



Building sustainable development through cooperative capacity building.

Hans Olav Hygen, Kristine Gjesdal, Gunnar Noer, and Audun Christoffersen
Norwegian Meteorological Institute, Oslo, Norway (post@met.no)

Bangladesh meteorological department (BMD) and Norwegian meteorological institute (MET) formed a cooperation for capacity building of BMD in 2011. The project was structured on 4 work packages with a joint leadership of every package. The packages were:

WP 1: Public Weather Services

WP 2: Climate Services

WP 3: Technical Solutions

WP 4: Project management

The project was structured around two meetings every year, one in Bangladesh and one in Norway, where meetings in Bangladesh reach a broader group of meteorologists, while the meetings in Norway were focused on education of key personnel from BMD.

MET's weather forecasting is centered around the in-house developed open-source suite DIgital ANALysis (DIANA) tool, while BMD's forecasting were centered around manual forecasting routines with paper maps. The transition from manual paper centered routines towards an integrated tool like DIANA soon became a combined priority for WP 1 & 3. Currently DIANA is used on a daily basis at the BMD head office in Dhaka and the regional offices in Bangladesh. In parallel with setting up the system and integrating data sources, all meteorologists at BMD have been trained on technical use of DIANA and to use the system in modern practical weather forecasting.

The first years of WP 2 was centered on introducing methods to work with their own data in a scientific fashion. To do this, the statistical software R were introduced, and a aim to publish a report on the climate of Bangladesh was set up. This report was launched in 2016, and will hopefully open the possibilities for BMD to be a more active player in the field of climate and climate services. The aim of the report is an overview of the current climate of Bangladesh, summarised in a fashion that various user groups may find useful. The continued work of WP2 is now focused on climate projections, and we use the R-package ESD.

The project have lasted for nearly 9 years. A yearly assessment of the project, with focus on the progress, have been performed as part of applying for funds. Still there is time for a broader evaluation. The surface of the project have been capacity building through teaching the skills in meteorology and climatology, but there is an underlying part of the project that is never mentioned: The real project is a change in culture and thoughts of both the recipients and the givers.