

## Learning Hub Event (LHE) report

On

### *Promoting Collaborative Research on Climate Change*



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<b><i>Learning Hub Event (LHE) Title:</i></b>	<b><i>Promoting Collaborative Research on Climate Change</i></b>
<b><i>Date &amp; Time:</i></b>	<i>Saturday, March 31, 2018, 07:30 pm – 09:00 pm</i>
<b><i>Organizers:</i></b>	<i>International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)</i>
<b><i>Funded by:</i></b>	<i>USAID</i>
<b><i>Venue:</i></b>	<b><i>Dinner Hall 1, Bamboo Shoot Restaurant, Gulshan, Dhaka</i></b>
<b><i>Chair:</i></b>	<i>Dr. Saleemul Huq, Director, ICCCAD</i>
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<b><i>Photo Album:</i></b>	<i>Please go to <a href="#">Event photos</a></i>
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## Participants' List

<b>Dr. Saleemul Huq</b>	<b>ICCCAD</b>
<b>Prof. Milan Pagon</b>	IUB
<b>Prof. Mizan R Khan</b>	NSU
<b>Dr. Nadiruzzaman</b>	ICCCAD
<b>Dr. Md. Feisal Rahman</b>	ICCCAD
<b>Dr. Kimberly G. Rogers</b>	Colorado University, USA
<b>Dr. Amanda Carrico</b>	Colorado University, USA
<b>Ms. Amrit Kaur Kooner</b>	Visiting Researcher
<b>Ms. Sarah Moody</b>	Visiting Researcher
<b>Mr. Nauman Haque</b>	UNEP
<b>Dr. Carol Wilson</b>	Colorado University, USA
<b>Dr. Mahbuba Nasreen</b>	DU
<b>Ms. Leslie Valentine</b>	Colorado University, USA
<b>Mr. Saqib Huq</b>	ICCCAD
<b>Ms. Munmun Reefat</b>	IUB
<b>Mr. Biswajit Mallick</b>	-
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<b>Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman</b>	ICCCAD

## Learning Hub Event (LHE) Report

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### ***Promoting Collaborative Research on Climate Change***

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#### **Main Outcomes**

- ❖ To develop idea for long-term collaborative research
- ❖ To explore possible future funded programmes for climate change research
- ❖ To establish linkages between institutions for long-term partnerships

On 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018, the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) organised a Learning Hub event (LHE) on “*Promoting Collaborative Research on Climate Change*”.

The event was sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the Gobeshona Young Researcher Programme (GYRP).

The LHE was organised to create a dialogue with a team of visiting researchers from University of Colorado, Boulder. The team had recently arrived in Bangladesh to conduct a scoping mission to identify key research areas and select potential field sites for future research programmes. Their

areas of interest ranged from research on physical landscapes (and how humans have affected the changes) to exploring the linkages between environmental stressors and migration patterns.

The LHE was attended by a variety of researchers (from various national and international universities), practitioners and like-minded individuals. The aim of the dialogue was to identify the benefits of ‘cross-country learning’, to collaborate on the different research activities conducted by the various institutions and to brainstorm on how to keep engaged for future research programmes.

On behalf of ICCCAD, Dr. Saleemul Huq provided an overview of the Gobeshona Young Researchers Programme, which has been dealing with the issue of promoting young Bangladeshi researchers to deliver high-quality research products and forming a platform for all interested stakeholders to engage and discuss their experiences in generating and managing the vast amount of knowledge that is produced throughout the country. The Gobeshona programme aims to deliver capacity of researchers by a variety of knowledge management and sharing opportunities. Namely, the Gobeshona programme arranges for monthly seminars host by its’ vast network of partners to disseminate the research findings of climate change impacts in Bangladesh on various sectors. Dr. Huq highlighted on two key ‘flagship’ outcomes of the

programme – the Annual Gobeshona Conference and the Gobeshona Portal. The conference serves as a platform for a number of national/international researchers to highlight their latest research and has grown in recent years to incorporate other interested stakeholders (e.g. government officials, private sector researchers, etc...) to share their challenges and outcomes to a wider community. Over the years, the conference was able to invite visiting researchers, mostly from within the 'Least Developed Countries – University Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC)' to participate and aid them in their knowledge management processes.



Participants at the LHE

The web-portal, which hosts more than 2000 publications, serves as a gateway for interested researchers to gain up-to-date knowledge of the climate change impacts that are occurring in Bangladesh. As availability of good quality research and data has been highlighted as a constant constraint in producing climate change knowledge in Bangladesh, the portal functions to deliver the research papers in a searchable database to aid future research programmes.

The following are some of the key topics and discussion points that took place over the course of the event.

## I. Summary of the Discussions

### **Collaborative research & Capacity building of institutions**

Several participants commented on the shift of focus from research funding bodies, namely on not only generating new research and conducting projects, but to aim to construct partnerships between institutions and to conduct research in collaboration. Possible interventions from universities in the Global North (developed countries) and Global South (developing countries) could be in establishing 'cross-country' research missions (such as the visiting researchers from University of Colorado) and to promote exchange of students to conduct semester research projects/dissertations/theses etc.

Additionally, it highlighted the importance of being able to attend and participate in programmes such as the Annual Gobeshona Conference, which allows for a more effective dissemination platform for climate - related and Bangladesh context research and evidence. Most universities allow for small grants/internal funds to senior researchers/department faculties to attend and engage in various researches – relevant conferences; this was noted as being a possible opportunity to encourage further collaborations within institutions.

Furthermore, the shift in research priorities, from generating 'new' knowledge to developing more 'applied' knowledge and research was highlighted as being a good opportunity for collaborations. The intent on applied research is to promote research and knowledge that has a use, can be implemented by practitioners and communities to tackle the environmental impacts that are occurring. The discussion also provided useful ideas on 'how to communicate



Participants at the LHE

research findings' as a possibility of further research programmes, as often times the research is conducted in communities or institutions that operate in silos and the findings of the research products are not widely disseminated or easily understood by the general public. Therefore, a possible 'innovative collaboration' could be on developing methods that allow for better communication within the research community and developing strategies on how to share the outcomes/outputs in the post-research period.

Refereeing to the ICCAD – LUCCC programme, it was noted that developing networks similarly to this consortium can help embed universities and research organisations into delivering long-term capacity building with regards to climate research. However, the issue of funding and sustaining these platforms were highlighted as a key barrier, as the priorities from research funding bodies and international grants are looking to be down-scaled in the near future. Funding programmes, such as; PEER (Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research) was discussed as possible options in future.

Possible 'low-fund' options were discussed, such as; linking university departments to share their curricula and link faculties/students with other institutions, exploring internal department funds for researchers to participate in short training courses, seminars. A key option was to explore more online data-portals and platforms to establish long term linkages between partners, as this would allow for future research programmes to draw in the experience and knowledge of similar research activities within the partnering institutions and allow for future collaborations in programmes.



During the open discussion

### **Migration and environmental stressors**

As many of the researchers (National and International) had specific experience in migration research, the discussions opened up a variety of topics from; migration due to environmental



stress/disasters, understanding the mentalities of communities in climate vulnerable hotspots, and the recent Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh (although not directly related to climate change or environmental issues, but is a harbinger of the types of migration that could occur due to the future impacts across the globe).

Future research opportunities regarding the lack of understanding of vulnerable communities were discussed as a vital gap in current knowledge. As governments look to develop policies for 'planned migration', it was noted that the connection that communities felt to their (vulnerable) localities made it extremely difficult to relocate the population from those hotspots.

Also, possible 'innovative' research options could be to explore the combination of various research areas, something that is not widely practiced in much of environmental research as yet. Possibilities such as; linking migration and impacts on culture/community, developing documentaries/video products to highlight the problems faced by vulnerable communities, looking at the linkage between migration and fostering community resilience (due to more resources from migrant remittances).

### **Physical landscapes and land changes**

Another shared research area that arose was to explore the impacts of humans and society on the physical landscape and how the land has changed over the decades. More specifically, to understand the impacts caused by soil erosion/sedimentation in managing Polder systems, how the communities are affected by these changes and using physical data and satellite imagery to map the changes and impacts that are occurring.

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

The event was successful in highlighting future research areas that are shared by the various researchers/organisations. Further brainstorming and co-ordination to avail future funded programmes and 'calls for proposals' were identified. Specific mention of developing long-term partnerships and using 'low funded' options to sustain communication between the partners were discussed and acknowledged as the best ways forward for the near-term.