

## **World Wetlands Day 2008 Observed by TMSS in Bangladesh**



TMSS and NBCS jointly organized the seminar on "Healthy Wetlands, healthy people" marking the World Wetlands Day-2008 at National Press Club in Dhaka. Chaired by NBCS President *Shariful Islam* the seminar was addressed by former chairman of Privatization Commission Dr. *Enam Ahmed Chowdhury* as the chief guest.

Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Chief Editor and Managing Director *Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury*, World Peace Mission Chairman *Kamol Kumar Saha* and TMSS Director *A.K.M Fazlul Hoque Majumder* addressed the seminar, among others.

Water Resources Planning Agency Director General *M. Inamul Haq*, Stamford University Civil

Engineering Department Chairman *Prof. Dr. M. Zahurul Islam* and Shahjalal Science and Technology University Civil and Environmental Engineering Departmental Head *Dr. Mohammad Aktarul Islam* presented Papers on the subject.

TMSS Assistant Director (Disaster Management) & Coordinator of the seminar *M. Najmul Islam* delivered Welcome speech on that issue. He mentioned that Bangladesh is very lucky for having a large number of resourceful marshy lands with 230 rivers and a good number of beels/haors. But its a matter of sorrow that every year we are loosing a large number of wetlands by human interventions. He mentioned that within three decades the Chalan Beel has lost 19,700 ha wetlands.

Speakers at the seminar in the city said socio-economic development of the people of this region is possible by utilizing marshes and natural resources through proper and effective measures. Planned use of wetlands can protect the country from the impacts of global climate changes and future environmental disasters along with strengthening the economy, they told the seminar at the National Press Club. The speakers said sound wetlands could contribute to a healthy and sustainable economic condition. Therefore, the wetlands should be utilizes for welfare of the people by protecting those from ruination and preserving biodiversity through proper and time-befitting work plans.

*Dr. Enam Ahmed Chowdhury* said a coordinated plan would have to be adopted for preservation of wetlands and natural resources. Steps should be taken at the state level and awareness created among the people of all strata on the issue to get international recognition, he said and added international cooperation required for preservation of biodiversity.

He said a huge natural disaster would take place not only in this country but also in a vastarea of India, if India constructs Tipaimukh dam on the river Barak. So, Global opinion would have to be created to resist this move, he added.

*Zaglul Amed Chowdhury* said more appropriate plans and their implementation are required for development of the country's 'haors' and water bodies. He said formulation and implementation of coordinated work plans among the South Asian Countries, particularly Bangladesh, India and Nepal are needed to use the water of the Himalayas for human welfare.

All national dailies (print media) and few electronics media covered this event successfully. We are trying to disseminate the values and importance of the day to the community people.

### **M. Najmul Islam**

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