

BCNL NEWSLETTER

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TO OUR READERS

Worldwide this year's was the hottest June since record began. In recent years extreme temperatures, catastrophic wind storms and floods have been experienced in many countries across the globe. None of these events should be blamed directly on global warming, other factors may have played their parts. However, these are consistent with the predictions by climate scientists that in a warming world, extreme events may be more frequent, and more intense.

Bad news is that even if burning fossil fuels is stopped immediately by all nations, the planet's oceans would still go on warming, sea levels would rise, floods and wind storms would destroy lives and properties in millions. To have prevented the levels of warming the world has seen so far, decisive actions should have been taken globally 30 years ago.

Critics of climate research argue the data are incomplete, the climate modeling uncertain, the predictions inconclusive. Anxiety about climate change may have faded away in Washington and elsewhere amid the controversies surrounding errors in assessment of retreat of Himalayan glaciers. But the threat is severe and demand determined and concerted political action. It remains more urgent than ever.

Listen to the wind, the world is crying out for help. ■

Mahub Haque
Mahub Haque
Managing Director

SOLOMON ISLANDS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROJECT

The Government of Solomon Islands has taken up rehabilitation of essential infrastructure damaged by the earthquake and tsunami that struck areas in the Western and Choiseul Provinces of the Solomon Islands in April 2007. This work is being carried out under the Solomon Islands Emergency Assistance Project (SIEAP), funded jointly by Grant and Technical Assistance from ADB and EU, with ADB administering the project.

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EARTHQUAKE RISK IN MAJOR CITIES OF BANGLADESH

Tectonic references, occurrence of historical earthquakes and recent seismic disturbances in and around Bangladesh reveal that the country is under earthquake threat. Considering the potential threat of earthquake, Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) of the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management investigated the seismic risks of the country's major cities, viz, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet.

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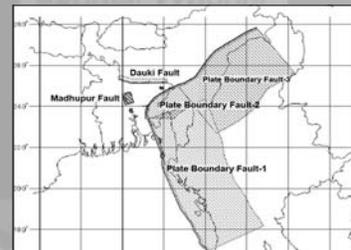
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CenTR News

The quarter's first training program was offered by Senior Engineer Md Emdadul Hoque on 'Total Station Survey' to BCL trainees. The 8-day programme was launched on 01 Apr at the computer lab and was concluded on 8 Apr following the field exercises at the Banani Park. The course was a continuation of similar exercise in the last quarter and, as expected, has been a success. An advanced level programme on the course is planned on a later date for raising the professional skill of the survey engineers at BCL.

On 30 May a seminar on 'Construction Project Management' was presented by Engr Amir M Ibrahim, PEng. Amir is a former BCL Engineer and presently a Sr Vice-President of Fareast Islami Life Insurance Company. Engr M A Aziz, PEng, Director for Roads and Bridges at BCL, chaired the seminar while Engr M A Sobhan, PEng, Mg Director of DPM Consultants was the discussant at the seminar, which was enjoyed by an interactive audience. Amir in his presentation highlighted the major issues that need to be addressed during construction in order to achieve a well coordinated and successful outcome of a project. Citing lessons learned during the construction of the FILIC Headquarters on Topkhana Road, Ibrahim demonstrated how much the project was delayed due to the lack of coordination of the assigned tasks by and among the parties involved in the construction.

On the following day a seminar on 'Green Building' was presented at the CenTR on 31 May by the professionals from the Vantage Technologies under the initiative of the Architecture Division of the company. The descriptive and well

illustrated presentation primarily focused on the construction features of the environmental friendly buildings. The presenters assured the audience of returning to the CenTR with more information and relevant display materials on a convenient future schedule.

The CenTR's continuing initiative on lessons learned from BCL projects brought to focus yet another presentation on 3 Jun on 'Gurue-Magige Road in Mozambique' by its Team Leader Engr Md Gias Uddin and demonstrated how the feasibility study of the project road in a hilly and difficult terrain was frustrated as a consequence of the previously conducted poor topographic survey. Director Mr M A Aziz, PEng, who chaired the session, expressed his views that the project team failed to perform at the expected level of competence and needed improvement to individual skills. The audience also raised some critical yet pertinent questions.

The CenTR played a key role in providing support to hosting of Regional Seminar on 'The Role of Engineers in Tackling Climate Change' at the Auditorium of the IDB Bhaban on 16~17th Jun in Dhaka. The seminar was jointly organized by Bangladesh Association of Consulting Engineers (BACE) and the Technical

Consultancy Development Programme for Asia and the Pacific' (TCDPAP). The proceedings of the seminar were enriched by the observations of the Chief Guest Dr M A Razzaque, MP, the

Hon'ble Minister for Food and Disaster Management and the Special Guest Engr S M Al-Husainy, former Chairman, Bangladesh Planning Commission. Prof Dr Ainun Nishat, Vice-Chancellor, BRAC University and Dr M Asaduzzaman, Research Director and Economist, BIDS were keynote speakers. Mr Mahub Haque, President, BACE who chaired the inaugural session was assisted by Arch Mizanur Rahman, Treasurer and Engr Mujibur Rahman Khan, General Secretary of BACE.

Dr Razzaque in his address congratulated BACE, for this timely seminar on an issue of burning national importance and appealed to the concerned world to come forward to decisively address the climate change. He outlined in brief the policies of the government to combat the adverse impacts of climate change affecting the country and its relentless campaign at various international forums. The impacts and implications of the climate change on Bangladesh were highlighted by both the keynote speakers, Prof Ainun Nishat and Dr M Asaduzzaman by their informative presentations. Altogether sixteen thematic papers were presented at the 2-day seminar covering relevant



A view of launching of ERPP

engineering, environmental and social interventions to counter the adverse impacts of climate change.

The CenTR has been mandated by the

company to manage a DFID-financed project under the administrative control of the UK based Emerging Market Group. The project, ERPP - Employment and Remittances Promotional Programme, is intended for benefitting skilled migrant workers seeking jobs overseas and help the migrants on return. ERPP is based on the following four cardinal principles.

- skill development among migrant workers with formal certification
- transparency in processing applications to prevent cheating
- reducing the cost of procuring jobs, visas, travel, etc
- easy bank loan processing and availability.

The project started in May and will be completed in 11 months. The consulting services will be provided by a 5-company joint venture, including a Bank, under the leadership of BCL.

Information on the training activities in the next quarter is available from the Head of CenTR at:
 Tel : 9862713-16
 Fax : 9893321
 email : centr@bclgroup.com ■

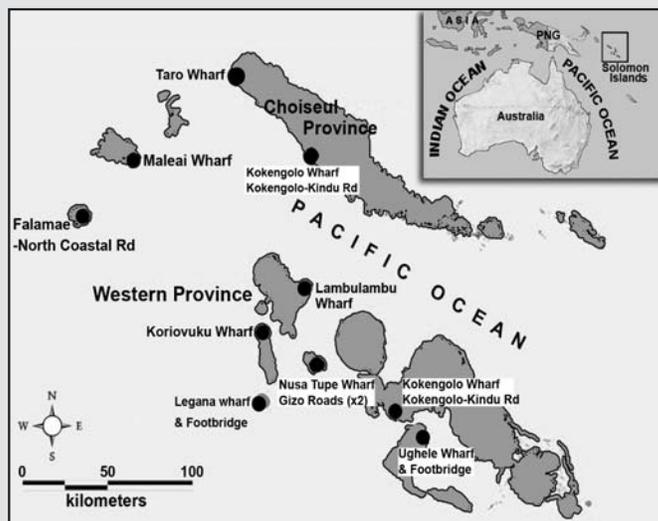
Dr AAM Shamsur Rahman

SOLOMON ISLANDS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROJECT

[contd. from page 01]

3 The Ministry of Infrastructure Development (MID) of the Solomon Islands is the executing agency for the

project. The day-to-day management of the project is being undertaken by the MID Project Management Capacity Building Unit (PMCBU). BCL has joined with Cardno ACIL of Australia as Consultants for this project.



Map showing the Solomon Islands

The works under this Contract involve the replacement and reconstruction of seven wharfs, two footbridges, and one jetty on nine sites spread over eight Islands in Western and Choiseul Provinces. The works are concentrated in the Western part of the New Georgia Islands Group, with the exception of two sites on Taro Island in Choiseul Bay, and Maleai island in the Shortland Islands Group.

The wharfs, footbridges, and jetty are structures of a common design type based upon the Solomon Islands MID Standard Wharf Drawings. The marine structures are pre-cast concrete encased H-pile foundations, open to sea flow, with pre-cast girders and concrete decks, to be erected at each site, with masonry causeways constructed on seven sites.

The works to be executed under this Contract consist of the following:

- Partial demolition of the existing wharfs, footbridges, jetties where necessary (steel piles, concrete, wharf-heads, timber wharfs, coral fills, gabion baskets etc);
- Construction of seven new wharfs at

Ugehe, Lambete, Lambulambu, Koriovuku, Lenganaf, Taro and at Maleai; construction of two new footbridge structures at Ugehe and Nusa-Simbo; and

- Construction of one new jetty structure at Nusa-Tupe.

The implementation started three months ago and is in progress. The author is working as Senior Supervision Engineer at site. ■

M Shuruzzaman

EARTHQUAKE RISK IN MAJOR CITIES OF BANGLADESH

[contd. from page 01]

Three major faults are located in and around the country (Fig-1). Considering site response of the soil, maximum ground shaking for Dhaka and Sylhet would be 500 PGA (Peak Ground Acceleration) resulting in severe damage of the buildings caused by the occurrence of earthquake in Madhupur and Dauki faults respectively. PGA value for Chittagong city corporation area has been estimated at around 900 (catastrophic damages) for the

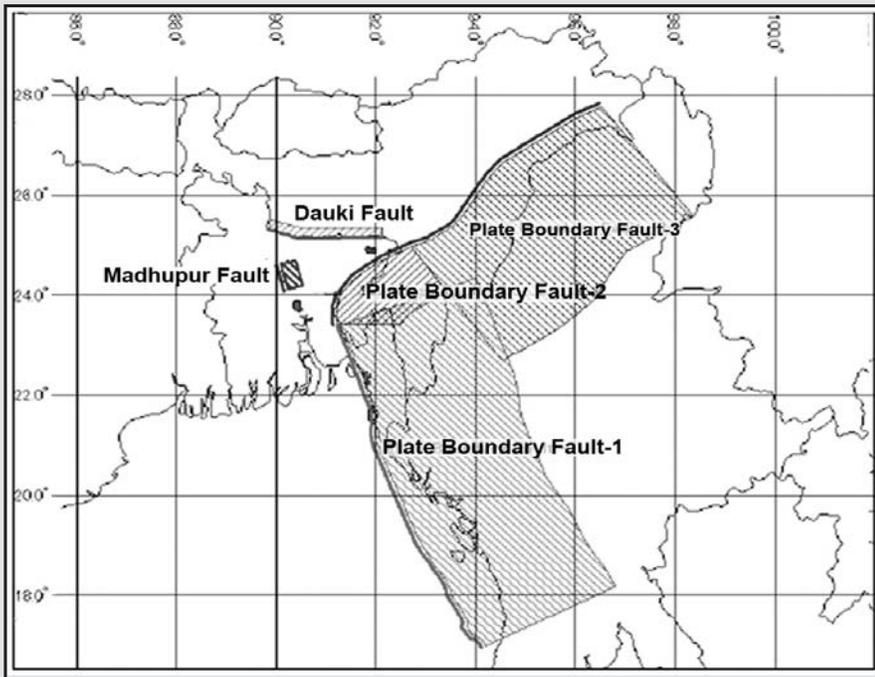


Fig. 1 showing major faults within and close to Bangladesh

earthquake that could occur in Plate Boundary Fault-1. Fragility curve has been developed for all reinforced concrete and masonry building types. Finally, combining the elements of hazard and vulnerability, risk has been assessed for infrastructure including the lifeline systems and other urban facilities of City Corporation areas of Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet. All three cities are under huge risk if earthquakes of magnitude 7.5 or greater on the Richter Scale occur in their adjacent faults.

According to a recent survey, as many as 26% of the existing buildings in Dhaka city will face at least partial damage in an earthquake of intensity of 7 on Richter scale. The regional towns are at similar risk. A 1998 UN study under International Decade of Natural Disaster Reduction rated Dhaka as one of cities having the highest relative seismic disaster risks among 20 mega cities of the world, due to its vulnerability and poor emergency response and recovery capability. Although CDMP has included earthquake hazard into its disaster preparedness and response plan, the slow

progress of the responsible public agencies in launching a vigorous plan remains a cause for concern. Also, the indifference of the responsible agencies to enforce the Bangladesh National Building Code is very disturbing. Until introduction of BNBC in 1993, the engineers in Bangladesh used mainly the American, British and Indian codes for design of structures. It was not until May 2006 that BNBC was enacted into a law but it remains a toothless law in absence of an effective mechanism to enforce its mandatory practice. Nevertheless, the conscious engineers of the country have been using appropriate seismic code long before BNBC came into being and now use BNBC in designing all major infrastructure development projects.

The Seismic Zoning Map by BNBC has divided the country into three seismic

zones (see Fig. 2) : Zone 1 seismically least sensitive; Zone 2 moderately severe; and Zone 3 highly sensitive, and has developed parameters to be used for calculation of impacts of ground shaking, liquefaction and lateral forces for the seismic design of structures. About to open to traffic the 950m long extradosed 3rd Karnafuli Bridge, the 1.13 km long Bhairab Road Bridge and the 4.8 km long Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge are examples of major river crossings built in the recent past in Zone 2. These structures have used the strictest seismic design parameters in accordance with the international and BNBC codes to respond to potential seismic impact and are fitted with seismic transmission units, which basically absorb the seismic shock during an earthquake. BCL has been involved in the design and construction supervision of these and many other projects including important buildings. BCL contributed to design and implementation of seismic retrofitting of a 6-storey office in Dhaka for DFID in



accordance with appropriate British Code and is currently remodelling an existing 4-storey building into a 12-storey modern commercial building and retrofitting for structural strengthening against seismic loading following BNBC. There are other examples of commercial buildings, including 24-storey Janata Bank Headquarters, 20-storey FILIC Headquarters, and 10-storey REB Complex, USSR Economic Counsellor's Complex in Dhaka and the Central Workshops at Chittagong Port, which have been designed by the firm's engineers using BNBC/ACI codes. The USSR Economic Counsellor's Complex was an exception, which used the more severe Russian code.

The country is not immune from seismic hazard. The good news is that the review and updating of BNBC has been taken in hand and is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The need for enforcement of BNBC is paramount. Without mandatory application of the building codes, we are adding everyday to our already existing high exposure to the unpredictable forces of nature and the potential devastation of lives and properties. ■

*Dr ASM Maksud Kamal
and Mahub Haque*

IRON & STEEL MELTING PLANT AT CHITTAGONG GOES INTO PRODUCTION

BSRM group's newest venture, the Iron and Steel Melting Plant went into production in March 2010. BISCO, short for BSRM Iron & Steel Company Ltd, has an annual production capacity of 150,000 tons of steel billets. The plant will meet the growing demand for billets

for producing reinforcing steel bars and was set up at a cost of US\$ 36.4m on a 1.23 ha plot of land at Nasirabad in the port city of Chittagong in southern Bangladesh. The plant will use locally available scraps.

The plant was designed by United Consultants (India), which provided both process and facilities designs. BCL was the construction supervision consultant for civil works. The main tasks of assignment were to:

- i) Assist the Client to issue construction drawings to the Contractor after necessary review and checking;
- ii) Provide on-site supervision of construction works;
- iii) Assure quality of works and materials through inspection and laboratory tests;
- iv) Measure and accept works completed and certify the Contractor's payments.

Associated Builders Corporation Ltd was engaged for the implementation of civil works which included construction of:

- Main Plant Building (prefabricated steel structure, floor area 7,285 sq m);
- Four 25-ton Induction Furnaces in a 2-storied Building (floor area 1,050 sq m);
- Casting machine foundation in Ladle Turret Building (floor area 475 sq m);
- Overhead Water Reservoir;
- 3-Storied Air Pollution Control System Building;
- Water Complex Building;
- 2-storied Capacitor Bank Building;
- Medical Centre;
- 2-storied Administrative Building;
- Two 80-Ton capacity Weigh Scales;

- RCC yard (Floor Area 7,285 sq m);
- Internal road and drain; and
- Installation of two deep tube wells;

Some of the major works executed were:

1. Reinforced cement concrete = 7,500 cum
2. Reinforcement steel = 750 tons
3. Steel structure = 1,800 tons
4. WBM for RCC yard = 3,000 cum

The Project was completed on 15th March, 2010 and went on production from 22nd March, 2010. The plant has substituted imports and is providing employment for locals. ■

Nurul Islam Chowdhury

FINANCIAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT STUDY FOR SME

In spite of global economic recession the performance of Bangladesh economy has been remarkable at 6% annual growth in recent years. This has been contributed mainly by the private sector enterprises. The manufacturing small and medium enterprises (SME) played an important role in this respect generating nearly 30 percent of the economic value added and 50 percent of industrial employment. Although SME has tremendous potential in this country it lacks access to finance (60% of small and 50% of medium are deprived) and the lack of use of modern technologies remains the major impediment to its growth. In order to resolve the situation, the major donors, including JICA, intend to provide financial and technical assistance to the sector. A JICA study team was fielded recently (2010) to assess the potentials and prepare financial sector development plan for SME. The study was aimed at:

- (i) reviewing the SME sector performance and estimate the demand-supply gap of financing for long and medium-term demands for loans;
- (ii) identify the demand and supply side constraints hindering smooth access to finance;
- (iii) propose effective approach for JICA assistance through ODA loan; and
- (iv) provide framework for implementation of such assistance program.

The Study reviewed the present status of SME and its policy environment including industrial policy 2010, SME policy strategies 2005, BB SME financing policy 2010, PRSP 2004 and MoI sector studies and analyzed performance of both public and private sector banks and financial institutions providing loans to SME. It conducted sector surveys in selected manufacturing SMEs in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Sylhet, Bogra, Jessore and Khulna and reviewed roles and responsibilities of the State Bank (BB), commercial banks and PFIs including donor agencies (ADB, IDA, USAID and DFID), regulatory authorities and NGOs. It reviewed and analyzed macroeconomic data on investment, consumption, economic trend, credits and deposits to assess investment climate.

The Study found that the continuing average GDP growth at 6 percent for last

10 years resulted from incremental savings and investment and resilient entrepreneurship. Total consumption has reduced from 82.3% of GDP in FY 1999-2000 to 79.7% in FY 2008-09 leaving room for incremental savings and investment. Due to decline in consumption the share of gross investment for capital formation has increased from 21.6% to 24.2% in reference years. The share of private and public sector investment was 19.6% and 4.6% respectively. It was observed that half of the private sector capital was raised through credits from banks and financial institutions while the rest through equity. The Study estimated the demand for SME loans considering two alternative projections made by the IMF and Outline Perspective Plan (OPP) of the GoB.

According to IMF projection of growth at 5-6% per annum during the next 5 years (2009-14) the real credit demand for SME is estimated to be Tk.51 billion and the supply will be Tk.40.8 billion leaving the supply gap of Tk.10.6 billion (\$ 151 mill). Following the OPP target of achieving 8% growth, the investment demand needs to be increased to 32.1% of GDP by 2014. The real credit demand for SME will be Tk.63 billion of which Tk.51.3 billion may be available. The estimated supply gap will be Tk.11.7 billion (\$167 million).

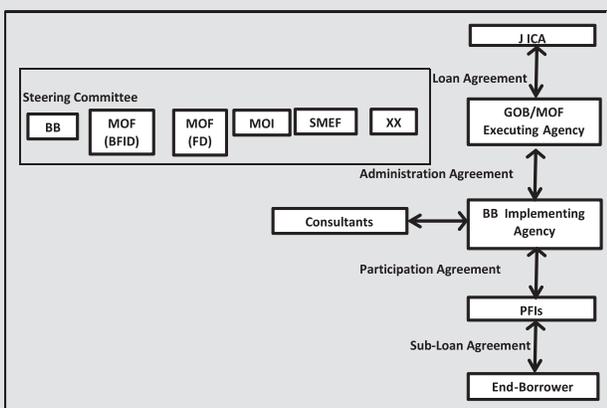
executing and BB as implementing agencies with a participation agreement with PFIs. The project will also support BB and PFIs in implementing project schemes, capacity development, promotional activities and technology transfer. The initial loan proposed was between US \$30-50 million to create a revolving fund to finance eligible SMEs for 5 years. This, along with GoB matching fund, will be able to off-set the demand-supply gap for SME loans to a great extent. The above schematic diagram presents the implementation plan. ■

Rafiqul Islam

IDENTIFYING SAFE DRINKING WATER SOURCE

The water supply in almost all municipalities in Bangladesh is inadequate. Presently only 93 pourashavas (out of the total 308) have piped water supply. Works are under way at 67 new pourashavas to bring them under piped water supply. The rest 148 will be planned in phases. The water supply in many places relies on groundwater and faces the serious problem of arsenic contamination.

The existence and extent of arsenic in ground water in Bangladesh was identified in mid 1990s. The arsenic in ground water is of geologic origin. A screening in 270 Upazila showed 30% of hand pump wells are arsenic contaminated. It is estimated that around 23% of the country's total population are drinking arsenic contaminated (>50ppb) water in absence of alternative water supply options. In this situation a Technical Assistance has been launched with the objectives to:



The Study has planned financing schemes of JICA to contribute towards filling up the supply gaps of SME credit through providing low cost fund to the GoB. The project has envisaged an implementation plan considering MoF as the

- Identify safe drinking water sources with regard to hazardous chemicals, especially arsenic contamination;
- Conduct feasibility study for determining ground/surface sources to ensure quality of water as well as identify potential perennial sources;
- Determine water demand and level of services and formulate design criteria to satisfy the basic needs;
- Prepare water supply, sanitation and drainage master plans for each pourashava;
- Determine the economic and financial affordability of the beneficiaries and formulate a cost recovery mechanism including tariff strategy;
- Prepare project(s) by involving concerned stakeholders, and
- Conduct environmental impact assessment of the proposed project(s)

This technical Assistance will cover 148 pourashava in four years and focus on a better urban living environment. After completion of feasibility and design, investment projects will be undertaken. Under the TA, a data management system will be established at DPHE. For this purpose, pourashavas from six administrative divisions will be chosen, representing hydro-geologically different areas. The study will be carried out in following four phases, each phase comprising nine (9) months.

- Phase-1 : 12 pourashavas
- Phase-2 : 36 pourashavas
- Phase-3 : 50 pourashavas
- Phase-4 : 50 pourashavas

The number of pourashavas selected from each division is proportionate to the population. The candidate pourashava in each phase will be proposed by the Project Implementation

Committee and approved by the Steering Committee.

The Terms of Reference for consulting services call for two groups of consultants comprising a "Mathematical Modeling for Safe Drinking Water Source Identification Consultant" and a "Socioeconomic Study, EIA and Engineering Design Consultant" to work hand-in-hand to fulfill the project objectives. The Modeling Group will carry out topographic surveys and data collection including hydrometric, hydro-meteorological data and assess the water resource potential, dependable water supply source (surface and ground), drainage improvement requirements, sanitary and sewerage requirements as well as any adverse situation as regards to safe water availability and use the collected data to develop a database of the water supply, sanitation and drainage for each pourashava. The Group will use various modeling tools for assessment and analysis of the project area situation, parameters required for developing various infrastructure interventions and the tools for continuous monitoring of the water resources in an area.

Project also provides for transfer of technology for monitoring Water Supply and Sanitation Management in future. DPHE will be kept informed at all stages of the study and its personnel involved in developing manpower to manage the programs. The training program will comprise:

- Theoretical and On-the-Job training of DPHE personnel in surveying, modeling, and preparing GIS and MIS database;
- Periodical interactions

comprising presentation and discussion on project planning, monitoring and implementation; and

- Providing training module and manuals for the trainings

The consulting services (modeling study) for the TA are being provided by a 4-firm consortium, BCL being one of the members. The study started in Jan 2010 and will run for 42 months until June 2013.

The "Socioeconomic Study, EIA and Engineering Design Consultant" Group will utilize the parameters provided by the Modeling Group for designing various infrastructure interventions. The DPHE project office will coordinate interaction between the two groups. ■

Azhar Ali

TCDPAP ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010

The 14th Conference of Technical Consultancy Development Programme of Asia and the Pacific was hosted by VECAS - Vietnam Engineering Consultant Association, at Hanoi from 14-16th April 2010. The Conference was held under the theme of "New Approaches and Solutions for



TCDPAP Secretary General addressing the Conference



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EDITORIAL BOARD

Mahbub Haque
(Editor in Chief)
Kazi M Huque
&

Dr AAM Shamsur Rahman

PRODUCTION AND PRINT

Amitié, Dhaka

CONTACT ADDRESS

BCL Associates Ltd.
House 95 A, Road 4, Block F,
Banani, Dhaka-1213
Bangladesh
Tel: +880-2-986 2713
Fax: +880-2-989 3321
E-mail: bcl@bclgroup.com
Website: www.bclgroup.com

Bangladesh Consultants (Pty) Ltd

Plot No. 15596, Broadhurst
Ext 44
PO Box 1892
Gaborone, Botswana
Tel/Fax: + 267-393 5116
E-mail: bclbots@botsnet.bw
Contact person:
Mr Hailu Alemayehou

BCL Zambia Ltd

TAZAMA House, 2nd Floor
PO Box 250046
Ndola, Zambia
Tel/Fax: +260-2-610 381
E-mail: bcl@zamtel.zm
Contact person:
Mr Cornwell M Hampande

Address
correspondence to
Editor in Chief
BCL NEWSLETTER

Consultancy Business Innovation" and was inaugurated by Mr Nguyen Manti Hieu, Hon'ble Vice-Minister for Natural Resources and Environment, jointly with Mr Cao Lai Quang, Hon'ble Vice-Minister for Construction.

Country presentations were given by 10 countries, namely Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam, highlighting the status of economic development, status of consultancy and opportunities available in different sectors in each country. Presentations on various topics on the theme of the Conference from consultants and client organizations from Vietnam, Malaysia and Hong Kong were also made.

The Meeting of the General Council and Executive Committee of TCDPAP was held on 15th Apr and was attended by delegates from 10 countries. The Vice-Minister for Construction Hon'ble Mr Cao Lai Quang addressed the members of the General Council and focused on more synergy among the countries of the Asia-Pacific Region, specially the TCDPAP member countries. The Conference was attended by nearly 250 delegates from various countries and Vietnam.

TCDPAP was established in 1992 under sponsorship of ESCAP - Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, aimed at enhancing and developing technical consultancy practice in the Asia-Pacific region. Currently 14 countries are the members of TCDPAP. Bangladesh has been one of the founding members and is represented by Bangladesh Association of Consulting Engineers (BACE). The other member countries are China, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Iran, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines, South Korea and Azerbaijan. Mr Mahbub Haque, the incumbent President of BACE served as the President of TCDPAP for the years 2004-08 and was its second President. Two delegates Ms Lailun Nahar Ekram and Mr Abdus Sobhan represented BACE at the Conference.

In conjunction with the TCDPAP Conference, the Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee of TCDPAP and also the 4th Annual Congress of the VECAS were also held.

The next TCDPAP Conference will be held in Malaysia, hosted by PSDC at Kuala Lumpur. ■

Mahbub Haque

IN THE COMPANY

Md Saidul Islam, 45, obtained his Masters of Commerce Degree in Marketing from the University of Dhaka in



1990. Following his brief periods of employment at local industries, Saidul joined BCL as an Accountant for the company's RRMP-II project in 1994. On completion of his assignment in Sep 1996, Said was posted at the BCL Head Office as an Accountant. Saidul's familiarity with accounting software and MIS has made him a useful team member at the Accounting department.

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate:

Md Abdul Latif (1) for joining BCL as a Resettlement Specialist in Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project on 16 May; **Sayefuddin Ahmed** (2) as a Senior Foundation Engineer on 1 Jun, and **Md Abul Bahser** (3) as a Senior Transportation Engineer on 15 Jun, both the latter under the company's PGCB



Project.

We wish them all a happy stay at BCL and hope their contributions will enrich the quality of professional services of the company.



Hasibul Hossain, son of BCL Driver Md Shakh Faruque, for obtaining GPA 5.0 in the HSC examination.