



## **Institutional support and capacity building for mitigation of weather and climate hazards in Bangladesh**

H. O. Hygen, E. Hagemark, P. Evensen, and E. Martinsen

Norwegian Meteorological Institute, Climate services, Oslo, Norway (hans.olav.hygen@met.no, +47 2296350)

Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable developing countries in the world to suffer from various natural disasters such as flood, cyclone, earthquake, landslide and tsunami. This has a devastating impact on human life, economy, and environment. The ongoing economic development can be seriously hampered if the threats from natural disasters are not mitigated in an appropriate manner. The Government of Bangladesh through its nodal agencies, such as the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), is therefore giving high priority to reducing the impact of natural hazards in the country.

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has a strong presence in Bangladesh and is actively supporting several projects. One is this project between the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) and the Norwegian Meteorological Institute.

The main goal of this project is to reduce the impact from natural hazards in Bangladesh by increasing the capacity of BMD through a joint institutional cooperation project. The ultimate goal is to save human life and property in the regions affected by natural hazards.

There is an urgent need to build up new capabilities and take advantage of advanced technologies to be able to understand natural hazards in a comprehensive manner. The collaborating institutions in Bangladesh and Norway utilize the available resources in a pooled manner to address the problem of hazards caused by weather and climate in Bangladesh. The project is organized in four tasks:

1. Task related to Public Weather Services including training of BMD operational weather forecasters in Norway and Bangladesh
2. Task for Climate Services including training in climate analyses and empirical — statistical downscaling of climate predictions from global models
3. Task for contribution to planning for long term improvement of weather and climate analysis and prediction systems
4. Task for project management and mutual project planning

The project is a two year project running through 2012 and 2013, where the activities are focused around two workshops a year, one in Bangladesh and Norway every year.