



Message of NBCS President on the occasion of WWD 2008

Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Society is working for Biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in Bangladesh. Every year we are celebrating World Wetlands day nationally in Bangladesh. For conservation and wise use of wetland NBCS raising awareness at all level of people and promoting GO, NGO and local community to celebrate World Wetlands Day and represent the values of wetlands.

The theme of World Wetlands Day 2008 is **Healthy Wetlands, Healthy people**. This topic is very important for our present global context. We are living unhealthy and facing economic crisis mainly due to unsustainable management of wetland. If we can keep healthy of our wetland we will ensure healthy people and economic development. For growing talent nation and increasing all productivity it must be ensure healthy people. Global poverty reduction and establishment of peace will not be possible if we can't ensure sustainable management and proper utilization of wetlands.

Raising awareness among the people for wetlands conservation it is very essential to know about wetland, Ramsar Convention and wetlands day. Now the global challenge is our environment. In our present situation we are mostly facing with wetland issue. If we can't solute the problems of flood, cyclone, desertification, underground water reduction and salinity it will be difficult to ensure our ecological and economical development and also difficult to survive of our future generation.

Wetland resources are great prospect in Bangladesh. In Bangladesh about 50% is wetland among the total land and its diversity is very rich and rare. We can change the fortune of our people as well as establish as rich nation through utilization of our wetlands.

Wetland may carry the blessing for us but now its turn the reverse of blessing because of our unsustainable management. This situation is also hampering our economic growth. Main reason

of this deterioration is we are not yet able to control the wetland management. We need to overcome of this weakness and create strong wetland management and improve technology.

For ensuring strong wetlands management and its wise use the immediate actions should be taken which are-

- Keep commitment and making appropriate and long term strategy and plan
- Ensuring sustainable wetland management
- Build up strong monitoring cell and ensure transparency and accountability
- Develop wetland research and new invention on wetland management technology
- Keep coordinate among Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Environment and Forest and others relevant ministry and institutes.
- Build up strong platform both national and international level
- Making strong law and policy and its proper implementation
- Raising awareness at all level of people

We want to see no poverty and peaceful world. If we work together and ensuring wise use of our wetland it will be not difficult to achieve that.

I thanks to Ramsar Bureau and specially thanks to Secretary General Anada Tiega, Ramsar Convention on wetlands for encouraging and supporting us.

Muhammad Shariful Islam
President
Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Society (NBCS)