Place: Islamabad, Pakistan

Date: 26.03.2015 – 29.03.2015

Staff: Mukta Akter

List of activities: Constitutive Assembly of Pakistan Youth Parliament for Water (PYPW) and Conference on Water and Sustainable Development – Role of Youth

**Narrative text**

On the occasion of World Water Day 2015, the Board of World Youth Parliament for Water and the WYPW-members in Pakistan established Pakistan Youth Parliament for Water (PYPW) through a constitutive assembly, as a national movement similar to the global World Youth Parliament for Water. The event was took place in the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) premises on 26 March 2015 in Islamabad, Pakistan.

The aims of PYPW was to promote the involvement of young people in water related policies, both by raising their awareness of water resource management issues with a vision towards a world where all people have equal access to safe water and sanitation, including the most vulnerable, and where water is sustainably managed for the benefit of people, economy and the environment.

The following were the general objectives of the Constitutive Assembly of the Pakistan Youth Parliament for Water:

- Bring together the 25 Founding Members of Pakistan Youth Parliament for Water
- Brief the 25 Founding Members about the existing forms of youth engagement in water sector in other countries, and internationally
- Adopt the Founding Act of Pakistan Youth Parliament for Water
- Agree on the way forward for Pakistan Youth Parliament for Water: Action Roadmap, next General Assembly, upcoming events and
- Adoption of Pakistan Youth Parliament for Water Founding Charter
Mr. Bart Devos, President of World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW), said that water security improves food security so top priority should be access to water for all and water security for Pakistan and region. He requested to take priority to children and young people as water scarcity will first affect health and young people. He suggested using water in peaceful and cooperative way for human being. He also said that young people have some responsibilities, skills to contribute and cooperate to identifying water problems and resolve as well.

Dr. Akhter Ali, Senior Water Specialist, ABD, Philippine was the Chief Guest of the event. He urged on water quantity, quality and management. He informed that everybody should have minimum quantity of water to survive and for that he advised to focus on cooperation.

Ms. Mukta Akter, Youth Focal Point, GWP-South Asia presented a paper on “Youth Involvement: The prime mover in Sustainable Water Management for South Asia” in the event.
There were over 35 participants and representatives including Ambassador of the French Embassy in Pakistan, ADB, PCRWR, NGO’s, PWP, WYPW, PYPW, youth representative (founding members of PYPW) from Universities and GWP-South Asia.

The constitutive assemble emphasized on IWRM and capacity building through research and education so that young people can be involved to play vital role in sustainable water management. The assemble also expected that creation of Pakistan Youth Parliament for Water would contribute to unlocking the potential of Pakistani young people as solution provider for the water problems.
Analyzing and evaluating the existing water stressed situation and the main challenges in water sector of Pakistan, a conference focusing on ‘Role of Youth for Sustainable Water Resource Management’ was organized by the Pakistan Water Partnership (PWP) under patronage of the Planning Commission of Pakistan and collaboration of the World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW) on 27 March 2015 in the Planning Commission Auditorium, Pak Secretariat, Islamabad.

It was a daylong conference, attended by over 100 participants, including the Minister of Planning, Development and Reform / Planning Commission, Secretary, middle to top management cadre of the water related experts, stakeholders- UNESCO, PCRWR, PC, PWP, ECOSF, WYPW, ICIMOD, French Embassy, Garman Embassy, GWP-SAS and youth from institutions and academics at the national and provincial levels.

The conference had the following objectives:

- To sensitize on critical water issues, challenges and opportunities
- To engage all stakeholders with special focus on youth for sustainable water development and management
- To persuade the Government of Pakistan for approval of National Water Policy.
- Building consensus for the adoption of Islamabad Water Day Declaration 2015.

The inaugural session was conducted by Mr. Naseer Ahmad Gillani, President, PWP and Joint Secretary (Admin) /Chief Water, Planning Commission. Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, the honorable minister, Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform / Planning Commission of Pakistan graced the inaugural session as the Chief Guest.
Mr. Sardar Muhammad Tariq, Chief Executive of Pakistan Water Partnership delivered a message on behalf of the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. In the message he mentioned that water resources of the country are subject to all kinds of quantitative and qualitative issues, which need to be addressed on priority basis.

Mr. Bart Devos, President of World Youth Parliament for Water informed that clean water and sanitation as well as water scarcity, are the most pressing challenges for young generation. He urged cooperation to change attitude towards the young people and children. He also opined that national policy needs involving young people in water issues.

Inaugural Session was followed by a comprehensive presentation on Pakistan by Sardar Muhammad Tariq, Chief Executive of Pakistan Water Partnership and messages from all partner organizations during the first and second Technical Sessions. Ms. Mukta Akter, Youth Focal Point, GWP-South Asia also delivered a short presentation on “Youth and Water: Perspective on GWP-South Asia” in the technical session-1. Later the participants were divided into five groups for group Work and outcomes of the Group were presented in the Concluding Session chaired by Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PCRWR.

**Outputs/Outcomes/Follow-up**
- The precise governance structure has been established under the PYPW Founding Charter.
- An “Action Roadmap” has been adopted by the Pakistan Youth Parliament for Water.
- All adaptation has been taken through group discussion by the participants.
- All participants took place for World Water Day Walk 2015.
- MOU signed between World Youth Parliament for Water and Pakistan Youth Parliament for Water by Mr. Bart Devos, Mr. Muhammad Raza Ali Gandapur and Mr. Muhammad Wasif Bashir Baber, representatives of the organizations.
- Participation certificates and conference souvenirs were distributed among the youth leaders and conference partners.
- Group discussions on 5 topics
  - Water as a driver for growth and sustainability
  - Sustainable ground water management
  - Climate change impacts on water towers – HKH region
  - Cross-cutting role of youth and other stakeholders
  - Water policies and stewardships-stakeholders participation.

Photos