

Member's Annual Report 2007

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1. About the organization

(1) Name of the organization and postal address of the office

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB)
WAPDA Building, Motijheel C/A,
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(2) The representative of the organization

Md. Azizul Haque
Chief Planning
Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB)

(3) Purpose and roles of your organization

a) Historical background of the organization

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) started its operation in 1959 as the water wing of the erstwhile East Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority. As the principal agency of the government for managing water resources of the country, it was given the responsibility of accomplishing the tasks of executing flood control, drainage and irrigation projects to boost up productivity in agriculture and fisheries. After the independence of Bangladesh, the authority was restructured in 1972 into two different organizations to deal with water and power separately. BWDB was created under the Bangladesh Water and Power Development Boards Order 1972 (P.O. No. 59 of 1972) as a fully autonomous organization. The reform program and structural adjustment process undertaken by the GoB for transformation of BWDB is the enactment of the BWDB Act, 2000 that requires the BWDB's functions be guided by the National Water Policy (NWPo) and National Water Management Plan (NWMP). Top management of BWDB is now vested in a policy and oversight Governing Council (GC) with thirteen Members headed by the Minister, Ministry of Water Resources.

b) Purpose and role of the organization

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) is engaged in the water resources development and management in Bangladesh since 1959 (as EPWAPDA). So far BWDB has completed 684 investment projects and 38 nos. of Study projects. Through these projects BWDB has created the basic safe-environment for development of all other sectoral activities and has made major contribution towards autarky in food grain production. It has also rendered services for rural employment generation in large scale, communication,

housing, sanitation and water supply; and livestock, fisheries, forestry, de-salinization, land reclamation, overall socio-economic development of the country including women development and environmental conservation etc. Above all BWDB projects have direct positive impact on poverty alleviation and suitable environment.

(4) Outline of the organization

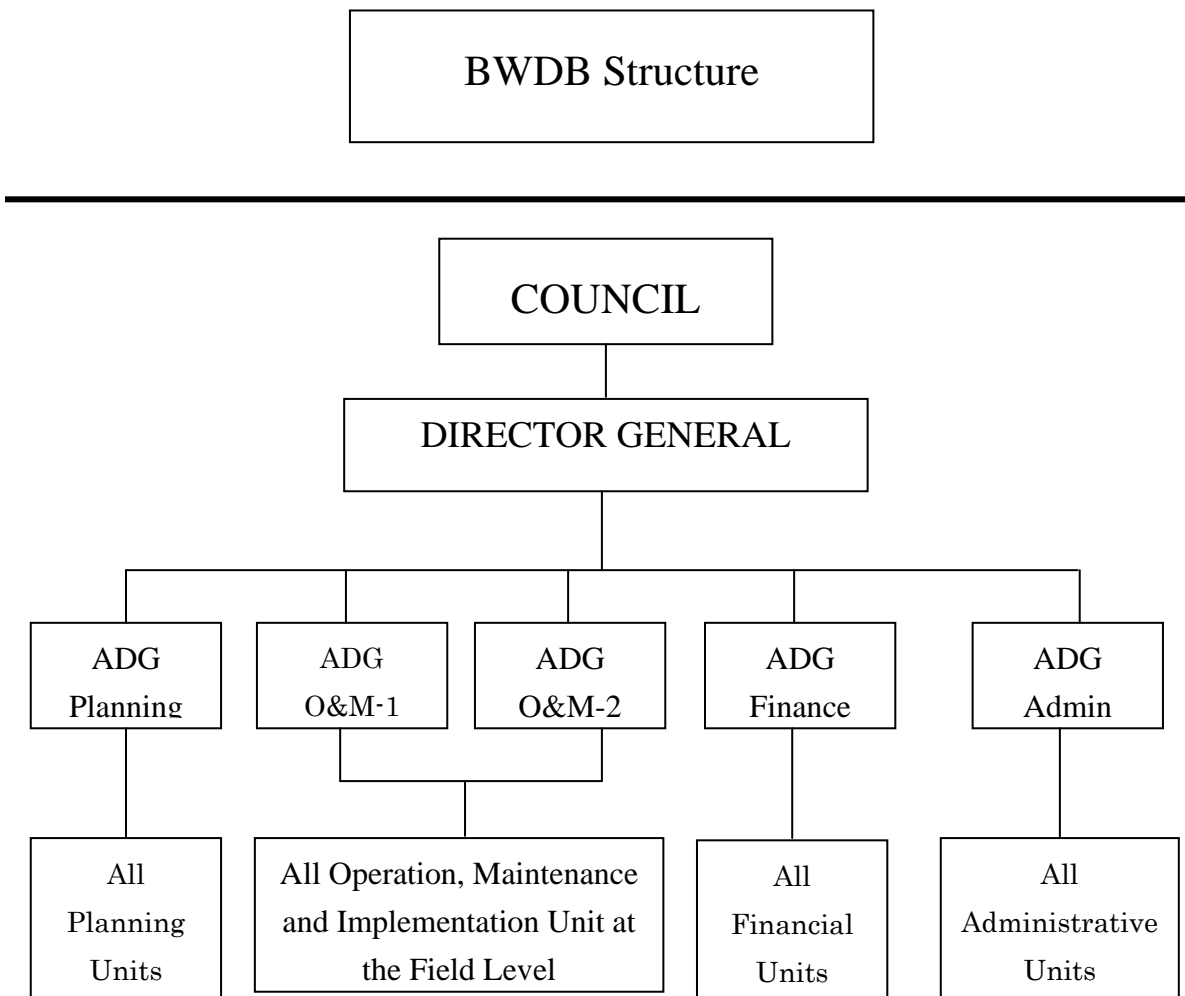
1) Number of staff

The BWDB reforms sought to cater the staff strength to cope with the future strategy and action plan of the Board. In this context, it may be mentioned that in 1998, staff strength of more than 18000 as of 1995 in the Board has been brought down to permanent staff strength of 8935 (excluding the manpower of Dredger and Mechanical Engineering Directorate). However, the present staff position is around 11000. Within 2011 it will be reduced to permanent staff strength of 8935 according to the decision of the Board.

2) Amount of the annual budget in 2007

Amount of annual budget for the year 2007-2008 of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) was TK. 12,189.40 million (US\$187.53 million)

3) Organizational chart



4) Ongoing projects:

The number of ongoing projects of BWDB is 70 nos. during the Financial Year 2007-2008. Among them 68 nos. are investment projects, 2 nos. are technical assistance projects.

Salient feature of some of the ongoing projects:

A) Southwest Area Integrated Water Resources Planning and Management Project

The project area consists of a number of sub-project areas containing the existing Flood Control Drainage/Irrigation (FCDI) systems in the Rajbari, Faridpur, Magura, Gopalganj, Narail and Jessore Districts, totaling 100,000 ha. Two sub-projects, Narail and Chenchuri Beel totaling 57,000 ha, have already been selected. The Integrated Water Management Plans (IWMPs) for these two sub-projects were prepared under the Project Preparation TA in 2005. For the remaining 43,000ha. a number of sub-projects will be selected following a set of pre-determined selection criteria. Each sub-project will be divided into workable sub-unit, which (as much as possible) will be hydrologically independent from the main system. The division of sub-units will be done with assistance of the TA Consultant before SIP preparation starts. The actual preparation of SIPs will start in simultaneously in sub-units clubbed together in batches for that purpose in the sub-project areas Narail and Chenchuri Beel as soon as the NGO is mobilized.

The Executing Agency of the project is the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB). A Project Management Office (PMO) has been established in BWDB's southwest zonal office in Faridpur. This office, headed by a specially appointed (BWDB) Project Director who manages the overall implementation of the project. A total of 5 Sub-project Management Offices (SMOs), under control of the PMO will be established at the level of individual sub-projects. The SMO will be responsible for the day-to-day implementation of sub-project activities. Two SMOs have already been established in the Narail and Chenchuri Beel sub-projects. The NGO to be contracted by the Project will be assigned to assist the sub-projects.

Objective of the Project:

As overall goal, the project will enhance economic growth and reduce poverty in the concerned FCD/I areas, while providing a model for rejuvenating the poorly performing FCD/I systems that will be replicated throughout the country. Its immediate objective is to enhance and sustain the productivity of the selected existing FCD/I systems that suffer from low performance and high incidence by:

- i) Providing effective program delivery mechanisms for integrated planning, WMO formation and strengthening, water management infrastructure, support services for developing agriculture, fishery, and livelihood of the poor, and sustainable O&M; and
- ii) Strengthening institutions for effective provision of services to achieve this end.

B) Water Management Improvement Project (WMIP)

In order to ensure sustainable and eco-friendly operation and maintenance of BWDB FCD/FCDI schemes by involving the local stakeholders through water management organization (WMO) in all water related activities, Water Management Improvement Project (WMIP) has been executed in the year of 2005 and will be completed in 2014. WMIP has been formulated on the basis of legacies and lessons learnt from the experience of BWDB coastal and Inland FCD/FCDI schemes, Command Area Development Project (CAD), IPSWAM project. National Water Policy, National Water Management Plan and Guidelines for Participatory Water Management are the guiding documents in adopting the objective, components and implementation mechanism of the WMIP. The proposed project consists of four components: (i) System Improvement and Management Transfer; (ii) O&M Performance Improvement; (iii) Institutional Improvement and (iv) Flood Damage Rehabilitation of Flood – 2004. The total cost of the project is about 98300.62 Taka in lakh.

Project Objectives:

The primary objective of the project is to improve national water resources management by involving the local communities to play an expanded role in all stages of the participatory scheme cycle management (PSM), from planning and design to operations and management. The secondary objective is to enhance institutional performance of the country's principal water institutions, particularly BWDB and WARPO. This is expected to result in reduced vulnerability and enhanced livelihood opportunities for the beneficiaries, and will also create a favorable environment for improved water resources management by the core water institutions, in partnership with the beneficiaries.

C) Integrated Planning for Sustainable Water Management (IPSWAM)

Integrated planning for sustainable water management (IPSWAM) in Bangladesh was started in the year 2003 and will be completed in the year 2008. Funded by the Government of Netherlands, its main objective was to improve the institutional system of BWDB and to impose the national water policy and participatory water management system among the people of the south and south-western zone of the country. The total cost of the project is about 120 million dollars of which about 89 million US\$ will be born by the Government of Netherlands. The main objective of IPSWAM is to strengthen the capability of the organizations in the water sector so that they can perform their activities according to the guidelines of participatory water management and national water policy.

The specific goals of the project are:

- To make sure the participation of the people in all phases of the project.
- To establish sustainable water management in all phases of the project by the participation of the people.
- And to increase the management capability of the people of BWDB.

(5) Main events in 2007

NARBO Training

2nd Thematic Workshop on Sustainable Management for Water Resources Infrastructures was held in Bangladesh from 24th -27th October, 2007. This Workshop was held as a program of arranging four workshops in a series. The workshop was organized jointly by Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and Institute for Water Modelling (IWM) with the assistance of NARBO secretariat (JWA).

The main objective of this workshop was to formulate action plan on IWRM and recommendations in the specific project. Based on the action plan and recommendations derived from this workshop, the action plan was finalized to share knowledge and exchange experience with a view to firm up understanding of IWRM.

2. About NARBO activity

(1) The contact person and organization web-site

1) The name, position, phone and fax number, e-mail address of the contact person

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2) The organization's web-site URL (English and local language respectively)

www.bwdb.gov.bd

(2) Activities of BWDB implemented in 2007 as the member

Since becoming a member of NARBO, BWDB has been associated with various activities of NARBO. Two assistant Engineers of Directorate of Planning-1 of BWDB participated in 4th NARBO Training held in Sri Lanka in 2006. Recently the Executive Engineer of the Chief Planning office of BWDB has taken part in the 3rd Thematic Workshop held in Sri Lanka. 2nd Thematic Workshop on Sustainable Management for Water Resources Infrastructures was held in Bangladesh from 24th -27th October, 2007. Bangladesh Water Development Board has been according continuing effort through Joint Rivers Commission, Bangladesh to discuss related matter with the co-riparian countries for formation of the River Basin Organization (RBO) for the betterment of the people of the region.

(3) Resolutions and expectations for NARBO activities in 2008

1) BWDB resolutions

BWDB resolutions are as follows:

- i) Water resources management and development in Bangladesh is a very complex task because of its unique geographical setting and the huge temporal variation in the river flow. About 93% of the catchments area of the rivers flowing through Bangladesh lies outside the country. Withdrawal of water in the upper catchment areas worsens the situation even more. The country suffers severe water stress during the dry season. BWDB expects that NARBO can play a vital role to minimize the transboundary river basin dispute that would ultimately help Bangladesh to develop an effective water resources management and basin wise development of the transboundary rivers passing through Bangladesh to the sea.
- ii) Expansion of NARBO scope of activity as river basin development organization.
- iii) Increase the number of NARBO member to act as an effective international water sector Organization.

2) Expectations for NARBO activities

BWDB expects that through NARBO, the network can be established towards a sustainable development and management of the river basins

- Establish regional cooperation for improved management of the water resources of the country in transboundary river basins.
- Building awareness through sharing local know-how and practices on IWRM among the apex bodies in the water sectors.
- Good water-related data, information, systems, & models with communication and participation for basin stakeholders
- Development of a knowledge base on individual basins
- Development of a regional based forecasting system for better management of natural disaster (floods and drought) through sharing of advance data and information so that early warning system can be established.

Good practices and achievements of IWRM concepts could be shared for national and local level applications

Capacity development by exchange of information through training staff, sharing the knowledge, development of procedures for good achievements among different water users.

NARBO activities can help in:

- Cooperation on Strengthening the Capacity building of BWDB in implementing IWRM and improving water management and allocation through - training courses, workshops, scholarship programs.
- Strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of RBOs for the promotion of IWRM and improvement of water related issues of water sector agencies and knowledge partner organizations.
- Providing information and lessons learnt on IWRM from different NARBO organizations.
- Sharing and technology transfer through - the NARBO web site, publications, electronic newsletters, and media.
- Co-operation for improved management of water resources in the transboundary river basins of Bangladesh.
- Offering more and effective training and scholarship programme in the forthcoming years.

(3) Questions to RBO members

(1) Areas which your organization has improved the performance in 2007

BWDB has improved its performance in quality control (both quantity and specification) in implementing various development projects in 2007. The participation of stakeholders in different projects handling has brought a new dimension for operation and maintenance of those projects. BWDB has also improved its financial management system.

(2) The way in which your organization was able to do so.

Performance Monitoring Team (PMT) and Flood Damage Measurement Team was formed by BWDB for inspecting and monitoring all sorts of on going work under Annual Development Plan(ADP) and Revenue Budget in field level in 2007.

The teams performed their responsibilities under the guidance of Chief Monitoring, BWDB, Dhaka. The teams visited the work site at a regular basis and ensured the quality of the works. Finally the teams submitted their report to Chief Monitoring, BWDB mentioning the progress and limitation of all types of on going works. Accordingly to the suggestions and recommendations of the teams, the necessary actions were taken for up-grading the progress of project implementation.

(3) In what way NARBO has helped your organization

- NARBO has helped with Cooperation in Strengthening the Capacity building of BWDB in implementing IWRM and improving water management and allocation through - training courses and workshops.
- Sharing and technology transfer through - the NARBO web site, publications, electronic newsletters, and media.
- Providing information and lessons learnt on IWRM from different NARBO organizations.