

## Workshop Report on Loss and Damage Side Event at COP23



Hosted by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development at th Independent University, Bangladesh

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Derag Livinghotel Kanzler, Bonn, Germany

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## Workshop Report

On the evening of November 9th 2017, participants gathered at the Derag Livinghotel Kanzler in Bonn for an unofficial COP23 side-event on Loss and Damage, which paid particular attention to Bangladesh's in-development National Mechanism on Loss and Damage. Dr. Saleemul Huq, director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) at the Independent University, Bangladesh, moderated the event.

He began by providing a short history on the Bangladesh National Mechanism on Loss and Damage. While the issue of Loss and Damage has gained considerable attention within the UNFCCC over the last half-decade, given how slow the international process has been, the Bangladesh government is currently deciding to develop its own mechanism. However, work on the mechanism has currently halted due to the Rohingya crisis.

Dr. Maria Kett, from the Leonard Cheshire Disability and Inclusive Development Centre, University College London, then gave a brief presentation on a UK government funded study she is conducting on disabilities and climate change. She began by providing an overall context for people with disabilities who often find themselves in poverty due to lack of access to services such as healthcare and education. However, she was encouraged by the fact the recent SDGs highlighted the needs of people with special abilities, whereas the previous MDGs made no mention.

She then handed the floor to one of her colleagues in the project, Ms. Shababa Haque, ICCCAD, who conducted field work in Bangladesh. Ms. Haque gave a case study of a woman with a disability who experienced cyclone Sidr, ultimately stressing the importance of ensuring even more inclusive DRR practices in Bangladesh.

Dr. Kett then let another one of her colleagues talk, Ms. Winnie Khaemba from the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS), who spoke about experiences in Kenya relevant to the project. Ms. Khaemba explained while Kenya has created both a disability act and disability policy, as well as various climate change policies and acts, there is little overlap between the two areas.

Dr. van der Geest, from the United Nations University in Bonn, then showcased a new book called "Assessing Loss and Damage in Vulnerable Communities". The book was intended as a draft user guide for future researchers interested in exploring questions of Loss and Damage on the ground. The guide is based on a research study Kees conducted in 2012 that investigated nine different case studies in nine different countries on Loss and Damage.

Following, Ms. Jennifer Bose from CARE, reflected on her experiences on visiting the Rohingya camps. While the issue was not connected to climate change induced Loss

and Damage, it was indicative of how governments will have to respond to the influx of migrants in the future.

Mr. Sven Harmeling, from CARE International, then drew insights from the draft paper on the Bangladesh National Mechanism on Loss and Damage, which he previously reviewed. He emphasized how current DRR efforts tend to focus on reducing death toll, but now need to focus also on livelihood protection (since Bangladesh has made considerable progress in reducing death toll from especially cyclones over the several decades). He also made an interesting point about using a Non-Economic Loss and Damage process to determine cultural artifacts that are particularly in threat of climate change, and therefore should be protected or salvaged.



Ms. Sheri Lim, from CARE International UK, wanted to thank Bangladesh for its proactive efforts in addressing loss and damage. Even though many countries are already experiencing loss and damage from climate change, she pointed out that Bangladesh is the only country she knows that is taking an active effort on the issue.

After providing a short history of his organization, Practical Action, Mr. Colin McQuistan talked about how technology innovations, driven by social good and not profit, could be instrumental in reducing loss and damage.



He gave an example from Nepal 15 years ago, where Practical Action helped rural farmers protect themselves by alerting them when flooding was likely to occur. Colin's final point was that a book should be made documenting concrete examples of climate change loss and damage to show policymakers that loss and damage was both real, and outside the scope of adaptation activities.

His colleague from Practical Action Bangladesh, Afsari Begum, from Practical Action Bangladesh, concurred with Colin and reiterated that Loss and Damage was already occurring in Bangladesh, and that action was needed.

The floor then went to Ms. Melody Braun, from the IRRI at the Earth Science Institute at Columbia University, who works in the climate risk insurance section. She pointed out while it was great that climate risk insurance had become a much more major issue at

COP23, the draw side is that it has led to polar views: where some believe it is the silver bullet, and others believe it has no place at all. Ms. Braun argued that climate risk insurance should be seen as one tool of many to address climate change loss and damage, and should only be used in situations where it proved beneficial.

Mr. Harmeling then ended by giving an update of the negotiation status of Loss and Damage at the COP. Dr. Huq then facilitated a final go-around of introductions for participants who were yet to introduce themselves and what their interested in Loss and Damage was.