A 2-day long regional workshop on “Sharing Lessons and Experiences on Current Water Management Issues, Opportunities and Challenges from Deltaic Regions in South Asia, including Impending Climate Change Impacts” was held in BRAC Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 28 and 29 March 2014. The workshop was organized by Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) in association with the partner organization Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) under the aegis of GWP SAS. The workshop was attended by more than 140 national and international participants. Delegates from Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka were also present in the workshop. National delegates included senior officials from Ministry of Water Resources, Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWBD), Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO) and many other government and non-government organizations, academic institutions and research organizations working with water resource management in Bangladesh. Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud, Hon’ble Minister for Water Resources, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Mr. Md Shahidur Rahman, Director General, BWDB and Ms. Priyanka Dissanayake, Regional Coordinator, GWP-SAS, Sri Lanka graced the occasion as Special Guests. Mr. Shahidul Hassan, President, Bangladesh Water Partnership presided over the inaugural session of the event. Dr. K. Azharul Haq, Vice-President, Bangladesh Water Partnership welcomed the participants while Prof. Dr. M. Monowar Hossain, Executive Director, Institute of Water Modeling presented an overview of the workshop theme.

National Consultation on the Sustainable Development Goal and Target for Water in the Post-2015 Development Agenda–Phase II:

The national consultation was planned to obtain views from the participants on the post-2015 development agenda for water and sustainable development in the context of the national needs on 15 March 2014 at CIRDAP International Conference Centre, Dhaka. The consultation was a follow-up of the earlier consultation held in the year 2013 on water in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The objective of the consultation was to contribute to the SDG consultation process as well as to the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda at large. The day-long consultation had two sessions and was followed by group presentations and open discussion. Participants were divided in five groups to provide more in-depth feedback on the 5 proposed targets of UN-Water. 62 participants representing different government and semi government agencies, universities, research organizations and NGOs involved in the water sector. The group discussions were centred on water resources management, water governance, water-related disasters, water supply, sanitation, waste water and water quality.
Regional Workshop......(cont’d from page 1)

It is expected that the recommendations of the workshop will help in promoting regional cooperation will influence the national policies on water and food security with special reference to the climate change impact. This will be especially useful for Bangladesh as the workshop was attended by the top policy makers of Bangladesh Government, including the Honorable Minister Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), Secretary of MoWR and high level officials from Planning Commission and other departments that are actively involved in the water sector. It is also expected that the participants from the regional countries will also be able to actively influence their respective policies in a favorable way. The workshop was specifically targeted on policy issues on environmental flow, augmentation of water availability through regional cooperation and both in country and regional issues on water quality.

Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) in association with its partner organization Centre for Environment and Geographical Information System (CEGIS) organized a Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “Concept and Practice of Integrated Water Resources Management” from 25 to 29 May 2014 in Dhaka. The main objective of course was to enhance the knowledge, experience and capacity building of water resources professionals about IWRM principles and practices for its implementation. Honorable Secretary Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan was present as the Chief Guest in the inaugural session of the training. The training program was divided into two sessions, first session covered formal class room lessons for four days on IWRM and its Practices and the second session covered a day long field visit to gather practical experience on IWRM application. In total 26 lectures were delivered by renowned resource persons from BUET, CEGIS, DoE, BRAC University and different government organizations and NGOs. In the field visit, the trainees were taken to Rupganj North Water Conservancy Project in Narayanganj District on 28th May, 2014 where they had practically observed & experienced the application and practice of IWRM on the ground. This visit helped to enhance their knowledge about water management and also helped to make coordination between theory and practice. In the closing ceremony on 29th May, 2014, the president of BWP, Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan and Executive Director of CEGIS were present and distributed the certificates among the trainees.

Bangladesh Water Partnership in collaboration with Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) conducted a 5 day training program on ‘Capacity Building for Climate Change Adaptation’ from March 9-13, 2014. The aim of the training program was to increase awareness of the key critical issues related to the training theme. The training was attended by 14 mid-level professionals from 7 different local stakeholder agencies viz. Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), NGO Forum for Public Health, Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) and Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO). The training program included 15 lecture sessions by resource persons drawn from local experts covering various important issues such as Agriculture & Food Security, Water Supply & Sanitation, Infrastructure & Flood Management, Gender, Mainstreaming and Cross-Cutting issues. The entire lecture series included contributions from 20 experts from various sectors. The participants were all awarded certificates at the concluding session of the training program which was jointly done by Prof. Dr. Monowar Hossain, Executive Director, IWM and Dr. K.Azharul Haq, Vice President, BWP.

A Stakeholders Consultation Meeting to discuss the aforementioned APAN Technical Report FY 2013 chapter by GWP South Asia was organized by Bangladesh Water Partnership on 17th July 2014 at Dhaka where 24 participants from different organizations, agencies and departments dealing with water and environment, actively participated. The meeting elaborately discussed the Technical Report 2013 chapter, section by section, where valuable comments were made by the learned participants. The report was updated incorporating the relevant comments and submitted to GWP-SAS office in SriLanka.
Bangladesh Water Partnership in collaboration with the Institute of Microfinance organized a daylong seminar on November 15, 2014 titled “Climate Change Adaptation at Community Level: The Role of MFI’s” at the PKSF Auditorium, PKSF Bhaban, Sher-e-Bangla Nagor, Agargaon, Dhaka. It was largely attended by over 200 participants from Government organizations, Academics, National experts in the field of microcredit, NGOs and senior officials working in the field of climate change adaptation and disaster management perspectives and Microfinance Institutes of the country. The broad objective of the seminar is ‘To identify the bankable projects and overcome the challenges at village level in implementing climate resilience projects through micro finance.’. Mr. Shahidul Hassan, President of BWP presided over the seminar. Mr. Tauhidul Anwar Khan, Secretary General, BWP was present as Special Guest and Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Chairman, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) and Institute of Microfinance (InM) was the Chief Guest of the event. Welcome speech of the seminar was delivered by Prof. M. A. Baqui Khalily, Executive Director, Institute of Microfinance. The chief guest emphasized on developing “Home grown” knowledge for climate change adaptation and expressed PKSF’s willingness to work together with Bangladesh Water Partnership in this respect. The event included Inaugural Session and 3 Technical Sessions.

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Dialogue with delta communities, identify the bankable projects with microfinance and overcome the challenges at village level in implementing climate resilience projects

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Associated Program on Flood Management (APFM) with World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Bangladesh Water Partnership in collaboration with its partner organization Institute of Water Modeling (IWM) organized a 2-day national workshop on “Integrated Flood Management with a Focus on Costal Zones of Bangladesh: Development of a Pilot Project on Coastal Flood Management in Selected Areas of Bangladesh” on 24-25 October 2014 in BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka. More than 100 professionals from Government, Semi-Government, Autonomous bodies, NGOs, CBOs etc working in the coastal flood management participated. The workshop aimed to bring together parties involved in the management of coastal floods in Bangladesh, with the ultimate goal of implementing a pilot project on integrated coastal flood management. Some key issues discussed include: the exclusion of women in decision-making; the limited coordination between metrological and hydrological services; and the inadequate drainage of polders leading to water logging.

The honorable minister of Water Resources (MoWR) Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud was the chief guest in the workshop. Mr. Shahidul Hassan, President, BWP presided over the meeting. The honorable State Minister of Water Resources Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam, Bir Protik and Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources were special guests. Mr. Bal Krishna Prasai a Former Secretary, Government of Nepal (represented GWP-SAS Chair) and Mr. Paul Pilon, Chief of Hydrological Forecasting and Water Resources Division, World Meteorological Organization were present as special guests. There were 5 technical sessions in which a total number of 16 technical papers were presented. Two keynote papers were presented in the technical session, one by Professor Ainun Nishat and another by Mr. Paul Pilon of WMO. Professor Ainun Nishat recommended going for IWRM/IWFM practice within one of the small polders whose dyke is being upgraded by BWDB as one of the sites for the pilot project. Mr. Paul Pilon shared lessons on current issues and opportunities in addressing flood management methods and practices in Bangladesh and in the region. He informed that mission of the Associated Programme on Flood Management is to support countries in the integrated management of floods, within the overall framework of Integrated Water Resources Management.

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The technical sessions were followed by open discussion and way forward. 12 papers were presented from different microfinance organizations from all over the country under the theme of the seminar. A keynote paper was presented by Dr. Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed, Project Coordinator, Community Climate Change Project (CCCP), PKSF. Dr. K. Azharul Haq, Vice President, BWP summarized the deliberations of the workshop in the closing session. It was an important event which provided with an excellent opportunity for the participants to discuss and understand the Climate Change Adaptation at Community Level through the application of microfinance.

**Capacity building of youth brigade in rural based secondary and primary schools on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH):**

Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) in collaboration with Gorai Area Water Partnership (GAWP) and Bangladesh Folklore Research Institute (BFRI) conducted an awareness campaign program among students of rural based secondary and primary schools on water Sanitation and hygiene (WASH). WASH program was undertaken from January to April 2014 at four secondary and four primary schools at each of the two Upozila, namely, Kushitia Sadar and Mirpur. 20 students from each of the four classes from Class VI to Class IX of Secondary schools numbering (80X4) 320 were trained in WASH program and they became part of the School Health Brigade. 20 students from four Primary Schools from Class III to Class V numbering (60X4) 240 were also trained and they became part of the Health Brigade. The total number of students trained was 560. These brought about a remarkable change in their outlook or attitude in health and hygiene. Initially a meeting was held with the UNO and concerned officials together with the Chairman and Members of Union Parisad, Head Masters and selected teachers of schools along with the Chairman of the Governing Body of schools which turned out to be very fruitful. The UNO asked all concerned to help implement the program as this is a national problem concerning health and hygiene of the rural based people including students and youths. The Youth Brigade formed in each school and regular supervision by the committee members of the schools and BFRI contributed to the change. More over cultural, essay competitions and debating events organized under the program helped greatly in bringing about a change in the attitude of the students and other members of the community.

**Promoting Safe Water Management & Climate Change Adaptation through Secondary Schools in Chitra-Nabaganga Area Water Partnership**

Bangladesh Water Partnership in association with the partner organization Environment and Population Research Centre (EPRC) conducted a research study followed by a workshop on “climate change impacts and its possible mitigation” on 27 June 2014 at public library auditorium, Narail. The participations were from district and sub-district education officers, teachers, students and members of CN-AWP and GARNET-SA. The workshop included class room training followed by essay competition, information exchange workshop on “climate change impacts and its possible mitigation” with help from local youths. The class room training issues consist of, water resources and impacts of climate change, IWRM, drinking and agricultural water management and other aspects. At the program, 4 schools were selected by Chitra–Nabaganga Area Water Partnership in Narail (CN-AWP) and about 400 students from those 4 schools participated in the easy competition. The objective of the project/present research is to build capacity of youths about climate change and its adaptation and mitigation in water resources.

**Associated Program on APFM......(cont’d from page 3)**

As a part of the workshop a team of nine, including two members from APFM, attended a 2- day field trip in the coastal areas of Dacope Upazila (Sub-district) on 27 and 28 October, 2014. They have observed the present coastal flooding due to the effects of climate change and corresponding mitigation measures to be implemented under Coastal Embankment Improvement Project, Phase-1 (CEIP-1).
National dialogue for financing the investment programmes of the ‘Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100’

Bangladesh Water Partnership in association with Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) organized a day long National Dialogue on ‘Financing Mechanisms for Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100’. The Dialogue was held on 1st November, 2014 in Spectra Convention Centre. Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Bangladesh was present as the Chief Guest and Dr. Khondaker Azharul Haq, Vice President, Bangladesh Water Partnership was present as Special Guest. The Dialogue was chaired by Dr. Asaduzzaman, Professorial Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies. A round table discussion among the participants was held where Participants were from different government, non-government, private organizations. The main objective of the National Dialogue was ‘to prepare and finalize a position paper on the financing mechanisms of the proposed Delta Plan, 2100 of Bangladesh’. The position paper was updated incorporating the constructive suggestions, opinions and criticisms of the Dialogue. The output of the National Dialogue was expected

Meetings in Sri Lanka from 10-12 October 2014

20th Regional Council (RC) Meeting:
The 20th RC Meeting was held from 10-11 October 2014 at the Yellow River Auditorium of International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Colombo, Sri Lanka. On behalf of BWP Dr. K. Azharul Haq, Vice President; Ms. Mukta Akter, Country Coordinator (observer), Dr. Nilufar Islam, RC member and Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, RC member participated in the meetings. The meeting commenced by welcome address from Ms. Kusum Athukorala, Chair, Sri Lanka Water Partnership and chaired by Mr. Iswar Raj Onta, Regional Chair, Global Water Partnership South Asia (GWP-SAS). A total number of 21 agenda were discussed in the Meeting. Ms Angela Klauschen, Senior Network Officer, GWPO made a presentation on GWP Strategy towards 2020 with a vision to develop a water secure world.

6th General Assembly (GA):
The 6th General Assembly was held during the morning session on 12 October 2014. GA started with welcome address by Iswar Raj Onta, Chair, GWP-SAS. Two partners from BWP Begum Samsun Nahar and Mr. Emaduddin Ahmed were invited to participate in the GA.

Country Coordinators (CC) Meeting:
The CC meeting was held on 12 October 2014 in the post lunch session. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Angela Klauschen. Ms. Priyanka Dissanayake, Regional Coordinator, GWP-SAS presented 2015 Workplan & Budget on Core activities & Mr Lal Induruwage, Project Manager, WACREP presented 2015 Workplan & Budget on WACREP activities. On behalf of BWP, Ms. Mukta Akter and Dr. K. Azharul Haq participated in the meeting.
Celebrate the World Water Day

Bangladesh Water Partnership jointly with Bangladesh National Committee of ICID (BANCID) observed the World Water Day 2014 and held a Seminar in this occasion on “Water and Energy” on 22 March, 2014. The Day was observed under the guidance of Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) in association with Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), Institute of Water Modelling (IWM). Eminent Water Experts and Engineers from different government and non government organizations, Academicians, representatives from NGO’s, attended the Seminar. Mr. Muhammad Nazrul Islam, Bir Protik, State Minister, Ministry of Water Resources was the Chief Guest at the event. Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, attended the seminar as Special Guest. The Seminar was chaired by Mr. Md. Shahidur Rahman, Director General, Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and Chairman, BANCID. Honorable Chief Guest of the seminar Mr. Muhammad Nazrul Islam, Bir Protik, M.P., State Minister, Ministry of Water Resources launched the New Global Strategy: towards 2020 of the Global Water Partnership (GWP). Two key note papers were presented on the theme of the day, one by Mr. Md. Wajiullah, one by Mr. Md. Wajiullah, Executive Director ED), CEGIS and the other by Prof. M. Monowar Hossain, ED, IWM. It was followed by comments from three designated discussants and open discussion from the floor. The designated discussants were Dr. Umme Kulsum Navera, Professor, Department of Water Resources Engineering, BUET, Dr. Sultan Ahmed, Director, DoE and Dr. K. Azharul Haq, Vice President, BWP and Former Managing Director, Dhaka WASA. The participants opined that coordinated, coherent and concerted policies and management plans should be undertaken for sustainable development of water resources and energy. The seminar recommended to explore the possibility of energy generation from renewable resources like water, wave, solar, wind etc.

Celebrate World Environmental Day - 2014

1. A daylong Seminar on Political Economy of Climate Change was organized on 19 June 2014 in the Daily Purbanchal Dialogue Center by Initiative for Right View and Bhairab River Area Water Partnership with the support of Bangladesh Water Partnership. Dr. Tarun Kanti Sikter, Director, Department of Environment was present as Chief Guest. Professor Dr. Shahnewaz Nazimuddin Ahmed of Khulna University presented the keynote paper on Political Economy of Climate Change and its impact on Developing Country. In his paper he identified climate change a great threat for the globe. A lively discussion was held by the participants in the open discussion session. The Chief Guest suggested to support the global initiative and should raise our voice against the sea level raise.

2. Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) jointly with Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), Department of Environment (DoE) celebrated the World Environment Day 2014 through an open discussion on 7 June, 2014 at Haymonti Auditorium, Department of Forest (DoF), Agargaon, Dhaka. Mr. Anisul Islam Mahmud, MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Water Resources, attended the event as the Chief Guest, while Dr. Jafar Ahmed Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, was present as Special guest. Dr. Khandaker Azharul Haq, Vice-president of Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) delivered the welcome address with emphasizing on the tag line of the year’s Environment Day which is one of the prime concerns of today’s world. More than one hundred and fifty participants from different organizations were present in the discussion and made it a fruitful one.

3. The Halda River Area Water Partnership observed the World Environment Day on the theme “Urbanization and Water Logging Threat to Coastal Towns from Sea Level Rise” The Principal objective of the program was to create awareness among the different stakeholders on the impact of sea level rise on the coastal towns. Dr. Hasan Mahmood Choudhury, Honorable Member of the Parliament was present as the Chief Guest. Dr. Zafar Alam, Director, Department of Environment, Chittagong President over the meeting.
Consultation Meeting With Climate Change National Focal Points to Develop Proposals Targeting for Climate Funding

A National consultation meeting was organized by Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) on ‘Climate Change National Focal Points to Develop Proposals Targeting for Climate Funding’ in BRAC Centre Inn (75 Mohakhali, Dhaka, Bangladesh) on 13 December 2014. Eminent Environmentalist and Economists and Chairperson of Palli Karma Shahayan Foundation (PKSF) and Institute of Microfinance (InM) Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad attended the meeting as the Chief Guest. The meeting was attended by 46 climate change focal points of various public and private agencies, researchers, engineers, economist, environmentalists, university faculty members, government officials, development workers, civil society actors, non government organizations (NGO), community based organizations (CBO), youth and media personnel and representatives from BARC, BRRI, BWP, BWNN, CEGIS, DoF, FD, ICDDRB, IWM, MoL. The daylong meeting included an Inaugural Session, 2 Technical Sessions and a Wrap up Session. A total of ten (10) proposals were presented in the seminar. The welcome address was delivered by Mr. Tauhidul Anwar Khan, Secretary General of BWP. The Chief Guest highlighted policy and funding issues and concerns of climate change from global and national perspective. He advised BWP to take up research projects having robust information and analysis based proposals. The house requested the project proponents to address the recommendations forwarded by the reviewers in the meeting.

Workshop on “Climate Change and Water Quality: Impact on Coastal Women and their livelihoods”

Bangladesh Women and Water Network (BWNN) with the financial support of Bangladesh Water Partnership organized a half day long workshop on 27 September 2014 in BRDB Training Center, Mijdee Court, Noakhali. Title of the workshop was “Climate Change and Water Quality: Impact on Coastal Women and their livelihoods”. The workshop was designed for grass root level female participations. The purpose of the workshop was to enhance awareness among the participants and share knowledge in the perspective of climate change issues and develop local level network. A total number of 49 participants, from different water user groups, projects, local women organizations, local NGOs working with water, students etc., participated in the workshop. Two award recipients Mrs. Morium Begum and Mrs. Rup Bhanu, Laxmipur who are well recognized as role model in grassroots level, spoke in the workshop to share their practical knowledge and experience on their self reliant activities in IWRM sector.

The workshop was presided over by Begum Shamsun Nahar, Gender Specialist & Coordinator of BWNN. In her presentation Begum Shamsun Nahar emphasized on empowering women and female education specially for coastal women affected by adverse impact of climate change. Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary of BWP and Member Secretary of BWNN presented a paper on activities of Bangladesh Women and Water Network narrating the formation history and objectives of BWNN. The Workshop successfully sensitized the women in the coastal areas about impacts of Climate Change and encouraged them to develop and adopt climate resilient technologies and local practices.
The 12th Annual General Meeting of BWP was held on 06 December 2014 at Conference Room of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC). The meeting was chaired by Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan, President, BWP. The main agenda in the meeting were the confirmation of the minutes of 11th AGM, approval of Secretary General’s Report and approval of BWP Audit Report 2013. The reports were approved in the meeting with minor observations.

As per schedule, BWP held 4 EC Meetings the 44th, 45th, 46th and 47th on 12 February, 05 May, 13 August and 17 November 2014 respectively. The principal agenda of the meetings were implementation status of the 2014 work plan and preparation of the 2015 work plan under Core and Water and Climate Resilience Programme (WACREP), preparation and implementation status of the National Consultation on SDG on water in the post-2015 development agenda Phase-II and Associated Program on Flood Management (APFM) of World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Discussion on the Agreement between IWMI (Host Institution of GWP-SAS) & BWP and Approval the Secretary General’s Report & Audit Report 2013 for presenting in the 11th AGM of BWP. The committee expressed their satisfaction on the overall progress of activities for the year 2014.

In 2014, BWWN held 21st and 22nd Steering Committee (SC) Meetings respectively on 2 June and 23 November. The main agenda of the 21st meeting were to review of previous activities of BWWN and discussion of activities for 2014. On the other hand, the 22nd SC meeting was about to Proposal preparation for climate funding under WACREP, debriefing on the workshop of BWWN held on 27 September 2014 in coastal area, Noakhali and discussion on the work plan for 2015.

The meeting was attended by 52 participants from different stakeholder groups. Two papers were presented in the seminar one each from Institute of Marine Science & Fisheries and Chittagong City Corporation. The meeting emphasized on the adverse impact of sea level rise will have on the Coastal towns including Chittagong the second largest city and the business capital of the country. A number of recommendations emerged from the discussions and awareness building among the vulnerable groups was the major one.