



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is seen addressing the engineers of the country at the inaugural ceremony of the 61st founding anniversary of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in Dhaka on 2 May 2009.



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Prime Minister urges engineers to make development sustainable

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged engineers to come forward to build a qualitative and environment friendly infrastructure in a planned way by checking misuse of public funds for making Bangladesh a sustainably developed country.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the 61st founding anniversary of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) on its premises in Dhaka city on 2 May, 2009, the Prime Minister said, government will ensure congenial atmosphere of work and provide all cooperation to the engineers to perform their duties in a condition where they would not neglect works and involve in corruption to erect constructions. She said, a large portion of the national budget, nearly 85 percent of development allocations, are spent through the engineers and asked them to maintain quality in construction. She also sought cooperation from the engineers in implementing her government's plan to turn Bangladesh into a modern and prosperous country by 2021.

"Commoners in many areas have to suffer from lack of healthy and sustainable houses. We want to rid people of this basic problem by providing them with quality but cheap houses" the Prime Minister said. She disclosed a plan of her government to

provide rural people with accommodation facilities by building quality and healthy but low-priced houses up to union levels. Country's engineers will have to come forward to evolve appropriate technology for building such houses, she added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, her government has already planned dredging major rivers of the country to increase navigability of the water ways, increase the capacity to retain water and help people from losing their homes due to river erosion. She also asked the engineers to innovate new technology and idea to build dredgers locally for digging country's rivers.

About the present electricity crisis, the Prime Minister said, the power situation has started improving as the government is working very hard. She however added that thousands of crores of taka had earlier been siphoned out of the country but people did not get electricity.

Later, the Prime Minister unveiled the plaque of a monument to the memory of the engineers martyred in the Liberation War in 1971.

IEB President Mr. A.M. Nazrul Islam and General Secretary Mr. Mesbahur Rahman also spoke on the occasion.



Editor's Note

LGED's Rubber Dam Project - a reality for agricultural production

Agricultural produces largely depend on irrigation. The farmers in Bangladesh have to bear the brunt of dry season to face irrigation hazards. The availability of surface water in dry season awfully comes down to 2.50 lakh cusec. Moreover, there remain calamities like overflowing rivers in monsoon and flash floods, bringing miseries to the farmers. But LGED's innovative Rubber Dam Project has brought about a revolutionary change to this effect causing rise of agricultural produce and ecological balance.

In 1995, a couple of rubber dams - one in Bakkhali river and the other in Eidgaon canal under Cox's Bazar district - were constructed by LGED under two pilot projects with technical assistance from China.

The successful impact of the pilot projects inspired LGED to take up another Rubber Dam in Bhogai river under Sherpur district with financial assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture. After an effective implementation of this project LGED further constructed 11 more rubber dams from July 1999 to June 2008 in nine districts under "Construction of Rubber Dams in Small and Medium Sized Rivers Project", funded by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Ministry of Agriculture again came forward to fund "Construction of Rubber Dams in Small and Medium Sized Rivers to Enhance Food Production Project" at a cost of Taka 15,915.00 lakh for the period from June 2009 to June 2014. The project is going to be implemented in 12 upazilas under 11 districts by LGED and BADC. LGED has been assigned to construct 10 out of 12 rubber dams under this project.

Apart from it, LGED has also constructed 8 other rubber dams in Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Mymensingh, Habiganj and Sunamganj districts under Second Small Scale Water Resources Development Sector Project (SSWRDSP). LGED has so far constructed 22 rubber dams in the country facilitating cultivation in an additional land of 11,340 hectares to produce 79,337 tonnes of crops and employment opportunities have been created for 1,68,500 person-days.

Rubber dams in Bangladesh have now become a feasible alternative reality for irrigation in dry season giving a great relief to the farmers. Rubber Dam Project has brought about a significant change to our rural scenarios. Under this perspective the national water policy makers may now plan to install more rubber dams in the country for a better future.



State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives Mr. Jahangir Kabir Nanok is speaking as the chief guest at a seminar at LGED Headquarters in Dhaka on 10 June 2009.

Effective urban plan necessary to evade social inequity - State Minister for LGRD

State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives, Mr. Jahangir Kabir Nanok said, an effective urban plan is necessary to evade the inequity in the standard of living among the urban dwellers by extending municipal services to the poor, the low and middle income groups. He was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural session of "Experience Sharing Seminar on UGIAP Implementation" held at LGED Headquarters on 10 June 2009.

The State Minister said, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh has committed to establish a Digital Bangladesh. He said, the groundwork for a Digital Bangladesh has already begun in the municipalities under LGED's Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement Project (UGIIP). If the pace and pattern of works done by those municipalities could be sustained and replicated in other municipalities, a Digital Bangladesh could obviously be established by 2021, he mentioned.

Chaired by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED, the inaugural session of the seminar was also attended by, among others, Mr. A.K.M. Mozammel Huq, MP & Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Land Ministry and Mr. Shaikh Khurshid Alam, Secretary, Local Government Division as special guests.

Besides, Mr. Nurul Huda, Deputy Country Director, ADB, Advocate Mohammad Azmat Ullah Khan, Mayor, Tongi Paurashava, and

Advocate Md. Shahjahan, Mayor, Barguna Paurashava were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion as a special guest Mr. A.K.M. Mozammel Huq, MP and Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Land Ministry said, the municipalities would have to be financially self-sufficient by taking hard-line measures in revenue collection.

Mr. Shaikh Khurshid Alam, Secretary, Local Government Division in his address as the other special guest said, from the councillors to the Mayor of a municipality, all will have to be responsible for providing services to the beneficiaries.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Nurul Huda, Deputy Country Director, Asian Development Bank said, ADB is very happy with the project and considers it as a model project. He said, undertaking of more such projects in future is in the pipeline of ADB.

In his address as chairperson of the session Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman said, the success of UGIIP-1 is the resultant effect of cooperation and sincerity extended by the Mayors of the municipalities under the projects. He however urged upon the Mayors to be more committed to the achievement of targets set for them.

Earlier, Advocate Md. Azmat Ullah Khan, Mayor of Tongi Paurashava and Advocate Md. Shahjahan, Mayor of Barguna Paurashava also spoke on the occasion.



His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan in Bangladesh Mr. Masayuki Inoue is seen handing over materials for Portable Steel Bridge to Mr. Manzur Hossain, Additional Secretary, Local Govt. Division, Govt. of Bangladesh on 12 April, 2009. Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED and Ms. Nobuko Suzuki Kayashima, Chief Representative, JICA were present on the occasion.

Japan provides assistance to Bangladesh for Portable Steel Bridges

His Excellency Mr. Masayuki Inoue, Ambassador of Japan in Bangladesh and the chief guest formally handed over materials for Portable Steel Bridges to Mr. Manzur Hossain, Additional Secretary, Local Government Division, Government of Bangladesh on 12 April 2009 at a simple ceremony at LGED Bhaban in Dhaka with the objective of developing physical infrastructure leading to the improvement of communication backbone of the country.

Chaired by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED, the handing over ceremony was also attended by, among others, Ms. Nobuko Suzuki Kayashima, Chief Representative, JICA Bangladesh and Mr. Manzur Hossain, Additional Secretary, Local Government Division as special guests.

Speaking on the occasion as Chief Guest His Excellency Mr. Masayuki Inoue, the Ambassador of Japan in Bangladesh said, the Govt. of Japan attaches the highest priority on the development of rural areas in Bangladesh. He said, as one of the major development partners of Bangladesh, they strongly feel that development of infrastructure in general and communication sector in particular can play a central role in stimulating economic growth and poverty reduction in Bangladesh. He said, the Portable Steel Bridges will contribute a lot in the overall development of Bangladesh as it reflects the hopes and aspirations of millions of Bangladeshis.

Mr. Manzur Hossain, Additional Secretary, Local Government Division, speaking on the occasion as the special guest said, construction of rural roads, bridges and

culverts has been increasing in Bangladesh in recent times. LGED's Project for the Provision of Portable Steel Bridges in Upazila and Union Roads is funded by Japanese Grant Aid. He said, the benefit of the project would go to as many as 17 districts of the country. He also said, Japan is the most important and the biggest development partner of Bangladesh.

The Chief Representative of JICA Bangladesh Ms. Nobuko Suzuki Kayashima also spoke on the occasion as the special guest. She said, the development of road and bridge networks throughout the country has been one of the most prioritized areas for Japanese assistance in Bangladesh. She said, portable steel bridges could make a great contribution to socio-economic development in rural areas and lives of people living there. An improved road and bridge network reduces road user costs and production costs, she said.

Earlier, an address of welcome followed by a presentation on the evolution of LGED as an implementing agency of rural infrastructure



Photo shows the members of the Community Based Fisheries Management are enjoying their right to catch fish under the SCBRM Project, LGED.

development in Bangladesh was delivered by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED. He said, LGED has so far implemented 12 development projects with Japanese assistance and 7 more projects, funded by Japan, remain to be on-going projects. He expressed his gratitude to the Government of Japan for the financial assistance of 3500 million US dollar for the implementation of these 19 projects and said, the friendship between the two countries will grow from strength to strength in days to come.

World Bank delegation impressed to see excellent job done by PMTA

The World Bank delegation led by Dr. Arien Fisbein, Chief Economist, HD expressed his deep sense of appreciation after seeing the excellent job done by LGED's PMTA during their recent visit in Bangladesh. The Chief Economist said that he never saw such an efficient unit in any other developing country.

Community Based Fisheries Management introduced in Sunamganj

Sunamganj Community Based Resource Management Project (SCBRMP) under LGED has introduced fisheries management in 300 'beels' (water-bodies) in the district of Sunamganj. This is an outstanding intervention in the management of water-bodies in the 'haor' regions of the district. In its first phase, 93 'beels' have been taken under the project. On the strength of a

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Youth & Sports, 71 'beels' measuring less than 20 acres each have been brought under organized management.

The remaining 22 'beels' measuring more than 20 acres each have been taken under the said management in view of another MOU with the Ministry of Land. It has been revealed from the latest available sources that the project has so far introduced Community Based Fisheries Management in 62 'beels'. Nearly 3000 poor families of fishing community and marginal farmers (11% of those are women) have been brought under the management by establishing their right to catch fish. The members of the organization have shared among themselves the profit incurred from the sale proceed of fish valued around Tk.64 lakh.

It is an uphill task though, the project however has been making a steady progress to establish the rights of the beneficiaries braving all obstacles on the way. It is expected that the income of the members of the Management could be enhanced to a great extent by way of organizing long term plans and sound management for the 'beels' and 'haors'.

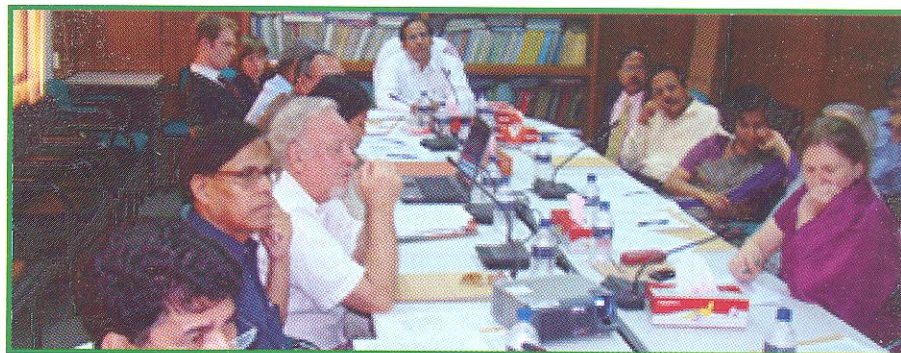
[Translated version from a report as published in IFAD's special issue Bangla Newsletter dated April, 2009 entitled Partnership in Progress]

LGED gets First Prize in Environment Fair-2009

National Environment Fair-2009, organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forest, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 5 June 2009 in observance of the World Environment Day. This year's theme of the day was - 'Your Planet Needs You ! Unite to Combat Climate Change'.



State Minister for Environment and Forest Advocate Mostafizur Rahman, MP is seen handing over the crest and the certificate for First Prize in Environment Fair-2009 to Mir Tanweer Husain, Project Manager, SRE, LGED on 6 June 2009.



A Wrap-up Meeting of ADB's Field Review Mission for Second Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project (RIIP-II) was held on 9 April, 2009 at Local Government Division in Dhaka. Chaired by Mr. Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Joint Secretary, LGD, the meeting was also attended by, among others, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED, Syed Mahbubur Rahman, Project Director, RIIP-II and Mr. Arun Kumar Saha, Mission Leader, ADB.

LGED participated in the fair held at Osmani Memorial Hall, Dhaka and displayed environment friendly renewable technology and highlighted its eco-friendly development activities. On the closing day of the fair on 6 June 2009, LGED's stall was adjudged the best among 73 stalls erected by different

public and private organizations. The State Minister for Environment and Forest, Advocate Mostafizur Rahman, MP, handed over the crest and the certificate for the First Prize to Mir Tanweer Husain, Project Manager, Sustainable Rural Energy (SRE), LGED.

It may be mentioned here that in observance of the World Environment Day, 35 municipalities under LGED's STIFPP-2 and UGIP organized a number of programmes, keeping in mind the theme of the Day, which included drawing competition by the children, awareness build-up to the Imams of the mosques, rallies, meetings at the ward level, seminars and discussions. People from all walks of life in various municipalities spontaneously participated in all those programmes.

Foreign Training /Overseas Visit

Mr. Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Joint Secretary, Local Government Division, Mr. Md. Gholam Mustafa Patwary, Additional Chief Engineer, LGED, Mr. Nasir Uddin Ahmed, Superintending Engineer, Chittagong Zone, LGED, Chittagong, Messrs ASM Abul Kalam, Md. Shamsuddin Ahammed, Mir Hossain, Md. Manirojjaman and Md. Nazrul Islam, Upazila Engineers of LGED attended the training programme on "Environmental Risks Assessment for Rural Infrastructure Development Projects" in Thailand from 11 May 2009 to 20 May 2009.

Mr. Mohammed Iqbal, Joint Secretary, ERD, Messrs Md. Maniruzzaman and Prasun Kanti Choudhury, Project Directors of LGED and Mr. Md. Sharful Anam Khan, Assistant Engineer, LGED participated in the programme on "Mid Term Review at IDB Head Quarters" in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia from 08 May 2009 to 14 May, 2009.

Mr. A.K.M. Shahadat Hossain, Executive Engineer, LGED and Ms. Sonia Nawrin, Assistant Engineer, LGED attended a training course on "Addressing Climate Change in Development Assistance" in Denmark from 15 April 2009 to 05 May 2009.

Messrs Md. Hasanur Rahman, Joint Secretary & Md. Anisur Rahman, Deputy Secretary, Local Government Division, Messrs Muhammad Azizul Haque, Director, Md. Mokbul Hossain & Amrit Lal Mazumder, Deputy Directors, Md. Monzur Qader Chowdhury, Deputy Project Director, Mohammad Masudur Rahman Mallik & Md. Ekramul Haque, Assistant Directors of LGED and Mr. Aung Kya Mong Marma, Assistant Tax Collector, Khagrachari Paurashava, Khagrachari participated in the 'Short Span Study Trip' in Thailand and South Korea from 14 June to 23 June, 2009.

Foreign Mission

Nepalese team visit LGED Projects to review gender issues

An 11-member team, comprised of Government Officials of Sector Agencies and ADB assisted projects in Nepal visited Bangladesh from 02 to 08 May 2009. The objective of the visit was to (i) showcase gender - inclusive ADB loan projects of Bangladesh achieving success in selected sections relevant for ADB operations of rural and urban infrastructure, water supply and sanitation and small scale water resource management in Nepal and (ii) to build gender capacity of government officials and the ADB staff implementing loan projects.

Before the field visit was kicked off, a seminar was organized in the Bangladesh Resident Mission, ADB to share lessons in developing and implementing project-specific gender action plans in Bangladesh and to share how engineering organizations are institutionalizing gender. In the seminar Mr. Moshir Rahman, Project Director, LGED's Small Scale Water Resources Development Sector Project-2 and acting Superintending Engineer, IWRMU, Syed Mahbubur Rahman, Project Director, RIIP-2, LGED and Mr. S.K. Amzad Hossain, Project Director, Urban Governance & Infrastructure Improvement Project, LGED delivered presentations on how gender mainstreaming and institutionalization are being practised in LGED projects.

During the learning visit the team members from Nepal visited Agrani and Noyogalo command area development sub-project of the Small Scale Water Resources Sector Development Project in Chapai Nawabganj on May 4, 2009. The team members exchanged views with WMCA members and came to learn as to how the farmers are



The leader of the visiting Nepalese team is seen speaking at a presentation on LGED's development activities and LGED's Gender Strategy delivered by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED at LGED Headquarters on 7 May 2009.

being benefitted by the infrastructure and the extent of women participation in different stages of sub-project implementation. Mr. Moshir Rahman, Project Director, SSWRDSP-II was present during the visit

The team later visited the Chapai Nawabganj Paurashava Office to explore the activities of LGED's UGIIP. The team members were particularly impressed to observe the citizen charter role played by the women Paurashava Ward Commissioners, one stop service provided by Paurashava and the tax collection system. They particularly lauded the activities of the Paurashava Court. The Nepalese team also visited some slum areas and were pleased to observe the condition of footpath drains, dustbins and street lights, provided by the project for slum dwellers. Mr. S.K. Amzad Hossain, Project Director, UGIIP accompanied the visiting Nepalese team.

On May 5, 2009 the Nepalese team visited RIIP-II project areas in Rangpur and observed the Kawnia-Tupa Madhupur

Upazila road maintenance work by the LCS. The team also visited a women's market section, a UP Complex at Tupa Madhupur and Chaola flood refugee shelter. Syed Mahbubur Rahman, Project Director, RIIP-II, LGED accompanied the team.

The last leg of the Nepalese Team's tour itinerary included their participation in a presentation on LGED's development activities and LGED's gender strategy presented by the Chief Engineer, LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman at the LGED Hq. on 7 May, 2009.

The Nepalese Team included Mr. Mahendra Subba, Mr. Shiva Hari Sharma, Mr. Krishna Acharya, Mr. Tires Khatri, Ms. Pramila Devi Bajracharya, Mr. Bhupendra B. Basnet, Mr. Nirmal D. Acharya, Mr. Navin Mangal Joshi from different Govt. Agencies and Ms. Laxmi Sharma, Mr. Narendra Chand and Ms. Suman Subba from Nepal Resident Mission, ADB.

Joint Review Mission visited sub-projects of Second Small Scale Water Resource Development Sector Project

A joint loan review mission of Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN), Dhaka reviewed the overall progress of the implementation for the Second Small Scale Water Resource Development Sector Project from 01 June to 11 June, 2009. The mission visited six subproject sites in Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar and Hobiganj districts. During the visit, the Mission held



A Review Mission of Asian Development Bank and the Embassy of the Netherlands in Dhaka visited a sub-project under Second Small Scale Water Resources Development Sector Project (SSWRDSP) of LGED.



Engineer Md. Monowar Hossain Chowdhury, MP and former Chief Engineer of LGED laid the foundation of a two-storeyed UP Complex at Harirampur union under Gobindaganj upazila in Gaibandha district on 13 April 2009.

meetings and exchanged views with the stakeholders in the subproject area and closely interacted with the Project staff and the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) officials of the executing agency. The segments the Mission put major stress on were overall sector/project progress, contract awards and disbursement, time extension for project completion, GoN grant fund utilization, status of last action plan and new agreed time bound action plan, and compliance with loan covenants.

The Mission observed with satisfaction the significant improvement in the contract awards and disbursement situation, status of mainstreaming gender issues through implementation of the Projects Gender Action Plan and the improvement in physical progress since the last review Mission held in November 2009. The Mission critically reviewed the implementation schedule of the ongoing subprojects and recommended that LGED make special efforts to complete construction of all pending works of ongoing subprojects by March 2010. The Mission reiterated its earlier concern to resolve all outstanding land payment issues, appreciated the role of LGED for approving the budget and neutral extension of the Project to June 2010 and finally recommended settlement of the remaining audit observations by 30 September, 2009.

A wrap-up meeting was held on 11 June, 2009, with Mr. Monzur Hossain, Additional Secretary, Local Government Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives in the chair and the draft Aide Memoire was finalized incorporating the comments of the participants.

ADB Fact Finding Mission visited Rajshahi, Pabna and Sirajganj

: A 3-member ADB Fact Finding Mission headed by Mr. Rezaul Karim Khan, Natural Resource Economist, ADB, Manila for the formulation of the Sustainable Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project (SRIIP), a follow-up of RIIP (RDP-25), visited Bangladesh from 21 May to 28 May 2009. The Mission members held discussions with representatives of the Government, Development Partners and other Stakeholders. The Mission visited Rajshahi, Pabna and Sirajganj districts and participated in two Stakeholders Participation Meetings at Pachander Union Parishad Hall of Tanore Upazila, Rajshahi and Naldaha Government Primary School under Pabna Sadar Upazila. The Mission shared their views and ideas with chairmen, members of UP, teachers, farmers, traders, van / rickshaw pullers, members of LCS Group, students, NGO representatives, Upazila Union Level Officials through a Stakeholder's Workshop, the participants demonstrated a strong sense of ownership and commitment.

Later a Wrap-up Meeting was held with Local Government Division on 28 May 2009 to



Alhaj Benazir Ahmed, MP inaugurated the LGED constructed 90.10 metre Habibur Rahman Bridge on the river Bangshi at Shombhag Union under Dhamrai Upazila of Dhaka district on 20 June 2009. Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED was also present on the occasion, among others.

discuss and finalize the Mission's findings and their recommendations regarding Project Preparatory Technical Assistance of SRIIP. It may be mentioned here that the coming SRIIP will be the follow-up project of RIIP (RDP-25). Mr. Md. Abdus Shaheed and Mr. Md. Shahidur Rahman Pramanik, Project Directors, LGED accompanied the Mission.

Engr. Md. Monowar Hossain Chowdhury MP lays foundation of UP Complex in Harirampur union

Engineer Md. Monowar Hossain Chowdhury, MP and former Chief Engineer of LGED formally laid the foundation of a two-storeyed UP Complex at Harirampur union under Gobindaganj upazila in Gaibandha district on April 13, 2009. He was the chief guest of the ceremony.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is implementing the work at a cost of Tk.59 lakh from the fund of GOB, sources said. Commenting on the development schemes undertaken by the present government of Sheikh Hasina, Engineer Md. Monowar Hossain Chowdhury, MP said, the government wants to present a prosperous country to the people making the dream of establishing a Digital Bangladesh realized by 2021 so that the next generation can reap the maximum benefit.

Upazila Chairman Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, Upazila Vice-Chairmen Mr. Mohammad Hossain Faku and Mrs. Arzu Monowara Begum, Upazila Engineer of LGED, Mr. Arifuzzaman, UP Chairman, Mr. Amirul Islam Mukta, political leaders and local elites including journalists were present on the occasion.

JICA Chief in Bangladesh lauds LGED's effort in developing rural infrastructure

Ms. Nobuko Suzuki Kayashima, Chief Representative of JICA Bangladesh said, LGED's contribution in economic development of the rural areas of Bangladesh are incalculable and JICA believes that LGED would be able to contribute even more in days to come and it would be an honour for JICA to be a partner in that great endeavour. She was speaking as the chief guest at the formal 'Handing Over Ceremony of Road Structure Manual 2008' and the Farewell Meeting arranged in her honour by LGED on 11 June 2009 at LGED Bhaban in Dhaka.

Chaired by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED the Handing Over Ceremony and the Farewell Meeting was also attended by, among others, Ms. Mayumi Endo, Senior Representative of JICA, Mr. Kazuyuki Ikeda and Mr. Takayuki Sugawara, Representatives of JICA and Mr. Koji Yamada, Chief Project Advisor, RDEC Project-2. It may be mentioned here that Ms. Kayashima is going back to Japan at the end of this month after completion of her assignment as Chief Representative of JICA in Bangladesh for more than a couple of years.



Ms Nobuko Suzuki Kayashima, Chief Representative of JICA Bangladesh handed over the Road Structure Manual 2008 to Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED at a ceremony held on 11 June 2009 at LGED Bhaban in Dhaka.

Ms. Kayashima said, the Road Structure Manual 2008 has been successfully developed by LGED and JICA under RDEC Project jointly. She said, the Manual is based on the fundamental concept of "minimizing disaster damage in infrastructure development". She said, this Manual will be disseminated and utilized by all the engineers of LGED for improvement of their works.

In his address as the chairperson, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED said the present JICA and the former JBIC are the two development partners of LGED. He recalled that after the severe cyclone 'Sidr' had hit the southern coasts of Bangladesh in November 2007, JICA immediately allocated necessary funds for repair of rural roads of the affected areas through LGED for smooth relief operation. JICA's role at that time was unique and unparallel in providing financial help for rehabilitation works, he said. Mr. Rahman further said, the poor people of Bangladesh in the Sidr-hit areas definitely remember that.

Earlier, an address of welcome was delivered by Mr. Abu Taher Khan, Superintending Engineer, LGED. Mr. Koji Yamada, Chief Advisor of RDEC Project-2 also spoke on the occasion.

LGED engineer's presentation in Washington Forum lauded by World Bank

World Bank executives admired the keynote paper presented by LGED Engineer Md. Abdul Quader at the Transport Forum-2009 held in Washington from 30 March 2009 to 04 April 2009. The Director of World Bank Transport Sector mailed a certificate of admiration to Engr. Quader on 21.04.09 narrating his presentation on 'Poverty Reduction for Rural People : Bangladesh Perspective' as an incentive to march ahead for achieving their future goals. Engr. Quader's presentation highlighted the role of rural infrastructure in poverty reduction, LGED's model programs and eventual downward slope of poverty curves in Bangladesh.

Engineer Quader is currently working as Project Director of RDP-26 under LGED.



The Fifth Annual General Meeting of LGED Kolyan Samabaya Samiti Limited (LKSS) was held on 2 May 2009 at RDEC Building of LGED Headquarter in Dhaka. Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED and the ex-officio President of LKSS Executive Committee presided over the meeting. Mr. Md. Lokman Hakim, Vice President of LKSS (right), Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed, Director (Finance), LKSS (extreme left) and Mr. Md. Jahangir Alam, Managing Director, LKSS (left) are also seen on the dais.



Minister for Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives Syed Ashrafur Islam is seen addressing a Review Meeting on LGED's Development Activities held on 7 May 2009 at LGED Bhaban in Dhaka. Minister for Post and Telecommunication, Mr. Raziuddin Ahmed Razu, State Minister for the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, Capt.(Retd) A.B. Tajul Islam, Mr. Md. Shah Alam Advocate, MP, Mr. Nazrul Islam Hiru, MP and Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED are also seen in this picture.

'LGED to help develop Digital Bangladesh' - LGRD Minister

Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Syed Ashrafur Islam urged the engineers of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) to come forward to realize Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's dream of establishing a Digital Bangladesh. Describing LGED as an institution of international repute he said, LGED will have to maintain 100% transparency in future to retain its goodwill in sharing the challenges of the government to change the lot of the people.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at a Review Meeting on LGED's Development Activities held on 7 May 2009 at LGED Bhaban in Dhaka. The chief guest further said, the revolutionary changes that have taken place in the remote villages of the country would not have been possible without the existence of LGED. He said, in his constituency in Kishoreganj region, rubber dams and submersible roads have been built by LGED. He also said, LGED was known for its enviable transparency in the past. He however made an appeal to all to retain that image.

Chaired by Mr. Manzur Hossain, Additional Secretary, Local Government Division, the Review Meeting of LGED was also attended by, among others, Mr. Raziuddin Ahmed Razu, Minister for Post and Telecommunication, Capt. (Retd) A.B. Tajul Islam, State Minister for the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, Mr. Md. Shah Alam Advocate, MP, Mr. B.M. Mozammel Haque, MP, Mr. Nazrul Islam Hiru, MP and Mr. Atiqur Rahman Atiq, MP.

Speaking on the occasion as a special guest the Minister for Post and Telecommunication Mr. Raziuddin Ahmed Razu said, even in 1996 he could not visit his parental home at Raipura thana of Narshingdi district because of communication obstacles. But now because of LGED's intervention he can go to his village home every now and then with ease and comfort. He said, LGED should work hand in hand in future to realize the dream of establishing a Digital Bangladesh.

State Minister Capt. (Retd) A.B. Tajul Islam, in his address as a special guest, said, LGED needs no introduction. LGED has constructed rural infrastructures in all over

Bangladesh maintaining cost effectivity and quality control, he said. He also said the new generation engineers of LGED would work unitedly to retain the goodwill of LGED.

Speaking on the occasion as a special guest, Mr. Md. Shah Alam Advocate, MP said, there is hardly any village in Bangladesh where LGED's intervention has not reached. He however urged upon the LGED engineers to participate actively in the realization of a Digital Bangladesh.

Earlier, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED delivered an address of welcome and a modest presentation on the evolutionary growth of LGED ever since its inception in 1984 as a full-fledged organization dating back to the Comilla Model of rural development in the 1960s.

Mr. Manzur Hossain, Additional Secretary, LGD concluded the Review Meeting and in his address as the chairperson urged upon the engineers of LGED to maintain unity among themselves to create a congenial working atmosphere.

Mr. Md. Lokman Hakim, Additional Chief Engineer, LGED finally delivered a vote of thanks to the distinguished guests on behalf of LGED.