

কালের কন্ঠ, ১০ নভেম্বর ২০১৭
সেমিনারে পানিসম্পদমন্ত্রী

বাংলাদেশের বড় সমস্যা তিস্তায় পানি না থাকা নিজস্ব প্রতিবেদক

পানিসম্পদমন্ত্রী আনিসুল ইসলাম মাহমুদ বলেছেন, ‘শুষ্ক মৌসুমে তিস্তায় পানি না থাকা বাংলাদেশের সবচেয়ে বড় সমস্যা। এই পানি সংকট থেকে উদ্ধার পেতে সব দেশের সহযোগিতা প্রয়োজন।

বাংলাদেশের ভবিষ্যৎ নির্ভর করছে যথাযথ পানি ব্যবস্থাপনার ওপর।’

গতকাল বৃহস্পতিবার রাজধানীর বিস অডিটরিয়ামে ‘বাংলাদেশ ডেলটা প্ল্যান ২১০০’ শীর্ষক এক গোলটেবিল বৈঠকে প্রধান অতিথির বক্তব্যে তিনি এসব কথা বলেন। বাংলাদেশ ইনস্টিটিউট অব ইন্টারন্যাশনাল অ্যান্ড স্ট্র্যাটেজিক স্টাডিজ (বিআইআইএসএস) অনুষ্ঠানের আয়োজন করে।

বিশেষ অতিথির বক্তব্যে অর্থ প্রতিমন্ত্রী মোহাম্মদ আব্দুল মান্নান বলেন, ‘ডেলটা প্ল্যান বাংলাদেশের অন্যতম বৃহৎ পরিকল্পনা। এটি বাস্তবায়নের মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশ এই সমস্যা বহুলাংশে কাটিয়ে উঠতে পারে। শতবর্ষব্যাপী এই পরিকল্পনা ৬০ বছর পার হলেও শুরু হয়েছে। সপ্তম পঞ্চবার্ষিক পরিকল্পনায় এটাকে যথেষ্ট গুরুত্ব দেওয়া হয়েছে।

গোলটেবিল আলোচনায় আরো বক্তব্য দেন বিআইআইএসএসের চেয়ারম্যান রাষ্ট্রদূত মুন্সী ফয়েজ আহমদ এবং মহাপরিচালক মেজর জেনারেল এ কে এম আবদুর রহমান। মূল প্রবন্ধ উপস্থাপন করেন বাংলাদেশ পরিকল্পনা কমিশনের সদস্য ড. শামসুল আলম।

সমকাল, ১০ নভেম্বর ২০১৭

ডেল্টা প্ল্যান বাস্তবায়নে চাই আঞ্চলিক সহযোগিতা

সমকাল প্রতিবেদক

পার্শ্ববর্তী দেশগুলোর সহযোগিতা ছাড়া ব-দ্বীপ মহাপরিকল্পনা (ডেল্টা প্ল্যান) বাস্তবায়ন বাংলাদেশের একাধিক পক্ষে সম্ভব নয়। এর কারণ, বাংলাদেশের ওপর দিয়ে প্রবাহিত প্রধান নদীগুলোর সিংহভাগ অববাহিকা ও উৎস মুখ ভারত, নেপাল ও ভুটানে। অন্যদিকে বাংলাদেশের মাটি, পানি ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তনশীল। আবার পরিবর্তিত পরিস্থিতি মোকাবেলায় প্রয়োজনীয় বিনিয়োগ করার সক্ষমতাও বাংলাদেশ সরকারের নেই। ফলে ডেল্টা প্ল্যান বাস্তবায়নে আঞ্চলিক সহযোগিতা লাগবে বাংলাদেশের।

গতকাল বৃহস্পতিবার 'বাংলাদেশ ব-দ্বীপ পরিকল্পনা ২১০০' শীর্ষক এক সেমিনারে বক্তারা এমন মতামত দিয়েছেন। বাংলাদেশ ইনস্টিটিউট অব ইন্টারন্যাশনাল অ্যান্ড স্ট্র্যাটেজিক স্টাডিজ (বিআইআইএসএস) ও পরিকল্পনা কমিশনের সাধারণ অর্থনীতি বিভাগ (জিইডি) যৌথভাবে বিআইআইএসএস কার্যালয়ে সেমিনারটি আয়োজন করেছে।

প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগের প্রভাব কমিয়ে জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন বিবেচনায় রেখে কৃষি, পানিসম্পদ, ভূমি, শিল্প, বনায়ন, মৎস্যসম্পদকে গুরুত্ব দিয়ে সবার অংশগ্রহণে সুষ্ঠু পানিসম্পদ ব্যবস্থাপনা, খাদ্যনিরাপত্তা ও টেকসই অর্থনৈতিক প্রবৃদ্ধি নিশ্চিত করতে সমন্বিত মহাপরিকল্পনা হচ্ছে ডেল্টা প্ল্যান, যা আগামী ৮-৩ বছর ধরে ধাপে ধাপে বাস্তবায়ন করা হবে। নেদারল্যান্ডসের আর্থিক ও কারিগরি সহযোগিতায় সাড়ে তিন বছর মেয়াদি এক প্রকল্পে প্রায় ১০০ কোটি টাকা খরচ করে সরকার এ পরিকল্পনার খসড়া তৈরি করেছে। সংশ্লিষ্ট মন্ত্রণালয়গুলোর মতামত নিয়ে চূড়ান্ত করা হবে এখন।

সেমিনারের প্রধান অতিথি পানিসম্পদমন্ত্রী আনিসুল ইসলাম মাহমুদ বলেন, 'বাংলাদেশ একা ডেল্টা প্ল্যান বাস্তবায়ন করতে পারবে না। এজন্য আঞ্চলিক সহযোগিতা লাগবে। কারণ দেশের প্রধান তিন নদী ব্রহ্মপুত্র, গঙ্গা ও মেঘনার অববাহিকার মাত্র ৭ ভাগ বাংলাদেশে। বাকি ৯৩ ভাগ পার্শ্ববর্তী নেপাল, ভারত ও ভুটানে। এ ছাড়া ব-দ্বীপ হিসেবে বাংলাদেশ জটিল প্রকৃতির। কারণ লবণাক্ততা, পলি, সাইক্লোন, জলোচ্ছ্বাসের মতো সমস্যা আছে। কিন্তু এসবের উৎস অধিকাংশ সময় দেশের বাইরে। তা ছাড়া নদীভাঙনে প্রতিবছর পাঁচ হাজার হেক্টর জমি ও ৫০ হাজার পরিবার ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হচ্ছে।' পরিকল্পনায় এসব বিষয় সম্পৃক্ত করার পরামর্শ দেন তিনি।

অনুষ্ঠানের বিশেষ অতিথি পরিকল্পনা প্রতিমন্ত্রী আবদুল মান্নান বলেন, 'বাংলাদেশ নিত্যপরিবর্তনশীল। এজন্য ডেল্টা প্ল্যান হতে হবে এখানকার পরিবর্তনগুলো মাথায় রেখে। নেদারল্যান্ডসের ব-দ্বীপের আদলে পরিকল্পনা বাংলাদেশের জন্য ঠিক হবে না।' তিনি এই পরিকল্পনায় হাওরকে ব্যাপকভাবে সম্পৃক্ত করার প্রস্তাব করেন।

অনুষ্ঠানের মূল প্রবন্ধ উপস্থাপক জিইডির সদস্য শামসুল আলম বলেন, 'বন্যা ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন- সম্পর্কিত বিপর্যয় থেকে নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করার লক্ষ্য নিয়ে এ পরিকল্পনা করা হয়েছে। এ ছাড়া দক্ষ পানি ব্যবহার ও পানির পর্যাপ্ততা বাড়ানোরও লক্ষ্য রয়েছে। রয়েছে সমন্বিত ও টেকসই নদী ও নদী মোহনা ব্যবস্থাপনা গড়ে তোলার পরিকল্পনা।' তিনি আরও বলেন, 'বাংলাদেশ হচ্ছে বিশ্বের সবচেয়ে বড় ব-দ্বীপ। এখানকার মাটি, পানি ও জলবায়ুর পরিবর্তন উন্নয়নে প্রধান বাধা। এজন্য দেশের বর্তমান প্রাকৃতিক সম্পদের সম্ভাবনা ও সমস্যা বিবেচনা করে সব খাতকে ১৯ ভাগে ভাগ করে ডেল্টা প্ল্যান বাস্তবায়নের পরিকল্পনা নেওয়া হয়েছে। তবে এ পরিকল্পনা বাস্তবায়নে ব্যাপক বিনিয়োগ দরকার। বছরে জিডিপির ২ দশমিক ৫ শতাংশ অতিরিক্ত বিনিয়োগ লাগবে।'

সেমিনারে আরও বক্তব্য রাখেন প্রকৌশলী জামিলুর রেজা চৌধুরী, বিআইআইএসএস চেয়ারম্যান মুন্সী ফায়েজ ও বিআইআইএসএসের মহাপরিচালক এ কে এম আবদুর রহমান।

The Independent, 10 November 2017

Delta Plan 2100

Minister seeks help from neighbours

STAFF REPORTER

Water resources minister Anisul Islam Mahmud has said it is not possible to implement the 'Delta Plan 2100' without a basin-wise approach with the cooperation of India, Nepal and Bhutan. "There is no water in the Teesta river during the dry season. This is a major problem for Bangladesh. We need cooperation from the neighbouring countries to overcome this problem," the minister said yesterday while addressing a seminar.

The Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic (BIISS) and General Economics Division (GED) of the planning commission jointly organised the seminar titled 'Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100' in the capital's BIISS auditorium.

GED senior secretary Dr Shamsul Alam presented a keynote paper titled 'Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100: Salient Features' at the seminar.

Speakers at the seminar stressed the need to construct the Padma barrage and form a Delta Commission to manage the river water.

According to keynote paper, the government needs USD 37.52 billion to implement the Delta Plan. "We've prepared the plan as per the Prime Minister's directives. The participation of World Bank (WB) and other international development partners are needed for financial assistance," said Dr Shamsul Alam.

"The future of Bangladesh depends on water management. Addressing this crisis is very urgent as Bangladesh is going to be a middle-income country by 2021. The loss of river water could be disastrous due to climate change," Anisul Islam Mahmud said.

"Bangladesh is the biggest delta in the world. We've to create more awareness about the Delta Plan," he added.

The minister also said that proper water management is needed for the existence of Bangladesh. "The plan should be prepared considering the present situation of Bangladesh and not according to any European or American strategy," he observed.

"Bangladesh has to bear the brunt of floods during the rainy season. We also face severe drought in the dry season," he noted.

"Bangladesh has the capacity to implement the Delta Plan. We're already is constructing the Padma Bridge and a nuclear power plant," he added.

Mohammad Abdul Mannan, state minister for finance, said the Delta Plan is one of the biggest plans of the country. "The character of the delta of Bangladesh is quite different from those of other countries like the Netherlands. The text of the plan should be made easier so that common people can understand it," he added.

He also said that the authorities concerned must make the plan in Bangla for better understanding.

“This is long-term plan. It should be implemented considering the country’s present wetland situations,” Prof. M Monowar Hossain, executive director of the Institute of Water Modelling (IWM), said.

Freshwater is decreasing fast and a solution to the problem was badly needed, he added.

“The implementation of the Delta Plan would help manage water resources. It would also reduce the risk of earthquakes,” Prof. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, former vice-chancellor of the BUET, said.

Participants at the seminar said that the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 must should take inspiration from the delta planning process used in the Netherlands. It must integrate the delta-related sectors for a long-term, holistic and integrated plan.

BIISS director general Maj. Gen. AKM Abdur Rahman, IWM teacher Prof. Munsur Rahman and Bangladesh Water Development Board director general Mahfuzur Rahman, among others, spoke at the seminar.

The New Age, 10 November 2017

Delta plan to make dev durable: experts

Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha . Dhaka

In order to make development sustainable and more productive, the process for preparing Bangladesh Delta Plan is making progress, incorporating all development aspects, water and development experts said in Dhaka on Thursday.

BDP should be prepared considering its own perspective as the country has unique and complex geographical characters, they told a seminar on 'Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100' at Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies auditorium in the capital. The BIISS in cooperation with general economic division organised the seminar. Water resources minister Anisul Islam Mahmud, state minister for finance and planning MA Mannan, BIISS director general Major General AKM Abdur Rahman, chairman of board of governors of BIISS Munshi Faiz Ahmed, among others, addressed the inaugural function of the seminar.

University of Asia Pacific vice-chancellor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, water experts, officials, representatives of different government and non-government organisations, among others, addressed the technical session of the seminar, while GED member (senior secretary) Shamsul Alam presented two keynote papers.

As Bangladesh is the world's largest delta, Anisul said, it needs to develop a delta plan incorporating various environmental and developmental aspects aiming to ensure sustainable economic growth through long-term development visions. Bangladesh Delta Plan-2100 is being prepared by integrating delta-related sectors and all geographic regions of the country for developing a holistic plan, he added.

'Bangladesh has three river basins – Brahmaputra, Ganges and Meghna. Very few countries of the world have such big river basins,' the minister said emphasising the need for a better water management system.

'If we can prepare a holistic plan incorporating all delta sectors, the country would be able to foster its development process through ensuring a better water management system,' he added. Bangladesh needs cooperation of neighbouring countries – India, Bhutan and Nepal – to prepare an effective delta plan, Anisul said adding, 'We have to continue dialogue with these countries for better water management.'

The Daily Sun, 10 November 2017

Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100

More discussion required

Staff Correspondent



Further discussion and a regional cooperation will be required before implementing the ambitious delta plan, as the country has diverse water-related problems, Water Resources Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud said.

“The delta plan is the first holistic approach to address problems linked to water. But we need to hold more discussions on the plan as its implementation will take 83 years,” the minister at a seminar as the chief guest.

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) arranged the event titled ‘Bangladesh Development Plan’.

The minister said that the plan’s execution requires cooperation from India, Nepal and Bhutan, as Bangladesh is located on the basin of three mighty rivers — the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna.

He pointed out that cyclone, tidal surge, salinity and drought are the major challenges the country is now facing.

He mentioned that Bangladesh loses 5,000 hectares of land every year while 50,000 families fall victim to it.

“Our problem is totally different from that of the Netherlands. So, the plan should be different as well,” the minister said. General Economics Division (GED) under the Planning Commission has prepared the long-term delta plan where the Dutch government has expressed its interest in providing support. The plan is yet to be approved by the government.

The plan aims to ensure long-term water and food security, economic growth and environmental sustainability while effectively coping with natural disasters, climate change and other delta issues.

Echoing the water resources minister’s views, State Minister for Finance and Planning MA Mannan said the plan’s necessity and long-term impacts should be discussed more.

Like Tk 40,000 crore Haor Master Plan, the Delta Plan will get nod from the Prime Minister, he hoped.

Presenting a keynote paper on the plan, GED Member Dr Shamsul Islam informed that Bangladesh has to raise spending to 2 to 2.5 percent of GDP by 2030 for climate change, environment and water-related projects, which is now only 0.6 to 0.8 percent of GDP.

This funding is 80 percent of the total financing plan while private sector investment will be 20 percent, equivalent to 0.5 percent of GDP, he added.

The investment plan contains 80 projects, including 65 physical and 15 knowledge-based projects, which will require \$37 billion in total capital expenditure.

The government aims to raise \$4.6 billion or 12 percent of total expenditure from climate finance sources, Dr Alam said, adding that 34 projects promoting climate resilience will be partially funded with climate finance.

Six areas have been identified as hotspots in the plan considering their unique and separate geographic characters.

The hotspots are coastal zone, barind regions, haor regions, Chittagong Hill Tracts, rivers and estuary and urban areas.

BISS Chairman Munshi Faiz Ahmed, Director General Maj Gen AKM Abdur Rahman, Vice Chancellor of the University of Asia Pacific Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, among others, addressed the seminar.

The Daily Star, 10 November 2017

Rivers must flow freely

Experts tell BIISS seminar on Bangladesh Delta Plan

Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh as an active delta must have navigable and freely flowing rivers with all the canals and wetlands being conserved for a sustainable economy and ecological balance, said experts at a seminar in the capital yesterday.

For example, reclamation of dying canals is a must for preventing urban flooding, said Prof Shamsul Alam, member of General Economics Division (GED) of Bangladesh Planning Commission.

Prof Alam in his keynote on the draft, “Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100”, said the country's water bodies -- canals, ponds, haor, baor and beels -- must be excavated and preserved for sustainable economic development.

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) organised the seminar on Bangladesh Delta Plan, prepared by the Bangladesh Planning Commission since 2014, at its premises.

The world's largest dynamic delta, Bangladesh, lies in the confluence of three mighty rivers -- the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna. The country is crisscrossed by around 700 rivers of which 57 are trans-boundary ones -- 54 with India and the rest with Myanmar, he said.

The rivers cover around 4.7 million hectares area, said Prof Alam. Nearly 6,000km inland river transport route is the easiest, environment-friendly and cheapest mode of transportation.

With only seven percent of the river catchment areas within its territory, Bangladesh receives 1 to 1.4 billion tonnes of river sediment annually, he said. The delta offers immense economic opportunities with 65 percent agricultural land, 17 percent forest land, eight percent urban areas and 10 percent water bodies and wetlands.

The delta plan aims at long-term water and food security, economic growth and sustainable environment while coping with natural disasters, climate change through adaptive and integrated strategies, said Prof Alam.

Through optimal uses of land and water resources, the plan aims at achieving its goal through conservation and judicious use of water, wetlands and ecosystem, and efficient management of rivers.

With the protection of vital economic strongholds like Chandpur and Sirajganj as the fundamental goal, the draft delta plan identifies shipping, marine fisheries, coastal tourism, ocean energy (blue economy) and renewable energy as the priorities for future development.

Water Resources Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud said the land-starved Bangladesh loses 5,000 hectares of land to river erosion annually rendering 50,000 families landless or homeless, and 70 percent of them end up in the capital for livelihood.

With 93 percent river catchment areas lying outside Bangladesh territory, the experts underscored the need for basin-wide management of rivers through negotiations with India.

State Minister for Finance and Planning MA Mannan and Water Resources Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud pointed out that people were not fully aware of the delta plan.

Citing the fate of Detailed Area Plan (DAP) of Dhaka city and Strategic Transport Plan (STP) of greater Dhaka city, noted civil engineer Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, who chaired the seminar's concluding session, said implementing the delta plan would be a herculean task.

Spearheaded by the planning commission, the delta plan is being prepared in collaboration with the Netherlands. It will soon be approved by the government and implemented by a commission. It will be revised every five years.

BIISS Chairman Munshi Faiz Ahmad, its Director General Maj Gen AKM Abdur Rahman and Director General of Bangladesh Water Development Board Md Mahfuzur Rahman also spoke.

The Financial Express, 10 November 20147

Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 may face fate like DAP, STP

Lead planner blames political power, commercial interest for ill-fated plans

FE Report

The proposed Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 might face similar fate like those of Detailed Area Plan (DAP) and Strategic Transport Plan (STP) due to influence of 'political power combined with commercial interest', an eminent planner feared Thursday. He said that formulating a project was easy but political power and commercial interests were the biggest obstacles to implement any pro-people project.

Chairman of the experts panel on Delta Plan 2100 Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, also an advisor to the past caretaker government, expressed apprehension over the fate of the plan at a seminar. "We formulated DAP and STP for a planned Dhaka city but could not implement due to unwillingness of the political power combined with business interests," said Prof Jamil, who also led the formulation process of ill-fated STP and DAP.

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) in collaboration with General Economics Division (GED) of Bangladesh Planning Commission organised the seminar titled "Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100" at BISS auditorium in the city. Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 is a very ambitious and comprehensive project covering all aspects, according to Prof Jamil.

He expressed concern that the project would depend on foreign consultants unless the delta plan considers details about the people and their training before going for implementation process. He also expressed concern over the feasibility of the long-duration project as the world was changing rapidly. "We don't know where the world would go in 2100. The project should be adaptable when it needs," he added.

Water Resources Minister Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud said the delta plan would be the first holistic approach to water safety and management, poverty alleviation and long-term development.

He said that 93 per cent of the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna basins would be controlled from outside of Bangladesh. "There must be regional cooperation to resolve Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna basins water sharing and management," he said.

He said that the government took many projects which were demand-driven but now the government became capable to take projects which were feasible, well researched. He also said that the delta plan would mitigate the losses of climate change effect. Speaking at the seminar, state minister for planning and finance Muhammad Abdul Mannan said the Netherlands was funding the project but there were huge differences between the deltas in the Netherlands and Bangladesh.

He said the Bengal delta was continually changing and was much more complex than the Dutch delta.

He urged the General Economic Division (GED) to disseminate the detailed information to the people having rights to know about the impact of the project.

The proposed Tk 2,978 billion Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 is a 83-year comprehensive, integrated and holistic, and long-term plan for Bangladesh Delta with vision and strategy to reach optimum level of water safety and food security and sustained economic growth. Major funds for the projects will come from the Netherlands government. BIISS director general Major General A K M Abdur Rahman delivered the address of welcome while Ambassador Munshi Faiz Ahmad, chairman of BIISS Board of Governors, delivered the introductory remarks and chaired the inaugural session.

Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice-Chancellor, University of Asia Pacific, chaired and summed up the second session. Two papers were presented at the seminar by Dr. Shamsul Alam, member (senior secretary) of General Economics Division (GED).

The first paper was titled "Overview of BDP 2100: Process and Methods, Hotspots, Opportunities and Challenges, Context, Vision and Goals of BDP 2100" and the second one was titled "Overview of BDP 2100 - Strategies, Interventions, Investment Planning, Financing, Governance and Institutions, Monitoring and Evaluation. Follow-up Project". The papers presented the details of Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100.

Professor Dr. M. Monowar Hossain, executive director, Institute of Water Modeling (IWM); Professor Dr. Md. Munsur Rahman, Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), and Engr. Md. Mahfuzur Rahman, director general, Bangladesh Water Development Board, among others, also spoke at the seminar.

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