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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated National Tree Plantation Movement and National Tree-Fair-2010 in Dhaka on June 1, 2010.

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Plant trees to protect environment and biodiversity - Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made an appeal to the people to plant at least three saplings each on all open spaces including campuses of educational institutions to protect environment and biodiversity. She made the appeal while inaugurating a 3-month National Tree Plantation Movement-2010 and a month-long National Tree Fair-2010 in Dhaka on 1 June 2010. The theme for this year's Tree Plantation Movement is **"Green City, Green Country to Change Bangladesh."** Mentioning the role of trees in poverty alleviation, employment generation and protecting environment, the Prime Minister said her government has undertaken various programmes to increase the country's forest resources by creating social afforestation. She said, the government has taken a Tk. 109 crore project for poverty alleviation through social afforestation.

The Prime Minister added, the whole world is in a great danger due to climate change and

Bangladesh is the worst affected although it has an insignificant role behind climate change. She also mentioned that her government has allocated Tk. 700 crore to create a climate change trust fund. Tk. 54 crore has been allocated from the fund for four projects on afforestation and social afforestation, she said. Sheikh Hasina said, the present government has also taken REDD (Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) programme to protect natural forestry and CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) Project for the first time in Bangladesh to protect biodiversity and ever-increasing carbon stock.

Conscious of the environmental degradation, LGED felt it an important social responsibility to embark upon tree plantation programmes on roadsides, paved market squares, cyclone shelter link roads and premises of LGED offices. LGED has planted about 2,37,19,300 trees on 21,563 km roads upto April 2010.



Editor's Note

LGED's gives importance to environmental issues

World Environment Day was observed in Bangladesh on June 5, 2010. This year's theme of the day was "Many Species, One Planet, One Future." President Mr. Md. Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages highlighting the importance of the day.

LGED emphasize proper attention to the environmental issues during identification of scheme and project preparation. Tree plantation on slope of roads and embankments is an important activity of LGED, contributing towards stability of the LGED-built infrastructures with the overriding objectives of improving environment through reduction of soil-erosion.

It is now an established fact that incorporation of environmental dimensions in the planning process ensures development with adequate attention to conservation of natural resources and environment friendly projects. LGED's environmental guidelines enable the engineers to carry out Environmental Impact Assessment and incorporate the environmental parameters in the project preparation process. The guidelines are planned to enable the Upazila Engineers to analyse the adverse environmental consequences of the project and adopt appropriate measures to eliminate or reduce to acceptable levels through proper planning and design and thus to optimize overall socio-economic benefits.

Besides, inadequate sanitary facilities and unhygienic garbage disposal are polluting our surroundings to the detriment of our lives, especially for the urban dwellers. Realising the situation, LGED's urban sector projects chalked out schemes that ensure safe water, improved sanitation and solid wastes management.

As development activities are gaining momentum, it is becoming all the more necessary to make ourselves increasingly eco-conscious. Without a watchful eye on environment no sustainable development can take place. In observance of the Environment Day, Local Government Engineering Department, alongwith other organisations, also set up a stall highlighting different aspects of LGED's environment activities.



State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Captain (Retd) A.B. Tajul Islam, MP, laid the foundation stone of a 84 m long bridge on the Muhuri river to connect Chhagalnaiya upazila with Sadar upazila at Panuaghat in Feni district on April 24, 2010. Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED was present on the occasion.

ADB is keen to fund a new urban project to develop Dhaka & Khulna City Regions

A day-long Stakeholder Workshop for the Project Preparatory Technical Assistance for preparing City Region Development Project, to be financed by Asian Development Bank (ADB) and implemented by Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), was held on 21 April 2010 in LGED Headquarters in Dhaka. Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED was the chief guest at the inaugural session of the workshop, jointly organized by LGED and ADB.

Chaired by Mr. Md. Nazmul Hasan, Additional Chief Engineer, LGED the inaugural session of the workshop was also attended by, among others, Mr. Keith Perry, Team Leader,

Consultant Team, Mr. Nurul Huda, Deputy Country Director, ADB and Mr. Masayuki Tachiri, Urban Economist, ADB.

Speaking on the occasion as the chief guest Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED said, that all the stakeholders' cooperation is very much needed to make the design of the project compatible with the requirements at the implementation stage.

Earlier, Mr. Keith Perry, Team Leader, Mr. Nurul Huda and Mr. Masayuki Tachiri of ADB and the chairperson Mr. Md. Nazmul Hasan also spoke on the occasion. Mr. S.K. Amzad Hossain, Project Director, City Region Development Project (CRDP) delivered an address of welcome.

Another stakeholder workshop for City Region Development Project was held in Khulna on April 25, 2010. Mayor of Khulna City Corporation Mr. Talukder Abdul Khaleque was the chief guest at the workshop.



Whip of the National Parliament Mr. A.S.M. Feroz, M.P. laid the foundation stone of a 120 m long bridge over Dhulia-Kalisuri river under Bauphal upazila of Patuakhali district on May 29, 2010. The bridge is being constructed under UCRIP of LGED. Present on the occasion were Additional Chief Engineer, LGED, Mr. Md. Gholam Mustafa Patwary, Superintending Engineer Mr. Sukumar Chandra Das, Project Director of UCRIP Mr. S.M. Salim and Executive Engineer of LGED Patuakhali Mr. S.M. Abdus Salam.

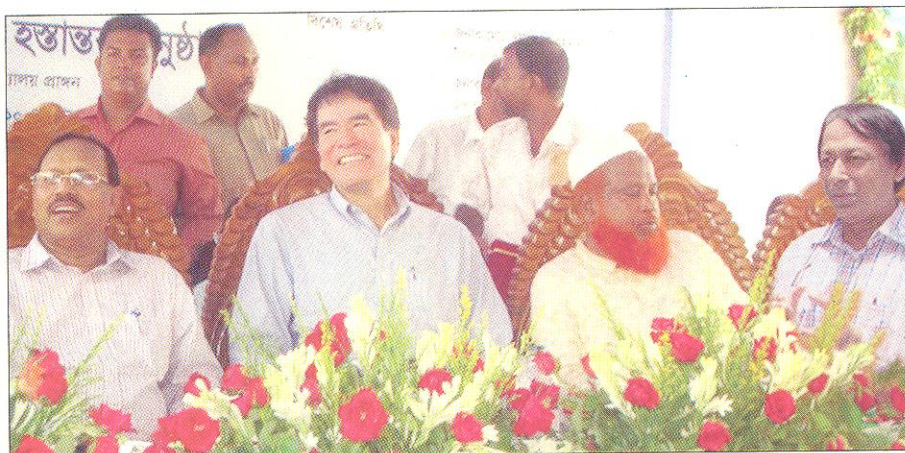
LGED to take up Sustainable Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project assisted by ADB

Sustainable Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project (SRIIP) is one among 8 new projects that are in the pipeline under rural and urban development sector with assistance from Asian Development Bank (ADB) for implementation by LGED. LGED has already completed a preliminary survey to this effect. At present, the project preparation work is at its final stage. To finalize the project preparation work, a daylong workshop was held on April 29, 2010 at LGED Headquarters in Dhaka. It needs to be mentioned that KfW, a German development partner, is keen to assist this project as well.

Jointly organized by LGED and ADB, the inaugural session of the workshop was chaired by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED. It was attended by, among others, Dr. Purnima Parida, Team Leader, PPTA Team, SRIIP, Mr. Md. Rafiqul Islam, Senior Project Implementation Officer, ADB, Mr. Rezaul Karim Khan, Natural Resources Economist and Team Leader, PPTA Fact Finding Mission, SRIIP and Mr. Christoph Eisenmann, Country Director, KfW.

In his address Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman said, LGED has been able to earn confidence of the government and various development partners for accomplishing works in time and maintaining qualitative standard. He added, LGED is currently working with 22 development partners and ADB happens to be outstanding among those. Mr. Rahman further said, LGED has successfully completed 27 projects at a total cost of 805.30 million dollar under ADB assistance. Currently, there are 11 on-going projects costing a total amount of 415.40 million dollar assisted by ADB. He however hoped to say that valuable recommendations and inputs provided by the participants attending the workshop would make the finalization of project preparation easier.

LGED News Letter



Alhaj A.K.M.A. Awal M.P. inaugurated the Jujukhola Mirua govt. primary school-cum-cyclone shelter in Pirojpur district on June 9, 2010, as chief guest. Chaired by Mr. Monzur Hossain, Secretary, Local Government Division, the inaugural and handing over ceremony of the cyclone shelter cum primary school were attended by the Ambassador of Japan in Bangladesh Mr. Tamotsu Shinotsuka, Chief Engineer, LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman and Senior Representative of JICA Mr. Shigeki Furuta as special guests. Financed by the govt. of Japan the cyclone shelter was constructed by LGED. The key of the cyclone shelter was handed over to the chief guest by the Ambassador of Japan.

ADB Dhaka's Senior Project Implementation Officer Mr. Md. Rafiqul Islam and ADB's Natural Resources Economist Mr. Rezaul Karim Khan also addressed the workshop.

Earlier, Dr. Purnima Parida, Team Leader, PPTA Team, SRIIP presented a brief outline on the concept and theme of the project. Mr. Md. Shahidur Rahman Pramanik, Project Director, SRIIP delivered an address of welcome.

Chairmen from different Upazila Parishads, business women, LGED officials from district and Upazila levels and representatives from ADB, KfW and GTZ attended the workshop.

LGED's pragmatic approach to make pourashavas self reliant

In Bangladesh, urbanization is growing fast outpacing the amenities for the city dwellers. To cope with the situation, concerned agencies have now adopted new strategies that focus urban improvement on the pourashavas along with development in some cities.

To mitigate these problems, LGED took up two development projects named Secondary Towns Infrastructure Development Project covering 32 secondary towns in two



To finalize the project preparation work of LGED's Sustainable Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project (SRIIP) a day long workshop was organised jointly by LGED and ADB on April 29, 2010. The inaugural session was chaired by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED. It was attended by, among others, Dr. Purnima Parida, Team Leader, PPTA Team, SRIIP, Mr. Md. Rafiqul Islam, Senior Project Implementation Officer, ADB, Mr. Rezaul Karim Khan, Team Leader, PPTA Fact Finding Mission, Mr. Christoph Eisenmann, Country Director, KfW and Mr. Md. Shahidur Rahman Pramanik, Project Director, SRIIP.

successive phases. These two projects, assisted by ADB, led to considerable revenue generation at the project pourashavas, along with infrastructure development. But inspite of everything going well during implementation of the projects, the results achieved could not be sustained after the project period.

To remove the inherent weakness mentioned above, the government took up a new approach: performance based project with involvement of the stakeholders and the town people giving more stress on urban governance. The project is, as such, named Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement (sector) Project (UGIIP) under LGED.

The main characteristics of this project are: awareness building for the people on the activities of the project, involvement of women, involvement of the poor (people), financial self reliance, accountability, etc. The most prominent feature of the project is the formation of a Town Level Coordination Committee (TLCC) with 63 members taken from all sections of the society.

As a result of coordinated efforts made by the Pourashavas and the town people, an outstanding success has been achieved by the Pourashavas in the area of tax and other collections. At the beginning of the project in July 2003, the average holding tax collection was about 29% in FY 2003-2004. Thereafter, in each year the Pourashavas were obligated to collect 10% more tax. As a result the rate of tax collection increased each year which rose to an all time high of 81% in 2007-2008.

While the average collection performance of the Project Pourashavas was very good, individual collection of some Pourashavas was just excellent. For example, in FY 2003-2004 the collection efficiency of Narshingdi Pourashava was only 14%, but it rose to 86% at the end of 2005-2006 and to 97% in FY 2008-2009-a performance which was never conceivable before in Bangladesh.



Tri-axial soil testing at the LGED Central Laboratory.

Even in the pourashava's "own source revenue" the scenario was more encouraging. Now it is expected that after completion of the project (UGIIP) in June 2010, most of the Pourashavas will continue to sustain their present level of performance in revenue earning, especially in view of the fact that TLCC has been institutionalized at each Pourashava by the latest Pourashava Ordinance.

LGED's Material Testing Laboratories earned laurel

LGED is involved with a number of activities mainly on the construction and development of rural infrastructure. Rural infrastructure is obviously a prerequisite for any effort towards economic development. To make infrastructures technically sound, safe, durable and cost-effective, LGED strictly follows quality control and material testing measures in all the phases of construction. LGED is already on the march to make a headway in ensuring the quality and standard of materials used as inputs in their infrastructure development efforts.

The network of LGED laboratories can be classified into central, regional and district laboratories. In LGED, there are 65-full fledged Material Testing Laboratories of which one (known as Central Laboratory) is at LGED HQ and the remaining 64 are at the district Offices. Central Laboratory is responsible for monitoring and providing all sorts of technical supports to all other

laboratories. All the District & Regional Laboratories are well equipped to perform both laboratory and field testing on bricks, aggregates, cement, concrete, bitumen, soil, strength of road layers and subsoil investigation.

LGED Central Laboratory started its journey in 1984 under Institutional Support Project (ISP) taking the support of consultants employed by the project. Since 2003 GOB officials and staffs took the lead. Later, a radical change in its performance occurred when JICA came forward to help upgrading various activities of Central Laboratory through LGED's RDEC Project. So far, LGED has received adequate support in procuring a number of highly sophisticated modern testing equipment viz. Universal Testing Machine, Geotechnical Drilling Rig, Automated Testing Equipment for CBR, Tri-axial, Consolidation, Direct Shear and some other soil testing equipment provided by JICA & JBIC. Another effective input of the RDEC project is to provide a number of Japanese short-term experts, who stay here for a considerable time with the laboratory people, render on-job training and conduct formal training programmes. Thus, the officials working in Central Laboratory gather the expertise & capability of performing test like CBR, Tri-axial, Consolidation, Direct Shear and some other soil tests in addition to the tests performed by the District Laboratories.

Inputs from RDEC project as well as hands-on activities done by the experts for the last few years made the LGED officials in the Central Laboratory much confident and well equipped in discharging their duties. At present, LGED engineers in the Central Laboratory are involved in imparting training programmes very frequently on Quality Control and Testing to the LGED engineers and Municipal staffs of the country. In most cases, they also prepare the training manuals/materials by themselves. It may be mentioned here that, World Bank, Dhaka Office had conducted a survey on the performances of some government and private material testing laboratories very recently and found the Central Laboratory of LGED as the most effective one. Their comments on LGED Central Laboratory is as follows: "The comparison of LGED laboratories with those in the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) and three private laboratories concludes that the laboratories of LGED are provided with adequate resources and facilities for testing the quality of works all over the country. The Central Laboratory in Dhaka is very well equipped and can undertake supplementary tests if needed. This laboratory is operated by well-qualified professionals."

Foreign Mission

ADB Review Mission to shape up City Region Development Project

The ADB Review Mission for City Region Development Project visited Bangladesh during 21-28 April 2010. The objective of the Mission was to review the progress of the PPTA, identify outstanding issues and agree on actions toward completion of PPTA. The Review Mission recorded major findings and understanding related to PPTA outcome during their visit, which were discussed at the wrap-up meeting chaired by Secretary, Local Government Division, Mr. Monzur Hossain, on 28 April 2010. The wrap-up meeting was attended by Chief Engineer, LGED and senior officials from Rajuk, Dhaka City Corporation and Khulna Development LGED News Letter



The Japanese Board of Audit Mission visited LGED HQ on April 7, 2010. Chief Engineer, LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman apprised the Mission on the achievements of RDEC Project.

Authority, Khulna City Corporation, BIWTA, Ministry of Housing & Public Works and the concerned Mayors. The up-coming City Region Development Project is expected to start functioning in the next financial year as agreed by ADB and Government of Bangladesh at the country programming Mission in April 2010.

The ADB Mission was headed by Mr. Masayuki Tachiiri, Urban Economist, SAUD. The other members were Mr. Ron Slangen, Urban Development Specialist SAUD, and Mr. Md. Rafiqul Islam, Project Implementation Officer, BRM, ADB.

Japanese Audit Mission visit LGED HQ

A delegation of the Japanese Board of Audit Mission comprised of Mr. Tsutomu Sakuma and Ms. Yuka Fukushima visited LGED Headquarters in Dhaka on 7 April 2010 in connection with the audit of RDEC Project. During their visit, a presentation session was arranged in a separate meeting to apprise the visiting members of the Japanese Audit Mission on the achievements of RDEC Project (Phase 1 & 2). The meeting, chaired by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED and Project Director, RDEC Project-2, was also attended by, among others, Mr. Md. Mostadar Rahman, Mr. Abdul Zilil Dhali and Mr. Md. Abidur Rahman Khan, Superintending Engineers, LGED, Mr. Yuichi Inagaki, Second Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh, Ms. Mayumi Endo Senior Representative, JICA Bangladesh, Mr. Miyazaki, Representative, JICA Head Office,

Japan and Mr. Katsuhiko Nakazawa, Chief Project Adviser, RDEC-2 Project. Speaking on the occasion Mr. Sakuma said, the existing good cooperation between JICA and LGED would increase more and more in future. In his concluding remarks, the chairperson Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman said, both JICA and LGED are working for common goals and trying hard for Strengthening of Activities in RDEC Project.

The members of the Japanese Audit Mission were later taken round for a visit to GIS Unit, QC Unit, Maintenance Unit and Design Unit of LGED to see for themselves the extent of advancement achieved with project assistance.

Foreign Training/Overseas Visit

✿ Messrs Md. Allah Hafiz, Deputy Project Director, LGED, Mohammad Rezaul Karim, Md. Abdul Wadud and S.M. Abdus Salam, Executive Engineers, LGED and Messrs Mohd. Abdus Sattar, Senior Assistant Engineer, LGED, Md. Zahurul Alam Mondal, Assistant Engineer, LGED, Md. Haider Ali, Upazila Engineer, LGED and Dr. Md. Sarwar Bari, Senior Assistant Secretary, Local Government Division attended the Training Course on "Project Management and Application of ICT" held in Indonesia and Thailand from 29 April to 8 May, 2010.

✿ Mr. Md. Feroz Alam Talukder, Assistant Engineer, LGED attended a training course on "Infrastructure for Agriculture and Rural Development" held in Japan from 28 March to 29 May 2010.

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UN Under Secretary General highly impressed with LGED activities

"Here in Bangladesh I am extremely impressed to see a government agency embracing the People's Process of development as its main strategy". Referring to the activities being implemented by LGED this was observed by Dr. Anna K. Tibaijuka, Under Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Director UN-HABITAT during her visit to LGED Headquarters in Dhaka on 21 June 2010.

The UN Under Secretary General in her brief address to a select gathering of LGED Engineers and Project Directors said, UN-HABITAT has had an opportunity to work in partnership with LGED over 10 years and this partnership has proven to be very productive in reaching out to the people, particularly the urban poor. She said, their partnership with LGED over the past years has been extremely productive, evidence of which is the continued support from the donors. She also said, she was happy to note that LGED has included a number of social components in their engineering ventures to improve the infrastructure. Finally, she concluded with a special word of appreciation to the UPPR team in Dhaka and in the 23 towns for their diligence and hardwork in helping the poor.

It may be mentioned here that Urban Partnership for Poverty Reduction Project (UPPRP) of LGED gets technical support from UN-HABITAT for infrastructure development including environmental upgradation and improvement of housing condition.

Earlier, on her arrival at LGED Bhaban Dr. Tibaijuka was cordially received by the Chief Engineer of LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman. In his formal address of welcome Mr. Rahman said, the engineers and employees of LGED feel honoured to get the UN Under Secretary General amid them. He further said, as a public sector organization LGED has been working with almost all the development partners including UNDP, UNESCO and UN-HABITAT. He added, the development partners are supporting LGED to implement investment projects as well as providing technical support for capacity building projects. Mr. Rahman said, LGED is not only working in infrastructure development, but also endeavoring employment generation, poverty reduction, empowerment of women and participation of the beneficiaries in all its development efforts. LGED has its own



Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED is seen handing over a crest to Dr. Anna K. Tibaijuka Under Secretary General, The United Nations, during her visit to LGED in Dhaka on 21 June 2010.

gender strategy and Gender Action Plan, he said.

Earlier, a presentation on LGED's development activities was presented by Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed, PD, MSP, while Mr. Richard Geier, IPM, delivered another presentation on UPPRP.

Professional Excellence



Mr. Moshir Rahman, P.Eng, Superintending Engineer (Incharge) LGED has been recently elected Fellow of American Society of Civil Engineers, an organization for the advancement of professional knowledge and the improvement of civil engineering.

Academic Feat



Upon completion of the MS course Engr. Md. Nazrul Islam obtained MS degree in Environmental Science from the State University of Bangladesh, Dhaka in 2010. He got CGPA 3.66 out of 4.00. Mr. Islam obtained his graduation in Civil Engineering from the Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology, Rajshahi in 1986. He joined as an Assistant Engineer in LGED in 1989. Currently, he holds the position of Deputy Project Director, Greater Noakhali Rural Infrastructure Development Project, LGED.



Mr. Md. Rafiqul Islam, Deputy Project Director (current charge) ECRR Project, LGED passed the MS in Environmental Science from the State University of Bangladesh in January 2010. He obtained CGPA 3.70 out of 4.00. Mr. Rafiqul Islam passed the B.Sc. Engineering (Civil) in 1986 from Khulna Engineering College, now KUET. He joined LGED as an Upazila Engineer in 1989.



Mr. Mohammad Akramul Kabir passed the Master of Business Administration with Major in Human Resource Management from Stamford University, Bangladesh in December 2009. He was graduated in civil engineering from Khulna University of Engineering and Technology in 1989 and joined LGED as an Upazila Engineer in 1994. Currently, Mr. Kabir is posted as Upazila Engineer in Tungibari Upazila under Munshiganj district.



Mr. Md. Montasir Mamun passed the Master of Engineering (Civil) from Concordia University, Montreal, Canada in 2009. Mr. Montasir Mamun graduated in Civil Engineering from Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology, Chittagong in 1993. He joined LGED as an Assistant Engineer in 1995 and is now posted as an Assistant Engineer in LGED, Dhaka district.



LGED Chief Engineer elected Vice Chairman of Muktiyodha Council with record votes

Election of the Muktiyodha Sangsad Central Command Council was held peacefully across the country on 26 June 2010 to elect new bodies of Bangladesh Muktiyodha Sangsad, a platform of the Freedom Fighters of Liberation War in 1971. Major General (Retd) Helal Morshed Khan, Bir Bikram, leading a 41-member panel, made a clean sweep in the election. He was elected Chairman of the Council bagging 54,412 votes.

Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer LGED was elected as Vice Chairman of the Council getting a record number of 62,384 votes under the Helal-Matin panel.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to rural infrastructure development in LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahaman got ADB's Annual Performance Recognition Award on a number of occasions. He is actively associated with a number of professional organisations. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, a



Chief Engineer, LGED, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman is addressing the sixth Annual General Meeting of LGED Kalyan Samabaya Samity in Dhaka on May 23, 2010. Former Chief Engineer, LGED, Mr. Md. Nurul Islam and Director of LKSS, Mr. Mohammad Lokman Hakim, Additional Chief Engineer and Vice President LKSS, Mr. Md. Zahangir Alam, Superintending Engineer and Managing Director, LKSS and Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed, Project Director and Director, LKSS are seen on the dias.



Chief Engineer, LGED, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman is seen distributing a certificate to one of the internees of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology at the LGED HQ on May 30, 2010. Project Director RIIP-2 Syed Mahbubur Rahman was present on the occasion.

Fellow of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, a member of the Central Council of IEB, Dhaka and also associated with a host of numerous social bodies.

Internship of KUET students in LGED

Thirtyfour final year students of Civil Engineering Department of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET) completed a 22-day internship training in LGED during 09-30 May, 2010. During the training, the students were highly impressed to see the diversified development activities of LGED in three sectors- urban, rural and water. They opined that the 22 days of internship in LGED had immensely benefitted them and enriched their professional knowledge. A certificate distribution ceremony was held on 30 May, 2010 at the LGED HQ. Chief Engineer, LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman distributed the certificates to the internees.



Ms. Sabina Alam, UNO, Syedpur, Nilphamari district is addressing the local community of Botlagari Union for raising awareness related to civil rights and responsibilities, organised by UP & RIIP-2. Team Leader RIIP-2 (TC) Mr. Karsten Tolle was present on the occasion.



President Mr. Md. Zillur Rahman inaugurated the 9th Apex Body Meet of SAARC Diploma Engineers Forum in Dhaka on May 22, 2010

Engineers are the wheel of development pace - President Mr. Md. Zillur Rahman

President Mr. Md. Zillur Rahman said that engineers, the wheel of development pace, would be able to contribute more to eliminate poverty through addressing the issues of human resources, environment, communication, IT and water resources with cooperation and positive attitude.

"I believe that exchange of data on weather and climate as well as technological and IT knowledge are important to address these issues", the President said while inaugurating the 9th Apex Body Meet of SAARC Diploma Engineers Forum (SDEF) at Institute of Diploma Engineers of Bangladesh in Dhaka on May 23, 2010. Mentioning that poverty is a curse of the people in SAARC region, consisting 1.5 billion people who are one fifth of total world population, the President said it needs collective efforts to free the people from this suffering.

The President emphasized collective initiatives to tackle the natural calamities like flood, drought, earthquake and Tsunami as well as environmental degradation through exchange of weather and climate data among the South Asian countries.

"I am very hopeful that we would be able to make our region - a place of peace and prosperity by rendering our collective and sincere efforts" the president said.

The President congratulated nearly two million Diploma Engineers of SAARC countries, who are immensely contributing their respective countries as well as in this region in different areas of activities.

A good number of diploma engineers of SAARC member states participated in the four-day meeting.

School-cum-Cyclone Shelters constructed in Bagerhat district



LGED, in collaboration with CARE-Bangladesh, has constructed two school-cum-cyclone shelters at a total cost of Taka 3 crore 47 lakh at Sharankhola upazila in Bagerhat district. The two shelters are Dhansagar Radhalakshmi Junior Girls School and Southkhali Junior Girls School. The US Ambassador in Bangladesh Mr. James F. Moriarty formally inaugurated and handed over the newly constructed shelters to Dr. Mozammel Hossain, MP, Bagerhat-4 on 16 May 2010.

Apart from the US Ambassador, the inaugural ceremony was also attended by Dr. Mozammel Hossain, MP, Bagerhat-4 and President of the Bagerhat District Awami League, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED, Ms. Denise Rollins, Mission Director, USAID/Bangladesh, Mr. Nick Southern, Country Director, CARE Bangladesh and Mr. Enamul Kabir Ahmed, Project Director, SHOUHARDO Project, LGED. The Deputy Commissioner, Bagerhat presided over the function.

Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED thanked the US Ambassador for financial support provided by USAID to construct the shelters. He however requested further assistance for shelter construction and development of road network in the southern part of the country.

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