



INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

Message from the Country Director

Modern energy services for the poor, energy security and climate change mitigation are the present key challenges for achieving sustained macro-economic growth and tackling local and global environmental consequences, ultimately attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). UNDP Bangladesh is supporting the Government to integrate energy within national development strategies to address the energy needs for both productive and consumptive uses. UNDP is also assisting Bangladesh in climate change mitigation to shift the current carbon-intensive paths towards less carbon intensive paths through successful development and transformation of markets.

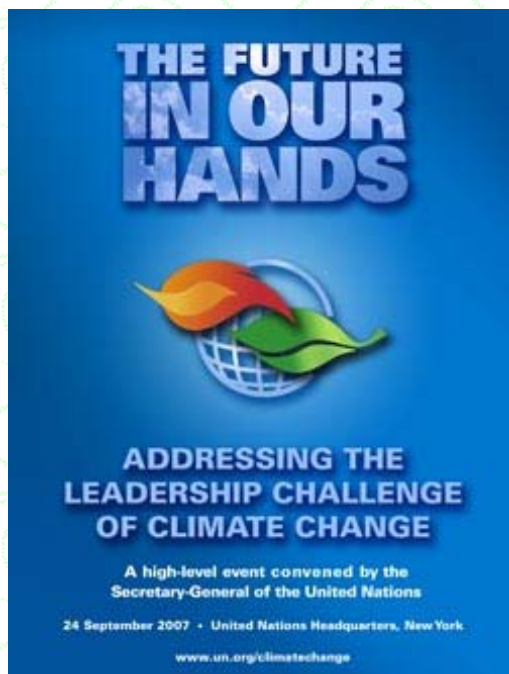
In achieving the objectives of sustainable energy and climate change mitigation, UNDP Bangladesh works for advisory and policy support services, advocacy and awareness raising campaign aimed at future development and expansion of pro-poor sustainable energy options, technologies, practices and climate change mitigation measures in Bangladesh. As knowledge based organization, UNDP promotes knowledge product development through effectively consolidating the learnings in sustainable energy and climate change mitigation.

The weekly Intelligence Bulletin on Energy and Climate Change is an initiative of UNDP Bangladesh to capture the updates, knowledge, technological development and policy issues from country and also around the world. This knowledge product incorporates straightforward language to disseminate information on energy and climate change to its readers. The bulletins are regularly posted in the UNDP Bangladesh Energy and Climate Change Cluster website and circulated stakeholders.

I am pleased to introduce the 25th issue of the Energy and Climate Change Intelligence Bulletin and expect that the bulletins will be able to provide more updated information and knowledge-based advisory services in coming days in the development and deployment of clean energy technologies for all and climate change mitigation.

Manoj Basnyat

Secretary-General's High Level Event on Climate Change



The high-level event, titled "*The Future in our Hands: Addressing the Leadership Challenge of Climate Change*," was held on 24 September at UN Headquarter just before the 62 Session of UN General Assembly. More than 70 heads of state or government attended the one-day event, making it the largest meeting ever of world leaders on climate change.

The high-level event was aimed at securing political commitment and building momentum for the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali where negotiations about a new international climate agreement should start. The Bali meeting, from 3 to 14 December, will convene the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said earlier that Bali must advance a negotiating agenda to combat climate change on all fronts, including adaptation, mitigation, clean technologies, deforestation and resource mobilization.

After the opening session, there were four simultaneous plenary sessions each of which focused on one of four themes: mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing. Each thematic plenary was chaired by two heads of state. World leaders have called for progress on tackling climate change at the meeting on the issue at the United Nations.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said he was "extremely encouraged" by the commitments made this week at the meeting to seek a successor to the Kyoto protocol, the main provisions of which expire in 2012. Action is possible now and it makes economic sense. The cost of inaction will far outweigh the cost of early action.

Speaking at the conclusion of the special high level event on climate change, involving heads of state and other top officials from more than 150 countries, Ban Ki-moon said he had heard a clear call from world leaders for a breakthrough on climate change at this year's United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali. "Technology will play an essential role in our collective response to climate change. Clean technologies are at the heart of sustainable development and our response to climate change", he added.

Chief Adviser for Efforts to Promote 'Carbon-Neutral' Economic Growth

The Chief Adviser Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed called for renewed efforts to promote 'carbon-neutral' economic growth in a high level thematic plenary on Climate Change on 24 September 2007 in New York on the day before opening of the 62 session of the General Assembly. He stressed that developed economies must commit to transferring environment-friendly technologies at preferential terms. Developing countries, especially the LDCs, cannot afford to bear the full cost of technological upgradation of their economies. The post-Kyoto regime must generate new funds to facilitate development of technologies for a carbon neutral future in a scale that matches evolving requirements. It must also ensure transfer of these technologies to countries like Bangladesh to help secure their energy requirements.

In his speech, the Chief Adviser underscored the importance of climate change and mentioned that Climate change must be addressed now, and it must be addressed decisively. The price of inaction would be too high. Delay will mean greater risks and higher costs. He also pointed out that the efforts to address climate change should not disproportionately tax the poorer nations. He urged all major emitters to collectively establish and implement a global target to stabilize the atmosphere over the short, medium and long term.

Dr. Fakhruddin said Bangladesh is particularly vulnerable to climate change given its location. As a low-lying delta in one of the highest rainfall areas of the world, Bangladesh is chronically prone to inundation. "A one-meter sea-level rise will submerge about one-third of the total area of Bangladesh thereby uprooting 25-30 million of our people," he warned, adding a climatic disaster in the region is likely to push millions of our people to destitution.

Devastating floods, cyclones, droughts and storm surges are now recurring with relentless regularity, the Chief Adviser pointed out, adding, "Climate change is fundamentally altering our lives, for example by impeding our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals."

"Today we are confronted with the difficult reality that the phenomenon of climate change is not a myth, and that its impacts are no more a conjecture. I speak for Bangladesh and many others who are on the threshold of a climate Armageddon, foretold by increasingly violent and unpredictable weather patterns," Dr. Fakhruddin voiced the ever-growing concerns of the least developed countries which, he said, ill-afford to absorb the impacts of climate change. "We cannot afford to remain idle until this misfortune actually unfolds. The time to act cannot be delayed. The very first step is to recognize the responsibility of all nations towards the refugees of climate change," he put forward the arguments in favor of the least developed countries.

The chief adviser recommended that an effective response to climate change challenges must strike a balance between mitigation and adaptation. He also warned that without sufficient and targeted funding, all climate change initiative may end up as empty rhetoric.

Second National Communication of Bangladesh to UNFCCC

UNDP is assisting Bangladesh Government to prepare and submit its Second National Communication (SNC) to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The project is supported by Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The proposed project has five main outputs: (a) inventories of anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases for 2000-01 & 2004-05; (b) state of present and possible future impacts and vulnerability to climate change; (c) programmes and measures to facilitate mitigation of GHG emission and adaptation to adverse impacts of climate change; (d) proposed institutional setting including policy measures to advance both mitigation and adaptation as well as mainstreaming and integrating them with national and sectoral programmes and policies; and (e) preparation of the SNC of Bangladesh, by incorporating all the above. In addition, the process towards preparation of the SNC envisages to contribute to build national capacity to prepare GHG emission inventory, to build awareness towards mainstreaming both mitigation and adaptation, and to strengthen cooperation between all relevant stakeholders by means of participation, sharing, reviewing, and feedback.

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