

A Report on
Blue Economy of Bangladesh
Context, Poverty Reduction and SDGs

21 July 2018, 10:30 am to 01:30 pm
CIDRAP Auditorium
Dhaka, Bangladesh



Organized By
Equity and Justice Working Group Bangladesh (EquityBD)
Climate Justice Resilience Fund-CJRF

Seminar

Blue Economy of Bangladesh: Context, Poverty Reduction and SDGs

1. Background of the Seminar

The concept “Blue Economy” has now created a new dimension for economic development of Bangladesh. Blue Economy could be able to address in both aspects of economic and sustainable environment based through our sea resource management. So that “sustainable ocean governance” that is imperative in reaping the benefits from Blue Economy activities.

Bangladesh now has a large maritime area in the Bay of Bengal, especially after legal victories over its two neighboring countries India and Myanmar. As a maritime nation, Bangladesh has an ambitious plan to develop a Blue Economy base with her marine resources within its maritime boundary.

The economic activities of blue economy in our country can be developed in emerging sectors such as shipping and port facilities, seaborne trade, fisheries, coastal tourism, aquaculture, renewable blue energy, biotechnology, submarine cable for ICT and mining etc. As our sea offer enormous potential for the generation of renewable energy especially conversion of wind to energy. According to Article 56 of UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea), Bangladesh is entitled to explore such renewable blue energy of her EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) to produce energy.

Apart, it’s significantly noted that Bangladesh's trade is being carried out mainly through the sea. Expert calculation is around US\$ 45-billion trade is possible and 5 percent of the country's GDP could be acquired by 2030 from the resources of the sea and could be a developed country by 2041.

To realize the above ambitions, Bangladesh needs a strategic plan and policy to explore and effective utilization of those resources without jeopardizing the ecological balance of the Bay of Bengal.

Following the above issues, EquityBD have organized a CSO consultation session objectively to initiate the discourse and develop some policy recommendation for government in



view sustainable development with poverty reduction and achieving the SDGs.

2. The Seminar at a glance

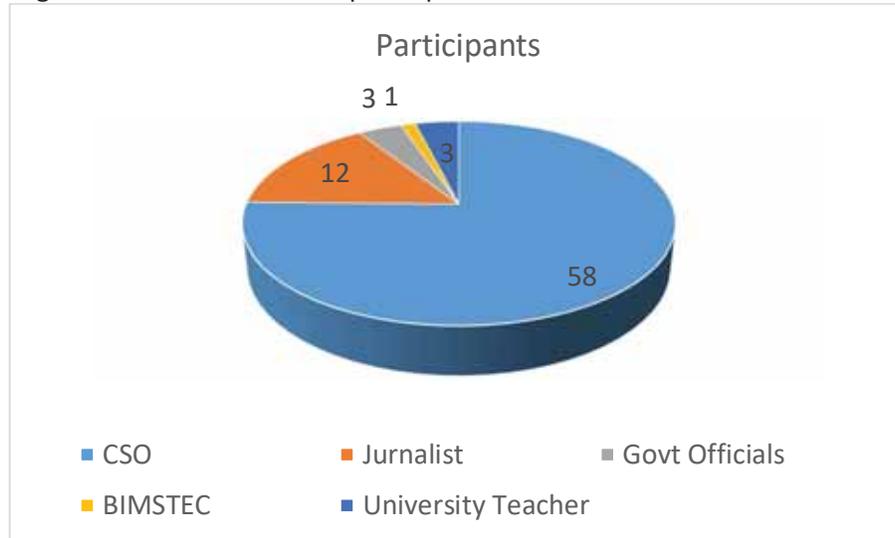
Seminar Title	Blue Economy in Bangladesh: Perspective, Poverty Reduction and SDGs
Date, Time & Venue	21 July 2018, 10:30 am to 01:30 pm, CIDRAP Auditorium, Dhaka.
Objectives of the seminar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To initiate the discourse on blue economy issues and its role and importance in our economic development in Bangladesh. • Explore the possible opportunities for Bangladesh in context of poverty reduction and achieving the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). • Develop CSOs opinion and recommendation on above issues for government.
Event organizers	Equity and Justice Working Group Bangladesh (EquityBD) and Climate Justice Resilience Fund with the funding support of New Venture Fund
Chairperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad- Economist & Chairman-PKSF
Special Guest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Md. K. M Abdus Salam- (Additional Secretary) Director General, NGOAB. • Mr. Pankaj Hazaarika- Director BIMSTEC.
Moderate By	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, Executive Director, COAST Trust & Chief Moderator, Equity BD.
Keynote Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Lailufar Yasmin, Professor (IR) Dhaka University. (Present on Blue Economy and Foreign Policy). • Dr. Md. Moshiur Rahman, Professor Fisheries and Marine Resource Technology Discipline, Khulna University. (Present on Blue Economy and Poverty Reduction). • Md. Salehin Sarfaraz, Coordinator- Partnership & Advocacy, CJRF Project, COAST Trust (Blue Economy and perspective Poverty Reduction and SDG)
Expert Guest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ainun Nishat, Emirates Professor BRAC University • Dr. AKM Aminul Hoque, Director (Marine), Department of Fisheries • Dr. Sayedur Rahman Chowdhury, Professor, Institute of Marine Sciences and fisheries, Chittagong University.

3. Methodologies of the seminar

The seminar was moderated by Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, Chief Moderator of the EquityBD. Three key note papers were presented by Dr. Lailufar Yasmin, Professor-International Relation, Dhaka University, Dr. Md. Moshiur Rahman, Professor-Fisheries and Marine Resource Technology Discipline, Khulna University and Mr. Salehin Surfaraz, Coordinator-Partnership & Advocacy, COAST Trust. Economist Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed, Chairman- PKSF, chaired on the program, Md. KM Abdus Salam, Director General, NGO Affairs Bureau and Pankaj Hazaarika, Director BIMSTEC was present as special guest. After every speech there was a brief open discussion session. There were two special discussions from Dr. AKM Aminul Hoque, Director (Marine), Department of Fisheries and Dr. Sayedur Rahman Chowdhury, Professor Institute of Marine Sciences and fisheries, Chittagong University. The other speakers of the seminar were Khondokar Salam, Program Coordinator, Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS), Mr. Manash Saha, Bangladesh NGO Network for Radio Communication, Mr. Nurul Islam, Chairman, Fisherman Association Bhola, Golam Mostafa, Chairman, Boat owner Association Barguna, Ashraf Hossain, Program Officer-SDI, Mr. Badrul Alam, President Bangladesh Krishok Federation.

4. Types of Participants

The seminar experienced participation from people of various professions. Most of the participants were from the Civil Society Organizations. The total participants were 77 and they were mainly from BIMSTEC, University teachers, government organizations, Journalists, CSOs and other sectorial persons like fisherman associations and boat owner associations. The following chart is stating the organizational status of the participants.



5. The Seminar panel

Seminar chairperson



*Dr. Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad
Economist & Chairman, PKSF*

Special Guests



*Md. KM Abdus Salam
DG-NGO Affairs Bureau*



*Mr. Pankaj Hazaarika
Director, BIMSTEC.*

Expert Guests



*Dr. AKM Aminul Hoque
Director-Marine, Department of Fisheries*



*Dr. Sayedur Rahman Chowdhury, Professor,
Institute of Marine Sciences and fisheries, CU*

6. Policy Recommendation

As Bangladesh is seen as a central cohesive source of support of economic hub connecting inter-Asian states, so that we have to be cautious to design the Blue Economy strategies in case trade, resource capturing and geo-political perspective etc. Government should emphasize on coastal poverty dimensions where fishers' are major part of the poverty. So create opportunities and access for coastal population especially for the fishers, Govt. can ensure access of these fishers in the Bay of Bengal fishing sphere by developing a good policy and action plan considering pro poor. This will contribute in both the growth, reducing socio-economic inequality. The following policy recommendations came from the seminar:

- Develop an appropriate policy framework that will ensure employment opportunities for poor.
- On catching fish in deep sea & coastal area have to ensure entrance for native & poor fishermen and ban foreign trawlers.
- Ensure policy framework on access to coastal resources for both poor and capitalist.
- Create opportunities for participation and employment of women.
- Policy framework of blue economy should be address environmental protection and climate change.
- Scientific data should receive during policy making and planning should be based on marine special planning.
- Alternative livelihood generate for the fishermen to get rid from Dadon system and for their livelihood development NGOs should involve on this issue.
- Dredging the sea estuary for smooth flow of river for increase the reproductive capacity of fish.

7. Key Facts of Blue Economy in Economic Development

Blue Economy: Promising Sectors in Economic Development

Sectors	Key Facts	Activities	Drivers of Growth
Fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 species are edible among 350 species of fish of Bay of Bengal (BoB). • 9000 tons of shrimp stock on BoB. • Livelihood opportunities for 13.16 lac fisherman. • 146.97 lac people are involved on fish farming. 	Fishing, Seafood processing, Aquaculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food security • Demand of protein • Create livelihood opportunities • Coastal and marine fish earnings by export
Minerals and salt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 02 of 28 Block contain about 5 TCF gas. • Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Patuakhali and Borguna have opportunity for salt production. • Salt production on polythin instate of soil increases 3.75MT / acre. 	Oil and gas, deep-sea mining (exploration of rare earth metals, hydrocarbon), Salt cultivation on polythene, Others coastal area should be bring under salt production as trial.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy supply. • Minerals resources. • Meet the domestic needs of salt.

Sectors	Key Facts	Activities	Drivers of Growth
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 valuable minerals (Ilmonite, Jirikonium, Titanium di oxied) remain in BoB. 		
Marine Renewable Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tidal current. Wind energy. 	Offshore wind energy production, Wave energy production, Tidal energy production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand for alternative energy sources. Don't pollute the air. Based on electricity new industry will grow and create new job opportunities.
Shipping, Port & Maritime logistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases of sea going ship of Bangladesh. 	Ship building and repairing, Ship owners and operators, Shipping agents and brokers, Ship management, liner and port agents, Port companies, ship suppliers, Container shipping services, Stevedores, roll-on roll-off operators, Custom clearance, Right forwarders, Safety and training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth in seaborne trade and International regulations. Create new employment opportunity.
Marine manufacturing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24.8 % of ship are breaking on Bangladesh. 0.84% of global shipbuilding production in Bangladesh. 	Boat manufacturing, Sail making, Net manufacturing, Boat and ship manufacturing and repairing, Marine instrumentation, Aquaculture technology. Water construction, marine industrial engineering.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 1,00,000 skilled workers and 150,000 semi-skilled workers are employed in this labor intensive industry.
Marine Tourism & Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cox's Bazar-World largest Sea beach. Sent martin -Coral Island Kuakata Sea Beach - offers a full view of the sunrise and sunset from the same place. 	Sea fishing by boats, Sea angling from the shore, Sailing at sea, Boating at sea, Water skiing, Jet skiing, Surfing, Sail boarding, Sea kayaking, Scuba diving, swimming in the sea, Bird watching in coastal areas, Hale, dolphin watching, visiting coastal natural reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create job opportunities of 3.7% of total country. Probability of 4.2 %

Sectors	Key Facts	Activities	Drivers of Growth
		Trips to the beach, seaside and islands.	
Marine Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases of sea going ship of Bangladesh. 	Marine financial services, Marine legal services, Marine insurance, Ship finance & related services, Charterers, Media & publishing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide ocean services
Marine Biotechnology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine bacteria Small soft-bodied marine animals Seaweed 	Pharmaceuticals, chemicals, seaweed harvesting, seaweed products, marine derived bio-products.	-Health care Industries

8. Key Note Presentation

Three key note papers were presented by Dr. Lailufar Yasmin, Professor- International Relation, Dhaka University, Dr. Md. Moshir Rahman, Professor-Fisheries and Marine Resource Technology Discipline, Khulna University and Mr. Salehin Surfaraz, Coordinator-Partnership & Advocacy, COAST Trust.



Dr. Lailufar Yasmin, Professor, International Relation, Dhaka University

Dr. Lailufar Yasmin presented on “Charting a blue path: Bangladesh’s foreign policy in the 21st century. She explained about the political implication of Blue Economy and provided some recommendations. She also explained the challenges and said that this challenges should be turned into opportunities/potential sector for Bangladesh.

Potentialities for Bangladesh

- “In the Bay of Bengal most of the deep sea fishes are dying due to aging because they are not being caught due to lack of appropriate technology to go for deep sea fishing.”
- Bangladesh is seen as a central cohesive source of support of economic hub connecting inter-Asian states.
- A particular area has strong connections between BE and foreign policy of Bangladesh that is Shipping and port facilities. Providing facilities to landlocked South Asian countries and connecting South, Southeast and East Asia together as Indo-Pacific Corridor.
- Submarine mining.

- Tourism may be a potential sector for Bangladesh.
- Aquaculture.
- Energy and biotechnology.

The major recommendations are provided below:

- Need to do research to find out proper technology and instruments for deep sea fishing.
- Bangladesh is seen as a central cohesive source of support of economic hub connecting inter-Asian states, so that we have to be cautious to design the Blue Economy strategies in case trade, resource capturing and geo-political perspective etc.
- Make proper plan for the best use of our existing potentials.
- A number of activities arranged around highlighting probable gains from BE; but these overlook foreign policy and identity issues that may provide a leverage to a country. So need to develop strong foreign policy.
- In case of shipping and port facilities, we need not only expertise in technical areas but also diplomatic efforts to consolidate Bangladesh's international position.
- It has aimed to construct a deep sea port (DSP) at Matarbari.

Dr. Md. Moshir Rahman, Professor-Fisheries and Marine Resource Technology Discipline, Khulna University

Dr. Md. Moshir Rahman presented on "The coastal and marine fishermen: the key stakeholders in blue economic development of Bangladesh". He cited major prospects, problems and recommendations for fishermen.

The major prospects of fishing sector are-

- Around 15 lakh females are working in fisheries sector (Sources: DoF, 2017).
- Marine fish production from different sources during 2015-16 were Trawling 105,348 MT, Artisanal 521,180 MT, Rivers & estuaries 178,458 MT, The Sundarbans 16,870 MT, Hilsa 394,951 MT, Shrimp 239,798 MT and Crab 13,160 MT.
- Total 67,669 boats and 247 commercial trawlers catches marine fish during 2015-16.
- 4282.8 crore tk earned from export of marine fish during 2015-16.

The major problems of fishermen are-

- Low financial, social and educational status.
- Natural disasters and human-induced problems
- Lack of fish marketing, storage and transportation facilities.
- Ban fishing and establish sanctuaries and for this reserves win-win situation for fish and fishermen.
- Lack of alternative income sources.
- Ownership of fishing assets are mostly by non-fishermen.
- Unlicensed and illegal fishing by domestic vessels and intrusion of foreign vessels.
- No insurance coverage for life and fishing equipment's.
- No sufficient training facilities.
- Weak and limited number of fishermen groups/cooperatives.
- Exploitation of deep sea resource is beyond the capacity of most of the small-scale fishermen.
- The deep sea robbery.
- Weak communication facilities and
- No authentic records about fishermen number and also crafts & gears.

The major recommendations for fishermen are-

- Strong communication system development in deep sea and for this, to arrange light in deep sea, liaison with mobile company to set tower at high level so that fishermen can communicate from deep sea.
- Make strong fishermen groups/cooperatives and provide low interest loan facilities to this group for fishing equipment's.
- Protect fishermen and their family from deep sea robbery and Dadon system and provide insurance coverage.
- Skill development of fishermen and IGA support during ban period.
- Make available fish marketing, storage and transportation facilities.
- Stop intrusion of foreign vessels.

Salehin Surfaraz, Coordinator-Partnership & Advocacy, COAST Trust

Salehin Surfaraz presented on “Blue economy of Bangladesh: Perspective, Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development”. He presented that blue economy is the promising sector of economic development for Bangladesh. The most promising sectors for Bangladesh are fishing, Marine Tourism & Leisure, Marine Commerce, Shipping, Port & Maritime logistics, Marine manufacturing, Marine Renewable Energy, Minerals and Marine Biotechnology.

He also mention because of a maritime country Bangladesh have great opportunities on blue economy and Bangladesh should focus on Blue economy because of

- Maritime victory
- Future challenge of agriculture in our country.
- Future population & Food Security will be a challenge.
- BoB also be a part of our economic development strategies
- Achieve SDGs by reducing environmental degradation

He focused on some opportunities for Bangladesh from Blue Economy

- ✓ Fisheries in BoB: Around 298 varieties are available with commercially viable stock.
- ✓ On salt production Bangladesh can turn as exporting country: production could be double including new areas in coastal belt.
- ✓ Coastal Tourism is the source of earning billion of foreign currency: Bangladesh have world largest Sea-beach and world largest mangrove forest.
- ✓ Port & Shipping Opportunities to establish as global trade hub: Around 90,000 ships moving through BoB & Indian Ocean and 9.8 billion MT products are being transported/yr.
- ✓ Renewable Energy can meet our long term demand: Bangladesh have 710 kilometer longest sea shore and wind velocity 6-8 meter/second.
- ✓ By 2030, we need 27000 MW (200% than existing)
- ✓ Ship Building & Breaking contributing infrastructures dev. Growth: Bangladesh is the 3rd largest ship breaking country globally and meeting 51% raw material of home rolling industries.

On his presentation it has proposed that:

Government should emphasize on coastal poverty dimensions where fishers' are major part of the poverty. So create opportunities and access for coastal population especially for the fishers, Govt. can

ensure access of these fishers in the Bay of Bangle fishing sphere by developing a good policy and action plan. This will contribute in both the growth, reducing socio-economic inequality.

9. Discussion

Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, Executive Director, COAST Trust & Chief Moderator, Equity BD.



Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, Executive Director, COAST Trust & Chief Equity BD moderated the seminar. He provided feedback after every presentation and discussion. He said we need to explore the untapped resources of the Bay of Bengal and need to find out the sectors. He summarized some sector wise activities.

- We need to absolute ownership of the Bay of Bengal.
- Coast guard need to be stronger and need to expand.
- It needs to provide alternative IGA support to fishermen.
- We need to do research on sea bass and crab culture.
- All NGOs need to familiar with new technologies and need to do research also in near future.
- There are three community Radios at coastal areas one in Chottogram, one in Hatiya and one in Char Fasson but the capacity of these radios is as like as main land community radio that is these CRs cannot go above 250 watt but if we increase it 300-350 watt then these CRs can reach to fishermen of bay of bangle through these CRs.
- It needs to do proper discussion and need to knock at policy level so that proper policy is made.

Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Economist & Chairman, PKSF



Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Economist & Chairman, PKSF presided over the seminar and said, “Integrated development should be consider because of if one sector develop then another sector will hamper for that sector. For integrated development 7th 05 years plan have been taken addressing SDG. He also said that we are revising our Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan where the Blue Economy issues will be addressed.” He emphasized on

- Setting priorities for Blue Economy activities with required pro-poor infrastructure development and institutional capacity building.
- Open all sort water bodies for the benefit of genuine fishermen communities and no lease system will be apply there.
- Development plans should implement in a harmonized way to make them more meaningful.
- Various development initiatives should be taken continued focus on blue economy.
- Emphasized the importance of drawing a roadmap to reap the benefits from the Bay of Bangle and conservation of environment while carrying out the economic activities in the coastal areas.
- Develop our home-grown strategies to ensure green economic growth.

Mentioning the country’s triumph over neighboring India and Myanmar regarding maritime border disputes, he said the Govt. so far maintained good diplomatic relations with them. For receiving proper benefits from blue economy he recommended –

- Short term activities, Mid-term and Long term planning and set parities through policy development.
- Need some research for real situation and consider those during policy making.
- Involve the sufferer community representative.
- Involving researcher, expert manpower e.g. professional trainer, expert implementer, skilled worker.
- Institutional development for proper integration.
- Infrastructure development and
- Proper implementation.

Md. KM Abdus Salam, DG-NGO Affairs Bureau



Md. KM Abdus Salam underscored the need for maintaining strategic diplomatic relations with neighboring countries. He said the stakeholders should address environmental issues when they reap the benefits of marine resources. Mentioning poverty in the coastal regions, he said the

- Coastal fishermen should be saved from the high interest of loan and develop their livelihood. “NGOs should come forward to work on these issues and transparency needed,”

Pankaj Hazaarika, Director, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

Pankaj Hazaarika said BoB is covering 2.2 million of maritime space. BIMSTEC recognizes enormous development of Blue economy. The use of Blue Economy potentialities is vitally important. BIMSTEC develop a concept paper named maritime cooperation in the Bay of Bangle which is mainly focused on maritime domain awareness, security cooperation, ocean pollution and humanitarian assistance. BIMSTEC use of satellite imaginary for identify illegal fishing, aquaculture, coastal shipping, hydrography ecotourism, sea bed mineral exploration, disaster management, climate change, safety and security of BoB. Bangladesh can take lead effective cooperation among the BIMSTEC member countries in view to implement Blue Economy issues and can include more CSOs in Blue economy. He also said that guideline need to framework, technology transfer particularly on coastal shipping agreement, sea mineral exploration, trade, aquaculture, coastal shipping, hydrography ecotourism and sustainable development.



Dr. Sayedur Rahman Chowdhury, Professor, Institute of Marine Sciences and fisheries, Chittagong University

Dr. Sayedur Rahman Chowdhury said that for making a policy for blue economy it should consider the experience of different level, planning should be based on marine special planning. Policy makers do some wrong during policy making because of disconnection with scientific community they don't receive the data from scientist. He said there are maximum 50 species of fish are catching among 350 species where more than 100 species fish are not eaten and only for ecosystem and another 100 species are very rear. More number of ships, boats, trawlers are running than required numbers in the Bay of Bangle based on this wrong information. According to scientist the fish resource of BoB is under pressure and no doubt this is declining. The fisheries department of Bangladesh and world bank have signed an agreement for alternative livelihood for the fishermen, to get rid from Dadon system, communication system develop, security, real time boat and ship monitoring from land where they are fishing, rescue from any kind of dangers etc. Another important thing is to stop unlimited fishing in Bay of Bangle (BoB). There is no country in the world where unlimited fishing is allowed. Fisheries dept. and food dept. of world bank is started Marine fisheries management inception plan for the first time in Bangladesh as pilot where different related stakeholder provides there opinion. He suggested that:



- According to international obligation that all Bangladesh have 11 % no goes area where nobody can fishing.
- There will be some fishing control zones among them one will be marine protected area, seasonal ban, gear control, species ban, crab control etc.
- We need to reduce the number of trawler and boat.
- Culture of Sea bass fish and crab on huge amount that will make a place of Hilsa fish.

Dr. AKM Aminul Hoque, Director-Marine, Department of Fisheries



Dr. AKM Aminul Hoque said that for concern on the Blue Economy strategy its needed multi-stakeholder engagement required in the process. For considering this government has taken 240 million dollar project with World Bank for alternative livelihood of coastal fishers. This project will work 50 rivers of Barishal, Bhola, Patuakhali and Barguna districts and will engage fishermen from November-June for case culture. This group of fishermen will guard fish instead of fish catching and by this way 1 lakh fishermen will resettle. He said Hilsa production will increase 5 lakh MT to 10 lac metric ton but why crab and sea bass production do not expand. We need to think it and we

need to go experimentation to culture these two fishes. He suggested that

- Protect our sea from plastic pollution and for this it needs to use recycling system.
- Taking initiative for cage aquaculture in estuaries of the Bay of Bengal during the ban period of Hilsa for benefiting the coastal fishermen communities.

Md. Nurul Islam, Chairman, Fisherman Association, Bhola

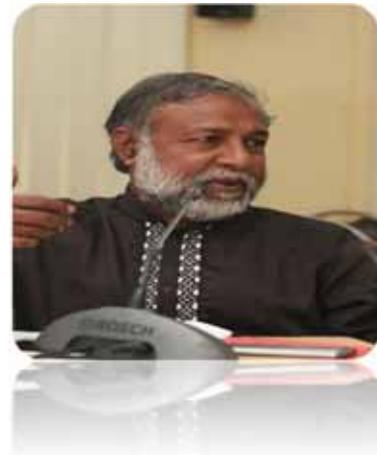
Md. Nurul Islam said 2% oxygen reduce in sea water earth Celsius has increases, sea level have raise as a result Sundarban will inundate. Sundarban is the main hatching point of fish is and 25% fish born in Sundarban. We need to dredging and the sea estuary for smooth flow of river. Due to changes of river flow and increases of temperature the skin of fish have become thin and the reproductive rate of fish have also degraded. Now a days big Trawler have comes to fishing on 10 m depth water and catch fish as a result small Trawler are suffering from scarcity of fish. He suggested some recommendation:

- Create awareness on not destroy fish egg and fish fry.
- Action taken against current net as well as khuta net, bendi net and moshari net users.
- Protect fish breeding zones which are Sundarban Mangrove forest, estuaries of Meghna River and Halda river.
- Should take protecting measure to coastal fishers' and their resources from the pirates.

**Mr. Chowdhury Golam Mostafa, Chairman, Boat owner Association, Barguna**

Mr. Chowdhury Golam Mostafa, said Hilsa production have increased due to government initiative. He cited that PKSf provided 4% interest loan after Sidr on 2007 which was a great initiative. He proposed

- Govt. should take initiative to strong security and rescue policy for fishermen.
- Low interest loan need to be provided to fishermen through agent banking.
- Should have BIMA policy for every fishermen.
- Permit to use wakitoki system in boat to send warning signal,
- Setup signal light in deep sea.
- Protect sea and Sundarbans from plastic wastes especially in tourist areas.



The Press Release

Today 21 July 2018, in a seminar, right based civil society organizations and experts have made demand to govt. to develop an appropriate and pro poor policy to realize the untapped resources in the Bay of Bangle in context of poverty reduction and achieving the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goal). They also demand to ensure access of coastal fishers in Bay of Bangle fishing strategies that is going to be govt. planning. The seminar held at CIRDAP auditorium following the title “Blue Economy of Bangladesh: Context Poverty Reduction and SDGs” organized by COAST Trust.

Seminar is chaired by Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad- Economist & Chairman-PKSF where Md. KM Abdus Salam , Director General NGO Affairs Bureau participated as chief guest and the event moderated by Mr. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury-Executive Director of COAST Trust. Key notes are presented by Dr. Lailufar Yasmin (Professor- International Relation, Dhaka University), Dr. Md. Moshir Rahman (Professor Fisheries and Marine Resource Technology Discipline, Khulna University) and Mr. Salehin Sarfaraz (Coordinator- Partnership & Advocacy, COAST Trust). Among the others, Dr. Sayedur Rahman Chowdhury (Professor, Institute of Marine Sciences and fisheries, Chittagong University), Dr. AKM Aminul Hoque (Director-Marine), Department of Fisheries and Mr. Pankaj Hazaarika-Director BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) spoke as expert and many civil society representatives have put their opinion and recommendations in the seminar.

The three key note presenter have addressed two important issues those are foreign policy and govt. poverty reduction approach through Blue Economy and put their recommendations as i. Bangladesh is seen as a central cohesive source of support of economic hub connecting inter-Asian states, so that we have to be cautious to design the Blue Economy strategies in case trade, resource capturing and geo-political perspective etc. ii. Government should emphasize on coastal poverty dimensions where fishers’ are major part of the poverty. So create opportunities and access for coastal population especially for the fishers. Govt. can ensure access of these fishers in the Bay of Bangle fishing sphere by developing an appropriate policy and action plan. This will contribute in both the growth, reducing socio-economic inequality.

In the discourse on panel discussion, Dr. Sayedur Rahaman said that govt. has policy but there are considerable gap exist between policy assumption and real base data. This need to remove and prepare spatial plan connecting policy and information. He expresses concern of declining trend of fish in the Bay of Bangle and plan for alternative livelihood of coastal fishers’.

Dr. Aminul Hoque said that perspective and concern are both in the Blue Economy strategy as because of multi stakeholder engagement required in the process. We have to consider and government has taken project with World Bank for alternative livelihood of coastal fishers’. His proposal is in case of benefiting coastal communities, we can initiate cage aquaculture in estuaries of Bay of Bengal during the ban period of Hilsha fishing.

Md KM Abdus Salam said that coastal fishers should save from the high interest of loan if we want to develop their livelihood. he request to NGOs to work on this issues. Mr. Pankaj Hazaarika opine that, Bangladesh can take lead initiate effective cooperation among the BIMSTEC in view of implementing Blue Economy issues.

Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad said, we are revising our BCCSAP (Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan) where the Blue Economy issues will be addressed. He also opine to set priorities for Blue Economy activities with required pro poor infrastructure development and institutional capacity building. Relation this issue, he opine to make open all sort water bodies for benefit of genuine fisher .

Nurul Islam, Chairman, Fisherman Association, Bhola, proposed govt. to save the fish breeding zones like Sundarban Mangrove forest, estuaries of Meghna River and Halda etc. He also demand to take protecting measure to coastal fishers’ and their resources from the pirates.

Khondokar Salam, Program Coordinator, Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS)

Khondokar Salam said that emitted oil due to ship breaking mixes with sea water and pollute sea water. As a result breeding area reduce No. of fish species have reduces and fishermen become vulnerable. He proposed some proposals that need to be highlighted during policy making for fishermen community such as

- Not only sea resource but also considerable inland resource on policy making.
 - Fishermen family need to be protected from Dadon business.
 - Need to ensure security of fishermen and their family.
- Record keeping for statistics of sea going fisherman.
 - Only fishermen get punishment due to Hilsa fish catching in ban period and due to use of current net. Current net producer and importers should bring under punishment.

Manash Saha, Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio Communication

Manash Saha said Bangladesh need to proper management of 2000 km² area of continental shelf in coordinated way. He said we need to capacity build up to utilize this resources and for this we need to develop coordinated committee in national level. This committee will work for real fishermen, latest technology for fishing and boat owner will be included in this committee. 17000 MT silica comes every year at Bahadurabad ghat to cover whole basin and as a result basin cannot capture more water. But there is a good news that, govt. take an initiative for dredging when this basin will capture more water and silica will go forward, our land will increase, mangrove will increase and cultivated land will also create .

Ashraf Hossain, Program Officer- Society for Development Initiatives -SDI

Ashraf Hossain said that fisher man of Sandwip are changing their occupation due to ship breaking industry, disappearing many varieties of fishes, market prices of fish is very low and due to siltation west zone of Sandwip have raises some new islands and fishermen have to go to south for fishing and after fishing they cannot reach at shore with fish due to pirates, they have no formal training as a result they get low price and the ultimate effect is occupation change by fishermen. He also said that after cyclone of 1991 at Sandwip govt. provided loan on cooperative society to purchase net but real fishermen but they didn't get the loan facility of cooperative society because of corruption. He advised some suggestions that govt. need to develop time friendly policy and proper implementation of policy. Govt. should take some initiatives for fishermen such as training, good quality boat, strong communication system etc.



Badrul Alam- President, Bangladesh Krishok Federation

Badrul Alam said that it is a matter of concern the utilization of Blue Economy resources. 60% natural resources of whole country has already been utilized and now corporate thinks that how to use rest 40% resources. If we can use Blue economy in proper way obviously there will be economic development and for this we need rational initiatives.



10. Key Recommendation

- Government should create opportunities and access for coastal population especially for the fishermen and can ensure access of these fishermen in the Bay of Bangle fishing sphere by developing a good policy and action plan. No access of trawler for fishing within 7 km area of sea.
- Conduct research for exploitation of deep sea resource and make real plan accordingly and need to work everybody from their own sector and development of proper implementation techniques.
- Setting priority basis rational initiatives for Blue Economy activities with required pro-poor infrastructure development and institutional capacity building. We have to be cautious to design the Blue Economy strategies in case trade, resource capturing and geo-political perspective.
- Drawing a roadmap to reap the benefits from the Bay of Bangle and conservation of environment while carrying out the economic activities in the coastal areas. We need to develop our home-grown strategies to ensure green economic growth.
- Reduce existing gap between policy making and real base data of scientific committee and prepare marine spatial plan connecting policy and information from top level.
- Make available fishing assets, modern boat facilities, fish marketing, storage and transportation facilities, insurance coverage for life and fishing equipment's, ban fishing and establish sanctuaries.
- Strong security to save coastal fishers' and their resources from the pirates.
- Govt. need to take initiatives to stop unlicensed and illegal fishing by domestic vessels and intrusion of foreign vessels and make equal punishment for different kinds of net producers, users and importers.
- Capacity buildup of fishermen, trainers and other workers and ensure coordination in works.
- Empower Petro Bangla, coast guard, NAVI and other government institutes.
- NGOs and other banks need to provide low interest loan in transparent and easy way to coastal fishermen to develop their livelihood.
- We need to go recycling system to protect our sea from plastic and oil pollution.
- Cage aquaculture in estuaries of the Bay of Bengal during the ban period of Hilsa as alternative income generating activities for coastal fishermen communities.
- IGA support for coastal fishermen in ban period as alternative income generating activities.
- Need to maintain strategic diplomatic relations with neighboring countries and the stakeholders should address environmental issues when they reap the benefits of marine resources.
- Engage more CSOs in Blue economy and guideline need to framework on technology transfer particularly on coastal shipping agreement, sea mineral exploration, trade, aquaculture, coastal shipping, hydrography ecotourism etc.

- Ensure absolute ownership establishment so that sea resources cannot use by other countries, to include offshore and onshore resources in national budget, to engage all parties for using national resources in transparent and accountable system and for this unity of political parties is must.
- Strong communication system development in deep sea and for this, Govt. should take initiatives to increase the capacity of Community Radio's from 250 watt to 300-350 watt through BTRC, to arrange light in deep sea, liaison with mobile company to set tower at high level so that fishermen can communicate from deep sea. Communication through Amateur in disaster period at Sandwip and Hatiya.
- To save the fish breeding zones like Sundarban Mangrove forest, estuaries of Meghna River and Halda etc.
- According to international obligation all maritime country should have 11 % no goes area where nobody can fishing and as a maritime country Bangladesh should follow this obligation on BoB.
- Equal amount of culture fishery need to introduce in marine fishery specially sea bass and crab culture.
- Dredging the river basin to capture more water.
- Establish authentic records about fishermen number and also crafts & gears.
- Fishermen family need to be protected from natural disasters and human-induced problems like Dadon, deep sea robbery and improve financial, social and educational status.

11. Media Coverage

We have been able to attract media attention to the issue and to the seminar. In total 25 national papers published the news on our program. 7 English and 18 Bangla newspapers covered the events. 07 English and 06 Bengali leading national daily publish the report. Here are some of the scanning copies of some newspaper.



observer

Dhaka Sunday July 22, 2018 www.observerbd.com

Prepare policy to tap untapped Bay resources: Speakers

Speakers at a seminar on Saturday urged the government to develop an appropriate and pro-poor policy to realise the untapped resources in the Bay of Bengal in context of poverty reduction and achieving the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goal).

They also demanded to ensure access of coastal fishermen in the Bay of Bengal fishing strategies which is going to be planned by the government.

The seminar titled "Blue Economy of Bangladesh: Context Poverty Reduction and SDGs" organised by COAST Trust was held at CIRDAP auditorium in the city where Md KM Abdus Salam, director general of NGO Affairs Bureau, was present as the chief guest while Economist Dr Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad, Chairman of PKSE chaired it.

Moderated by Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, Executive Director of COAST Trust, the seminar was addressed, among others, by Prof Dr Sayedur Rahman Chowdhury of Institute of Marine Sciences and Fisheries of Chittagong University, Dr AKM Aminul Hoque, director of Marine of the department of Fisheries and Pankaj Hazaarika, director of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) spoke as experts.

Three keynote papers were jointly presented by Prof Dr Lailufar Yasmin of International Relation department of Dhaka University, Prof Dr Md Moshir Rahman of Fisheries and Marine Resource Technology discipline of Khulna University and Salehin Sarfaraz, Coordinator of Partnership and Advocacy of COAST Trust.

In his address, Md KM Abdus Salam said the coastal fishermen should be saved from the high interest of loan if we want to develop their livelihood. "NGOs should come forward to work on these issues," he said.

Dr Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad said, "We are revising our Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan where the Blue Economy issues will be addressed."

He emphasized on setting priorities for Blue Economy activities with required pro-poor infrastructure development and institutional capacity building.

The PKSE Chairman suggested for making open all sort water bodies for the benefit of genuine fishermen communities. Pankaj Hazaarika said Bangladesh can take lead effective cooperation among the BIMSTEC member countries in view to implement Blue Economy issues.

Dr Sayedur Rahaman said that the government has taken policy but there is considerable gap exists between policy assumption and real base data. "These need to be removed and also need to prepare a special plan connecting policy and information," he added. —UNB

SUNDAY 22 JULY 2018 DHAKA

daily sun

'Prepare policy to tap huge sea resources'

Speakers at a seminar on Saturday urged the government to develop an appropriate and pro-poor policy to realise the untapped resources in the Bay of Bengal in context of poverty reduction and achieving the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goal), reports UNB.

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'Prepare policy to tap huge sea resources'

From Page 16

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Dr Sayedur Rahaman said that the government has taken policy but there is considerable gap exists between policy assumption and real base data. "These need to be removed and also need to prepare a special plan connecting policy and information," he added.

He expressed concern over the declining trend of fish in the Bay of Bengal and demanded to make a plan for alternative livelihood for the coastal fishermen.

Dr Aminul Hoque said that perspective and concerns are both in the Blue Economy strategy because of its multi-stakeholder engagement.

He suggested for taking initiative for cage aquaculture in estuaries of the Bay of Bengal during the low period of Hilsa for benefiting the coastal fishermen communities.

In their keynote papers, the three presenters have addressed two important issues—foreign policy and government's poverty reduction approach through Blue Economy—and put their recommendations, including government should emphasize on coastal poverty dimensions where fishermen are major part of the poverty as well as to ensure access of these fishermen in the Bay of Bengal fishing sphere by developing an appropriate policy and action plan.

বঙ্গোপসাগরের সম্পদ আহরণে চাই নীতিমালা

কোষ্ট ট্রাস্টের উদ্যোগে আয়োজিত সেমিনারে বক্তারা

■ ইতিহাসিক রিপোর্ট

বঙ্গোপসাগরের অনাবিষ্কৃত সম্পদ আহরণের জন্য নীতিমালা প্রস্তুতের দাবি জানিয়ে বক্তারা বলেন, বঙ্গোপসাগর দিয়ে সরকার আর হারাতে যে ঐশ্বর্যসম্পন্ন পরিচরনা গ্রহণ করতে পারে, তাতে সাধারণ অর্থসাহায্যের প্রবণতাকার নিশ্চিত করতে হবে।

বিশেষজ্ঞরা বলেন, সমুদ্র অর্থনীতি নিয়ে জাতীয় নীতিমালা প্রস্তুতের ক্ষেত্রে দেশীয় পরিচরনাবিদ ও বিশেষজ্ঞদের মুক্ত করার পাশাপাশি বিদেশিদের কাছ থেকে অভিজ্ঞতা ও পরামর্শ গ্রহণ করতে হবে। এই নীতিমালা প্রস্তুতের সময় সরকারকে অবশ্যই পরিষ্কার জলবায়ু কর্মসূচির মাধ্যমে এবং জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মোকাবিলা ও পরিবেশ সুরক্ষার বিষয়গুলো নিশ্চিত করতে হবে। তারা আরও বলেন, সাগর এবং উপকূল অঞ্চল আহরণের ক্ষেত্রে বিদেশি ট্রাস্টার নয়, বরং দেশীয় ও নরিস জনগোষ্ঠীর অধিপন্যাকা নিশ্চিত করতে হবে।

পরকণ পবিবার রাজধানীর দিরাপ বিদ্যালয়তে আয়োজিত এক সেমিনারে বক্তারা এ দাবি জানান। কোষ্ট ট্রাস্ট আয়োজিত এই সেমিনারে সভাপতিত্ব করেন অর্থনীতিবিদ ও শিক্‌এসএফ-এর চেয়ারম্যান ড. কাজী খলীলুজ্জামান আহমদ। অনুষ্ঠানে প্রধান অতিথি ছিলেন এনজিও বিষয়ক ব্যুরোর মহাপরিচালক মো. কেএম আরশাদ সাদাম। কোষ্ট ট্রাস্টের নির্বাহী পরিচালক রেজাউল করিম চৌধুরী প্রধান অতিথি সেমিনারে মূল ভ্রবক উপস্থাপন করেন ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের আঞ্চলিক সম্পর্ক বিভাগের অধ্যাপক ড. লাইলুজ্জার ইসলামিন, মূল্য বিবন্ধবিদ্যাগের অধ্যাপক ও বেটিন রিসোর্স টেকনোলজি রিসার্চের অধ্যাপক ড. মো. খলিফা রহমান এবং কোষ্ট ট্রাস্টের পরিচালনা ও এডহোকার্স সন্ময়কারী সাদেশিন সরকার। আরও বক্তা রাখেন: বে. আব. জেদন ইসলামিত হর মানি চেম্বেরের চেয়ারম্যান এম ইকবালিক মো. আব্দুলশেখ (বিমস্টেক) এর পরিচালক শাকিল

মাজরিফা, চট্টগ্রাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের সামুদ্রিক বিজ্ঞান ইনস্টিটিউট এবং অধ্যাপক বিরাশের অধ্যাপক ড. সায়েদুর রহমান চৌধুরী, যখন অধিনয়রের পরিচালক-মেরিন ড. এ কে এম আদিল হক।

ড. আদিল হক বলেন, উপকূলীয় জেলাসের জন্য বিকল্প জীবিকা নিশ্চিত করার বিষয়টি আমাদের আবেদন। আমরা আর আহরণ নিষিদ্ধ থাকার সময়ে বঙ্গোপসাগর এবং যেখা নাটীর যেমনাগুলোতে জেলাসের অন্য খ্যাতি রিচিক মায় চলে উঠুক করতে পারি।

দরিদ্র জনগোষ্ঠীর কর্মসংস্থানের সুযোগ, জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মোকাবিলা ও পরিবেশ রক্ষার বিষয়গুলো নিশ্চিত করার সুপারিশ

বঙ্গোপসাগরে আহরণ পরিমাণ কমে যাওয়া এবং উপকূলীয় জেলাসের পর্যায় বিকল্প কর্মসংস্থানের অভাবের কারণে উৎসে প্রকাশ করে ড. সায়েদুর রহমান বলেন, সরকারের নীতিমালা আছে, কিন্তু সেখানে সরকারের অনুমান এবং প্রকৃত তথ্যের মধ্যে অনেক দূরত্ব রয়েছে। এই দূরত্ব ঘুটিয়ে আনতে হবে।

কে এম আরশাদ সাদাম বলেন, উপকূলীয় জেলাসের জীবনযাত্রা উন্নয়ন করতে হলে তাগেরকে ধ্বংস উচ্চ মূল্য হতে থেকে রাখতে হবে। তিনি এনজিওসেরকে এই বিষয়ে এগিয়ে আসার আহ্বান জানান।

ড. কাজী খলীলুজ্জামান আহমদ বলেন, আমরা বাংলাদেশ ট্রাস্টেটের ট্রাস্টেটিক এন্ড একশন প্লান পর্যালোচনা করেছি, সেখানে ট্রাস্টেটিক বিষয়টিতে বিবেচনা করা হবে। তারা জেলা অর্থসাহায্যী পরিচালনা সঙ্গর্গত মূল্য ইকসাম উপকূলীয় এলাকার অংশে প্রধান চেম্বেরেরে প্রকাশ করার জন্য সরকারের কাছে আহ্বান জানান।

তিনি দেশের বাণিজ্যিক সামুদ্রিক ও অর্থিক প্রকৃষ্টি উন্নয়নের প্রাণাঙ্গী করেন এবং যা টেকসই করার প্রয়োজনীয় উপায় উল্লেখ করেন। তিনি বলেন, অর্থসাহায্যে দেশে জলবায়ু রয়েছে, যেগুলো কোথাও দেশ আর বিকল্পে না হয়, সে বিষয়ে সরকারকে বিজ্ঞার নিতে হবে। তিনি বলেন, পর্যায় উন্নয়ন পরিচরনা হারা টেকসই উন্নয়ন সম্ভব নয়। পর্যায় উন্নয়নের ক্ষেত্রে সব খাতকে সমানভাবে গুরুত্ব দিতে হবে।

খলীলুজ্জামান আরো বলেন, আমরা আরো শিল্প পরিবেশের প্রতি বৈচিত্র্যকর কোনো প্রকার ফেলের কিনা, সেখানে সেগুলো রাখতে হবে। বিশেষ করে এই শিল্পের প্রকারে অংশী উপস্থান ও বিকাশের ক্ষতি হচ্ছে, সেই বিষয়টি হাতে না ঘটে সেগুলো পদক্ষেপ নিতে হবে।

সেমিনারে জানানো হয়, আঞ্চলিক আদায়েরে হয়ে ২০১২ সালে বিদায়নের সঙ্গে এবং ২০১৪ সালে তারের সঙ্গে সমুদ্রীয় বিবেক নিশ্চিত হওয়ায় মোট ১ লাখ ১৮ হাজার ৯১০ বর্গকিলোমিটারে বেশি টেরিটোরিয়াল সমুদ্র এলাকা এখন বাংলাদেশের। তবে আগে ২০০ বর্গকিলোমিটার এলাকা অর্থনৈতিক অঞ্চল ও উন্নয়ন উপকূল থেকে ৩০৪ বর্গকিলোমিটার পর্যন্ত অর্থনৈতিক অঞ্চলের মধ্যে সব ধরনের প্রাণি-অর্থনৈতিক সম্পদের ওপর পর্যায়ের অধিকার। ১ লাখ ৪৪ হাজার বর্গকিলোমিটারে বাংলাদেশের অন্য মোট ১ লাখ ১৮ হাজার ৯১০ বর্গকিলোমিটারে সমুদ্রীয় আরেকটি মোট বাংলাদেশই হতে। এখন এই বিবেক প্রকৃত অর্থনৈতিকভাবে সাংগর্গত করতে এর সম্পদ ব্যবহার করে উন্নয়ন ঘটাতে করতে হবে।



বঙ্গোপসাগরের অনাবিষ্কৃত সম্পদ আহরণে নীতিমালা তৈরির দাবি

অর্থনৈতিক রিপোর্টের ১ পরিষ্কার বিবরণ এবং কোষ্ট ট্রাস্টের পরিচালনা কর্তৃক প্রস্তুত করা বঙ্গোপসাগরের অনাবিষ্কৃত সম্পদ আহরণের জন্য নীতিমালা প্রস্তুতের দাবি জানিয়ে বক্তারা বলেন, বঙ্গোপসাগর দিয়ে সরকার আর হারাতে যে ঐশ্বর্যসম্পন্ন পরিচরনা গ্রহণ করতে পারে, তাতে সাধারণ অর্থসাহায্যের প্রবণতাকার নিশ্চিত করতে হবে। বিশেষজ্ঞরা বলেন, সমুদ্র অর্থনীতি নিয়ে জাতীয় নীতিমালা প্রস্তুতের ক্ষেত্রে দেশীয় পরিচরনাবিদ ও বিশেষজ্ঞদের মুক্ত করার পাশাপাশি বিদেশিদের কাছ থেকে অভিজ্ঞতা ও পরামর্শ গ্রহণ করতে হবে। এই নীতিমালা প্রস্তুতের সময় সরকারকে অবশ্যই পরিষ্কার জলবায়ু কর্মসূচির মাধ্যমে এবং জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মোকাবিলা ও পরিবেশ সুরক্ষার বিষয়গুলো নিশ্চিত করতে হবে। তারা আরও বলেন, সাগর এবং উপকূল অঞ্চল আহরণের ক্ষেত্রে বিদেশি ট্রাস্টার নয়, বরং দেশীয় ও নরিস জনগোষ্ঠীর অধিপন্যাকা নিশ্চিত করতে হবে। পরকণ পবিবার রাজধানীর দিরাপ বিদ্যালয়তে আয়োজিত এক সেমিনারে বক্তারা এ দাবি জানান। কোষ্ট ট্রাস্ট আয়োজিত এই সেমিনারে সভাপতিত্ব করেন অর্থনীতিবিদ ও শিক্‌এসএফ-এর চেয়ারম্যান ড. কাজী খলীলুজ্জামান আহমদ। অনুষ্ঠানে প্রধান অতিথি ছিলেন এনজিও বিষয়ক ব্যুরোর মহাপরিচালক মো. কেএম আরশাদ সাদাম। কোষ্ট ট্রাস্টের নির্বাহী পরিচালক রেজাউল করিম চৌধুরী প্রধান অতিথি সেমিনারে মূল ভ্রবক উপস্থাপন করেন ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের আঞ্চলিক সম্পর্ক বিভাগের অধ্যাপক ড. লাইলুজ্জার ইসলামিন, মূল্য বিবন্ধবিদ্যাগের অধ্যাপক ও বেটিন রিসোর্স টেকনোলজি রিসার্চের অধ্যাপক ড. মো. খলিফা রহমান এবং কোষ্ট ট্রাস্টের পরিচালনা ও এডহোকার্স সন্ময়কারী সাদেশিন সরকার। আরও বক্তা রাখেন: বে. আব. জেদন ইসলামিত হর মানি চেম্বেরের চেয়ারম্যান এম ইকবালিক মো. আব্দুলশেখ (বিমস্টেক) এর পরিচালক শাকিল

মাজরিফা, চট্টগ্রাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের সামুদ্রিক বিজ্ঞান ইনস্টিটিউট এবং অধ্যাপক বিরাশের অধ্যাপক ড. সায়েদুর রহমান চৌধুরী, যখন অধিনয়রের পরিচালক-মেরিন ড. এ কে এম আদিল হক। ড. আদিল হক বলেন, উপকূলীয় জেলাসের জন্য বিকল্প জীবিকা নিশ্চিত করার বিষয়টি আমাদের আবেদন। আমরা আর আহরণ নিষিদ্ধ থাকার সময়ে বঙ্গোপসাগর এবং যেখা নাটীর যেমনাগুলোতে জেলাসের অন্য খ্যাতি রিচিক মায় চলে উঠুক করতে পারি। বঙ্গোপসাগরে আহরণ পরিমাণ কমে যাওয়া এবং উপকূলীয় জেলাসের পর্যায় বিকল্প কর্মসংস্থানের অভাবের কারণে উৎসে প্রকাশ করে ড. সায়েদুর রহমান বলেন, সরকারের নীতিমালা আছে, কিন্তু সেখানে সরকারের অনুমান এবং প্রকৃত তথ্যের মধ্যে অনেক দূরত্ব রয়েছে। এই দূরত্ব ঘুটিয়ে আনতে হবে। কে এম আরশাদ সাদাম বলেন, উপকূলীয় জেলাসের জীবনযাত্রা উন্নয়ন করতে হলে তাগেরকে ধ্বংস উচ্চ মূল্য হতে থেকে রাখতে হবে। তিনি এনজিওসেরকে এই বিষয়ে এগিয়ে আসার আহ্বান জানান।

ড. কাজী খলীলুজ্জামান আহমদ বলেন, আমরা বাংলাদেশ ট্রাস্টেটের ট্রাস্টেটিক এন্ড একশন প্লান পর্যালোচনা করেছি, সেখানে ট্রাস্টেটিক বিষয়টিতে বিবেচনা করা হবে। তারা জেলা অর্থসাহায্যী পরিচালনা সঙ্গর্গত মূল্য ইকসাম উপকূলীয় এলাকার অংশে প্রধান চেম্বেরেরে প্রকাশ করার জন্য সরকারের কাছে আহ্বান জানান। তিনি দেশের বাণিজ্যিক সামুদ্রিক ও অর্থিক প্রকৃষ্টি উন্নয়নের প্রাণাঙ্গী করেন এবং যা টেকসই করার প্রয়োজনীয় উপায় উল্লেখ করেন। তিনি বলেন, অর্থসাহায্যে দেশে জলবায়ু রয়েছে, যেগুলো কোথাও দেশ আর বিকল্পে না হয়, সে বিষয়ে সরকারকে বিজ্ঞার নিতে হবে। তিনি বলেন, পর্যায় উন্নয়ন পরিচরনা হারা টেকসই উন্নয়ন সম্ভব নয়। পর্যায় উন্নয়নের ক্ষেত্রে সব খাতকে সমানভাবে গুরুত্ব দিতে হবে। খলীলুজ্জামান আরো বলেন, আমরা আরো শিল্প পরিবেশের প্রতি বৈচিত্র্যকর কোনো প্রকার ফেলের কিনা, সেখানে সেগুলো রাখতে হবে। বিশেষ করে এই শিল্পের প্রকারে অংশী উপস্থান ও বিকাশের ক্ষতি হচ্ছে, সেই বিষয়টি হাতে না ঘটে সেগুলো পদক্ষেপ নিতে হবে। সেমিনারে জানানো হয়, আঞ্চলিক আদায়েরে হয়ে ২০১২ সালে বিদায়নের সঙ্গে এবং ২০১৪ সালে তারের সঙ্গে সমুদ্রীয় বিবেক নিশ্চিত হওয়ায় মোট ১ লাখ ১৮ হাজার ৯১০ বর্গকিলোমিটারে বেশি টেরিটোরিয়াল সমুদ্র এলাকা এখন বাংলাদেশের। তবে আগে ২০০ বর্গকিলোমিটার এলাকা অর্থনৈতিক অঞ্চল ও উন্নয়ন উপকূল থেকে ৩০৪ বর্গকিলোমিটার পর্যন্ত অর্থনৈতিক অঞ্চলের মধ্যে সব ধরনের প্রাণি-অর্থনৈতিক সম্পদের ওপর পর্যায়ের অধিকার। ১ লাখ ৪৪ হাজার বর্গকিলোমিটারে বাংলাদেশের অন্য মোট ১ লাখ ১৮ হাজার ৯১০ বর্গকিলোমিটারে সমুদ্রীয় আরেকটি মোট বাংলাদেশই হতে। এখন এই বিবেক প্রকৃত অর্থনৈতিকভাবে সাংগর্গত করতে এর সম্পদ ব্যবহার করে উন্নয়ন ঘটাতে করতে হবে।