



## Learning Hub Event (LHE) report 2017

### *Learning Hub Event (LHE) on* **Green Growth: Best Practices for the Future**



This Learning Hub Event (LHE) was made possible by the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the sole responsibility of the Gobeshona programme and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government

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<b>LHE Title:</b>	<b>Green Growth: Best Practices for the Future</b>
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	Monday, July 10, 2017, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
<b>Organizers:</b>	General Economics Division (GED) and International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)
<b>Funded by:</b>	USAID
<b>Venue:</b>	NEC-1 committee Room, Planning Commission Premises, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Dr Shamsul Alam, Member (Senior Secretary), GED, Planning Commission</b>
<b>Moderator:</b>	<b>Dr Saleemul Huq, Director, ICCCAD</b>
<b>Presentation 1:</b>	'Green Growth: Best Practices for the Future' by Dr Saleemul Huq, Director, ICCCAD and Senior Fellow, IIED
<b>Presentation 2:</b>	'Outline of Background Studies for Bangladesh 2041(Climatic change, green-growth, environment and water resources)' by Danielle Falzon, Visiting Researcher, ICCCAD
<b>Author:</b>	Shaila Mahmud, Research Officer, ICCCAD
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<b>Photo Album</b>	Please go to <a href="#">Event photos</a>
<b>Editor:</b>	Tasfiq Mahmood and Yousuf Mahid
<b>Published online:</b>	

### Participants' List (Arranged as per the registration form)

Sl.	Name	Designation/Organization
1	Ms. Shaila Mahmud	Research Officer (ICCCAD)
2	Ms. Mariko Powers	Visiting Researcher (ICCCAD)
3	Ms. Laura Bahlman	Visiting Researcher (ICCCAD)
4	Mr. H.M. Asiful Hoque	Coordinator (ICCCAD)
5	Ms. Danielle Falzon	Visiting Researcher (ICCCAD)
6	Mr. Md.Shamsul Karim Bhuiyan	Chief, PID, Planning Commission
7	Dr.Md.Mustafizur Rahman	Joint Chief, GED
8	Mr. A.K.M. Abdullah Khan	PD & DY Chief
9	Ms. Josefa Yesmin	Assistant Chief
10	Ms. Peter D'souza	DFID
11	Ms. Md.Sadat S.Shibli	The Asia Foundation
12	Dr. Nurun Nahar	Deputy Chief, Programming Division
13	Ms. Jennifer Khadim	Coordinator, ICCCAD
14	Mr. Khandkar Hossain	GED, Planning Commission
15	Mr. Tim Buckley	IEEFA
16	Mr. Simon Nicholas	IEEFA
17	Ms. Charlotte Hugman	Visiting Researcher (ICCCAD)
18	Ms. Nazia Afrin Choudhury	Senior Assistant Chief, ERD
19	Ms. Salma Islam	EDGG
20	Ms. Umme Salma	Senior Assistant Chief
21	Ms. Abida Sultana	Assistant Chief
22	Mr. Md. Saifuk Alam Hamim	Economic Finance Division
23	Mr. Palash Kumar Debnath	GED
24	Mr. Quazi Ahmad Faruque	Rahimafrooz
25	Mr. Dr.Md.Akhteruzaman	Joint Chief, Planning Commission
26	Mr. Dinesh Sarkar	Assistant Chief, Planning Commission
27	Mr. Dhusar Prokriti Gain	GED
28	Mr. Md. Jatin	GED (EPAP)
29	Mr. Dr.Mohammad Amir Hossain	Professor
30	Ms. Feroza Begum	Joint Chief
31	Mr. Murtaza Zulkar-Nain Noman	Senior Assistant Chief
32	Ms. Mousumi Khanom	Assistant Chief, GED
33	Mr. Mohammad Asaduzzaman Sarker	Sr. Assistant Chief GED
34	Mr. Md. Rafiqul Islam	D.G, IMED

<b>35</b>	Mr. Shimul Sen	Assistant Chief, GED
<b>36</b>	Mr. Delwar Hossain	Sr.AC, ERD
<b>37</b>	Mr. Mizanur Rahman Jewel	Bangladesh Betar
<b>38</b>	Mr. Md. Shahjahan Miah	Bangladesh Betar
<b>39</b>	Mr. Md. Selim Molla	Personal Officer
<b>40</b>	Mr. Md. Badrul Alam	Reporter
<b>41</b>	Mr. Noor-E-Elahi	ICCCAD
<b>42</b>	Mr. Md. Enamul Haque	GED/Planning Commission
<b>43</b>	Mr. Gopal Krisna Debnath	PD/LGED
<b>44</b>	Mr. Naquib Bin Mahabub	Chief, GED
<b>45</b>	Mr. Sheikh Moinul Islam Moin	Assistant Chief, GED
<b>46</b>	Mr. Syed Tasfiq Mahmood	Research Associate
<b>48</b>	Mr. Md.Mahbulul Alam Siddique	GED, Planning Commission
<b>49</b>	Mr. Abul Khair	Reporter

## Event Agenda:

Time	Activities	Responsible Person
1:45-2:30 pm	Registration and Lunch	ICCCAD Team
2:30-2:40 pm	Opening Remarks	<b>Chair: Dr Shamsul Alam</b> Member (Senior Secretary) GED, Planning Commission
2:40-2:50 pm	<i>Introductory Remarks and Setting the Tone</i>	<b>Dr Saleemul Huq</b> Director, ICCCAD Senior Fellow, IIED
2:50-3:10 pm	<i>Presentation 1</i> <i>International Best Practices on Green Growth</i>	<b>Dr Saleemul Huq</b>
3:10-3:30	<i>Presentation 2</i> <i>Outline of Background Studies for</i> <i>Bangladesh 2041(Climate change, green-</i> <i>growth, environment and water resources)</i>	<b>Danielle Falzon</b> Visiting Researcher, ICCCAD
3:30-4:20 pm	Question-Answer Session and open discussion	All Participants
4:20 -4:30 pm	Closing Speech	<b>Dr Shamsul Alam</b> & <b>Dr Saleemul Huq</b>

## **Introduction**

On 10 July, 2017 the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB); General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Dhaka; and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) organized the Learning Hub Event (LHE) on “Green Growth: Best Practices for the Future”. The LHE held at the Planning Commission premises was attended by around 50 experts from all concerned line of ministries, national and international organizations to share their experiences in regards to combat climate change through finding better synergies.

The LHE comprehended that to promote efficient use of natural resources in tandem with economic growth, a roadmap to mainstream Green Growth is essential. The presentations and the discussions of the event were drawn from the global and regional experiences, as well as on how Green Growth could be a driver in achieving government’s Plan 2041 for sustaining shared prosperity. During the LHE, the participants noted that a more established definition of Green Growth is necessary together with continued vigilance to ensure arrangements for smooth mainstreaming of Green Growth into planning and policy papers.

## **Summary of the Learning Hub Event**

Dr. Shamsul Alam, Member (Senior Secretary), GED, Planning Commission opened the LHE. He highlighted that climate action is the most recent, yet pertinent element for socio-economic development. It is essential to lay emphasis on the best practices on climate actions and Green Growth around the world to build our capacity to embark on a sustainable and green economy.



Dr. Huq and Dr. Alam during the opening remarks

He shared that the UK Department for International Development has commissioned the Economic Dialogue on Green Growth (EDGG) programme over three years with an aim to ensure learning from the

## **Key Pointers**

**A definition for Green Growth needs to be formulated based on country context.**

**The Background Paper outline should incorporate more action guidelines along with expectations.**

**The Background Paper should also reflect on the recently flourishing sectors: ICT and Tourism.**

**The discussion on Green Growth should be prioritised in all important policy dialogue with a view to forming a uniform strategy through inter-agency collaboration.**

best practices on Green Growth around the world to strengthen the evidence base on Green Growth in Bangladesh. Only fact based discussion, such as those in the LHEs, can lead to precise recommendations for action for policymakers.

The first session of the event discussed the objectives and importance of Green Growth in Bangladesh, and how EDGG in cooperation with GED aims to foster the adoption of a well-adjusted and sustainable growth strategy to avoid irreversible and costly environmental and social damage for future generations. Bangladesh has made significant progress in economy for the past two decades to eradicate poverty; however its location in the South and status as a Least Developed Country (LDC) makes her extremely vulnerable to environmental hazards and to the adverse impacts of climate change. In this respect, EDGG envisions to alleviate poverty and ensure a pro-poor policy, mainstreaming adoption of Green Growth in Bangladesh through an evidence based study to deliver policy oriented research and disseminate key findings to encourage dialogue on policy recommendations with high-level stakeholders. As yet EDGG has accomplished 3 of its 11 pieces of high-quality demand driven research for the 3 year long project: A Green Growth Diagnostic of Bangladesh (GGD), International Green Growth Best Practices, and Financing Green Growth in Bangladesh.

*“Green growth is the vehicle through which Bangladesh can adopt a balanced and sustainable growth strategy”*

The second session of the LHE focused on International Green Growth Best Practices to deliver high quality research on Green Growth by improving evidence base for policy making. Green Growth is crucial in reducing poverty, ensuring environmental protection, and fostering economic growth. Bangladesh has a steady growth rate of 6% per annum over the last decade and is expected to promote herself as a Middle Income Country by 2021, suggesting that the country needs an inclusive economic policy to lessen its dependency on aids and concessional grants from developing partners and donors. Thus far Green Growth has been somewhat mentioned in the perspective plan (2010-2021) and in the Seventh Five Year Plan of Bangladesh. In conjunction with insignificant mention in the national strategies and planning frameworks, a number of Green Growth action is also procured; nevertheless, Bangladesh is yet to pursue a specific Green Growth strategy and develop a country specific definition. One of the keys to internalize Green Growth and reduce carbon foot print is through strong political leadership.



Ms. Islam is presenting the Green-growth best practices

“Green Growth is not a win-win situation; there may be tradeoff at times. We may have to waive rapid economic growth with a more sustainable environment,” stressed by Dr. Saleemul Huq, speaker of the session. In recent times, a phenomenon called “climate change” or “global warming” has emerged as a major buffer for Bangladesh to pursue carry out socio-economic growth at current pace. Many developed nations have already internalized Green Growth in their policies, however the speaker

emphasis particularly on taking lessons from the South through formation of South-South Knowledge exchange platform. The presentation described how two of the 48 LDCs Mozambique and Ethiopia have mainstreamed Green Growth in their country road-map. These countries are doing so by harnessing the private-public synergy. Our policies predominantly focus on economic growth. Therefore, it is essential that the future national strategies and policy frameworks on economic growth are revised corresponding to social and environmental context.

The third session described the outline of the Background Paper on “Addressing climate change, Green Growth, environment, and water resources for sustaining shared prosperity”, an input in the preparation of the Vision 2041 and the Second Perspective Plan (2021-2041) to develop an inclusive Macroeconomic Framework. The Background Paper aims to formulate action plans based on the previous studies and achievements for a post-2030 Bangladesh through analysis of vulnerability and risks. One of the main aspects discussed throughout the outline is the goal to ensure quality of life for future generations through formal and informal learning.



Ms. Falzon is presenting the Background paper outline



During open discussion after all the presentations

The outline identifies climate change, environmental vulnerabilities and degraded water resources as the three main barriers impeding socio-economic growth and implementation of the existing policies. The three challenges are interpreted based on four elements: Current data and projections, what the government of Bangladesh has done so far, knowledge-sharing, and Renewable and Green Growth; with a fifth on urban issues for climate change. Green growth

has been highlighted as one of the main drivers to strengthen adaptation capacity, build resilience against all the three challenges posing the country. According to the outline, several policy level studies have been conducted so far in regards to addressing the issues of climate change, environment and water resources; now with Vision 2041, Bangladesh should embark on implementation of the policies into practice.

The LHE event took an interactive form at the end. The participants showed their concern regarding the formation of a uniform definition for Green Growth. They also addressed the necessity of an efficient monitoring and evaluation body to ensure employment of Green Growth in policies and strategies. The event found that there is an ambiguity in understanding the difference between Sustainable Development Goals or Agenda 2030, and Green Growth. “Green Growth and the SDGs are two complimentary drivers in achieving sustainable growth; in fact, Green Growth is a subset to the SDGs,” described by Dr. Shamsul Alam.



### ***Feedback from participants:***

The purpose of conducting an evaluation session during a Learning Hub Event (LHE) is to identify if the objective is achieved as it was designed to be. For evaluating the service, the process focuses on how well the service is being delivered, usefulness of the particular service and future topics to be delivered. A number of government officials range from very senior to entry level officials were present that notifies the level of interest amongst the government officials about the topic delivered in this LHE by now. In the event, around 80% from the total participants actually participated in the evaluation session. It is highly notable that the participants agreed on the utility of an LHE and the impression toward the event was extraordinarily positive. Quite a good number of authentic suggestions on future topics appeared during the evaluation session. Few of them are as follows;

- Green policies vs. Non-green policies;
- Blue economy;
- Sectoral growth and climate change;
- Climate change and sustainable agriculture;
- Climate change impact assessment tools;
- Climate smart agriculture;
- Climate change and inclusive growth;
- Green growth principles and approaches;
- Green transport sector;

As the LHE has been designed to scale up the knowledge of government officials on climate change, it is very important to create a link between the relevant topic and Bangladeshi context. It has become visible from the suggestions that the government officials have provided the facilitators with.

**Way Forward** Internalization of Green Growth in policies and key discussion is the 'need of the hour'. Strong political leadership entails efficient legislation and institutional frameworks, which are essential to embed Green Growth into mainstream economic policies. The event also heard that as Bangladesh is going to be promoted from its LDC status by 2021, it can meet the shortfall in grants and aids by channeling combined effort with the private sectors.