# Report on

Bangladesh Launch of the *Fifth Assessment Report* (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 Dhaka, Bangladesh



# **Table of Contents**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
Implications for Bangladesh and South Asia	5
2. BACKGROUND OF THE OUTREACH EVENTS	3
3. LIST OF SPEAKERS	3
List of Speakers – Press conference, 6 <sup>th</sup> July6	3
List of Speakers – Launch Event, 7 <sup>th</sup> July	7
List of Speakers – Young Leaders Event, 8 <sup>th</sup> JULY	7
4. PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE IPCC'S AR5: HOW BANGLADESH TRANSLATES CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS VULNERABILITIES - 6 <sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2014	7
5. LAUNCH EVENT OF THE IPCC'S AR5: HOW BANGLADESH TRANSLATES CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS VULNERABILITIES - 7 <sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2014	
Inaugural Session	3
Question and answer/discussions11	1
Summary and Closing Remarks by the Chair13	3
6. YOUNG LEADERS EVENT ON IPCC'S AR5: HOW BANGLADESH TRANSLATES CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS VULNERABILITIES – 8 <sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2014	3
Question and Answer/Discussions14	1
Summary and closing remarks16	3
7. MEDIA COVERAGE AND OUTREACH16	3
8. REFERENCES	7
ANNEX	3
1 AGENDA OF THE EVENTS18	3
2. PRESS RELEASE	1

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The IPCC's AR5 is the most comprehensive assessment of the science, adaptation and mitigation related to climate change and presents the key findings of the latest research from around the world. In order to share the findings of AR5 to the Bangladeshi government officials, policy makers, researchers, journalists, development partners, academics, civil society and practitioners, a three-day outreach event was organised in the capital city of Dhaka, Bangladesh from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> August 2014. The first day of the event was organised by IPCC, CDKN, LEAD, NACOM and Prokriti O Jibon Foundation, with Channel I as the media partner. It was held at the National Press Club, and journalists and members of the electronic and print media attended the programme. Mr. Jonathan Lynn, Head of Communications and Media Relations for the IPCC, briefed the media on AR5, while Dr. John Church, Coordinating Lead Author (IPCC's AR5: Sea Level Change), and Dr. S. M. Munjurul Hannan Khan, Country Engagement Leader, CDKN, responded to the question and answer session and enquiries of the journalists.

The second event was the launch of the AR5's Summary for Policy Makers (SPM) amongst government and non-government policy makers and practitioners of Bangladesh. Mr. Md. Shafiqur Rahman Patwari, Secretary for the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and Dr. Mesbahul Alam, Secretary for the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, were present as special guests. Meanwhile, Professor Dr. Md. Shamsul Alam, Member (GED), Planning Commission, Govt. of Bangladesh, was the chair of the inauguration session. Mr. A. H. M. Mustafa Kamal, Hon'ble Minister for the Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, was the chief guest at this event. Dr. Ainun Nishat, Professor Emeritus, BRAC University, was the chair of the technical session. Dr. John Church, Coordinating Lead Author, IPCC AR5, Dr. Mizan R Khan, Lead Author, IPCC AR5 and Mr. Dipal Chandra Barua, Lead Author, IPCC AR5 were the focal presenters.

The third day of the event was a discussion session held with researchers and young leaders at the University of Dhaka. The welcome speech was given by Prof. Dr. A. R. Mollah, Chairman of the Nature Conservation Management (NACOM) and Mr. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, Director of CDKN Asia gave the introductory speech. Prof. Dr. A A M S Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka, was present as the chief guest and Dr. John Church, Coordinating Lead Author, IPCC AR5, and Mr. Dipal Chandra Barua presented their findings. Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Chairman, Palli Karmo Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), was the chair of the session, and also provided the summary and closing remarks. The programme concluded with Dr. S.M. Munjurul Hannan Khan giving the vote of thanks.

Over 275 participants from different walks of life attended the three IPCC outreach events.

Climate change is a 'tragedy of the commons', which cannot be dealt with if individual countries act independently in their own interest. Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries, in terms of its exposure to extreme events and lack of capacity to cope and adapt. The country has, however, made very good progress in managing disasters and extreme events like cyclones and floods. Preparedness investments are steady and as a country, Bangladesh is transforming to a prepared nation. There is also a wealth of information and research available in the country, but not enough scientific publications in peer reviewed journals. The 7<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan of Bangladesh will incorporate climate change issues and vulnerabilities, so that sustainable development can be achieved through national level planning. The AR5 needs to be interpreted and translated for the local context in Bangladesh, for use amongst the scientific community, practitioners and policy makers alike.

# 1. INTRODUCTION TO IPCC and AR5

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading body for the assessment of climate change, established by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Its main activity is to prepare comprehensive assessment reports about climate change at regular intervals, typically of about five to seven years. IPCC should be neutral with respect to policy, although they may need to deal objectively with scientific, technical and socio-economic factors relevant to the application of particular policies. The *Fourth Assessment Report* (FAR) was published in 2007 when the panel was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (IPCC, July 2014).

The *Fifth Assessment Report*, which was finalised in 2014, is made up of four reports: the three IPCC Working Groups dealing respectively with 'The Physical Science Basis', 'Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability', 'Mitigation of Climate Change' and the Synthesis Report. Each report contains its own Summary for Policymakers (SPM), which is approved in detail by all member countries of the IPCC and represents a formally agreed statement on key findings and uncertainties (IPCC, July 2014).

The SPMs for all three Working Group's (WG) have been published over 2013-14, along with the full report for WG I in January 2014. The full reports of the WG II and WG III will be published shortly in September-October 2014. The Synthesis Report will be finalised on 27-31 October 2014 and presented at a press conference on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2014. In May 2011, the IPCC Special Report on 'Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation' was launched. The IPCC Special Report on 'Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation' was released in November 2011. These special reports also provide essential information for the AR5 (IPCC, 2014).

The AR5 has some new features, such as: a new set of scenarios for analysis across WG contributions; dedicated chapters on sea level rise and climate phenomenon; greater regional detail on climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation interactions; risk management and framing of response. There are cross-cutting themes which were identified as important and include water and earth system, changes, impacts and responses, carbon cycle, ocean acidification, ice sheets and sea level rise, mitigation, adaptation and sustainable development and Article 2 of the UNFCCC (IPCC, 2014).

### Implications for Bangladesh and South Asia

The AR5 offers the following key messages for South Asia:

- 1. South Asia's climate is changing and the impacts are already being felt
- 2. Further climate change is inevitable in the coming decades
- 3. Climate change poses challenges to growth and development in South Asia
- 4. Adaptation will bring immediate benefits and reduce the impacts of climate change in South Asia
- 5. Adaptation is fundamentally about risk management
- 6. South Asia has many adaptation options
- 7. Some low-carbon development options may be less costly in the long run and could offer new economic opportunities for South Asia

- 8. South Asia stand to benefit from integrated climate adaptation, mitigation and development approaches
- International cooperation is vital to avert dangerous climate change and South Asian governments can promote ambitious global actions
  Source: ODI and CDKN, 2014

The Asia region as a whole experienced the most weather and climate related disasters in the world between 2000 and 2008 and suffered the second highest proportion (30%) of the global economic losses (IPCC, 2014). Climate change is impacting human health in several ways. Climate phenomenon, such as El Nino, has been associated with cholera epidemics in Bangladesh. Also in Bangladesh, people have suffered from heat stress, a condition that affects urban populations in low and middle income countries (IPCC, 2014).

An increase in extreme rainfall events related to Monsoon will be very likely in the region. More frequent and heavy rainfalls are projected over South Asia (IPCC, 2013). Low lying, densely populated coastal areas in South Asia, including India and Bangladesh, will be at increased risk of storm surges, putting millions of people at risk (IPCC, 2014). Riverine, coastal and urban floods linked to extreme rainfall events, rising sea levels and cyclones cause widespread damage to infrastructure, livelihoods and settlements. The risk of floods and loss of life and property associated with floods is highest in India and Bangladesh (IPCC, 2014).

## 2. BACKGROUND OF THE OUTREACH EVENTS

Climate change is a 'tragedy of the commons', which cannot be dealt with if individual countries act independently in their own interest (IPCC experts, 2013-14). According to the IPCC Chair, Rajendra K Pachauri, 'the IPCC's AR5 report provides policymakers in Bangladesh and elsewhere with a scientific foundation to tackle the effects of global warming and will help governments work together on a new global agreement to limit climate change'. The IPCC's AR5 is the most comprehensive assessment of the science, adaptation and mitigation related to climate change and presents the key findings of the latest research from around the world.

In order to share the findings of AR5 to the Bangladeshi government officials, policy makers, researchers, journalists, development partners, academics, civil society and practitioners – a three-day outreach event was organised in the capital city of Dhaka, Bangladesh from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> August 2014. The proceedings of the sessions from the events (press conference, launching and young leaders' event) have been documented in this report and presented chronologically. Details of the participants, presentations and agenda have been added as annexes. A total of about 275 participants from different walks of life attended the three IPCC outreach events.

## 3. LIST OF SPEAKERS

## List of Speakers – Press conference, 6<sup>th</sup> July

- 1. Dr. S.M. Munjurul Hannan Khan, Spokesperson, LCD Group at UNFCCC and Country Engagement Leader, CDKN
- 2. Mr. Jonathan Lynn, Head of Communications and Media Relations, IPCC

3. Dr. John Church, Coordinating Lead Author, IPCC AR5: Sea Level Change

# List of Speakers – Launch Event, 7<sup>th</sup> July

- 1. Dr. S.M. Munjurul Hannan Khan, Spokesperson, LDC Group at UNFCCC and Country Engagement Leader, CDKN
- 2. Mr. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, Director, CDKN Asia
- 3. Mr. Md. Shafiqur Rahman Patwari, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest
- 4. Dr. Mesbahul Alam, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
- 5. Mr. A H M Mustafa Kamal, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
- 6. Professor Dr. Md. Shamsul Alam, Member (GED), Planning Commission, Govt. of Bangladesh
- 7. Dr. Ainun Nishat, Professor Emeritus, BRAC University
- 8. Dr. John Church, Coordinating Lead Author, IPCC AR5
- 9. Dr. Mizan R Khan, Lead Author, IPCC AR5
- 10. Mr. Dipal Chandra Barua, Lead Author, IPCC AR5

# List of Speakers – Young Leaders Event, 8<sup>th</sup> JULY

- 1. Prof. Dr. A. R. Mollah, Chairman, Nature Conservation Management (NACOM)
- 2. Mr. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, Director, CDKN Asia
- 3. Prof. Dr. A A M S Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka
- 4. Dr. John Church, Coordinating Lead Author, IPCC AR5
- 5. Mr. Dipal Chandra Barua, Lead Author, IPCC AR5
- 6. Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Chairman, Palli Karmo Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)
- 7. Dr. S.M. Munjurul Hannan Khan, Spokesperson, LDC Group at UNFCCC and Country Engagement Leader, CDKN

## 4. PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE IPCC'S AR5: HOW BANGLADESH TRANSLATES CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS VULNERABILITIES -6<sup>th</sup>AUGUST 2014

The Press Conference on the *Fifth Assessment Report* (AR5) of the IPCC was held on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2014, at the VIP Lounge of the National Press Club in Dhaka, Bangladesh. A total number of 75 journalists from electronic and print media participated at the event.

The press conference was facilitated by Dr. SM Munjurul Hannan Khan, Country Engagement Leader of CDKN. Dr. John Church, Coordinating Lead Author of IPCC AR5: Sea Level Change, was also present as a guest.

Mr. Jonathan Lynn, Head of Communications and Media Relations, IPCC, provided an overview of the AR5. He said that about 70% of the coastal areas of the world are projected to be at risks of sea level rise and in deltaic countries like Bangladesh, sedimentation and local tectonics also pose as threats. Dr. Church added that about 17% of the country's landmass could be inundated with a one metre rise in sea levels. The discussion among the participants (members of the media/journalists) centered around the effects of climate change and how health and productivity will be adversely affected; there will be a decrease in the flow of freshwater; the permafrost in the Himalayan glaciers will continue to melt; there will be displacement and migration and about 50 million people will migrate to cities in search of alternative livelihoods.



Question-answer session with journalists at the Press Conference, the National Press Club, 6th August, 2014

A number of concerns were raised, with respect to funding and seeking international sources of finance for adaptation and mitigation. The issues of 'common but differentiated responsibilities' were brought up as well as compensation from the developed to the developing world.

## 5. LAUNCH EVENT OF THE IPCC'S AR5: HOW BANGLADESH TRANSLATES CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS VULNERABILITIES -7<sup>th</sup>AUGUST 2014

#### Inaugural Session

The launch event of the IPCC's AR5 in Bangladesh was held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2014 at the Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in Dhaka, Bangladesh. In total, about 150 participants attended the inaugural and technical sessions of the launch event. Dr. SM Munjurul Hannan Khan, Country Engagement Leader, CDKN, welcomed everyone to the programme and said 'we must take advantage of these reports; translate them into the national context for Bangladesh and use it for our development planning'.

Mr. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, Director, CDKN Asia, gave an introduction to the IPCC and the AR5 report, stressing the fact that 'the cost of inaction is huge and not affordable for us'. He also talked about CDKN's work globally and cited the example of Ahmedabad, where CDKN developed a heat resistant plan. Mr. Sheikh added that Bangladesh is already experiencing the effects of climate change, and there can be only one response i.e. mainstreaming climate change into all the sectors like agriculture, local plans, water, migration, development, etc.

The Keynote Speaker and Coordinating Lead Author of the IPCC's AR5, Dr. John Church, elucidated the audience with the most recent findings of the IPCC. He stated that warming will continue for about half of this century and then temperatures will stabilise. He presented different models and scenarios and showed increasing precipitation in areas that are already wet. Dr. Church talked about the implications for Bangladesh such as increased precipitation in monsoon, extended monsoon seasons and contrasting dry and wet seasons. Marine based sectors, according to Dr. Church, would be worst affected, and to meet the challenge of staying below the 2<sup>o</sup>C, he said 'we must act urgently and immediately' and that 'adaptation is required by all countries of the world'.

Special guests Mr M. Rafiqul Islam, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, and Dr. Mesbah ul Alam, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, also spoke during the inaugural session. Mr. Islam said that Bangladesh was a forerunner in terms of climate change adaptation and highlighted some of the achievements of the Government, namely the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP), which is a comprehensive policy and action document for addressing both adaptation and mitigation on the ground; the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) as a national funding entity that mobilises national resources as endowment funds to implement the BCCSAP; and the Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRF) as a multi-donors trust fund provided by development partners. Dr. Alam said that Bangladesh has been experiencing erratic temperature and rainfall patterns and an increase in the intensity and magnitude of extreme events such as cyclones that occurred in 2007 and 2009, and said that 'the country is yet to bounce back from the damages done'.



Mr. A H M Mustafa Kamal, Member of Parliament and Honorable Minister, Ministry of Planning delivering his speech

The Chief Guest, Mr. A H M Mustafa Kamal, Member of Parliament and Honorable Minister, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, said that 'climate change is a huge factor for our existence, survival and future'. He said that the economic cost in Bangladesh is almost 1% of the GDP and this loss is colossal as the country has a huge growth in population. He talked about sharing responsibilities, developed counties taxing those responsible for emissions, and mentioned that Bangladesh is spending almost \$100m/year to meet climate and sustainable development challenges.

The Chair of the inaugural session, Professor Dr. Shamsul Alam, Member (GED), Planning Commission, stated that the 7<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan of Bangladesh will address climate change issues and vulnerabilities, so that sustainable development can be achieved through national level planning. The session concluded with a vote of thanks from Mr. Abdullah Al Mohsin Chowdhury, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest.

### **Technical Session**

The Technical Session: Sharing of the IPCC's AR5 was chaired by Dr. Ainun Nishat, Professor Emeritus, BRAC University, and imminent water and climate specialist in Bangladesh.

Dr. John Church, Coordinating Lead Author of the IPCC's AR5, presented a summary of the IPCC's Working Group I: The Physical Scientific Aspects of the Climate System and Climate Change: Sea Level Change. Dr. Church deliberated that changes will occur at different scales - local and regional and global. He said that the AR5 has better explanations and models of sea level rise, along with historical projections. According to the latest IPCC report, higher emissions mean higher levels of sea level rise; Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets are melting into the oceans and resulting in the rising levels of sea and this can also lead to an increase in snowfall. About 70% of the coastal areas might be inundated, and this puts countries like Bangladesh in a precarious position, compounded by the factors of sedimentation and tectonics.

Dr. Mizan R Khan, Professor at North South University, Bangladesh and Lead Author of Working Group III: Mitigation of Climate Change: Social, Economic and Ethical Concepts and Methods, presented an overview of the third chapter of the report. He started off by saying that climate change is a 'global commons' problem and while stability is a public good, climate change is a public bad. He said that this is the first time 'ethics' has found a place in the solutions – behavioral, social and ecological economics need to be considered while designing adaptation strategies. He added that because of market failures and others, sectoral policies have more potential and collective action with a consideration for ethics and social instruments is the way forward for Bangladesh. Dr. Khan said that there is always a tradeoff between scientific integrity and political acceptability and the mammoth task is to strike a balance between the two.

Mr. Dipal Chandra Barua, Lead Author of the IPCC's AR5, gave a presentation on the cross-cutting investment and finance issues. Mr. Barua talked about carbon taxes and offshore emissions, and how land-use and transportation are important sectors that require investments for shifting to low carbon energy efficiency. According to Barua, about \$100b will be raised by 2020, by developed countries, including alternative sources of financing (private sector) and these will be used as contributions to the national budgets of developing countries. He highlighted the point that enabling environments are really important to support climate-conducive investments and that there is scope for synergising development cooperation in Bangladesh.

#### Question and answer/discussions

**Dr. Mahfuzul Haque**, Former Secretary of the Government of Bangladesh, and currently teacher at the Department of Development Studies, Dhaka University, made a general comment that the *Fourth Assessment Report* had special reference to Bangladesh and case studies related to food security (declining production of rice and wheat) and it was clear where Bangladesh stands. He mentioned that as a policy maker, he was searching for similar information in AR5, case studies or special references to Bangladesh.

The panel of experts' response to Dr. Haque's comment was that there are some case studies on renewable energy and reference to the Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund. Also, the second volume has regional chapters and that would have more relevant and country specific information on Bangladesh. IPCC does not produce new information, rather reviews and collates research conducted at local/country level and it is vital that new knowledge is created through robust research by the scientific community in Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, there is a good amount of research that is carried out, but they are seldom published in scientific journals.

**Professor Dr. Shamsul Alam**, Member (GED), Planning Commission, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, posed a question to the lead author Mr. Barua, about how investments in renewable energy from 2030-2049 would jump to exponentially to 200%.

The expert stated that based on the evidence from discussions and peer reviewed documents, as well as the projections/models, the forecast for the exponential increase in investments in renewable energy were made.

**Mr. Ziaul Haque** from the Department of Environment, raised the issue of a 100 year variation between pre-industrial time (1750) and the base year for IPCC calculations (1850). He said that according to the AR5, it is technologically and economically possible to reduce the rise in temperature to  $1.5^{\circ}$ C and questioned how this would be possible.

The expert panel answered that there was limited information available before 1850, but the changes in 100 years (1750 to 1850) were relatively small, compared to more recent times.

**Raihan Khalid**, lawyer at the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, proposed that IPCC takes up few case studies that are important in terms of mitigation and adaptation, such as Bangladesh, so that country specific information can be generated. Also, he recommended that a chapter on adaptation policies and institutions be added to the WG II of the Sixth Assessment Report.

The experts reply was that because the IPCC is an intergovernmental organisation, it is up to the governments/representatives of the 195 member countries to decide on the scoping, outline and contents of the IPCC reports. So, the first step is to approach the Government of Bangladesh so that they can submit proposals to the IPCC.

**S M Ahsanul Aziz,** Deputy Director, Climate Change, Department of Environment, inquired whether there were any trends/projections in sea level rise for the Bay of Bengal in the AR5, as this is most pertinent for Bangladesh.

The Coordinating Lead Author for sea level rise, responded that although there are a few records of sea level rise in Bangladesh, there is no direct reference to those in the IPCC's AR5. This current report doesn't directly refer to Bay of Bengal, and there is a need to improve historical sea level records. There are no specific projections for Bangladesh, but there is regional coverage (South Asia).



Question-answer session with the panel of experts at the Technical Session of the Launch Event, Ruposhi Bangla Hotel, 7th August, 2014

**Mr. Sultan Ahmed,** from the Department of Environment, raised the issue of how the temperature levels can be maintained at  $1.5^{\circ}$ C by 2100, and remarked that there is a Climate and Clean Air Coalition of different countries (CCAC under UNEP), of which Bangladesh is a founding member, with a total of 93 members. This coalition works with short-lived pollutants and targets different sectors for reduction of climate pollutants, which could be included in the *Sixth Assessment Report*.

The Chair of the session recommended that more government representation can be a way forward.

**Mr. Saiful**, Professor at BUET, commented that regarding the melting of the Antarctic ice sheet, the information provided still leaves researchers in a grey area.

The expert said that there is a lack of information in the scientific literature, so with more research the *Sixth Assessment Report* will probably be able to address issues better.

**Mirza Shawkat** raised the issue that in Bangladesh, there are very few 'peer reviewed publications' and requested Government of Bangladesh publications to be considered instead.

The Chair replied that IPCC considers publications from peer-reviewed journals that are scientifically sound. Since government reports can be politiciaed, they are not always neutral. If all governments agree to the procedure, authors, content, etc. only then the procedure can begin, where government publications are considered by IPCC.

#### Summary and Closing Remarks by the Chair

IPCC reports are not easy to understand, so the general public can be confused as the reader needs to have a basic understanding of the science of climate change. The coastal protection in Bangladesh is one of the largest earthen structures of the country, but it still doesn't protect the coastal areas from salinity intrusion. On top of that, storm surges that surpass the heights of the embankments render the population highly vulnerable.

Bangladesh has no obligation towards mitigation, as a member of the LDC, but agreed to go for mitigation voluntarily. Individually Determined National Commitments (IDNC) is not the emerging issue and countries are committing to cut down. IPCC indicates that obligations are with the historical and current emitters (like USA and China). There was a huge debate whether the IPCC and UNFCCC share each other's findings, as they deal with separate issues of science and policy. However, in recent years, there has been a change in the mindset and the IPCC is regularly quoted by the policy makers.

Climate change is evident but erratic, and the behavior of the climate is observed everywhere. In India, within the span a month, two emergency cabinet meetings were held – one to address drought and the other to counter floods. In Bangladesh, the untimely occurrence of floods and droughts has been observed, and this will impact crop productivity and food security. It is important to take into account the erratic nature of climate change and the associated uncertainties.

Projections are made in geological time scales, as opposed to human lifetimes. Long-term projections are difficult, especially for the policy makers as they pick up only the numbers and not the basis or limitation of the number.

## 6. YOUNG LEADERS EVENT ON IPCC'S AR5: HOW BANGLADESH TRANSLATES CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS VULNERABILITIES – 8<sup>th</sup>AUGUST 2014

Prof. Dr. A. R. Mollah, Chairman, Nature Conservation Management (NACOM), welcomed everyone to the Young Leaders event on the IPCC's AR5, held at Dhaka University on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2014. A total of 50 young leaders, researchers, academics, etc. participated at the event.

Mr. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, Director, CDKN Asia, gave an introduction to the process and reports. He said that IPCC reports are very 'north' centered (because only literature published in scientific journals is selected and assessed) and people had this idea that it was only science. It has been a challenge to communicate the science to policy makers and general audience across the world. Mr. Sheikh said that 'we need peer-reviewed scientific journals and more capacity amongst the scientists of the south', and urged the young scientists, students, faculties and academic community to engage in more meaningful research so that they could publish in peer reviewed journals. He mentioned the CDKN report *What's in it for South Asia*, which had simplified difficult science and made it more relevant for the south, and it was up to Bangladesh to try and translate them at the country level for their use.

Two presentations were delivered by Dr. John Church, Coordinating Lead Author, IPCC Working Group I: The Physical Scientific Aspects of the Climate System and Climate Change: Sea Level Change, and Mr. Dipal Chandra Barua, Lead Author, IPCC AR5: Cross-cutting Investment and Finance Issues.

The Special Guest, Mr. Abdullah Al Mohsin Chowdhury, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, said that the BCCSAP is done, but scientists and researchers need to come up with innovative solutions for mitigation and adaptation. The Chief Guest, Prof. Dr. A A M S Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka, spoke about the vulnerabilities of the country and sustainable development as the pathway for Bangladesh. Dr. SM Munjurul Hannan Khan, Country Engagement Leader, CDKN, thanked all the participants for attending the important event.

### **Question and Answer/Discussions**

Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Chairman, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) and Chair of the session, moderated the discussion session. A summary of the discussions is provided here.

A question raised by the floor was how renewable energy investment increase by 86% was measured, which countries can invest in renewable energy, and how much of our energy needs will be met by that.

The expert panel offered the following explanation: Bangladesh requires very low amounts of energy, as opposed to developed countries. Rural to off-grid areas require even less than urban areas, up to 40/50 watts because they only have light bulbs. Cost segregation in the longer term (20 years) renders it feasible, but initial cost of set up of solar panels is very high. Renewable energy has the potential to meet the needs of the population in Bangladesh.



Question-answer session with the panel of experts at the Young Leaders Event, Dhaka University, 8th August, 2014

A comment that was flagged is that climate change related migration is also a form of livelihood adaptation in Bangladesh. People are intuitively using livelihood migration as an adaptation tool (rural to urban and other areas) and so climatic events/shocks and these should be incorporated in the future reports.

The response to the above comment was that it is hard to distinguish between migrations caused by climate and for other reasons. However, a study found that 1 out of 9 migrants are climate migrants and only young and able-bodied men can migrate and children/women cannot really migrate to other areas as a means of livelihood adaptation.

Another question raised was that in the next 5 years, what is the plan for Bangladesh in terms of adaptation and mitigation?

The panel of experts commented that Bangladesh has made very good progress in dealing with disasters and extreme events like cyclones. Preparedness investments are steady, and as a country, Bangladesh has transformed to a prepared nation. The country is also a pioneer in global negotiations for loss and damage issues.

Many other issues raised by the participants of the meeting were about food security, natural calamities, private sector investments, adaptation activities, transboundary water issues and so on. Climate financing, salinity intrusion, renewable energy were also discussed, along with the Delta Plan.

The IPCC authors and CDKN representatives tried to shed some light on the topics that were brought up by researchers and academics at the meeting. There is a wealth of information available through the IPCC and they were generated by experts and have been added to Appendix 2. However, there are no available comprehensive downscaled sea level models for Bangladesh.

Green Climate Fund, for instance, has offered money, but sources have to be matched with private finance. Bangladesh has established BCCTF and BCCRF with the help of the Government of Bangladesh and development partners, and we need to strengthen our capacity to even seek the internationally available funds for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Delta Plan: there is one study on climate change and this will feed into the plan and the Planning Commission is heading this long-term and large-scale programme.

#### Summary and closing remarks

Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Chairman, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) summarised the discussion, as the Chair of the session. He said that the IPCC's reports are not prescriptive but descriptive, and the analysis provided needs to be translated by the individual countries. IPCC focuses on regions and not countries (so data can be generated based on models for Asia). There is politics in the process and in the UNFCCC negotiations as well. Poor people and countries are affected the most i.e. there is an issue of climate justice that comes in and politics takes over.

EU has met its targets, but after 2020 there will be problems with developed countries. Loss and damage beyond adaptation sees negotiation that is far from being on track. There are Open WGs of the Rio Conventions regarding the money generated after 2020 (of \$100b/year) will only be for mitigation. Green economy was proposed in the road map of Rio+20, but the issues of equity and justice will effect this.

In Bangladesh, the civil society is active and there is awareness on the ground. We have demonstrated to the world that we are serious about climate change; we have NAPA and BCCSAP – probably the first in the world. The Government of Bangladesh has allocated about 27 crore taka and about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> is allocated for disaster preparedness and management.

#### 7. MEDIA COVERAGE AND OUTREACH

A total of three English and 10 Bangla online news sites covered the outreach events. In addition, three English and nine Bangla national newspapers covered the news of the outreach events of the IPCC's AR5 in Bangladesh. A selection of the clippings of the newspapers has been attached as an accompanying document.

In addition, a number of national and private TV channels also featured the event on the  $6^{th}$  and  $7^{th}$  of August.

The Summary for Policy Makers have been distributed to about 250 participants who attended the events over 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> August 2014. Further, it will be disseminated to policy and decision makers in the ministries and concerned departments of the Government of Bangladesh.

# 8. REFERENCES

- 1. Information booklet of The IPCC's *Fifth Assessment Report* (AR5), IPCC, WMO and UNEP, July 2014
- 2. The IPCC's *Fifth Assessment Report: What's in it for South Asia*, Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), 2014
- Climate Change 2013 The Physical Science Basis, Working Group I Contribution to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Summary for Policymakers, IPCC Switzerland, September 2013
- 4. *Climate Change 2014 Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, Working Group II Contribution to the *Fifth Assessment Report* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Summary for Policymakers, IPCC Switzerland, March 2014
- 5. *Climate Change 2014 Mitigation of Climate Change*, Working Group III Contribution to the *Fifth Assessment Report* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Summary for Policymakers, IPCC Switzerland, April 2014

## ANNEX

# 1 AGENDA OF THE EVENTS

# AGENDA FOR PRESS CONFERENCE 6<sup>th</sup> August 2014

<b>Time</b> 16:00 - 16:30	Program Facilitator: Dr. SM Munjurul Hannan Khan,Country Engagement Leader, CDKN Welcome and briefing on the IPCC AR5: Mr. Jonathan Lynn,Head, Communications and Media Relations, IPCC
16:30 – 17:00	Question and Answer Guests: <b>Mr. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh,</b> Director, CDKN Asia
	<b>Dr. John Church</b> , Coordinating Lead Author, IPCC AR5: Sea Level Change
	<b>Mr. Muqeed Majumdar Babu,</b> Chairman, Prokriti O Jibon Foundation
17:00-17:30	Closing and Refreshment
	Media Partner: Channel i









# AGENDA 7<sup>th</sup> August 2014

<b>Time</b> 10:00 - 11:00	Inaugural Program Registration and Tea
11:00 - 11:05	Welcome address <b>Dr. SM Munjurul Hannan Khan,</b> Country Engagement Leader, CDKN
11:05-11:15	Introduction Mr. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, Director, CDKN Asia
11:15-11:35	Keynote Speaker <b>Dr. John Church,</b> Coordinating Lead Author, IPCC AR5
11:35-11:50	Special Guests Dr. Mesbah ul Alam, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief Mr. Md. Shafiqur Rahman Patwari, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest
11:50-12:05	Chief Guest <b>Mr. A H M Mustafa Kamal,</b> FCA, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
12:05-12:15	Chair <b>Professor Dr. Shamsul Alam</b> , Member (GED), Planning Commission, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
12:15-12:20	Vote of Thanks <b>Mr. Abdullah Al Mohsin Chowdhury</b> , Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest
12:30-14:10	Technical Session: Sharing of IPCC AR5 Report
	Chair: Dr. Ainun Nishat, Professor Emeritus, BRAC University
12:30-12:50	IPCC Working Group I: The Physical Scientific Aspects of the Climate System and Climate Change: Sea Level Change <b>Dr. John Church,</b> Coordinating Lead Author, IPCC AR5
12:50-13:10	IPCC Working Group III: Mitigation of Climate Change: Social, Economic and Ethical Concepts and Methods <b>Dr. Mizan R Khan</b> , Lead Author, IPCC AR5
13:10-13:30	Cross-cutting Investment and Finance Issues: Mr. Dipal Chandra Barua, Lead Author, IPCC AR5
13:30-14:00 14:00 - 14:10 14:10 -	Question and Answer Summary and Closing Remarks by the Chair Lunch









# AGENDA FOR YOUNG LEADERS EVENT, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Time		Program
15:30 - 16:00		Registration and Tea
16:00 - 16:05		Welcome Prof. Dr. A. R. Mollah, Chairman, Nature Conservation Management (NACOM)
16:05-16:15		Introduction Mr. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, Director, CDKN Asia
16:15-16:40		IPCC Working Group I: The Physical Scientific Aspects of the Climate System and Climate Change: Sea Level Change Dr. John Church, Coordinating Lead Author, IPCC AR5
16:40- 17:05		Cross-cutting Investment and Finance Issues: Mr. Dipal Chandra Barua, Lead Author, IPCC AR5
17:05-17:45		Question and Answer
17:45-17:55		Special Guest Mr. Abdullah Al Mohsin Chowdhury, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest
17:55-18:15		Chief Guest
Dhaka		Prof. Dr. A A M S Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor, University of
18:15-18:35		Chair: Summary and Closing Remarks Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Chairman, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)
18:35-18:40	CDKN	Vote of Thanks Dr. SM Munjurul Hannan Khan, Country Engagement Leader,
18:40-		Dinner





lead 🦉



# 2. PRESS RELEASE

### PRESS RELEASE

6 August 2014

#### Findings of IPCC Fifth Assessment Report presented in Bangladesh

DHAKA, August6 – The rate of sea-level rise has accelerated since the mid-19th century and is projected to continue rising in the 21st century, and climate change is a "tragedy of the commons" which cannot be dealt with if individuals or countries act independently in their own interest, according to experts from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). But the latest report from the IPCC shows that economic tools can help policymakers understand the pros and cons of actions to mitigate climate change which may also bring co-benefits that foster development.

The statements are among dozens of findings so far from the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) that will be presented to Bangladeshi government officials, development partners, business community, professionals, academics, NGOs, civil society organizations, young researchers and students at IPCC events on Thursday and Friday in Dhaka entitled "IPCC's AR5: How Bangladesh translates climate change and its vulnerabilities".

"This report provides policymakers in Bangladesh and elsewhere with a scientific foundation to tackle the effects of global warming and will help governments work together on a new global agreement to limit climate change," said IPCC Chairman Rajendra K. Pachauri.

The report is the most comprehensive assessment of the science related to climate change ever undertaken. It aims to tell policymakers what is known and not known about the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.

"While Bangladesh is suffering the most as one of the climate vulnerable countries, Bangladesh is also showing resilience to tackle adverse impacts of climate change as a global leader in adaptation," said Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal.

"Bangladesh, among Least Developed Countries, is quite advance to take national efforts to address new challenges of climate change by framing climate policy such as Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) and providing resources for its implementation through Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund Resilience Fund," said Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forests Md. Shafiqur Rahman Patwari.

Secretary of Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief Dr. Mesbah ul Alam emphasized on success of disaster preparedness and management and said, "we are showing leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and very much able to handle impacts of climate change with comprehensive disaster management plan by involving local communities in action."

Rising sea level is one of the lines of evidence for a changing climate in the Fifth Assessment Report, which shows it is extremely likely that greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide due to human activity are the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

Besides document sea-level change and other indicators of a changing climate, the report looks the impacts of climate change that are already occurring or are likely to take place and how societies can adjust to them. It sets out options for mitigation – reducing greenhouse gas emissions – and looks at the financial implications.

Agriculture, forestry and other land use accounts for nearly one quarter of emissions due to human activity, just behind emissions from electricity and heat production but ahead of emissions from transport and industry. The report shows that land could be used to draw carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through afforestation.

Besides experts from the IPCC, the events feature ministers, senior officials, academics, business communities and representatives of civil society organizations who will discuss Bangladesh's response to climate change.

The events are hosted by the Planning Commission, Govt. of Bangladesh organized by Nature Conservation Management (NACOM), Lead, the Climate Development and Knowledge Network (CDKN), University of Dhaka with funding from the UK government, and the IPCC.

### Notes for editors

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the international body for assessing the science related to climate change. The IPCC was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.

The IPCC is currently producing the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5). It has already released contributions from its three working groups and is now working on the Synthesis Report that will integrate these three reports.

The Working Group I contribution to AR5, dealing with the physical science basis of climate change, was finalized on 23-27 September 2013, and its Summary for Policymakers released on 27 September. The full Working Group I report was published on 30 January 2014.

The Working Group II contribution to AR5, dealing with impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability, was finalised on 25-30 March 2014. Its Summary for Policymakers and the accepted final draft of the full report were released on 31 March. The full report will be published in September or October.

The Working Group III contribution, dealing with the mitigation of climate change, was finalised on 7-12 April 2014. Its Summary for Policymakers was released on 13

April and the accepted final draft on 15 April. The full report will be published in September or October.

The Synthesis Report will be finalised on 27-31 October 2014 and presented at a press conference on 2 November.

The Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) supports decisionmakers in designing and delivering climate-compatible development. This is done by providing demand-led research and technical assistance and channeling the best available knowledge on climate change to support policy processes at country level. It works in partnership with decision-makers in the public, private and nongovernmental sectors nationally, regionally and globally.

CDKN has produced a guide to AR5 for decision-makers in South Asia entitled, **What's in it for South Asia?** A '<u>Media Toolkit</u>' has been made freely available for training, educational and reporting purposes, to encourage the understanding of the report.

Nature Conservation Management (NACOM), founded in 1987, is the pioneer nongovernmental, pro-environment organization in Bangladesh. Its goal is the protection of nature for better human life.

Lead is the world's largest non-profit organization dedicated to building leadership capacity for sustainable development.

For more information about the events contact: Rashiduzzaman Ahmed, Nature Conservation Management (NACOM), Email: rashed71@gmail.com, 02 883 2073 For more information about the IPCC contact: IPCC Press Office, Email: <u>ipcc-media@wmo.int</u> Jonathan Lynn, +41 22 730 8066 or Nina Peeva, +41 22 730 8120

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