

ORGANIZATION OF CSSTEAP ALUMNI MEET AT DHAKA, BANGLADESH ON JUNE 23, 2011

On an invitation from UN-OOSA, Dr. P.S Roy, Director, CSSTEAP visited Dhaka, Bangladesh during June 18-24, 2011, as a member of UN-OOSA International Technical Advisory mission of UN-SPIDER, to suggest the space inputs in Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangladesh. Director, CSSTEAP also availed the opportunity to organize alumni meet in Dhaka on June 23, 2011. Bangladesh is one of the countries, which has used the facilities of CSSTEAP capacity building. It was suggested in CSSTEAP 15th Governing Board meeting to establish direct contact with the alumni to obtain first hand feedback and understand the alumni role in promoting space science and technology in their home countries. The alumni meet will also bring together students of the different courses from the same country on common platform. It will also facilitate the centre to know about their achievements and how the Centre helped them in grooming their professional research career.

CSSTEAP has 52 alumni from Bangladesh under various courses (PG and short) being organized at IIRS, SAC and PRL. Out of 52 alumni invited, 30 number of alumni from Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB), Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization (SPARRSO), Bangladesh Telecommunications Co. Ltd, University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh Forest Department besides senior officials of SPARRSO, GSB participated in the program. Senior officials of Geological Survey of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) and DG of Department of Relief & Disaster Management, Govt. of Bangladesh made presentation on their organizational activities and suggested enhanced role of CSSTEAP.

Dr. P.S Roy Director, CSSTEAP briefed on the Centre's current and future programmes. UN-SPIDER representative made presentation on the use of space technology for Disaster Risk Reduction. Four senior officials representing BMD, SAPRRSO and GSD made presentations on their experiences and achievements.

The main observations of the organizations who made presentations are as below:

- The theoretical and practical knowledge acquired by the students from academic programs of CSSTEAP have helped them to enhance their working capability in the area of science and technology in their home institutions. However, lack of suitable satellite data products and day-to-day advice has been the main impediments to raise the level of knowledge of the students.

- Due lack of manpower, on return the students are put to routine jobs and hardly there is any support to undertake M.Tech research projects in their home country.
- CSSTEAP alumni from SPARRSO have been promoted based on the PG diploma/M.Tech degree obtained from CSSTEAP. These officials have taken role as team leader and are assigned important projects to handle independently. However, Bangladesh Meteorological Department and Geological Survey of Bangladesh did not express the above views.
- The organizational representatives suggested more number of seats for Bangladesh in the CSSTEAP educational programmes. They also suggested short courses on Microwave remote sensing, Disaster Risk Reduction; short-range forecasts; Monsoon variability; Hazard & risk analysis- quantitative approaches.
- SPARRSO suggested to organize special short courses jointly with CSSTEAP in Bangladesh so that large officials can take benefit of the programme. SPARRSO agreed to provide facilities and local support.

Recommendations by Alumni:

- Good number of alumni particularly from Bangladesh Meteorological Department mentioned that due to non-availability of satellite data products, lack of software and local guidance has been the main hurdles for not pursuing M.Tech research work. All alumni suggested that more opportunity should be provided in offering fellowships to the students from Bangladesh for pursuing M.Tech research work at CSSTEAP.
- Alumni expressed that in RS & GIS PG course, under second semester, the common module consisting of multi-disciplinary subjects where common subjects are taught are of not much relevance with the objectives of the course.
- The alumni formed a CSSTEAP alumni forum and identified Md. Shahidul Islam, Comprehensive Disaster Management program, UNDP, Dhaka, Bangladesh as convener.
- Md. Shahidul Islam, Comprehensive Disaster Management program, UNDP, Dhaka offered to hold the alumni meets in near future at their project office.



Meeting with the CSSTEAP alumni in Dhaka, Bangladesh



Dinner hosted by CSSTEAP (in picture Mr. Ahsan Zakir, DG Department of Relief & Disaster Management)