

Learning Hub Event (LHE) report on

## ***International Climate Policy & Finance; A Global and Bangladesh Context***



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<b>Learning Hub Event (LHE) Title:</b>	<b>International Climate Policy &amp; Finance; A Global and Bangladesh Context</b>
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	<i>Thursday, March 29, 2018, 02:30 pm – 04.00 pm</i>
<b>Organizers:</b>	<i>Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)</i>
<b>Funded by:</b>	<i>USAID</i>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Seminar Room 1014, IUB, Dhaka</b>
<b>Chair:</b>	Prof. Abdul Khaleque, <b>Dean</b> , School of Environmental Science & Management ( <b>SESM</b> ), <b>IUB</b>
<b>Presentation 1:</b>	<b>International Policy Landscape</b> by <b>Saqib Huq</b> , Co-coordinator, CFTM, ICCCAD
<b>Presentation 2:</b>	<b>Global Landscape of Climate Finance and Bangladesh Context</b> By <b>Yousuf Mahid</b> , Coordinator, CFTM ICCCAD
<b>Author:</b>	<i>Shahrin Mannan, Program Assistant, ICCCAD</i>
<b>Photographer:</b>	<i>Noor E-Laihi</i>
<b>Photo Album:</b>	<i>Please go to Event photos</i>
<b>Editor:</b>	<i>Saqib Huq and Tasfiq Mahmood</i>

## Participants' List

Name	Designation/Organization
Mr. Md. Abdul Baten	SESM/IUB
Mr. Neel Ratan Deb Nath	SESM/IUB
Ms. Aurun Dati	SESM/IUB
Mr. Safa Zil Aziz Anan	SESM/IUB
Ms. Afifa Tajrimin Inra	SESM/IUB
Ms. Afsana Jahan Luna	SESM/IUB
Ms. Quazi Nadira Esrat	SESM/IUB
Mr. Md. Sazzad Hossan Talukder	SESM/IUB
Mr. Raisur Rahman	SESM/IUB
Mr. Asabul Amin Anik	SESM/IUB
Ms. Anindita Naha	SESM/IUB
Mr. Md. Junaed Hossain	GES/DU
Ms. Jakiya Khanam	-
Mr. Darashiko Sagar	SESM/IUB
Mr. Md. Imran Molla	IUB
Hla Thoaiching	IUB
Mr. Md. Nojum Imtasin Shakib	IUB
Mr. Atiqul Islam Sakib	IUB
Mr. Mehedi Hasan Niloy	IUB
Mr. Md. Sajbul Islam	IUB
Ms. Maisha Mustafa	IUB
Ms. Shahareea Nusrat Reea	IUB
Dr. Tawhib Monzur	IUB
Mr. Mehedi Hasan Shuvo	IUB
Ms. Roiya Nusrat Kimi	IUB
Mr. Md. Saddam Hossain	IUB
Ms. Esrat Jahan Esha	IUB
Ms. Dilruba Shimo	IUB
Mr. Alim Al Saadman	SESM/IUB
Mr. Md. Foyez Ahmed	SESM/IUB
Mr. Md. Aminur Rahman	SESM/IUB
Mr. Fahad Ahmed	Research & Development Officer/DES,SESM
Ms. Tahmina Sultana	Lecturer/ SESM
Dr. Sharif A. Mukul	Asst. Prof. SESM
Dr. A. N. M. Fakhruddin	Prof. SESM/IUB
Dr. Hafizur Rahman	Asst. Prof. SESM

<b>Dr. A. Khaleque</b>	Dean of SESM
<b>Mr. Md. Mehtanur Rahman</b>	SESM/IUB
<b>Ms. Bindu Kairy</b>	SESM/IUB
<b>Ms. Udit Chakma</b>	SESM/IUB

**Event Agenda:**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Person</b>
<b>2:15 - 2:30pm</b>	<b>Registration</b>	ICCCAD Team
<b>2:30 - 2:40pm</b>	<b><i>Introductory remarks and setting the tone</i></b>	Prof. Abdul Khaleque, <b>Dean</b> , School of Environmental Science & Management (SESM), <b>IUB</b>
<b>2:40 - 3:30pm</b>	<b><i>Climate Policy and Finance: National and global perspectives</i></b>  <b><i>Presentation 1</i></b>  <b>&amp;</b>  <b><i>Presentation 2</i></b>	Mr. Saqib Huq, <b>Coordinator</b> , Climate Finance Programme, <b>ICCCAD</b>  <b>&amp;</b>  Mr. Yousuf Mahid, <b>Coordinator</b> , Policy Support Programme, <b>ICCCAD</b>
<b>3:30 - 3:50pm</b>	<b>Open discussion and question-answer session</b>	All Participants
<b>3:50 - 4pm</b>	<b>Closing Speech</b>	Prof. Khaleque, <b>Dean</b> , School of Environmental Science & Management (SESM), <b>IUB</b>
<b>4pm</b>	<b>Refreshment</b>	ICCCAD Team

# Learning Hub Event (LHE) Report

## On

### *International Climate Policy & Finance; A Global and Bangladesh Context*

#### Main Outcomes

- ❖ To strengthen the understanding of climate finance and policy issues.
- ❖ To capacitate the youth for conducting climate change advocacy and knowledge dissemination activities.
- ❖ To strengthen the youth with the knowledge of different climate funds and train them to write proposal in future.

On 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2018, The Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) and the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) co-organised a Learning Hub event (LHE) on “International Climate Policy & Finance Landscape; A Global and Bangladesh Context”. The event was sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the Gobeshona Young Researcher Programme (GYRP). The LHE held at the IUB premises was attended by a variety of students and faculties to set up a dialogue to learn about the international policy situation on climate change issues, the basic framework of climate finance (in a Global and Bangladesh context) and to discuss on possible ways to enhance their knowledge and understanding and how they can engage in the process further.

The LHE was designed to give an explanatory overview of the climate policy landscape, the different modes and modalities that the various funding mechanisms operate through and highlight reference points for further learning and knowledge materials. The aim was to encourage the young students and faculty members to form an idea about the various international treaties and policies that address climate change impacts, to highlight the various channels through which these policies finance their outcomes and the Bangladesh governments’ initiatives and frameworks in response to these agreements. With this understanding they will be not only be able to takes necessary steps to organise future learning events to remain up-to-date with these issues as they evolve, but also to brainstorm possible initiatives and programmes that they can develop for themselves.

#### I. Summary of the Presentations

The *first presentation* on “International Policy Landscape” was done by Mr. Saqib Huq, which focussed on the international policies and frameworks that cover environmental issues, especially those that directly relate to climate change impacts and policies that aim to mitigate the climate change affects.

Environmental policies are drafted upon two ‘guiding principles’. Firstly, ‘Polluters Pay Principle’, that is a polluter, those who emit the most greenhouse gases, has to pay for the damages done to



Mr. Huq giving his presentation

the environment. Though many countries still don't want to take this responsibility on themselves, this principle has proven to be effective and enforced in many other environmental contexts. For example, different laws and regulations that govern the pollution and wastage from industrial processes, such as gases that impact the ozone layer, waste water from factories into surrounding water bodies, etc. in such cases, it is the pollution-producers that have to pay taxes, change their methods of production or implement 'treatment facilities' to address their environmental impacts.

Secondly, the principle of 'Common but Differentiated Responsibility', which aims to guide international treaties into acknowledging that not all parties (of the treaty/agreement) have equal capacity in implementing the terms of the agreement, however, that doesn't absolve them of not taking any action at all. In the context of climate policy, all nations have the common goal of reducing emissions and adapting to the impacts, however, each nation has differentiated responsibilities based on their own development status, their specific vulnerabilities to the impacts and their own capacity to adapt. So it is necessary to identify what a country can do alone and what they can achieve with the assistance of other countries.

Under the climate change policies, two international agreements are seen as the key policies to refer to;

1. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) – namely, SDG 13 on Climate Action
2. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – which is the apex body on climate change policies and agreements

SDG 13 on Climate Action, states overall ambitions on how the global community should address the changing climate and its impacts, however, it also specifically refers to the UNFCCC as being the convention under which these actions are solidified. It specifically address the commitments taken on financial support and funding mechanisms (i.e. the Green Climate Fund) to be made operational and serve the pledges for the most climate vulnerable nations.

Under the UNFCCC, the global discussion and consequent policies have focused on three phases - mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage. Mitigation, which aims to reduce/eliminate the greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. Adaptation, that aims to utilise the scientific evidence on dealing with the impacts of a climate change and implement possible solutions to the issues. And, Loss & Damage, which refers to the growing body of evidence that in certain contexts it will not be possible to adapt to the impacts and irreversible effects of the changing environment. Among these issues, mitigation and adaptation initiatives are largely uncontroversial and have been in effect for a number of years now. However, the discourse on Loss & Damage has only recently been considered within the policy frameworks and agreements, and is considered to be a politically sensitive topic, due to the possibilities of penalties for polluters.

The UNFCCC, functions over various regional meetings, and is hosted by a secretariat, based in Bonn, Germany. The convention organises an international conference, once a year, called the Conference of Parties (COP) which serves as the platform for 190 nations to understand, negotiate and determine the policies that each nation will implement to tackle the impacts of climate change. Over the years, various COPs had achieved great significance, whether it was due to the political will and attendance of Heads of

State/Government, the agreement and establishment of funding mechanisms or the involvement of civil society and the general public through advocacy and activist movements.

Various knowledge products and reference materials were shared with the participants to aid further learning on the UNFCCC process and specifically on understanding the 'Paris Agreement'. The materials aim to breakdown the technical jargon used within the UNFCCC, aid in understanding the language of international treaties and be informed of reference sites and sources to remain up-to-date on the COP process.

With regards to national strategies and plans, Bangladesh had developed the 'Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) 2009' which outlined the specific challenges and impacts that climate change will bring to Bangladesh. Currently, the strategy is being revised and updated to incorporate the latest climate change research and national policies. Additionally, the Government of Bangladesh has been preparing for more medium – long term national strategies, as the future impacts from a changing climate are unlikely to be noticed in short periods. The Government has been drafting the 'New Perspective Plan 2041' which will look at the next 20 years of development of the country, as well as the 'Bangladesh Delta Plan – Vision 2100' which tries to deliver a more holistic approach to the development of national policies and sectoral strategies to tackle the climate change impacts within the whole delta. It was noted that such policies need to be 'reflexive' to allow for new evidence and research in future, to frame more effective policies and be responsive to the needs of the population.

The second presentation on "Global landscape of climate finance and Bangladesh context" was presented by Mr. Yousuf Mahid. It provided a broad spectrum on climate finance in Bangladesh and how it translates to the overarching concept of governing the climate finance from global to the local level.



**Mr. Mahid presenting his topic**

Mr. Mahid began the session by asking the audience what climate finance means. The audience responded that the fund Bangladesh receives from different countries to tackle climate change and for being a Least Developed Country (LDCs) is regarded as climate finance. But the actual understanding is a bit more specific- any finance that address adaptation and mitigation is called climate finance. It has 3 facets – it has to be new and additional to an aid, it needs to be part of ODA, and lastly it should increase the expenditure in climate actions on 2009.

This finance can be drawn from 4 sources- bilateral institutions, multilateral institutions, private source and national climate funds. Again the multilateral support can be of two types- UNFCCC and Non-UNFCCC. Non-UNFCCC sources contribute to major mitigation funds. So far, Bangladesh received 8.7 million dollar from the mitigation fund and 120 million dollar for adaptation. Mitigation is not a priority for climate action in Bangladesh since carbon emission is very low in our country. There, Bangladesh mostly focuses on the adaptation activities. Private sector is also accredited to be involved



Mr. Mahid then moved his discussion towards the global funding sources. Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a financial mechanism under the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to help the developing countries respond better to climate change. 50% of this fund goes to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Small Island States. To get access to GCF each country needs to go through a process. Firstly they have to select a permanent 'National Designated Authority' (NDA). The Economic Relation Division (ERD) of Ministry of Finance is the NDA for Bangladesh. To submit a proposal a country needs to have accreditation from a National Accredited Entity (NIE) and a Multilateral Accredited Entity (MAE). The NIEs in Bangladesh are – IDCOL and PKSF.

Bangladesh is a climate change vulnerable country and eligible for getting GCF fund regardless of the developing country status. GCF has different tools of funding such as grant, loan, equity and guaranty. These changes depending on the type of vulnerabilities a country has. 4 types of projects get approved under the GCF - micro, small, medium, and large. IDCOL has the provision of using the loan instrument and PKSF uses grant. GCF has so far approved 76 projects worldwide which is worth 1.3 million tons of carbon emission reduction activities. Bangladesh has so far got 3 projects funded by GCF for enhancing adaptive capacities of coastal communities. After submitting proposals, they are evaluated according to each country's national priority and investment criteria. Impact, paradigm shift, sustainable development, country ownership, efficiency and effectiveness, and needs of the recipients are the criteria for evaluation of proposals.

The role of NDA is to oversee the whole process, convening the stakeholders, going through proposals to give a No Objection confirmation to fund release, implementation and afterwards monitoring the fund. The NDA can also lead any readiness and engagement activities included to the funding. The NDA also can nominate any agency to become and NIEs who ultimately reports back to GCF. The roles of NIEs range from develop and submitting a proposal to the NDA, oversee the project management and implementation, administer the financial instruments, and mobilize any private or public sector capital in case of co-financing. They are country representatives who can also develop project proposals.

The Ministry of Finance published a budget report called the 'Climate Protection and Development' for the year 2017-18 which shows the progress of climate finance in Bangladesh. This report included the budget allocation of each of the following ministries - Ministry of Water Resource (MoWR), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF), Local Government Division (LGD) and Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME).

The Economic Relations Division (under Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh) was selected the NDA in November, 2014. Its United Nations (UN) wing works as the NDA Secretariat. Six potential NIEs selected through stakeholder consultation, workshop - IDCOL, LGED, DoE, Bangladesh Bank, PKSF, BCCTF of which IDCOL and PKSF became the NIEs for direct access to GCF.

There are different sources of climate finance in Bangladesh. It can be drawn from revenue budget, Annual Development Programme (ADP), Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF), Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRF), bilateral donors, and multilateral climate fund such as GCF. Bangladesh has so far got 3 projects funded by the GCF to enhance adaptive capacities of the coastal

communities. Two of the projects are operated by MIEs (KfW and UNDP respectively), which the third is through IDCOL.

## II. Question-Answer Session



**Participants during Q&A session**

After the sessions the students and faculty members were encouraged to ask questions and share comments. Most of the Q&A discussions were related to the various technicality issues related to the GCF, about how to develop project proposals and get involved with implementing activities. Specifically, students were keen to understand if there were opportunities for them to submit proposals for project funds and how they can engage with the various projects that have already been approved. In

response, it was noted that particular projects/activities in need of funding, were not applicable to the GCF as it operated through accredited entities and had very strict application procedures, however, there were opportunities with other projects and organisations that would be better suited for student projects.

Further discussions were on how to engage with the UNFCCC process, how to stay current with the new development of international policies and how to raise the specific concerns of the youth and students in the international forum. The participants were familiarised with various sources of information, websites and reading materials to gain further knowledge of the international policy mechanism and look for opportunities to engage and advocate further.

### **Key messages from the event**

It is important to engage the general public (especially the youth) into being aware of the different issues and vulnerabilities to climate change that will impact Bangladesh. Providing an overview of International Policies and Finance regarding climate change allows for a basic level of understanding for all and provides further references for interested participants to enhance their knowledge in future. Participants were able to engage in discussions to clarify matters and brainstorm on future activities to raise their voice on climate change issues.