



## **Sixth Session of the South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF-6), Training Workshop and User Forum for Water Sector, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 19-23 April 2015.**

### **INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS**

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

The Sixth Session of the South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF-6), a Drought Seminar and User Forum for Water sector will be held during 19-23 April 2015 at the Headquarters of Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), Agargaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The main forum of SASCOF-6 will be held from 21-22 April 2015. It is to be preceded by a Training Workshop on Seasonal Prediction for the operational climate experts of the South Asian countries during 19-20 April 2015. These activities will be held through a programme for implementing the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and supported by WMO, Department of Environment, Government of Canada, India Meteorological Department (IMD), International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), Global Water Partnership (GWP), International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD). The Drought Seminar will be held in conjunction with SASCOF-6, on 20 April 2015 and the User Forum for Water Sector is to be held during 22-23 April 2015 at the same premises. The programmes will be conducted in English and there will be no provision for translation.

The main objective of the SASCOF-6 Forum is to provide a climate outlook for the 2015 summer monsoon season with the consent of all the participating regional and global experts as well as representatives of the member countries. The Forum will also be attended by representatives of the user community to identify needs of user sectors through a dialogue among different climate sensitive sectors and promote the use of SASCOF products by them. The training workshop will further strengthen the skills of the forecasters on seasonal prediction particularly the South-West Monsoon. The purpose of Water Forum is to bring better synergy between the Water and Climate community within the South Asian Countries with long term objective of making best use of the climate services and information provided through SASCOF efforts, and otherwise available in the region. This Forum will be held to introduce the seasonal climate information and seasonal hydrological prediction available in the South Asian region. It will also help to strengthen long range flood forecasting by way of extended weather prediction and to explain how to make use the climate information in managing irrigation water.

#### **VENUE:**

The main Forum of SASCOF-6, its Inauguration (21 April 2015) and Training Workshop will be held at the Conference Room (4<sup>th</sup> Floor) from 19 to 22 April 2015 of Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), Meteorological Complex, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207. The Drought Seminar will be held on 20 April 2015 and the User Forum for Water Sector during 22-23 April 2015 at the Hall Room (1st Floor) in the same premises of BMD.

#### **ENTRY AND VISA REQUIREMENT:**

International participants may need a visa to enter Bangladesh and are kindly requested to inquire about visa requirements from the Consulates/Embassies/High Commission of Bangladesh in their respective countries. It is advisable to take advance action for obtaining visas, as it might take significant time for the visa processing. All participants are urged to check their passport for required validity and visa requirements well in advance of travel.

All foreign participants are also requested to complete the attached Bio-Data form and send this to Ms. Taslima Imam (timam63@gmail.com) who can also arrange a letter of invitation in support of the visa application.

## **HOTEL ACCOMMODATION**

BMD will arrange the hotel accommodation for all experts and participants of SASCOF-6, Water Forum and Drought Workshop with financial support from WMO, ICID and GWP respectively.

## **RECEPTION ON ARRIVAL**

Airport pick-up and drop will be arranged by the hotel as part of complementary facilities.

## **LOCAL TRANSPORT:**

Local transportation (hotel-venue-hotel) is being arranged by BMD.

## **COMPUTER AND INTERNET ACCESS:**

The meeting/conference rooms will have internet & Wi-Fi facilities. Limited access to computers will be provided to the participants for the practical sessions, therefore participants are encouraged to bring their own Wi-Fi/Ethernet-ready laptop computers. Internet access/Wi-Fi is complimentary at the hotel.

## **ELECTRICITY:**

The mains supply in Bangladesh is 220 V (50Hz). Adapter with appropriate universal plug may be needed to use electrical appliance.

## **CURRENCY EXCHANGE:**

Some major currencies are convertible in Bangladesh. There are money changers in the Baggage Claim Area and also in the Arrival Hall at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka. There are also ATM machines that will accept credit and cash cards from foreign countries. Hotels will readily change money, but rates may not be to your advantage. Large business establishments and hotels will accept major credit cards, such as Visa, Master Card and American Express. Please keep passport available for identification purposes.

The exchange rate of Bangladesh Taka (BDT) is 01USD= BDT 78.00 (approx.). Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) available to withdraw cash.

## **TIME ZONE :**

The Bangladesh Standard Time is UTC+6.00.

## **LOCAL WEATHER:**

The month of April falls within the summer season of Bangladesh so the weather will be hot and humid with occasional thunderstorms.

Climatological normals for the month of April in Dhaka as follows:

Maximum Temperature	≈	34-35° C
Minimum Temperature	≈	22-24° C
Humidity (mean)	≈	60-70%
Rainfall (mean)	≈	150 mm
Number of rainy days	≈	10 days

## **TELE COMMUNICATION:**

Bangladesh has good telecommunication facilities. Landline and mobile networks are reliable. Prepaid phone cards and SIM cards for short-term usage on mobile phones are easily available.

## **LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

For any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the following BMD personnel:

Ms. Mahnaz Khan, Deputy Director  
International Meteorological Division, BMD  
Mobile : 88-01727544788  
Telephone : 88-02-9116918  
Fax: : 88-02-8118230  
E-mail : imetbmd@yahoo.com

Taslima Imam, Meteorologist  
International Meteorological Division, BMD  
Mobile : +88-01714202814  
Telephone : +88-02-9116918  
Fax: : +88-02-8118230  
E-mail : timam63@gmail.com  
E-mail : imetbmd@yahoo.com

Mr. Muhammad Abdul Khaleque, Professional Assistant,  
International Meteorological Division, BMD  
Mobile : +88-01717273581,  
Telephone : +88-02-9116918  
Fax : +88 (02) 8118230,  
E-mail : abdukhaleque76@yahoo.com  
: imetbmd@yahoo.com

## **WMO CONTACTS:**

Dr Rupa Kumar Kolli  
Chief, World Climate Applications & Services Division (WCAS)  
Climate Prediction and Adaptation Branch (CLPA)  
Climate and Water Department (CLW)  
World Meteorological Organization  
7bis, Avenue de la Paix  
Case Postale No. 2300  
1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland  
Phone: +41-22-730-8377  
Fax: +41-22-730-8042  
E-mail: RKolli@wmo.int

Lisa-Anne JIPSEN  
Project Officer  
World Climate Applications and Services Division  
Climate and Water Department  
World Meteorological Organization  
7 bis, avenue de la Paix  
Case postale 2300  
CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland  
Phone : +41 (0) 227308343  
E-mail : [LJepsen@wmo.int](mailto:LJepsen@wmo.int)

**ICID CONTACTS:**

DR. Avinash Chand Tyagi  
Secretary General  
International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)  
48, Nyaya Marg, Chanakyapuri  
New Delhi 110021, INDIA  
+91 11 2611 6837  
[avinash.c.tyagi@gmail.com](mailto:avinash.c.tyagi@gmail.com) , [tyagi@icid.org](mailto:tyagi@icid.org)

Mr. Shaji Sebastian  
Staff Assistant (SG)  
EA to Secretary General, ICID  
48, Nyaya Marg, Chanakyapuri  
New Delhi 110021, INDIA  
+91 11 2611 6837  
[shaji@icidonline.org](mailto:shaji@icidonline.org) , [icid@icid.org](mailto:icid@icid.org)