

MINUTES OF THE 5th MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT NETWORKING PROGRAMME (SDNP) HELD ON DECEMBER 29, 2002.

A meeting of the Steering Committee for the Sustainable Development Networking Programme (SDNP) took place on December 29, 2002 under the Chairpersonship of Prof. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Chairperson, SDNP Steering Committee. The following other members of the Steering Committee were present:

1. Mr. Sabihuddin Ahmed, NDP, SEMP and Secretary, MoEF
Member, SDNP Steering Committee
2. Dr. M. Asaduzzaman, PD, SDNP
Member-Secretary, SDNP Steering Committee
3. Dr. M. Aminul Islam, SDA, UNDP
(Representative of UNDP),
Member, SDNP Steering Committee
4. Dr. Mizanur R Khan, Environment Specialist, PMU
(Representative of PMU)
Member, SDNP Steering Committee

Other who attended are;

Md. Tarik-ul-Islam, UNDP and
Saleh Khan, UNDP.

The Chairperson welcomed the members to the meeting.

Upon request from the Chair, PD, SDNP presented a brief on the minutes of the 4th Steering Committee Meeting (see attachment A) and then presented a report (see attachment B) on the follow-up of the minutes of the fourth meeting. Then he focussed on the agenda of the fifth meeting of the Steering Committee.

The discussions and recommendations by the Steering Committee are described below:

A. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the last meeting of the Steering Committee was approved anonymously.

B. Follow-up of the last meeting's decisions

- i) Revision of the PIP:- Submitted for necessary approval of the NPD on August 2002.
- ii) Training of SDNP and DIBS Staff:- Two personnel of SDNP (Mamun M. Sherif and Asaduzzaman, Research Officer) have been given training on advanced Database Management System.
- iii) Main server's connectivity to Internet:- A radio link connectivity of 128Kbps has been from NEKSUS on November 2001. However, to make the email services uninterrupted, the existing BOL link has been kept only for email.
- iv) Connectivity to Mymensingh Node:- The Dhaka-Mymensingh link has been completed and ready for launching.

- v) Gazipur Sub-node:- MoU has been signed with BRRRI, REB Mymensingh PBS-2, and BSMRAU. BSMRAU is hosting the Salna sub-node, while REB Mymensingh PBS-2 is hosting the Bhaluka sub-node.
- vi) Approval of the Sustainability Plan:- The sustainability plan need to be prepared at “not-for-profit” basis, in recommendation of the SDNP HQ Evaluation team and the Steering Committee. Final proposal will be made after the in-depth evaluation by SDN HQ in January 2003.
- vii) Establishment of PACs:- Students of nearby schools and colleges are attending the CAS of BIDS from 10:00-1:00 p.m. and 2:00-5:00 p.m. with a total of more than 100 students per week.
- viii) Visit to successful SDNP:- No visit has been arranged so far, and after the Mid-term evaluation mission, decision will be taken accordingly.

C. Decisions Taken

1. Revision of the PIP:- The PIP will need to be revised according to the evaluation mission. The NPD informed in this regard that the SEMP has been extended upto December 2005.
2. Finalize the TOR of mid-term evaluation team:- The TOR of the Mid-term Evaluation Mission has been approved.
3. Inauguration of Mymensingh regional node and Salna and Bhaluka sub-nodes:- The Mymensingh regional node at BAU will be inaugurated in the middle of January 2003. The Secretary, MoEF will take the appointment from the Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Forest and Environment for a date during the second week of January 2003. It has been suggested to invite the Hon'ble Education Minister, if possible.

Bhaluka sub-node can be inaugurated during the first week of February 2003, Salna sub-node during last week of February 2003. This was also suggested that, if possible to invite Hon'ble Science and ICT Minister and Hon'ble Finance Minister at Salna.
4. Training of SDNP and BIDS Staff:- Training programme can be conducted in Dhaka at BASE Limited, with a list to be approved by the PD, SDNP.
5. Main server's connectivity to Internet:- A technical report has been requested from the project to be submitted to the NDP, SEMP for necessary approval and immediate procurement. This has also suggested that after technical and financial justifications, the Sylhet regional node can be implemented through existing fiber-optics and radio link utilizing the Bangladesh Railway facilities. The Barisal regional node can be established utilizing Satellite earth station technology independent of any linkage intervention.
6. A consultant (business plan) may be engaged after visit and recommendations of the mid-term evaluation team.
7. Establishment of more PACs/CACs:- Decision given to establish more PACs/CACs in and around Dhaka, with provision to reach the remote area, where conventional communication is not possible.
8. Visit to successful SDNP:- After the visit of the mid-term evaluation mission, the visit may be initiated.
9. More connectivity for Press Clubs: Barisal, Panchagar, Cox's Bazar and Jessore Press Clubs can be given connectivity at convenient dates in consultation with the Jatiyo Press Club.

10. Collaboration with the Red Crescent: The committee approved this collaborative programme for establishing cyclone shelter information centres. One computer with a connectivity (10 hours/month free) at their library to build a database on physician and other health related activities has been approved.
11. Collaboration with Public Library: Collaboration activity with the National Public Library at Dhaka and their outreach stations has been approved in principle. Actual implementation may be tagged with the Virtual Library Programme.
12. Other Collaboration towards sustainability:- The Steering Committee was apprised of the collaboration with BPATC and BSS.
13. Exit Strategy:- The members requested the project to collect the Project documents from institutes like, IIFC, SWMC, CEGIS and ITCOL to prepare the draft exit strategy and plan, for submission to the mid-term evaluation mission for necessary recommendations.
14. Additional manpower to SDI:- Two positions (Regional Accounts Assistant) under the administrative support personnel can be appointed as per the provision of the implementing agency.
15. Miscellaneous:- A representative from Ministry of Science and ICT may be co-opted as a member to the Steering Committee. The project will contact the Secretary, MoS & ICT for necessary action.

As there were no other issues, the Chairperson thanked every body present and concluded the meeting.