

Minutes of the 1st National Steering Board meeting of Bangladesh Water Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP)

Chair : Mohammad Shafiul Alam, Cabinet Secretary

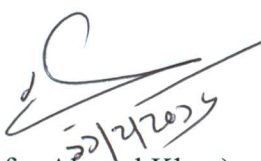
Venue : The Westin, Dhaka

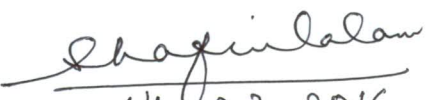
Date : 30th of January 2016 at 11am

The first meeting of the National Steering Board (NSB) of the Bangladesh Water Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) was held on January 30, 2016. at 11am at the conference room of Hotel Westin, Dhaka. Mohammad Shafiul Alam, Cabinet Secretary, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh chaired the meeting. The attendance list is attached as Appendix A.

2. Welcome remarks were made by Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources. After which, the opening remarks were made by the Chair, Mohammad Shafiul Alam, Cabinet Secretary. The Chair indicated to the key points for decision of the meeting in his opening remarks. After the opening remarks, several presentations were made by different presenters relevant to the agenda of discussion (Appendix B).
3. After the presentations, the Co-chair from the private sector Ms. Rokia Afzal Rahman (Vice-President, ICC) and Co-chair from the Civil Society, Mr. Mushtaque Chowdhury (Vice-Chair, BRAC) made brief remarks endorsing the Bangladesh Water MSP and emphasizing on the need for immediate actions and programs to address the challenges. This was followed by a brief discussion involving the members of the NSB.
4. During the discussion the participants raised different issues with regard to water resources management in the different sectors. Some of the vital points raised by the participants are recorded as under:
 - I. There may be more participation from the private sector and Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) may be included to the NSB;
 - II. Business Initiatives Leading Development (BUILD) representatives may be closely involved in facilitating policy-making process which impact the private sector and industries and facilitate coordination with the relevant mechanisms at the Prime Minister's Office;
 - III. In addition to the Greater Dhaka area, similar efforts (to conserve watersheds) may be gradually extended to the other areas of the country in phases and
 - IV. Water resources management for the agriculture sector is very important since agriculture consumes the highest amount of water and there is much room for improvement of efficiency in this sector.

5. The discussions were followed by approval of the decisions by the NSB which have been summarized in the next section. As the decisions have been agreed upon by the NSB members, the Chair set the ^{tentative} date for the next NSB meeting on April 30, 2016.
6. The following **key decisions** were made during the 1st meeting of the NSB:
- I. The NSB decided to endorse the membership list of NSB as per the Government of Bangladesh gazette No. 42.00.0000.038.18.039.15.527.dated December 6, 2015;
 - II. The NSB endorsed the three initial Work streams, namely, Water Governance and Sustainability, Greater Dhaka Watershed Restoration and Agricultural Water as approved by the Honorable Prime Minister;
 - III. The NSB provided mandate to the 2030 WRG in collaboration with the Work-Stream Chairs to nominate the members of the three Work-Streams;
 - IV. The NSB decided that the 2030 WRG in collaboration with the Chairs of the three Work-Streams will elaborate work-plan for the respective Work-Streams with special focus on priority areas, conduct necessary studies in those priority areas and present back to the NSB within six months;
 - V. The NSB agreed to start a process to review laws, regulations and policies where an overlap, gap or undue complexity exist and circulate recommendations to NSB members for their comments and discussion. All such recommendations need to be approved by the NSB before implementation;
 - VI. The NSB agreed to co-opt Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) as member;
 - VII. NSB also agreed that the date and time for the next meeting of the NSB will be April 30, 2016 at 11am. ^{tentative}
7. The Meeting ended with vote of thanks from the Chair.


(Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan)
Member-Secretary NSB
&
Secretary
Ministry of Water Resources


14/02/2016
(Mohammad Shafiul Alam)
Chair NSB
&
Cabinet Secretary