate with skill and subtlety. It is often seen that the stronger negotiator walks away with the largest fund.

Emphasis on the integration of climate change issues in development planning was put forward by Ms Christene Pirenne of The Netherlands. Negotiation was acknowledged as the best tool to be used in the climate risk integration process. Bangladesh was used as an example of a vulnerable country with climate change impacting virtually all sectors of the country. Field visits to different places, talks with ministry people and NGO's, have brought the disaster impact situation of the country along with the disaster preparedness measures to light. According to the European Union adaptation measures are the best way to deal with climate change in various sectors especially disaster management. More information about climate change should be collected through research in order to design suitable adaptation strategies for different sectors.

Climate Negotiations

Climate change negotiations are very complicated processes with political undertone and significance. The developed countries have excellent negotiators and usually they have the upper hand, while the LDCs fumble and retreat. But in order to be heard and have their needs considered the LDCs and developing countries have to attain a strong foothold in



the negotiation process. It has to be remembered that the LDCs lack scientific expertise and also expertise in international negotiating processes. According to all the presenters in this session, the LDCs have the strength to be successful in the negotiations if they work together as a group and prioritize their issues before going into negotiations. There is no room for confusion once negotiations are underway.

Some key and new issues will be brought into COP 11/ MOP 1 in Montreal this year. Ms Mary Jane Mace, Programme Director, Climate Change & Energy Programme, FIELD, London, UK discussed some of these issues and about the Subsidiary Bodies (SB) of the COP. The key negotiating issues for developing countries in particular for the LDCs will be presented at the COP and also at the SBSTA and SBI. Issues of technology transfer, scientific and socioeconomic aspects are of importance and the provisions for a special climate change fund will be proposed.

The important issue regarding “Key Negotiation Issues in Post Kyoto Regime and Status of Scientific Research on Impact and Vulnerability to Climate Change” was presented by Mr Andy Deacon from the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), UK. It was highlighted that EU decided against asking for any commitments from the developing countries in Post-2012 (at least for the second commitment period). Emphasis was put on the need for an agreement on the SBSTA Five Years Work Programme in the upcoming COP. International research has been conducted in China and India and work programs have been proposed for Bangladesh and Africa. Stress should be given on domestic impacts and adaptation measures relevant to these. Further studies are required on climate and socioeconomic scenarios especially in LDCs and guidance in handling risk and uncertainty should be strengthened.

At COP 11, the LDCs have new issues that they want to put on the table for consideration. As Bangladesh is the chair for the LDC Group, it is the chair’s responsibility to see that the LDC issues are presented in a practical manner and ensuring

that they are accepted for consideration. Mr Mohammad Reazuddin, Director (Technical), Department of Environment (DoE), Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh highlighted the forthcoming negotiation issues for the LDCs and Bangladesh in particular. LDCs are very vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and adaptation needs are crucial. The current political trends in addressing the climate change problem and the challenge for adaptation is getting larger by the minute. Concern has been expressed regarding the continued rise of global emissions and the fact that emission reductions are not taking place as per the commitments. In relation to the situation of the LDCs in the negotiation process, the LDCs are marginalized and not very aware of the issues of contention. The main weaknesses of the LDCs are lack of coordination, institutional memory and continuity along with minimum focal point capacity.

Dr. A. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), Dhaka, Bangladesh, expressed the view that the equity principles embodied in the UNFCCC are not being respected. In future negotiation if industrialized parties do not act according to the principles of UNFCCC the ultimate objectives of the convention will not be achieved. The weak law and order situation of the LDCs, political instability, population pressure and lack of financial resources work together to make the equity issues much more difficult to handle.

Situation of South and Southeast Asia

Ten countries from South and Southeast Asia made country presentations in order to share their weaknesses, activities taken and level of impact faced by these countries.

- Bhutan
- Sri Lanka
- India
- Bangladesh
- Pakistan
- Maldives
- Laos
- Cambodia
- Vietnam
- Nepal

Countries	Ratified UNFCCC	Ratified Kyoto Protocol	Actions taken
Bhutan	1995	2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial National Communication, • National GHG Inventory, • CDM project commissioned, • NAPA being prepared.
Sri Lanka	March 1994	Sept 3, 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First National Communication, • National GHG Inventory • Designated National Authority • CDM Policy
India	Nov 1, 1993	Acceded: Aug 26, 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Communication, • CDM Implementation, • R&D in power generation
Bangladesh	1994	2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Climate Change Steering Committee, • Designated National Authority, • Initial National Communication, • NAPA document
Pakistan	June 13, 1992	June 1, 1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GHG Inventory for 1994 done
Maldives	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First National Communication, • Integrated Climate Change Strategy, • NAPA ongoing
Laos	April 4, 1995	Feb 6, 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDM Designated National Authority, • National Climate Change Committee, • Initial National Communication • NAPA under preparation
Cambodia	Dec 8, 1995	July 4, 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First National Communication • NAPA
Vietnam	Nov 16, 1994		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial National Communication
Nepal			

Most of the countries represented at the workshop are signatories to either the UNFCCC or the Kyoto Protocol. As signatories, they have the responsibility to complete their individual National Communications and NAPA reports. The following table gives an overview as where the countries stand on the whole climate change issue:

All the presentations highlighted each country's national circumstances in relation to climate change and current institutional arrangements. The common concern includes lack of institutional capacity, lack of risk assessment and prediction capabilities, and lack of adequate support from the development partners in combating adverse impacts of climate change. Lack of skilled and strong negotiators are also of concern. Aside from common concerns, each country also has its unique issues to deal with regarding climate change. Since circumstances vary from country to country as regards to the problems due to climate change, therefore generic adaptation measures and strategies might not always work. For adaptation planning there has to be a bottom up approach. Even though these are country presentations, they are informal in nature and not sanctioned by the governments of the countries.

Bhutan: Bhutan is a small, mountainous country and its geophysical characteristics make it very vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Bhutan has a forest cover of 70% and 80% of its population depends on subsistence agriculture. The major natural disasters faced by this country are from glacial lake outburst, flash floods and landslides, caused by unpredictable climatic shifts. Over the years, due to increased global warming, the threats of glacial lake outburst and flash floods have doubled. Climate change and global warming has also brought with it health hazards in the form of tropical and vector borne diseases like malaria.

Due to its mountainous terrain and numerous lakes, Bhutan has a potential of 30,000 MW of hydropower generation. Bhutan's NAPA document has identified numerous adaptation opportunities, especially for power generation and CDM projects that can be implemented, both at stakeholder and national levels. Being a LDC means that Bhutan shares some of

the problems that are common for other LDCs in the region. The major constraints faced by this small land-locked country are the lack of information and limited capacity. Bhutan's Greenhouse Gas Inventory is limping due to information constrain and lack of commitment from the Taskforce members. In spite of these limitations, Bhutan has managed to complete its first National GHG Inventory and NAPA.

1st National Greenhouse Gas Inventory			
GHG sources & Sink Categories	Emissions (Gg/year)		
	CO₂	CH₄	N₂O
Energy	94.77	0.05	0
Industrial processes	133.69	0	0
Agriculture	0	19.17	2.13
LULUCF	-3,549.52	0	0
Waste	NE	NE	NE

Bhutan National Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Adaptation Opportunities for Bhutan

Climate Hazard	Adaptation Options (adapted from Draft NAPA Document)
GLOF (due to temperature rise)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of early warning systems with associated awareness raising • Artificial lowering of Glacier Lake Levels • Implementation of Pho Chu Hazard Zonation Plan and others (e.g. Chamkar) • Assessment of GLOF treats for hydropower projects
Landslide (due to weather pattern change – high rain intensity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil Conservation and Land Management • National database on landslide prone areas and intensity of land slides to assess the risk of landslides • River bank protection • Small stream catchment protection • Slope stabilization
Flash flood (result of GLOF or due to weather pattern change – high rain intensity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watershed Catchment Management integrated with Land Management/Soil Conservation • Weather and climate forecasting • Promote community-based forest management and afforestation projects in a ways to conserve land, water resources and wood production (incl. tree species that are fast growing and more resistant to insect damages, diseases and phenomena like
Drought (due to temp, rise and/or weather change pattern – longer intervals between rains)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimize the installed power plants capacities • Low river flow/Water Shortage studies/Impact on hydropower generation, drinking and irrigation water supply, etc • Weather and climate forecasting • R & D on water use efficiency, resistant crop varieties, water harvesting.

The areas of priority are capacity building, meteorological information and infrastructure, maintenance of database and better coordination, training on vulnerability assessment and strengthening of relevant institutions. Proper vulnerability and adaptation studies need to be carried out in order to prepare the country for coping with potential disaster situations. The assessment of vulnerability will also give an indication of the stress Bhutan is under, in relation to other LDC countries. The LDC fund can assist in carrying out future actions.

Sri Lanka: Being an island state, Sri Lanka is very vulnerable to climate change impacts and has ratified both the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol. Sri Lanka's main threats come from rise in sea level, cyclones, tidal surges and other extreme climatic events. Even though Sri Lanka has low GHG emission levels, it is nevertheless impacted in the areas of water resources,

agriculture and waste, economic activity and health. Climate change has brought about change in Sri Lanka's rich biodiversity and has increased vector borne diseases. Potential areas of impact include the tourism industry, micro hydropower generation and rice cultivation.

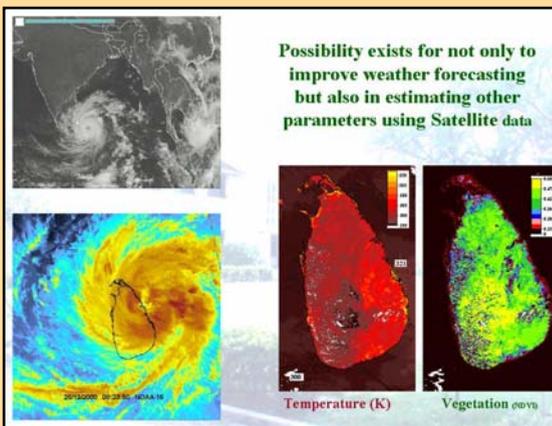


Figure 3: Sri Lanka's Weather Forecasting Potential

The relevant ministry in charge of environmental affairs is the National Focal Point for the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol, while the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources serves as the Designated National Authority (DNA) for CDM projects. Given its geophysical characteristics, Sri Lanka has very specific capacity building needs and priorities to be implemented under the UNFCCC. Its priority areas include vulnerability assessment, adaptation and mitigation measures. The need for early warning and weather forecasting is essential. Sri Lanka has identified some key areas for possible

project implementation such as assessment of climate change on biological resources and poverty. Energy sector and development of energy efficiency has been given importance.

India: India is a vast country with diverse physical and cultural features. Even though it covers only 2.4% of the world's land area, it supports 16.2% of the world population. Impacts of climate change on India are numerous and already the country

is making the necessary institutional arrangements and reforms needed for its environmental and socio economic wellbeing. Climate change has already impacted the water sector, especially the availability of fresh water for human consumption and agriculture. Other areas of concern include food security, biodiversity and delicate ecosystems, health sector and energy requirements.

India's observational and research capabilities have been developed to capture its unique geography and specific requirements, and also to fulfill international commitments, for data exchange needed for weather forecasting and allied research activities.

Climate change issues are dealt with at the central, state and local levels of the Government of India. At the national level, the MOEF is the nodal agency for framing appropriate policies relevant to climate change issues. Several central government ministries promote, undertake and coordinate climate related activities and program through its various departments. Climate change related research activities are also being undertaken at research laboratories and universities. Research at autonomous institutions of excellence and NGOs provide synergy and complementary support to the effort of the government.

India has already incorporated environment into its future development plans. Outreach and education initiatives have been created for increasing awareness to climate change

Achievements:

- India is one of the largest producer of wind energy in the world
- Managed significant reduction in specific energy intensities in various industries
- R&D efforts for advanced power generation, technologies, e.g. coal bed methane.

issues. India's achievements include being one of the largest producers of wind energy in the world, significant reduction in energy intensity in industries, and research and development efforts for advanced power generation technologies.

Environmental measures in India have targeted conservation of rivers, improvement of urban air quality, enhanced forestation, and a significant increase in the installed capacity of renewable energy technologies, and emphasis on mass transport. However, the principal objective of the national development strategy is to reduce the incidence of poverty, improve employment opportunities, and increase GDP growth and per capita income. To achieve these goals, there has to be substantial increase in energy consumption. So India is concentrating more on energy efficiency, reduced carbon dioxide emission and techniques of renewable energy.

Bangladesh's Achievements

- Successful collaboration and partnership between government and non-government actors in relevant sectors
- Representing Bangladesh and the LDCs in negotiations
- Bangladesh was selected as LDC Chair in COP 10
- At the SB22 session LDCs succeeded in reaching decision to operationalize the LDC Fund.
- On behalf of the LDCs Bangladesh submitted 5 year work programme to the SBSTA.

Bangladesh: Bangladesh, being a low-lying delta region, is extremely vulnerable to climate change impacts which include floods, droughts, drainage congestion, reduced flow in rivers, salinity intrusion, sea level rise and extreme events like cyclones and tidal surges. There also have been frequent breakouts of vector borne and water borne diseases. The development process of this country is further hampered by poverty, weak economy, lack of food security and high population.

Bangladesh has established a National Climate Change Steering committee, ratified the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol, established the Designated National Authority (DNA) for CDM projects, and a Climate Change Cell at DoE. The NAPA has already been completed and will be presented at COP 11.

Problems and Constraints

- Resource and financial limitation
- Lack of Capacity
- Technological capability
- Relevant scientific experts

The priority areas that Bangladesh should concentrate on are capacity building in both the government and private sector, strengthen

knowledge base and data collection, awareness raising, advocacy and coordination between relevant institutions and adaptation measures at the stakeholder level.

Bangladesh highlighted that the negotiators should adopt a systematic approach and the group negotiating different agenda items should be coordinated. The decision-makers must be consulted before presenting an issue at the negotiation table. A country perspective of the issues can be gained through partnerships and consultations with NGOs, civil society, researchers, etc. After the issues have been selected, the national delegation and Minister attending the negotiation should be briefed.

Pakistan: Pakistan is a predominantly agricultural economy and is vulnerable to extreme climatic events. As a result, Pakistan became one of the first signatories to the UNFCCC on June 13, 1992. Pakistan covers an area of 880,000 sq.km and is characterized by significant variations in altitude and topography throughout its territory. Based on the Köppen G e i g e r classification of climatic zones, which is defined on the basis of m o n t h l y temperature and precipitation data, Pakistan has 11 distinct as well as o v e r l a p p i n g climatic zones in the country.

Pakistan's Adaptation Strategies

- Two types: Autonomous adjustments and Planned adjustments
- Concentrates on reducing vulnerability to climatic events
- Ensuring long-term human and ecological development
- Weather forecasting and information networks for farmers.
- Preservation of ecological processes to protect biodiversity.

Pakistan does not have adequate monitoring systems for the prediction of likelihood of occurrence of extreme events and

other climate change impacts. This makes it extremely difficult to develop short term response or disaster mitigation strategies. Adaptation or long term strategies are likewise difficult to formulate unless detailed vulnerability and impact assessment studies are undertaken. The country has evolved two approaches to adaptation strategies: Autonomous Adjustments and Planned Adjustments. Due to its low institutional and financial capacity, Pakistan has to concentrate on reducing vulnerability to climatic events and adopt policies that will ensure long-term ecological and human development.

Pakistan has identified the following sectors that require climate change strategies: water resources, agriculture, livestock, forestry and biodiversity. The adaptation strategies include ensuring long-term human and ecological development, weather forecasting and information networks for farmers, fuel efficiency, dealing with environmental issues at the provincial level and creating mass awareness regarding the impacts of climate change.

Maldives: The Maldives is a chain of 1,192 coral islands situated in the Indian Ocean and is home to a rich and diverse marine ecosystem. The Maldives was the first country to sign the Kyoto Protocol due to its deep concerns regarding the impacts of climate change on its smaller islands. The identified areas of vulnerability for the Maldives include delicate ecosystems, economy, land, human settlements, infrastructure, food security, water resources and human health. Issues regarding maritime safety and security were also taken into consideration.

An Integrated Climate Change Strategy (ICCS) has been developed to deal with climate change issues and both adaptation and mitigation are being considered for implementation. The goal of the Maldives Government is to integrate climate change issues into national development and sectoral plans, increase awareness and establish monitoring systems, identifying and implementing feasible adaptation measures and minimize GHG emissions.

Laos: Laos is a land locked, mountainous country located in Southeast Asia. It has a population of 5.6 million of which

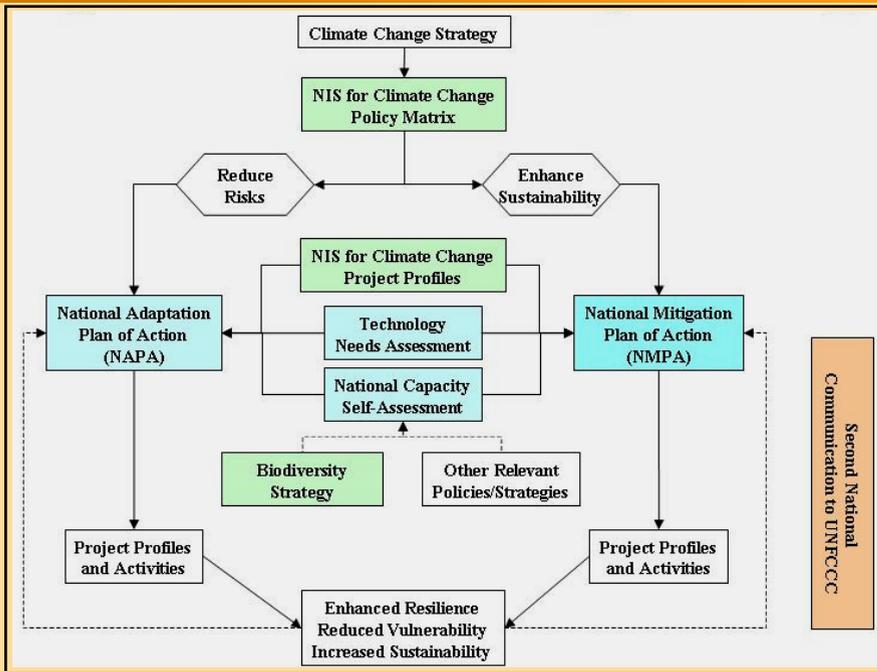


Figure 4. Integrated Climate Change Strategy of the Maldives

80% lives in the rural areas. Since Laos is a mountainous region, the economy is not predominantly agriculture based. Its economy is mainly resource exploitation (narrow-base resources), industry and service based. Studies have shown that Laos has a hydropower potential of 18,000 MW.

Laos ratified the UNFCCC on April 4, 1995 and the Kyoto Protocol on February 6, 2003. The Science, Technology and Environment Agency (STEA) is the UNFCCC focal point and also the DNA for CDM. The National Climate Change Committee, chaired by STEA, was established and is composed of 8 members from different line ministries. A Technical Working Group on climate change was also formed and is headed by STEA.

Laos has already completed its Initial National Communication in November 2000 which includes Greenhouse Gas inventory, identification of mitigation options, strategies and measurements. Assessment of

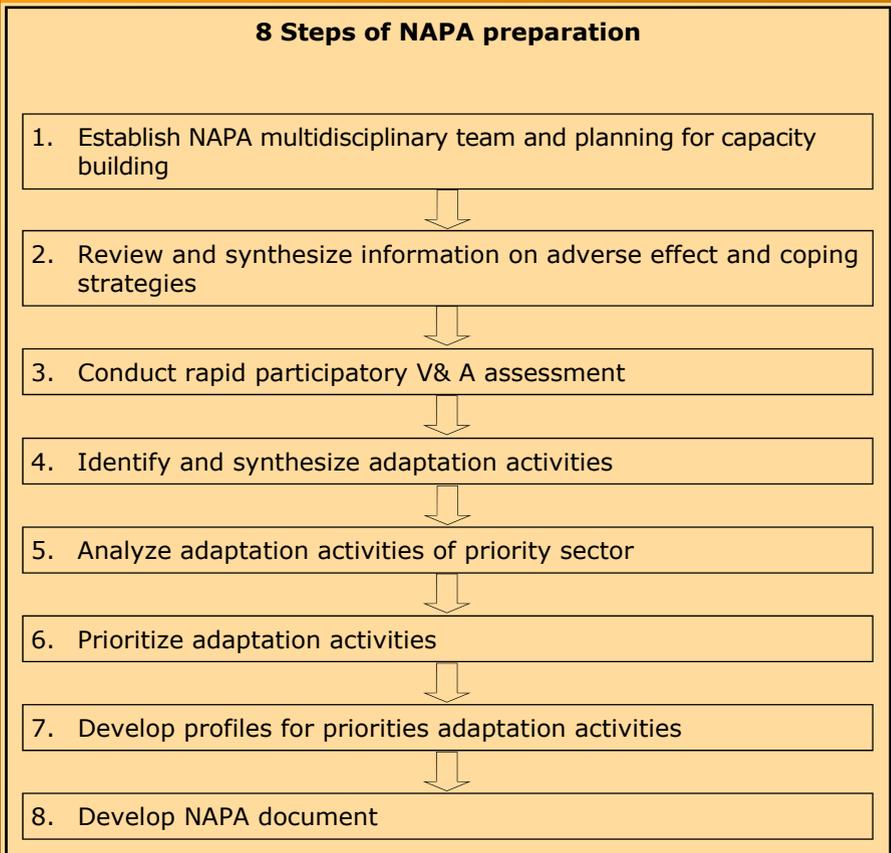


Figure 5. Laos activity for Climate Change Adaptation

technological needs and public awareness building schemes has been planned. It is in the final stages of NAPA preparation. Already adaptation activities have been selected and prioritized. Major challenges that lie in the path of Laos' success are lack of data and expertise.

Cambodia: Cambodia lies to the south of Laos and is the central alluvial plains of the Mekong River Basin. Surrounding the central plains are mountainous regions. The population of Cambodia is about 13.8 million and its economy is basically agrarian and depends on natural resources. The issues of vulnerability to climate change are agriculture, low elevation central plain of the Mekong River, tropical diseases and the fact that there are limited technical, financial and institutional resources for adaptation measures.

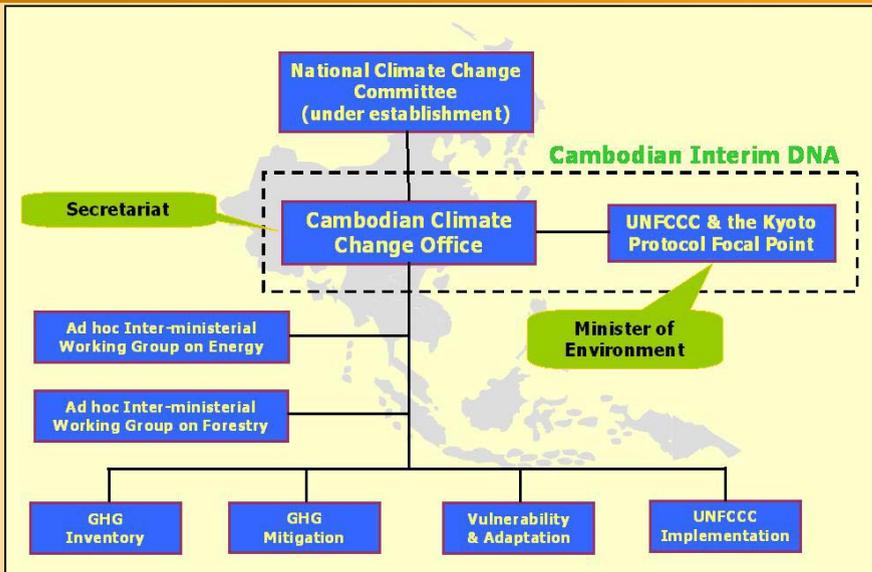


Figure 6. Cambodia's Institutional and Legal Framework

Cambodia ratified the UNFCCC in December 1995 and acceded to the Kyoto Protocol in July in 2002. The first National Communication was submitted at COP-8 in New Delhi. The Ministry of Environment (MoE) serves as the focal point for UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol and established the Cambodian Climate Change Office (CCCCO). It is the responsibility of the CCCC to create networks with the relevant national and international institutions, NGOs, local communities etc to coordinate and implement national climate change policies, greenhouse gas mitigation and inventory and climate change adaptation activities.

Major constraints faced by Cambodia include financial limitation, lack of climate change expertise and research, low technical capacity, lack of cooperation between relevant organizations and limited public awareness.

Vietnam: Vietnam is the delta of the Mekong River and has a land area of 330,990 km². With a population of over 83 million, it is very densely populated. Vietnam has a monsoon tropical climate with hot and humid weather and is affected by many typhoons and tropical cyclones. The agricultural land is 7.37 million hectares and the gross output of food

Vietnam's Policies

- Enhancing research, investigation and efficient use of existing energy resources.
- Sustainable development with focus on energy resources.
- Electricity development and encouraging electricity economization.
- Develop agriculture and forestry in combination with GHG mitigation

crops in paddy equivalent is 26.2 million tons. Agriculture, forestry and fishery contribute 28.7% to the GDP (Vietnam: Initial National Communication, 2003).

The ministries and other institutions of Vietnam are working together to develop and manage national level programs and scientific themes on climate change. Vietnam has already established policies and laws regarding climate change and GHG reduction.

Nepal: Nepal, like its neighbour Bhutan, is a small, mountainous state. The major disaster in Nepal is caused by flash floods brought on by extreme rains and melting of the Himalayan snow caps. Temperature observations over the last 17 years have shown a general warming trend. Combined with Nepal's problems with poverty and food security, climate change poses an even greater threat to its development. NAPA is underway and the 'CDM Strategy for Nepal' is in its final stages. The major needs for Nepal are institutional

strengthening, implementation of the recommendations of the National Communication, climate change awareness programs and capacity building.

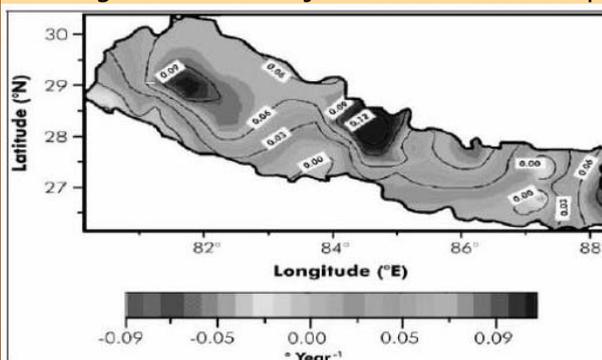


Figure 7. Nepal Temperature trends

Negotiation Priorities

Prioritizing the issues as a block is essential for the negotiating process. Usually countries want to push their own issues forward and want those to be given priority over everything else. The reality of negotiation process is not that simple. Only countries with requisite funds and a strong voice can afford to stand alone and fight for themselves. But for poor countries like Bangladesh, the only way they can be strong is to stand in a group and fight together for the same cause. The LDC group has the potential to evolve as a giant, but for this benefit the sacrifice is individuality. Here strength can be found in numbers, in cooperation and in one voice. Furthermore, the LDCs should try various negotiation techniques to see which one suits their purpose. Negotiation is an art that requires diplomatic and presentation skills. A negotiator should also possess the instinct to know when to push for an issue and when to withdraw.

Mr. Upasena Sapukotana, Former Secretary, Government of Sri Lanka and Senior Fellow, Munasinghe Institute for Development (MIND), Colombo, Sri Lanka stated that larger issues versus country specific issues should be highlighted for prioritization so that regional issues come to the fore and groups like LDCs can work as a team. GEF, like CDM, can function better with small projects and has tremendous potential to assist in capacity building activities. Meanwhile the large corporations should take the initiative, along with government and private entities, to search for technological interventions and solutions. NAPA should be implemented as the future strategy. Funds should be set aside for researches into technologies relating to climate change, energy efficiency, etc. Regarding strategies and approaches, it was felt that the development institutes should be more involved with environment related issues and the LDC Expert Group should make a better effort to share ideas and experiences. Various negotiation techniques should be adopted and negotiations should be conducted on equal footing.

Dr. Benito Muller added further by pointing out that there is strength in numbers and by working as a team. The LDC Group can be stronger and exert more influence by working as a group instead as individual countries. The private sector

should be looked into for funding since they deal in money of the private markets. The negotiators attending the COP are often hampered by financial constraints and there is conflict regarding the use of tax payer's money for funding travel.

Preparation before going to the negotiation table is essential to project a strong front and have the main issues highlighted. Priority issues of the country should be identified ahead of the negotiation process before looking into expertise and technical needs. Delegates/ negotiators should also be conversant with the history of the particular negotiation process and maintain liaison/ coordination with other people in order to know ahead of time of any obstacles or glitches that might arise during negotiations. At the negotiation table, the issues should be presented in a strategic and practical manner. It is easier to speak as a block when presenting issues, since it can be pushed forward more efficiently. The strongest presenter should present the most important issue.

Professor Sir Gordon Conway, Chief Scientific Adviser of DFID, London, UK stressed that the effects of climate change will happen globally, so we cannot just ignore it. Important lessons have been learned and these should be taken forward. Even though negotiation has been given importance, the science behind climate change is no less important. To identify the indicators of climate change, and its effect on communities, the PRECIS and CLASSIC models can be used. These models can help to predict drought and tidal surges, but not to a specific extent. Most panelist expressed surprise that Climate Change was not mentioned in the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) as it is a crucial component of all development activities. As a recommendation it was mentioned that NAPA must address research and assessment issues along with physical, biological, environmental and institutional measures. Cost and benefit analysis should also be taken into consideration. All LDCs and developing countries should strive to enhance resilience, reduce vulnerability and increase adaptive capacity of the LDCs to climate change.

Concluding Statements

The concluding session of the workshop was chaired by Dr A Atiq Rahman, Executive Director, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) and Mr. Reaz Rahman, Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, honored the session as the Chief Guest. Mr. Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was the Special Guest.

Dr Atiq Rahman expressed gratitude that the northern negotiators pointed out the areas of weakness of LDCs in negotiations and were a major guiding force in developing the negotiation skills of the LDCs. The workshop brought forward some burning issues. Dr Rahman offered the services of Climate Action Network- South Asia (CANSAs) during COP 11 and urges to make use of this civil society network.

Mr Mohammad Reazuddin summed up the workshop in a few, comprehensive words. Our actions should be more proactively and that our target should be to promote renewable energy. It is essential to categorize climate change as a development problem and work accordingly. The implementation of NAPA is a positive step towards combating the adverse affects of climate change. CANSAs, ECBI and IIED would help the LDCs to take a stronger position in the negotiations.

Mr Reaz Rahman recognized the success of the North-South and South-South interaction towards scientific development brought on by the two-day workshop. Adaptation programs should be undertaken on a priority basis and existing programs would be better served by implementing adaptation/ climate change component into its framework. Climate change issue is very crucial for Bangladesh and the rest of the LDCs. Ignoring the problem will not make it disappear. Proactive action must be taken in all development sectors to overcome this looming threat to mankind.

Outcomes and Decisions

The workshop on "Climate Change Negotiations in South and South East Asia: The Role of Bangladesh and Least Developed Countries" has fulfilled its objectives in bringing together representative from the LDCs in South and Southeast Asia before COP 11 in Montreal. The outcome of the two-day workshop has been summarized below:

- Country studies were shared to give an overview of the strengths and weaknesses of individual countries. This way the participants can share their experiences, lessons learned, and further enrich their knowledge base. It also allows for countries to work as a harmonious and coordinated group instead of individuals.
- Common climate change issue of the South and Southeast Asia countries have been identified and prioritized.
- It was observed that all the countries had some issues in common, for instance, need for capacity building and awareness programs, lack of financial and technical know how, lack of coordination and weak institutional arrangements.
- All LDC countries share similar development needs of food security, poverty alleviation, environmental protection and stable political system.
- The LDCs areas of weakness in terms of negotiation processes have been highlighted and tools for strengthening negotiating positions were discussed in detail.
- The agenda and issues to be presented at the forthcoming COP 11 were discussed and participants received a short history on the negotiating processes employed at the COPs.

Climate change awareness, particularly the negotiation on important issues has been disseminated among participants of different sectors and institutions in Bangladesh.

At the end of the workshop, the organizers and participants alike reached some decisions on future plan of action

required to take the process further. The need for capacity building and increasing negotiation skills were stressed again and again.

Technical aspects and financial constraints have also been identified as a key factor in holding back the LDCs from fulfilling their potential goals in adaptation and mitigation of climate change related impacts. ECBI has offered to assist the LDCs in strengthening its negotiation skills and help them attain a strong foothold in future negotiations.

A national level data base, accessible by all relevant institutions, must be set up and updated regularly. This database would contain the latest scientific information, new technical advancements, innovations in mitigation and adaptation measures, etc. There was also discussion about creating a regional/ LDC database.

Inaugural Session

Date	Sunday, 30 October 2005	
Time	9:00-11:00 a.m.	
Venue	The Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel (Ball Room), Dhaka	
Chair	Mr. Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury , Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	
09:15-09:30	Guests take their seats	
09:30-09:35	Recitation from The Holy Quoran	
09:35-09:45	Address of welcome	Dr. Saleemul Huq, Head of ECBI Workshop Programme and Director, Climate Change Programme, IIED, London, UK
09:45-09:55	Introducing ECBI	Dr. Benito Muller , Director and Head of Fellowship Programme, ECBI, Oxford, UK
09:55-10:05	Workshop overview	Dr. A. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies
10:05-10:15	Keynote speaker	Professor Sir Gordon Conway KCMG, FRS Chief Scientific Adviser, DFID, London, UK
10:15-10:25	Address by the special guest	Representative of the British High Commission special guest Dhaka, Bangladesh
10:25-10:35	Address by the special guest	Mr. Jafrul Islam Chowdhury, MP, Hon'ble State Minister Ministry of Environment and Forests Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
10:35-10:50	Address by the Chief guest	Mr. Tariqul Islam, MP, Hon'ble Minister Ministry of Environment and Forests Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Technical Session: I

SCIENCE, DEVELOPMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE (11:30 – 13:10)

- Chair** Dr. A. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director,
Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS),
Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Co-Chair** Foreign delegate
- Rapporteur** Mr. Nasimul Haque, Consultant, Climate Cell, DoE
- 11:30-11:45** "Introduction and Overview" by Dr. Saleemul Huq,
Head of ECBI Workshop Programme and Director,
Climate Change Programme, IIED, London, UK
- 11:45-12:00** "Science, Development and Climate Change" by
Professor Sir Gordon Conway KCMG, FRS, Chief
Scientific Adviser, DFID, London, UK
- 12:00-12:15** Open Discussion
- 12:15-12:30** "History of UNFCCC Negotiation and Forthcoming
Issues beyond 2012" by Dr. Benito Muller,
Director and Head of Fellowship Programme, ECBI,
Oxford, UK
- 12:30-12:45** "Integrating Climate Change to Development" by
Ms. Christine Pirenne, Policy Advisor, Climate
Change, Environment and Water Department,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of
Netherlands
- 12:45-13:00** Open Discussion
- 13:00-13:10** Concluding Remarks by Chair
- 13:10-14:00** Lunch Break

Technical Session : II

CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS (14:00 – 15:45)

- Chair** Dr. Benito Muller, Director and Head of Fellowship
Programme, ECBI, Oxford, UK
- Rapporteur** Mr. Kamaluddin, Climate Risk Assessment and
Adaptation Expert, Climate Cell, DoE
- 14:00-14:15** "Major Issues in COP11/MOP1" by Ms. Mary Jane
Mace, Programme Director, Climate Change &
Energy Programme, FIELD, London, UK

- 14:15-14:30** "Key Negotiation Issues in Post Kyoto Regime and Status of Scientific Research on Impact and Vulnerability to Climate Change" by Andy-Deacon, UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
- 14:30-14:45** Open Discussion
- 14:45-15:00** "Forthcoming Negotiation Issues for LDCs" by Mohammad Reazuddin, Director (Technical), Department of Environment (DoE), Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
- 15:00-15:15** "Equity Issues in Climate Change Negotiations" by Dr. A. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 15:15-15:30** Open Discussion
- 15:30-15:45** Concluding Remarks by Chair

Technical Session : III

COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS (09:30 – 11:00)

(10 minutes presentation + 5 minutes discussion)

- Chair** Mr. Khan M. Ibrahim Hossain, Director General, Department of Environment and Forests (DoE), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
- Rapporteur** Ms. Mariam Rashid, Sr. Research Officer, BCAS
- 09:30-09:45** Country Presentation-1:
(by Senior from foreign delegation)
- 09:45-10:00** Country Presentation-2:
Bangladesh Country Report
by Mr. Mirza Shawkat Ali,
Deputy Director, DoE
- 10:00-10:15** Country Presentation-3:
- 10:15-10:30** Country Presentation-4:
- 10:30-10:45** Country Presentation-5
- 10:45-11:00** Country Presentation-6
- 11:00-11:30** Tea Break

Technical Session : IV

COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS (11:30 – 13:00)

(10 minutes presentation + 5 minutes discussion)

- Chair** Professor Sir Gordon Conway KCMG, FRS,
Chief Scientific Adviser, DFID, London, UK
- Rapporteur** Mr. Golam Rabbani, Sr. Research Officer, BCAS
- 11:30-11:45** Country Presentation-7:
- 11:45-12:00** Country Presentation-8:
- 12:00-12:15** Country Presentation-9:
- 12:15-12:30** Country Presentation-10
- 12:30-12:50** Open Discussion
- 12:50-13:00** Concluding Remarks by Session Chair
- 13:00-14:00** Lunch Break

Technical Session : V

PANEL DISCUSSION (Prioritizing the Issues) (14:00 – 15:30)

- Chair** Dr. Saleemul Huq, Head of ECBI Workshop
Programme and Director, Climate Change
Programme, IIED, London, UK
- Rapporteur** Mr. Ziaul Haque, Consultant, Climate Cell, DoE
- 14:00-14:15** Panel Discussant: Ms. Mary Jane Mace, Programme
Director, Climate Change & Energy Programme,
FIELD, London, UK
- 14:15-14:30** Panel Discussant: One from Indian Delegation
- 14:30-14:45** Panel Discussant: Dr. Benito Muller, Director and
Head of Fellowship Programme, ECBI, Oxford, UK
- 14:45-15:00** Panel Discussant: Civil Society Representative Mr.
Upasena Sapukotana, Munasinghe Institute for
Development (MIND), Colombo 5, SRI LANKA.
- 15:00-15:25** Open Discussion
- 15:25-15:30** Break for taking seat by Chief Guest

Concluding Session

Date	Monday, 31 October 2005	
Time	3:30-4:45 p.m.	
Venue	The Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel (Surma Room), Dhaka	
Chair	Dr. A. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies	
03:35-03:45	Outcomes of the workshop	Dr. Saleemul Huq, Head of ECBI Workshop Programme and Director, Climate Change Programme, IIED, London, UK
03:45-03:55	How ECBI is going to use these outcomes	Dr. Benito Muller , Director and Head of Fellowship Programme, ECBI, Oxford, UK
03:55-04:05	Lessons learnt and way forward	Professor Sir Gordon Conway KCMG, FRS Chief Scientific Adviser, DFID, London, UK
04:05-04:15	Input into LDCs Perspectives	Mr. Mohammad Reazuddin Director (Technical) Department of Environment (DoE), Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
04:15-04:25	Address by the special guest	Mr. Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury , Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
04:25-04:35	Address by the chief guest	Mr. Reaz Rahman, Advisor Ministry of Foreign Affairs Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
04:35-04:45	Concluding remarks	Dr. A. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies

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