



South Asia Judicial Conference on Environment and Climate Change
25-26 November 2016
Dhaka, Bangladesh

AGENDA

(as of 24 November 2016)

Day 1: 25 November 2016

Arrival of Guests, Registration, Welcome Tea
9:00 am – 10:00 am
(doors will close at 10:00 am)

Special Documentary Screening: 30 Million
10:00 am – 10:30 am

Moderator: Mr. Gregorio Rafael P. Bueta, Legal and Policy Specialist (Consultant), ADB

The documentary 30 Million, on the impacts of climate change in Bangladesh, will be screened by the producers of the film. They will share their thoughts and insights on making the documentary, and how people's daily lives are affected by climate change.

**all participants and guests are to be seated by 10:30 am for the Inaugural Session*

Inaugural Session
11:00 am - 12:00 pm

- 11:00 am – Arrival of His Excellency Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid, the Honourable President, People's Republic of Bangladesh & National Anthem
- 11:01 am – Recitation from the Holy Quran
- 11:04 am – Opening Speech by Mr. Justice Md. Abdul Wahhab Miah, the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Appellate Division and Chairman, Preparatory Committee for the Conference
- 11:16 am – Welcome Remarks by Mr. Christopher Stephens, General Counsel, Asian Development Bank
- 11:22 am – Speech by Mr. Anwar Hossain Manju, the Honourable Minister, Ministry of Environment and Forests

- 11:28 am – Speech by Mr. Anisul Huq M.P, the Honourable Minister, Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs
- 11:34 am – Speech by Mr. Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, the Honourable Chief Justice of Bangladesh
- 11:46 am – Speech and Inauguration of the Conference by the Chief Guest, His Excellency, Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid, Honourable President, People’s Republic of Bangladesh
- 11:59 am – National Anthem
- 12:00 pm – Departure of the Honourable President

Photo Session 12:00 nn – 12:30 pm

Friday Juma Prayers 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm

Lunch Break 1:45 pm – 2:25 pm

Technical Session 1: Introduction to Climate Change

2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Session Chair: Hon. Mr. Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, Supreme Court of India
Facilitator: Ms. Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association

This Session will introduce the participants to the science and legal regime of climate change. Particular focus will be on the Paris Agreement, which came into force last 5 November 2016. The impacts and effectivity of the Paris Agreement moving forward will also be examined. A discussion on climate vulnerable groups will highlight a key issue in this ongoing debate.

- 1. The Science of Climate Change in South Asia** – Dr. Ahsan Uddin Ahmed, Executive Director, Centre for Global Change, Bangladesh (20 minutes)
- 2. International Legal Regime of Climate Change and Implications for South Asia** – Ms. Briony Eales, Consultant – Environmental Lawyer, ADB (20 minutes)
- 3. Climate Change Justice After Paris** – The Rt. Hon. Lord Carnwath of Notting Hill, CVO, Supreme Court of the United Kingdom (30 minutes)
- 4. Is Climate Change Enhancing Vulnerabilities?** – Ms. Irum Ahsan, Senior Counsel, ADB (20 minutes)

Q&A (30 minutes)

Remarks by Chief Justices 1

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm (10 Minutes for each Presentation)

Moderator: Mr. Gregorio Rafael P. Bueta, Legal and Policy Specialist (Consultant), ADB

Hon. Mrs. Chief Justice Shushila Karki, Supreme Court of Nepal
Hon. Mr. Chief Justice Lyonpo Tshering Wangchuk, Supreme Court of Bhutan
Hon. Mr. Chief Justice K. Sripavan, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka

The Chief Justices in attendance will be asked to give remarks, particularly as regards their respective judiciaries' efforts on environmental law and climate change.

Tea Break and Prayers 5:00 pm – 5:25 pm

Interactive Session 1: Discussion on Climate Induced Displacement and Migration 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Moderator: Mr. Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed, Judge, Supreme Court of Bangladesh

Panellists:

Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui, RMMRU, University of Dhaka

Mr. Hammad Naqi Khan, CEO, World Wildlife Fund Pakistan

Dr. Ramamurthi Sreedhar, Environics Trust, India

Mrs. Wardani Kurunaratne, Environmental Foundation, Ltd., Sri Lanka

This special panel discussion will discuss the pressing issue of climate induced displacement and migration, particularly in Bangladesh and other countries in South Asia

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm Dinner hosted by the Honourable Minister, Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs at Radisson Blu Dhaka

Day 2: 26 November 2016

Technical Session 2: The Impacts of Climate Change in South Asia 9:00 am - 10:30 am (20 Minutes for each Presentation and 30 Minutes for Q&A)

Session Chair: Hon. Mr. Chief Justice Lyonpo Tshering Wangchuk, Supreme Court of Bhutan

Facilitator: Mr. Ritwick Dutta, Legal Initiative for Forest and the Environment, India

Outside the lavish halls where international gatherings discuss how to deal with climate change impacts, the reality is that it affects peoples' lives and their very existence. Basic needs such as water, forests, and food source bear the brunt of the impacts of climate change. It also brings about the legal debate on the issue of loss and damage. This session will discuss these issues, and present solutions and best practices.

1. **Water and Climate Change: Challenges and Solutions** – Mr. Hammad Naqi Khan, CEO, World Wildlife Fund Pakistan
2. **Legal Aspects of Loss and Damage Associated with Climate Change** – Mr. M. Hafijul Islam Khan, Executive Director, Centre for Climate Justice – Bangladesh
3. **Legal Challenge to Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs): Presentation of Regional Case Studies** – Ms. Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association

Tea Break: 10:30 am – 10:45 am

Interactive Session 2: Judicial Perspectives on the Role of Specialized Courts in Rendering Environmental Justice

10:45 am - 12:15 pm (15 Minutes for each Presentation and 30 Minutes for Q&A)

Session Chair: Hon. Mr. Chief Justice K. Sripavan, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka
Facilitator: Mr. Ronaldo Gutierrez, Executive Director, Upholding Life and Nature, Philippines
Panellists:

Hon. Mr Justice A.F.M. Abdur Rahman, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Hon. Mr. Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif, the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, High Court Division
Hon. Mr. Chief Justice Lyonpo Tshering Wangchuk, Supreme Court of Bhutan
Hon. Mr Justice Swatanter Kumar, Chairperson, National Green Tribunal, India
Hon. Mr. Chief Justice Tun Arifin Bin Zakaria, Supreme Court of Malaysia
Hon. Ms. Justice Ayesha A. Malik, Lahore High Court, Pakistan

The past decade has seen an unprecedented increase in specialized courts and tribunals which deal with environmental cases. This has resulted in increased access to the courts, and the rendering of environmental justice. This session will discuss the perspectives and experiences of different countries as regards specialized courts, most especially during this period of climate change

Lunch Break: 12:15 pm – 1:25 pm

**Technical Session 3: Evolving Jurisprudence: From Environment to Climate Change
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm (20 Minutes for each Presentation and 30 Minutes for Q&A)**

Session Chair: The Rt. Hon. Lord Carnwath of Notting Hill, CVO, Supreme Court of the UK
Facilitator: Ms. Briony Eales, Consultant – Environmental Lawyer, ADB

This session will trace the evolution of jurisprudence - from purely environmental cases to the increasing climate change angle – in the context of South Asia's legal framework. The Nexus between environment and climate change will be examined, with particular cases and examples from outside the region, and the impact of urbanization will be presented. Discussion will follow how cases once seen as only dealing with national environmental laws and rules are now linked to the regional and international issues of climate change.

- 1. Developing Environment and Climate Change Jurisprudence: Philippine Case Study** – Mr. Ronaldo Gutierrez, Executive Director, Upholding Life and Nature, Philippines
- 2. The Nexus Between Environment and Climate Justice: Practical Examples** – Mr. Ritwick Dutta, Legal Initiative for Forest and the Environment, India
- 3. Livable Cities: A Proactive Approach to Urbanization, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience** – Ms. Ramola Naik Singru, Urban Development Specialist, ADB

Remarks by Chief Justices 2

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Moderator: Mr. Gregorio Rafael P. Bueta, Legal and Policy Specialist (Consultant), ADB

Hon. Mr. Chief Justice Tun Arifin Bin Zakaria, Supreme Court of Malaysia
Hon. Mr. Chief Justice Said Yusuf Halem, Supreme Court of Afghanistan

The Chief Justices in attendance will be asked to give remarks, particularly as regards their respective judiciaries' efforts on environmental law and climate change.

Interactive Session 3: A Dialogue Between the Public and the Judges

3:30 pm - 5:00pm

Moderator: Ms. Irum Ahsan, Senior Counsel, ADB

Panellists (Judges): Hon. Mr Justice Imman Ali, Supreme Court of Bangladesh; Hon. Mr Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain, Supreme Court of Bangladesh High Court Division Hon. Dr. Justice Ananda Mohan Bhattarai, Supreme Court of Nepal; Hon. Ms. Justice Ayesha A. Malik, Lahore High Court, Pakistan; Hon. Mr Justice Priyantha Jayawardene, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka

Panellists (Public): Ms. Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association; Mr. Ritwick Dutta, Legal Initiative for Forest and the Environment, India; Mr. Dina Mani Pokharel, Advocate, Nepal; Mrs. Wardani Kurunaratne, Environmental Foundation, Ltd., Sri Lanka

This Special Session, featuring international participants, will host a dialogue between lawyers, advocates, and activists who are often petitioners in court; and the judges, who are called upon to adjudicate on environment and climate change cases. Both sides will be able to ask questions and elicit responses, and share their thoughts on environment and climate change adjudication in a cordial and relaxed atmosphere, outside the confines of courtrooms and tribunals. The Session hopes to provide insights on how both petitioners and judges can help in facilitating each other's work.

Tea Break: 5:00 pm – 5:25 pm

Demonstration of the new Asian Judges Network on Environment Website and Follow-Up Commitments

5:25 pm – 5:45 pm

Moderator: Ms. Irum Ahsan, Senior Counsel, ADB

Valedictory Session

5:45 pm - 6:15 pm

Moderator: Ms. Irum Ahsan, Senior Counsel, ADB

1. **Closing Remarks** – Mr. Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, the Honourable Chief Justice of Bangladesh
2. **Closing Remarks** – Ms. Deborah Stokes, Vice-President for Administration and Corporate Management, ADB

**6:30 pm – Departure for the Supreme Court of Bangladesh*

7:30 pm – 10:00pm Farewell Dinner and Cultural Soirée hosted by the Hon. Chief Justice of Bangladesh at the Winter Garden of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh