

Report

on

The 2nd Workshop for University Collaboration and Networking on Higher Education

Two days long workshop for university collaboration and networking on higher education were held at Mymensingh District hosted by Department of Soil Science, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh and supported by JICA JST SATREP Project. The workshop was well attended. There were 23 participants were present in the workshop from Different Universities in Bangladesh and overseas University as well.

First Day:

The workshop was inaugurated by the Director of BAURES (Bangladesh Agricultural University Research System) Professor Md. Monjurul Alam. Then Professor Rezaur Rahman gave welcome remarks through a short presentation. In his presentation, he explored the opportunity for the university network members to apply for the “Catalyst Grants” under Reach Program where BUET is the lead partner in Bangladesh part. This collaborative research program will help to strengthen the university network among the members through collective research.

Two consecutive presentations were delivered by Professor Sujit Kumar Bala and Professor Hamidul Huq. They shared research results and their own experiences regarding flash food and river flood, respectively.

Professor Rajib Shaw explained the purpose of the workshop and expectation from the workshop with a focused and informative short presentation. He also clearly explained the possible way of mini project with case specific examples regarding four issues viz. flash flooding, river flooding and river bank erosion, coastal flooding and urban flooding.

All the participants were divided into two groups for brain storming and group discussions for the development of course curricula of the university students and training modules respectively for government officials and practioners and NGO people as well. Two groups were moderated by Dr. Md Anwarul Abedin and Dr. Nazmul Islam.

Second Day:

After successful completion of the group discussions by two groups in the previous day, two separate presentations were delivered and spontaneous open floor discussions also held in the morning of the second day by active participation and involvement of the participants. Participants also gave their individual thoughts on the contents of the course curricula and training modules. The contents of the course curricula and training modules were attached in the appendix II.

A fruitful student's interaction session was held by the participation of both undergraduate and post graduate students of Bangladesh Agricultural University and the University Network members. The students gave opinion and share their own experiences regarding flood in their locality. Some of student's opinions and voices presented below:

- It is necessary to include field visit before and after flooding
- Consider beneficial effects of flooding (How to utilize flooding as asset)
- Community involvement is one of the crucial elements for flood management
- Field based course and training program is important to skill up the students
- Involvement of all types of stakeholders and local experiences should be incorporated in an integrated way
- Student interactions and networking is also necessary to strengthen course materials
- Introduction of online course for Flood management (before-during-after) with minimum course fee



Few snaps of the workshop

Appendix I

Workshop Schedule:

The 2nd Workshop for University Collaboration and Networking on Higher Education

Background

The JICA JST SATREP Project titled “Research on Disaster Prevention/Mitigation Measures against Flood and Storm Surges in Bangladesh” is implemented jointly by Kyoto University and BUET along with several partner universities and organizations in Bangladesh and Japan. The project aims to develop integrated training programs on research innovations of flood disaster risk reduction. The project focuses on four types of floods: coastal flood, river flood, flash flood and urban flood. One of the key targets of the training program is to include the research outputs into university curriculum. Thus, the specific purposes of the workshop are:

- To understand the current status, contents and gaps in the current courses related to flood risk reduction in the universities
- To identify flood related course materials
- To develop research collaborations among different universities

In the first workshop on September 5, 2015, the needs of university collaboration were reviewed as follows.

- Quality enhancement with updated research
- Link to practice and implementation
- Continuous dialogue and engagement with university partners and other stakeholders
- Role of key facilitator in each partner university

In addition, the following themes were discussed in the group discussion.

- Share innovating teaching modules and methods related to disaster risk reduction
- Identify key needs/ challenges where content improvement is required, with specific focus on flood risk reduction
- Expressing collective commitments of university network reaching “The Last Mile”

In the second workshop it is expected to discuss the contents of training module.

Agenda

Venue: Bangladesh Agricultural University

Date: February 7, 2016

13:00 Registration

13:30 Opening Speeches: Professor Md. Monjurul Alam, Director, BAURES, BAU

14:00 Welcome remarks: Professor Rezaur Rahman

14:15 Workshop purpose: Professor Rajib Shaw

14:30 Group discussion: contents development of training module

Group 1: Moderator: Dr. Najmul Islam

- 1) Coastal flooding and storm surges,
- 2) River flooding and river bank erosion River

Group 2: Moderator: Dr. Md. Abedin Anwarul

- 1) Flash flooding,
- 2) Urban flooding

17:30 Adjourn

Venue: Bangladesh Agricultural University

Date: February 8, 2016

09:00-10:30 Group presentation and discussion on future steps

11:00-13:00 Interaction with students: Dr. Md. Abedin Anwarul

13:00 Lunch and adjourn