

# JCP-NEWSLETTER

Joint Cooperation Programme Bangladesh – the Netherlands, a 4 year program between Bangladesh and the Netherlands, is aimed at sharing and developing knowledge in the field of water management. This in relation to the recently approved Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 and its implementation. The knowledge developed in JCP is addressing major technical, environmental and governance challenges that lay ahead for the country located in one of the biggest and most vulnerable delta in the world.

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## Launching of JCP:

A formal signing ceremony of the Joint Cooperation Programme between Bangladesh and the Netherlands was held on 18th June 2019. JCP is funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bangladesh (EKN) and set up amongst the Institute of Water Modelling (IWM), the Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), Wageningen University and Research (WUR) and Deltares. It's long term knowledge sharing and capacity building amongst these institutes in the fields of integrated water resources management and adaptive planning. In the JCP we work closely together with BWDB, BIWTA, DOE, DOF, DAE, BMDA, LGED, DOF, DAE, GED & many other agencies to provide knowledge.

## Maarten Smits, Managing Director, Deltares

"There's a lot we can learn from this Joint Cooperation Programme. We can find out more about the modelling of a complex delta and the highly dynamic behaviour of its coasts and rivers, about the management of polders and about monitoring severely polluted rivers."

## Goal and Objectives of JCP

The general objective of the JCP is to carry out long term knowledge sharing and capacity building programme between Bangladeshi and Dutch institutes in the water sector. The goal is to increase the knowledge base of all the institutes involved and to strengthen the capacity of institutes in Bangladesh to plan, develop and manage their (marine and fresh) water resources systems. The capacities targeted under JCP include water system knowledge, data management, decision-support and impact forecasting, but also the capacity for cooperation, institutional development and governance within Bangladesh and with Dutch water knowledge institutions.

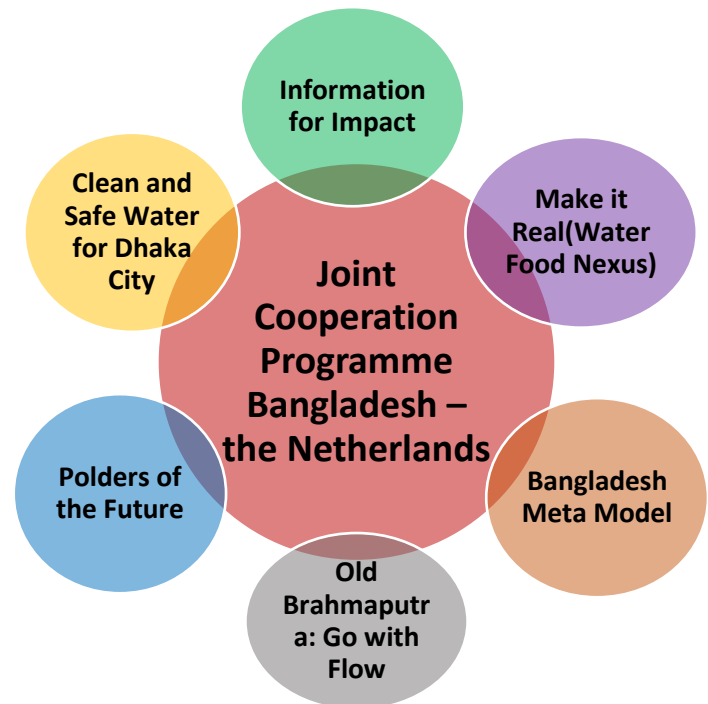
## Subprojects in Joint Cooperation Programme Bangladesh – the Netherlands

**Sub-Project 1: Information for Impact:** During the preparation of the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 a Knowledge and Information Portal was developed. This portal will provide information services to support planners and decision makers for participatory and interactive planning and decision-making processes. People however, do not know very well about the data portal – so they do not know well what information they may get from there.

The main objective of sub-project ‘Information for Impact’, is to design and develop a mobile app to provide location based information related to BDP while using the knowledge portal. This will support planning and decision making in line with the activities of adaptive delta management. Information and knowledge services will be provided using smart phone.

**Sub Project 2: Polders of the Future:** Polders were constructed to improve agriculture and livelihood within the polder. Sluices allow for drainage by gravity in case of excess water in the polder and allow for intake of river water in case of water shortage. The aim of this sub-project is to plan and design in an eco-friendly manner the regulator, taking into consideration of optimal (agricultural) water management for improved livelihoods, restoration of eco system services and improved operation and maintenance.

**Sub Project 3: Old Brahmaputra: Go with the Flow:** The objective of this project is to assess the morphological characteristics of the Old Brahmaputra off-take and to develop suitable off-take management options (structural and non-structural). Furthermore, innovative dredging options will be explored in the river reach to ensure dry season flow in the Old Brahmaputra river and its distributaries. Other water usage/ecosystem services in the river are also studied.



**Dr Bram de Vos , Managing Director Wageningen University and Research**

“For international collaboration it is important to work together and I am very enthusiastic about the Joint Cooperation Programme. For me this collaboration is an example of science for impact, how we can deal with the uncertainties and how we jointly work together to bring answers to the community.”

#### Sub Project 4: Real Time monitoring for Clean and Safe Water for Dhaka City

Dhaka and other large and middle-sized cities in Bangladesh suffer from severe water pollution. Future developments such as economic growth, the increase of the population, urbanization and climate change will increase the need for water quality management in order to safeguard one of the foundations of livelihood. This project has the goal to provide a sound knowledge base for involved authorities to develop an integrated monitoring strategy, including emergency substances, as well as to strengthen their capacity on data interpretation and information management. Furthermore, tools for assessing water quality impacts and strategies for adaptive planning of water pollution control will also be developed.

**Sub-Project 5: Make it Real (Water Food Nexus):** Bangladesh has a fast-growing population with a fast increasing and diversifying need for food. The climate is changing and water resources are becoming more unpredictable under the current climate change scenarios. The agriculture industry has to produce more and different crops and livestock under increasingly challenging circumstances due to climate change and more competition for water by industry, citizens and environment. The sub-project Make it real is aimed at studying the integration between water availability and food production, taking into account external developments such as climate change, dietary change and urbanization.

**Pillar 2: Bangladesh Meta Model:** The main objective of the Metamodel is to support adaptive delta planning (IWRM and ICZM) by key stakeholders such as the General Economics Division, Ministry of Water Resources and others in investment planning and integrated assessment. The Bangladesh metamodel is developed in close collaboration with the project “Support to the Implementation of the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 (SIBDP2100)”, which will provide advisory support to the GED. The Bangladesh Metamodel will be further developed to support the formulation, analysis and evaluation of alternative projects and programs.

The Bangladesh Meta Model will be dedicated for use in decision-making in the context of the implementation of the BDP2100. During the programme, application in other water resources planning processes is to be explored. The Bangladesh Metamodel will be based on existing data, knowledge and detailed models. There will be no development of new data, knowledge and detailed models. Ownership and roles for organizations will be developed during the project to ensure sustainability after JCP, as well as attention to strong participation from end-users in an iterative approach.

### JCP Workshop

The JCP Programme started with an internal kick-off, and representatives of each partner joined. As a first & important step during implementation, shared knowledge gaps were translated into innovative applied research activities. During the 2-days workshop this challenge was tackled together in spirit of team-building and collaboration.

The workshop was organized in Bangladesh and held at the BCDM Rajendrapur in Gazipur, Bangladesh

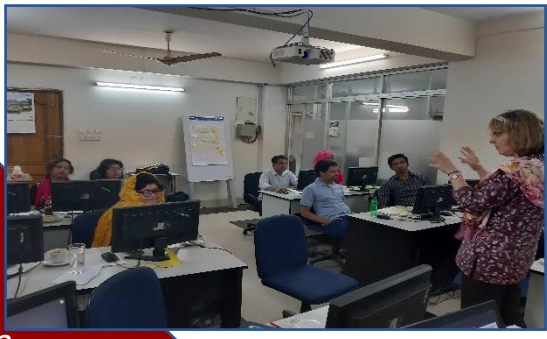


**His Excellency Mr. Harry Verweij, Ambassador, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bangladesh emphasized that “this collaboration program reinforces our bilateral ties to deliver innovative solutions to implement the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100.”**



## JCP Research Communication Training

A 2-day JCP training workshop on research communication took place at IWM and CEGIS on 17th and 18th November 2019. Staff of CEGIS, IWM and WUR took part in the training, which was prepared jointly by the organizations involved in the JCP. In the training, the JCP draft communication strategy was discussed, and specific communication skills important in applied research were addressed and practised, like communication skills, presentations skills, skills providing feedback, and making a short video through a step-by-step process. The training was practice oriented and set-up like a hands-on work session. For instance, the draft communication plans for each of the sub-projects were discussed and elaborated and action to include all involved in the research process and communicate was formulated. Action plan were brought forward by the participants, recommending to organize research communication training for all sub-project leaders and incorporate more video material in the website and social media.



## 4th International Conference on Sustainable Development, 2020

At the present world, sustainable development is important to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Therefore, the organizer chooses the theme “Towards A Green Future” of the 4th International Conference on Sustainable Development, 2020 (4th UIU-ICSD 2020). This conference creates a unique opportunity to bring stakeholders from many sectors together to share practical solutions towards the achievement of more sustainable and inclusive societies. This conference aims to create a research-based knowledge-sharing platform to notify policy decisions, research activities towards attaining the challenges of sustainable development at national, regional and international levels. The Institute of Development Studies and Sustainability (IDSS), United International University (UIU), Bangladesh organize this conference once in a year in collaboration with many organizations, here of Delta Forum JCP actively engages in the ICSD4 to share its initial findings. This year it will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2020.

This Newsletter was prepared in the context of the Joint Cooperation Programme Bangladesh – the Netherlands, supported by Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bangladesh. To subscribe, react and contribute please email to [jcpbdnl@gmail.com](mailto:jcpbdnl@gmail.com)

