

April, 2020

JOINT COOPERATION PROGRAMME

Bangladesh Netherlands

NEWSLETTER

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The JCP members came together in February 2019, for an annual retreat to reflect on the previous year and plan for 2020



Due to Corona virus COVID-19, offices in the Netherlands (as of 16 March) and Bangladesh (as of 25 March) are closed, and staff involved in JCP at Deltares, CEGIS, IWM and WUR are working from home. Contacts among the researchers and with our knowledge clients is over phone, email or Skype. The repercussions that this has, are not exactly clear at the moment that this Newsletter is published. We are working hard to keep things going, while of course at this moment, health of all is the first priority on the list. Check our JCP Facebook for updates. Be safe and take care.

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JCP Annual Meeting, 2020

The Joint Cooperation Programme Bangladesh – the Netherlands (JCP), kicked off its second year with an Annual Meeting, held on the 16th and 17th of February, 2020, in Bangladesh. The Annual Meeting was very productive, very instructive and very enjoyable.

Field Visit of JCP team

A day long visit around Old Dhaka (Puran Dhaka) and a short boat trip on the Buriganga river were arranged for the JCP team at 15th February 2020. Volunteers from the Urban Study Group showed the team many historical places in Puran Dhaka. During the boat trip, the water quality was tested using field equipment and two of the main outfalls for domestic waste water were visited. The measurements showed that the Buriganga is heavily polluted. The level of dissolved oxygen was less than 1 mg/l.



JCP contributions at ICSD4



During the 4th International Conference on Sustainable Development, held at UIU on 18 and 19 February 2020, JCP contributed in various ways. In the session “Assessment of Sustainable Delta Management”, facilitated by William Oliemans and Dr. Farhana Ahmed, Md Mostafizur Rahman gave a presentation on ‘Challenges and issues in delta planning and management of Bangladesh’. Professor Dr. Hamidul Huq, Director, IDSS and Convener, ICSD4, remarked that this will be helpful for future planning, and encouraged to share outcomes of the sessions widely.

JCP Progress 2019

Clean and Safe Water for Dhaka City

The project is centered around the following elements: development of innovative monitoring and a monitoring strategy for hazardous pollutants; development of an integrated information platform for water quality and pollution sources; development of tools for modelling of pollution loads and water quality impacts and the development of a transition strategy for water pollution control.

Progress in 2019

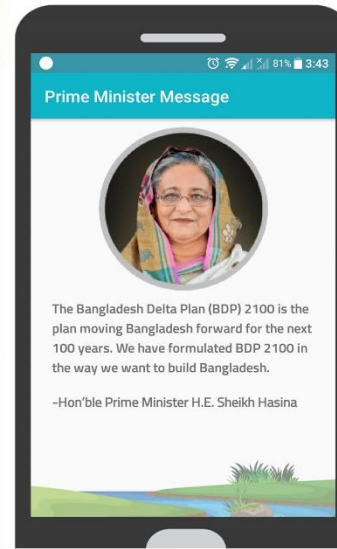
Main activities conducted in 2019 were trainings on innovative monitoring and pollution loads at the DWKD2019, a stakeholder workshop with the knowledge client and the selection of monitoring points for passive sampling, in collaboration with the project partners. Data collection for pollution load modelling started. A data platform for sharing the data between the partners has been established. Data on industries, population, outfalls and catchments have been collected and presented on maps.

Information for Impact

The main objective is to design and develop a mobile app to provide location based information service, this in order to support planning of the decision making in line with the activities of Adaptive Delta Management, to facilitate information and knowledge services using smart phone and to demonstrate and disseminate information for the public users and stakeholders using a mobile application.

Progress in 2019

A mock up design was prepared for feedback from the stakeholders, providing valuable input to the design team. The well executed plan and the feedback from the knowledge clients has resulted in a beta version of the application, available for download in the Android Application Store.



Make it Real

The goal of the project is to establish the current and future interrelated water and food need with climate change, land use change and transformation taken into account.

Progress in 2019

For this project, 2019, was very much centered around gathering input from the knowledge clients. 9 stakeholder consultation meetings were held, in which valuable input was gathered and these were used to further identify the knowledge questions.

Furthermore, 2 dissemination sessions were held at the DWKD2019 and technical reports on the relation between water availability and food demand were delivered.

Polders of the Future

This project, centered around designing new prototypes of polder regulators, wh taking account of navigation, agricultural water managemeng for improved livelihood and the restoration of eco-system services, had a later start up in 2019.

Progress in 2019

However, a core activity, essential for the succes of the rest of the project was ticked c namely the selection of the pilot polder: Polder 40/1 in the District of Barunga. T selection criteria of the polder were closely defined in collaboration with key exper from the project partners.

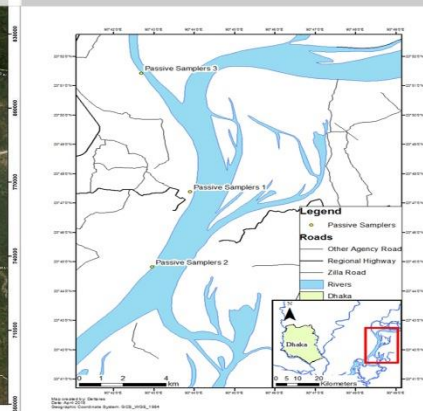
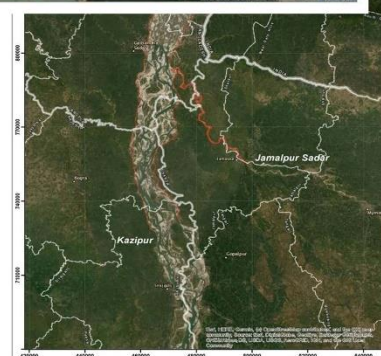


Go with the Flow

Go with the Flow, with its case study the Old Brahmaputra River has the following objectives: Assess the morphological Characteristics of The Old Brahmaputra Offtake, develop suitable off-take management options (structural and non-structural) and study innovative dredging options in the river reach to ensure dry season flow in Old Brahmaputra river and its distributaries along with other water usage/ecosystem services in the river.

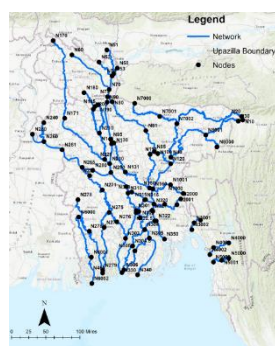
Progress in 2019

In 2019, extensive literature reviews and data collection and analysis were conducted, as foundations for the activities for 2020.



JCP sub project: Bangladesh Meta Model

The Bangladesh Metamodel aims to provide quantitative information to support decision making for investment planning in the framework of the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 (BDP2100). In 2019 a first selection decision support indicators has been made together with stakeholders and several dashboards have been created, where users can compare the costs and impact of different investment projects and programs in order to prioritize and phase investments. The dashboards can be assessed from the JCP website (<http://jcpbd.nl/bdpMetaModel.php>). These dashboards have been demonstrated in interactive sessions in the Delta Ateliers for the Northwest hotspot in Rajshahi and Chalan Beel to support discussions on the selection and phasing of investment projects.



Currently, the work focusses on the construction of the Meta Model model engine that calculates the impact of the socio-economic and climate change scenarios and the investment programs on the indicator values. Modules have been created to simulate river flow and water level, the regional water balance, agricultural water demand and production and food security. The focus is now on validation and documentation of these modules and application of the whole system to the Northwest Hotspot.

Expert reflection sessions are planned in April to discuss the set-up, results and applicability of the Bangladesh metamodel. Under the current situation, this will be carried out by video conferencing. An end-user group session is planned for early May to present and discuss the results for investment plans in the Northwest hotspot.

Dhaka Water Knowledge Days 2019 (DWKD)

The DWKD 2019 was a sparkling learning and sharing event on delta knowledge, targeting a wide audience of young people and experienced professionals. DWKD 2019 had about 120 participants, 36 events, 11 key notes 27 poster presentations and included 7 training sessions on software and modelling. Approximately 50% of the sessions were organised by JCP. The remainder were organised by WMKIP, CEIP long term research & monitoring, the Blue Gold Programme (BGP), the Water Youth Forum, the Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP), the Netherlands Delta Commission, Delta Forum and the Global Water Partnership – South East Asia. More information at www.jcpbd.nl and in our JCP Facebook



Successful H@CKATHON on sea level rise in Bangladesh

The Joint Cooperation Programme Bangladesh-the Netherlands organized, together with SIBDP, a 2-day student "H@CKATHON" on the consequences of extreme sea level rise. A hackathon is an innovative event, in which experts from various backgrounds join forces to assess a pressing issue, using computer models and other information such as maps, literature, estimates etc. During this JCP hackathon, held on 11 and 12 February 2020, about 35 Bangladesh and Dutch students, together with 7 experts, explored the question what the impacts of 2-meter sea-level rise on critical infrastructure, the Sundarbans, and people of livelihood could be. Information of various sources was combined and further calculations were done. In this focused and inspiring hackathon session, impacts were estimated based on available data and models. Overall conclusion was, that despite many uncertainties we need urgent action to understand better what could be happening, and also various no-regret measures are supported to be taken.



Upcoming events:

In the current situation, a number of JCP events will be postponed, or held in a different manner. Please keep posted with our JCP Facebook page for all the latest updates.

GOBESHONA

Making Research on Climate Change in Bangladesh More Effective

Gobeshona is a knowledge sharing platform for climate change research on Bangladesh. It aims to bring together the national and international research community to encourage sharing, enhance quality and, in doing so, make climate change research on Bangladesh more effective. Wageningen University & Research joined Gobeshona from the beginning, is Steering Committee Member, and plays an active role in contributing to the objectives of Gobeshona, of sharing knowledge and building capacity. JCP is having an active link with Gobeshona. In the monthly seminars of Gobeshona, hosted by the various Gobeshona partners in Bangladesh, we had planned a presentation from JCP sub project: "Information for Impact", titled "App based information Services to Support BDP-2100 Implementation." As this seminar cannot take place in a face-to-face manner now, we are currently looking into possibilities to share the information online in a video. We keep you posted through our JCP Facebook

This Newsletter was prepared in the context of the Joint Cooperation Programme Bangladesh – the Netherlands, To subscribe, react and contribute please email to jcpbdnl@gmail.com

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