

The Annual Strategic Meeting of BWGED-2024

“Strengthen Campaign Strategy to Achieve Renewable Energy Targets by 2050; Based on Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan”

19-21 January 2024 || Hotel Western Inn, Khulna



BWGED is a platform of progressive organizations from all over Bangladesh works to ensure safeguards for affected communities from adverse impacts of mega projects especially in the sectors of energy, environment, water, natural resources and agriculture.

1. Introduction:

This Annual Strategic Meeting held at the Hotel Western of Khulna from 19-21 January 2024 under the banner of “Annual Strategic Meeting of BWGED-2024”. Participants from diverse backgrounds and organizations gathered at this 3-day strategic meeting to set the stage for a year of innovation, collaboration and growth for a future filled with possibilities. Through group-based and facilitator discussions, participants tried to gain in-depth understanding of the adverse impacts of fossil fuels with particular focus on Coal, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), Renewable energy, social, economic, environmental dimensions and limitations of the Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan [IEPMP]

2. Rationale and context of this strategic meeting:

Earlier in 2010 and 2016, the Power Sector Master Plan [PSMP] was formulated with the assistance of JICA. Among these, import-dependent coal and Liquefied Natural Gas [LNG] have gained special importance. As a result, due to the economic crisis, Bangladesh is now suffering from severe import deficit, although there are power plants, but cannot be run due to the shortage of energy.

The Institute of Energy Economics Japan [IEEJ] in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency [JICA] has formulated an Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan [IEPMP] for Bangladesh. There is a

severe lack of transparency and accountability in the IEPMP formulation process, which has already been hastily approved by the Bangladesh government before COP-28. Only 47 Japanese experts formulated the plan, not a single person from Bangladesh was included in this process. The excess demand estimate of the previous PSMP resulted in the government sanctioning a large number of power plants resulting in 8495 MW of excess power wastage over demand and the government had to pay about \$18.12 billion in capacity charge. The draft plan proposes to use 30.7% fossil fuels [mainly Coal and LNG], 32.8% so-called advanced technologies and only 17.1% renewables by 2050, which is against the government's commitment.

On the one hand, the cost of electricity generated from fossil fuels is increasing at an average rate of 12% per year, while on the other hand, the cost of electricity generated from renewable sources is decreasing at a rate of 10%. According to the draft IEPMP, the country's total electricity demand by 2050 is estimated at 97,000 MW to 111,114 MW, which is exaggerated according to energy experts.

Based on the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan, to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2050, it is imperative to review the government-approved 4th Draft Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan, prioritizing solar and wind power, for this BWGD's campaign and advocacy strategy need to be strengthened by engaging CSOs,

community people, public representative, policymakers, investor, and experts.

3. Key Objectives of this Strategic Meeting:

- To review the achievements, challenges, and learnings of 2022-23
- Set mid-term [2025-2027] campaign goals and strategies,
- Strengthen internal cooperation and coordination.

4. Participants and Facilitators:

More than 30 representatives of different development organizations from different parts of Bangladesh participated in this meeting. Dr. Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Research Director, CPD, Mr. Ziaul Hoque Mukta, General Secretary of CSRL, Mr. Rayyan Hassan, Chief Executive, NGO Forum on ADB, Mr. Hasan Mehedi, Chief Executive, CLEAN was the facilitator of this 3-day strategic meeting.

5. Methodology of this Strategic Meeting:

4 groups were formed to create innovative ideas and collaborate with each other, the groups are- a) Winner Group b) Aprotiroddhya Group c) Nabaroon Group d) Surya Group. There were 100 marks in 9 events in 3 days, 10 marks for each session and 10 marks for discipline. This number is assigned by the Jury Board based on the performance of the group representatives in each selected session. There were prizes for the champion and runner-up groups.

6. Thematic Sessions:

A total of 11 sessions were conducted in addition to the opening and closing plenary sessions to present an understanding of the current status and future trends of IEPMP, LNG and Renewable Energy in Bangladesh's power sector. Each group reviewed and presented the achievements, challenges, and learnings of the 2022-23 BWGED through group-based mutual discussion, review, and feedback, and outlined mid-term [2025-2027] campaign goals and strategies by strengthening internal collaboration and coordination.

The 3-day sessions are divided in different ways for diversity, e.g.

- a) **Exhibition Round;** This round is to present a design for achieving goals and summarizing the strategy of work.

- b) **Group making round;** Forming groups for the next 3 days to generate innovative ideas and collaborate with each other.

- c) **Insight Round;** The objective of this insight round might be to gain a deeper understanding of a situation, trends, or other relevant factors that can impact decision-making processes. The issue of this session was-the adverse effects of fossil fuels, with a particular focus on liquefied natural gas (LNG), encompass social, economic, and environmental dimensions.

- d) **Anecdotal Round;** The Anecdotal rounds may refer to a part of a conversation or a meeting where individuals share personal stories or anecdotes about their work experiences. This could serve various objectives depending on the context.



- e) **Talk Show Round;** Selected participant from each group talked about Coal, LNG, IEPMP, Renewables, and campaign plans for upcoming 2025 to 2027.
- f) **Sketch Round;** To break down the goals set for 2025-2027 into smaller campaigns, participants sketched campaigns based on the goals.
- g) **Eureka Round;** where they presented the campaign with wasted materials
- h) **Rebuttal Round;** where the participants debated negotiation and mobilization. Ensuring energy security requires ensuring energy diversification, considering local sources, and markets to make it available.
- i) **Roleplay Round;** where the Surya group of government representatives and the Winner group of nongovernmental representatives.
- j) **Quiz Round;** near the end of the three-day discussion, participants' level of understanding on energy sectors was verified

- k) **Organizational Coordination;** Organizational achievements, changes in activities, membership, coordination, important programs are discussed



7. Key-achievements of BWGED in 2022-23:

- a) The government has not approved one MW of LNG in 2023, Instead, the budget for generating 2800 MW of electricity from renewable energy has been approved.
- b) The government withdrew from the plan to implement 10 power plants simultaneously
- c) Payra's 1,200 MW LNG power project in Patuakhali has been suspended
- d) Matarbari's second phase project has been cancelled
- e) Three out of Four units of Rampal Nuclear Power Station have been cancelled
- f) New Renewable Energy Policy Drafted
- g) Unity has been created among the affected community
- h) Many young climate warriors have emerged who are interested in working on energy and climate issues
- i) Interest in energy and climate has developed among political parties

8. Challenges of 2022-23

- a) It has not yet been possible to extend BWGED activities across Bangladesh as per the desired targets
- b) Lack of data/information on damage from fossil fuel projects
- c) Local administration considers the energy campaign as anti-government movement, law enforcement force intervention during campaign program.
- d) Campaign materials are not easy to understand for common people

9. Mid-term [2025-2027] campaign goals & strategies

- a) Since the 4th draft of IEPMP is completed, for that, partners will meet again in mid-March to prepare alternative recommendations, and should submit an alternative plan before June 2024
- b) Organized Energy Conference by the year of 2024
- c) An environmental assessment will be conducted for the youth activist, therefore organizations that have youth activist can contact with the Secretariat by February 2024
- d) A workshop on China investment will be organized in last week of February 2024, only for those who want to do research work on China investment
- e) Campaign plans will be discussed again in March 24
- f) Strategically moving forward, we need to specify LNG terminals and power plants which will require the cooperation of international groups by the year of 24
- g) To organize a workshop on the overall scenario of the current external debt situation during July-August 24
- h) Organize a dialogue with IFIs at the end of the year [2024] on the role of IFIs and their jobs
- i) Parliamentary colloquial event on Renewable Energy/External debt/Ecology etc. will be organized with new Parliamentary Committees around September-October 2024.
- j) The approach of 2024 will be for each partner to implement the program independently, if necessary, the Secretariat will provide all possible assistance [Financial/Technical support]
- k) Later on, have to discuss again and make a calendar for program implementation, reporting, etc. based on the local context



- l) 6 new organizations have applied for membership and will be considered OX Foundation- Rangpur, HAUS from Haor area, Mati, Mymensingh So-Desh, Sathkhira, the Earth Society Dhaka, DIPTO Foundation, Dhaka.
- m) Three organizations [The Society for Participatory Environment and Development [SPEAD], SHED and

VOICE] stated that they were not interested in working with debt and financing. Since they have informed verbally, so they will be requested to give it in writing

- n) A sub-committee will be formed to give a critical opinion on whether the full meaning of BWGED can be Bangladesh Working Group of Ecology and Development/ Bangladesh Working Group of Energy and Development instead of Bangladesh Working Group on External Debt
- o) Each network member will form a Youth Ecological Development Group if possible

10. Closing Session:

The three-day BWGED Annual Strategic Meeting 2024, which was attended by various organizations' representatives, concluded on Sunday 21 January 2024.

This Strategic meeting gave emphasis on finding multidimensional ways of facing the challenges and on local and national cooperation on the Energy issue and fostering partnership and collaboration among policymakers, experts, and stakeholders for sustainable renewable Energy development in Bangladesh.

Convener of BWGED Kazi Maruf and Hasan Mehdi facilitated the closing session. Suraiya Group is the champion with 64.57 marks based on the overall performance of 3 days, and Nabarun Group was the runner-up by getting 64.42 marks.

The strategic meeting concluded with hopes for a new beginning of local, national, and global cooperation to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2050, based on the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan.



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The End