

Press Release

Bangladesh is yet to play its potential role in climate conferences — Experts opine at the strategy workshop.

Today 6th October 2022, a day-long capacity building and strategy workshop was organized on ‘Facilitating Media Engagement at COP 27 and Beyond’ at the Conference Hall of BRAC Center Inn, Dhaka. The event was jointly organized by ActionAid Bangladesh, AOSED, Climate Action Network South Asia, Center for Participatory Research and Development (CPRD), Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh -CCDB, ChristianAid, Concern Worldwide, COAST Foundation, Diakonia Bangladesh, Development Organisation of the Rural Poor-DORP, European Climate Foundation-ECF, HEKS/EPER, Helvetas, International Centre for Climate Change and Development- ICCCAD, Islamic Relief, Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), NETZ Partnership for Development and Justice, Practical Action, SDS (Shariatpur Development Society), WaterAid, and Young Power in Social Action (YPSA). This program was intended to build strong CSOs and media momentum with their enhanced understanding of the contemporary issues of climate negotiation, especially the upcoming climate conference (COP 27). The event was split into two episodes— an introductory session followed by four technical sessions.

The workshop was facilitated by Md. Shamsuddoha, Chief Executive of CPRD. Barrister Shamim Haider Patwary, Member of Parliament (Gaibandha 1), was present as the Chief Guest of the event, and presented his valuable opinions. Among the other guests and distinguished presence, Ms. Khodeja Sultana Lopa, Country Director of Diakonia, Ms. Hasin Jahan, Country Director, WaterAid Bangladesh, Mr. Asif Saleh, Executive Director, BRAC Bangladesh, and Ms. Shaheen Anam, Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) also delivered their precious comments on several “to-do’s” for the COP 27. The four subsequent technical sessions were facilitated by Dr. Fazle Rabbi Sadek Ahmed, Deputy Managing Director of PKSF, Md. Shamsuddoha, Chief Executive of CPRD, Dr. Golam Rabbani, Chair of Climate Bridge Fund, BRAC, Akib Javed, Project Coordinator of CPRD, and Sheikh Nur Ataya Rabbi, Research Officer of CPRD.

As a key speaker of the workshop, Mr. Shamsuddoha talked about the significance of the program in order to facilitate media engagement with the COP process within Bangladesh and beyond. He added that there’s a growing need to communicate the climate change issues to the policy stakeholders and make people conversant about global climate politics; journalists can play an imperative role in disseminating and demonstrating the ground realities of climate change in Bangladesh to the global communities. “I do believe, this capacity-building event would instill an articulate understanding about ongoing climate change issues and global climate politics among the media personnel and they can further share their learnings with their peers” – Mr. Shamsuddoha expressed.

In his speech as the Chief Guest of the event, Barrister Shamim Haider Patwary, Member of Parliament (Gaibandha 1), expressed his grave concern that Bangladesh is yet to build a strong negotiator group to send to the COP. He stressed that Bangladesh urgently needs to create a negotiator group of at least a thousand members from different spheres of the society who could voice out at the COP based on knowledge. He said, Bangladesh sets up a nice pavilion in the COP, which ironically remain underutilized. Hence, he demanded making the pavilion open for all the international CSOs for arranging events on the COP.

The next session was conducted by Dr. Golam Rabbani, Chair of Climate Bridge Fund, BRAC. He explained the climate science and ongoing climate change scenario to the participants. Besides, he also discussed the dimension of climate change impacts according to the latest scientific evidence quoting IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6).

Two young researchers from CPRD, Md. Akib Javed and Sheikh Noor Ataya Rabbi conducted the subsequent session, where they shared the theoretical aspects and ground evidence of climate change-induced non-economic losses and damages, and their implication for human rights violation.

After the lunch break, Md. Shamsuddoha elaborated on the process and issues related to the climate change negotiations at the global level.

In the final session, Dr. Fazle Rabbi Sadek Ahmed shared his thoughts about the upcoming COP 27, where he shed the light on the expectations from and challenges to be faced at COP 27, including the issue of loss and damage, finance, phasing out of fossil fuel etc. Throughout all sessions, there were interactive discussions between the resource persons and participants. The day-long workshop ended successfully with the concluding speech from Md Shamsuddoha of CPRD; he summarized all discussions into a few specific points. He conveyed his expectations from the media personnel for engaging themselves to cover regular updates on COP 27 and contributing to the climate change discourse within the country and beyond.