

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs
Administration Section-1
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka
www.mochta.gov.bd

Minutes of the Preparatory meeting on Himalaya-Third Pole Circle / Forum meeting in Bangladesh.

Venue: Conference room of MoCHTA,
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.

Date : 22nd October 2017
Time: 11 A. M

Participants:(List enclosed)

The meeting was commenced by welcoming the distinguished participants by the Chair Mr. Naba Bikram Kishore Tripua, Secretary, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs. The Chair in his opening remarks highlighted the importance of having a platform in the HKH region comprising of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Myanmar, China, Bhutan and Afghanistan that spans an area of more than 4.3 million square kilometers. The region stores more snow and ice than anywhere else in the world outside polar region, giving its name: 'The Third Pole'. The Third Pole contains the world's highest mountains, including all 14 peaks above 8000 meters, is the source of 10 major rivers and forms a formidable global glacial buffer. He also said, the dialogue within the Himalaya-Third Pole Circle emphasizes the multidimensional need which climate change presents to the region. It will be important to increase and improve scientific research on the nature and consequences of the melting of glaciers and the impact on the water system and perennial rivers of Asia. The life and livelihoods of the people in the Third Pole region is challenged due to climate change and the stability and prosperity of the region affected by the Third Pole is at risk, which will have implications for all of Asia and for the world. However there is still little knowledge of this situation and its potential implications, outside the immediate vicinity, a special effort is needed to raise awareness of the fragility of the mountain eco-system. Since the proposal of hosting the third HTPC meeting in Bangladesh has been approved by the honorable Prime Minister, necessary preparations need to be taken to make the event successful. Policymakers, officials, experts, scientists, entrepreneurs, ethnic representatives, environmentalists, students, activists and other participants from different parts of the region and beyond are expected to attend the meeting, The participants will benefit from the exchanges and deliberations of the meeting, which holds the potential of opening new avenues for fruitful and positive co-operation among the countries of the Himalaya region.

✓

The Chairperson conveyed that Bangladesh feels proud to be the host of this international event where MoCHTA will put all possible efforts and provide co-operation to make the event successful. He proposed Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel, Dhaka as the venue of the meeting and as well as for accommodation of the participants. He mentioned that the location, standard and environment of the Hotel would be suitable for the meeting. From security point of view also it would be convenient. He also committed that as host organization MoCHTA would bear the cost for venue, lunch on the inaugural day and the dinner on the closing day.

The chairperson than requested Mr. Dagfinnur Sveinbjornsson, CEO, Arctic Circle to take floor and appraise the participations about the arrangement of the forthcoming meeting.

In the beginning of his speech Mr Dagfinnur expressed his gratitude and thanks to the Govt of Bangladesh and to the Chair of the meeting for approval of the proposal given by Arctic Circle to convene the 3rd meeting of HTPC in Bangladesh. He also said Arctic Circle and ICIMOD will provide all necessary support, to make the event successful. He informed that the meeting would last for two days. After inaugural ceremony on the first day different technical sessions would be held for two days. A draft program of the meeting would be sent from the Arctic Circle to the MoCHTA. He expected that about 60-70 participants from North America and Europe would participate in the HTPC meeting. Mr Dagfinnur also discussed about financial involvement of the meeting. He said Arctic Circle would utilize its general fund and the Circle is trying to get fund from few other organizations like Conservation International. He informed that travel and accommodation cost of the participants would be borne by the Arctic Circle. He also requested ICIMOD to come forward to share the expenses.

Then Dr Eclabya Sharma,DDG of ICIMOD took part in the discussion. He said, the Himalaya-Third Pole Circle was an informal organization. We should take initiative to make it formal or semi-formal. He proposed to rename the HTPC as Himalaya Third-Pole Forum. Dr Eclabya informed that ICIMOD would provide financial and technical support to the 3rd HTPC meeting in Bangladesh. He mentioned, ICIMOD would like to take a lead role in organizing the meeting. He also requested Secretary of MoCHTA to let ICIMOD know later about the role to be played by ICIMOD.

Representative from UNDP Mr Sharma mentioned that they would be a partner for organizing the event. They would provide CHT based knowledge management support. Dr. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director, Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies (BCAS) also committed support and co-operation of his organization in holding the meeting of HTP Forum in Bangladesh.

✓

After threadbare discussions the following decisions were made in the meeting:

1. PMO will be requested to fix the date of the meeting at any two consecutive days of last week of January 2018.
2. Duration of the meeting would be two days.
3. Venue of the meeting: Grand Ball Room of Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel, Dhaka.
4. Accommodation of the participants: Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel, Dhaka.
5. Himalaya-Third Pole Circle will be renamed as Himalaya-Third Pole Forum.
6. Charge for venue of the meeting would be borne by MoCHTA and would also host lunch on Day-1 and dinner on closing day.
7. Accommodation, travel and other costs will be borne by Arctic Circle and ICIMOD.
8. Arctic Circle and ICIMOD will send the list of participants from the region and beyond to MoCHTA as early as possible.
9. Another preparatory meeting would be arranged before the meeting.

Signature/-

12/11/2017

(Naba Bikram Kishore Tripua, ndc)

Secretary

Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs

Memo No: 29.00.0000.213.24.026.17-1284

Date : 12.11.2017

Distribution (Not as per Seniority):

1. Principal Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, Tejgaon, Dhaka.
2. Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka.
3. Secretary, Public Security Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Dhaka.
4. Dr. David Molden, Director General, ICIMOD, Katmandu, Nepal.
5. Mr. Dagfinnur Sveinbjornsson, CEO, Arctic Circle, Reykjavik, Iceland.
6. NORAD, Royal Norwegian Embassy, House no-9, Road-111, Gulshan, Dhaka-1212.
7. Police Commissioner, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Dhaka
8. Addl. Secretary (Development/Administration/Coordination), MoCHTA, Dhaka.
9. Joint Secretary (All), MoCHTA, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
10. Dr. A Atiq Rahman, Executive Director, Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies, House No-10, Road No-16/A, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212.

✓

