

Dhaka, Press Release, 22nd June 2016



Roundtable organized by the Chairman Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoF&E) and COAST Trust in Parliament Conference Room

All Coastal MP's Said, We Want Embankment not the Relief

Dhaka 22nd June 2016. Today in a roundtable jointly organized by the Chairman Parliamentary Standing Committee on MoF&E and COAST Trust in the conference room of Parliament Media Center, title "Climate Change Impact, Recent Cyclone and Save Coast" around 35 coastal Member of Parliaments (MP) said that they need embankment to protect coastal people, lands and livelihoods, not the relief, this is also the number one demand from the local people.

The round table Chaired by Dr Hasan Mahmud the Chairman Parliamentary Standing Committee on MoF&E, Chief Guest of the Roundtable was Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud, Minister Water Resource, other key speakers of the roundtable climate expert Dr Atiq Rahman, Sajahan Kamal MP, Talukder Abdul Khaleque MP, Ex Minister KM Jahangir MP, Mrs Jebunnessa MP, Ashiq Ullah MP, Nahim Newaz MP, Nabi Newaz MP, Rahim Ullah MP, Nuurn Nabi Shaon MP, Tipu Sultan MP, Mohammed Elias MP, Shamsuddoha of CPRD and Aminur Rasul Babul of Unnayan Dhara Trust. Key note presentation was given by Rezaul Karim Chowdhury of COAST Trust.

In his key note presentation Rezaul Karim Chowdhury of COAST Trust said that, all most all coastal districts or around 17 % of total land of the country will go under water by next 50 to 100 years due to climate change impact, but there are technology by which the coastal area could be saved, but its needs huge investment and political will. Critical infrastructure to protect people should also a priority need along with the infrastructure for growth too. Around 28 % of total population of Coxsbazar district has been affected by cyclone Roanu which is the highest in country, among the migrated people due to the cyclone the highest i.e. 8 % is from the district, He shown the worse impact in Kutubdia island where everyday people is facing two time saline water surge in three unions out of six unions.

Tipu Sultan MP said that if coastal lands are not protected we will not be able to sustain our food self-sufficiency. Ashik Ullah MP said that, water development board must sit with coastal MPs to prepare planning and projects in this regard. Sajahan Kamal MP said that all the coastal MPs must approach to Honorable Prime Minister for especial allocation and planning for coastal area. Jebunnessa MP also said even she cannot go to her area, as because people always said that, they do not want begging, they need embankment. Nabi Newaz MP said that river erosion and tidal surge impact equally both to the poor and rich too. Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud the Minister Water Resources said that like Netherland Bangladesh can also save its coastal land, where Bangladeshi coastal lands are not under sea level they are above the sea level, but government cannot alone do the job with its require resources, development partners need to come forward with resources and technology. Dr Atiq Rahman of BCAS said that in respect of climate change adaptation our government must take embankment to protect coastal people on priority basis.

In conclusion the Chair of the roundtable Dr Hasan Mahmud Chairman Parliamentary Standing Committee on MoE&F, the construction of embankment and coastal forestation has to be integrated, Finance Minister need to consider more allocation for water development board, he also emphasized that water development board must take new approach in this regard.

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