

# News Bulletin

## Regional Environment Assessment Program-Asia

### Linking EA Professionals in Asia

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September 29, 2000

#### Exciting activities ahead

**Dear Friends:** Two exciting events that need your input: Regional Strategic Environment Assessment Workshop Islamabad October 30-November 1; and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual South Asian Environment Assessment Conference, Dhaka November 20-23. I have already circulated the relevant information to all NEAAs/SAREAA. If you need any further information, please contact Ms. Neera Pradhan.

As you are aware, the first 2-year phase of the CDEAP ends this December. For reviewing the past and determining the future line of action, a Mid-Term Review (MTR) is expected soon. We have circulated a questionnaire in preparation for the MTR. I look forward to receiving your responses soon. Warm regards

*Parvaiz Naim*

6. Assist in establishing a Regional Information Services for EIA incorporating a database of EIA regulations /procedures of all the SAARC countries as well as of developed countries
7. Assist in publishing a **Best Practice Handbook** for EIA for the region
8. Promote public participation and public disclosure for EIAs conducted in the region.
9. Help organize EIA training programs in all seven countries.
10. Help establish linkages and networking with leading academic institutions in the field, other international EIA Associations and with development institutions.
11. Assist in channeling donor assistance for enhanced SAREAA activities.
12. Assist in establishing a Regional EIA Institute under the umbrella of SAREAA.

**Time Commitment:** I am a self-employed person and ready to devote/allocate up to 90 person days every year for SAREAA activities.

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#### First SAREAA Executive Board constituted

Syed Shah Tariquzzaman is the first President of the SAREAA Executive Board constituted at the First SAREAA Convention held in Central Godavari Resort, Kathmandu August, 18-19. Other members of the Board include from Bangladesh Dr. Aminur Rahman, from Nepal Mr. Surya Man Shakya, from Pakistan Dr. Mirza Arshad Ali Beg and from Sri Lanka Mr. Cecil Amerasinghe. All these members carry the title "Vice President" of SAREAA.

At the Inaugural Session, the President of SAREAA *ad hoc* Committee Prof. Haroun Er Rashid welcomed all participants to the convention and provided an overview of the activities that took place over the last 4 years under his leadership. This was followed by speeches from the IUCN Nepal Acting Country Representative, Dr. Badri Dev Pande, the Technical Secretary of the Netherlands EIA Commission Mr. Reinoud Post, and the General Secretary of the

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#### Message from the President SAREAA



**Vision Statement :** As the President of SAREAA I will :

1. Vigorously pursue the interests of SAREAA, and do all that is necessary to ensure that it takes off on sound footing as a regional confederation of EA Associations of the region.
2. Assist in launching the South Asian Journal of EIA.
3. Promote a Regional EIA Convention of SAARC countries for effective transboundary cooperation on EIA
4. Try to bring all the SAARC countries under the SAREAA umbrella by the year 2001.
5. Assist in globalization of SAREAA activities to enhance its presence worldwide.

SAREAA *ad hoc* Committee Dr. Ram Bahadur Khadka. On behalf of IUCN, Dr. Zakir Hussian, Director Constituency Development & Coordination IUCN Asia, offered all possible help and support in achieving SAREAA's objectives. Ms. Neera S. Pradhan, Project Officer REAP, made a presentation on CDEAP activities.

The Vice President PEAA Mr. Arif Alauddin also took part in the deliberations. The Regional Environment Assessment Program Coordinator Parvaiz Naim participated as an observer. Secretarial support was provided by Ms. Tishna Rai.

All NEAA representatives signed the SAREAA Constitution. This Constitution was originally drafted by Mr. Lalanath de Silva, President SLEAA and later modified by Syed Shah Tariquzzaman and Dr. Mirza Arshad Ali Beg with input from all participants. SAREAA Constitution and Executive Board composition have already been ratified by all NEAAs except that of Nepal.

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#### Our efforts, Your comments.....

● **M. Husain Sadar** (Professor, Environmental Science, College of Natural Sciences, Carleton University, Canada): "A regular publication and wider distribution of this newsletter will certainly be very helpful for Linking EIA Professional in Asia. I feel that you should consider going a step further and promote linkages among EIA professionals in Asia and the rest of the world." "Congratulations for launching SAREAA web page."

● **Kishore Rao** (Chief Technical Advisor, SEMA, Vietnam): "Congratulations for an extremely well produced and "newsy" bulletin!"

**D.K.N. Kutty** (Consultant, India): "Very useful".

● **P. Sreekantan Nair** (Assistant Scientist, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, India): "Useful discussion on use of EIA in addressing environmental conventions".

● **R. Raveendran Pillai** (Chief Environmental Scientist & Coordinator, Kerala State Pollution Control board, India). "Interesting discussion on integrating various concerns in EIA, but due to various intricacies, separate approaches may need to be evolved best suited to each case."

● **Ainun Nishat** (Country Representative IUCN Bangladesh): "I am glad that your "News Bulletin" is a newsletter, not a mini semi-technical journal with articles written in semi-professional style."

● **Richard K. Morgan** (Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Centre for Impact Assessment Research & Training, University of Otago, New Zealand): "I am really very impressed by the effort that has gone into this whole initiative, and wish you and the rest of the team good luck for the future of REAP. For my part, it is enormously valuable to get first hand account of what is happening with EIA (and biodiversity protection!) in the region: for teaching and training, as well as research purposes."

#### Quiz EIA-3

OLGA Ltd. suspects a natural gas reserve in a wilderness area, which is home to Hog Deer. The company plans to increase feed supply at a near by alternate site (similar habitat) and temporarily relocate the deer there when not in breeding. Then the drilling will be completed in 3 months time and the well will be connected to a pipeline. A small enclosure (8 m dia) will be made around the well. Vegetation will be restored and the animals will be allowed back in the area.

What conditions would you impose before allowing OLGA to proceed with this plan?

Please send in your responses by **October 31** for possible discussion at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual South Asian EA Conference Dhaka, Nov 20-23, and printing in the next Bulletin.

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#### ? Quiz EIA-2

In the June issue of this News Bulletin, we presented to you the following Quiz EIA-2:

Assuming that the proponents of a factory approaches you to make the site available to build their factory, who in turn, would help you to develop another site of your choice to protect the existing habitats of an endangered bird species without any threat, and, they would also support your research for increasing the population of these birds, how would you respond to this argument in your EIA report?

The following are some of the key responses received:

**Andrea Bagri** (IUCN Economics Unit): "I think the question should not be how many birds to sustain a population...but what is needed to sustain the integrity and diversity of the ecosystem and species.... but that is beside the point...the idea of compensation is interesting, and falls in line with the CBD...as long as the compensation is determined to be of equal or better ecological value than the original site which is listed for destruction. Also, it is imperative that the compensation site is developed before the original is destroyed, to ensure the continuous provision of habitat.

**Kamini Meedeniya Vitarana** (Sri Lanka): " If the birds are endangered species it is obvious that the habitat must be uniquely suited to this particular species. It would be impossible for humans to reproduce these conditions within a few months or even decades, indeed if at all." Shift the factory!

**Mahfuzul Haque** (General Secretary, NEAB, Bangladesh): "It takes many years to bring displaced birds to a new habitat. They may get vanished before a habitat is created." Shift the factory!

**Nirmalie Pallewatta** (Deputy Regional Biodiversity Officer, IUCN Regional Biodiversity Program-Asia, Sri Lanka): "What is preventing the siting of the factory in another site without the endangered bird species?"

**Ukesh Raj Bhuj** (Conservation Program Director, WWF, Nepal): "Creating a bird habitat is not like creating a poultry farm." Shift the factory!

**Mohan Bahadur Kayastha** (Director, Rural Electrification Division, NEA, Nepal): "The losing of one at hand I will simply not accept even though thrust is given for the future prospects."

**Aditi Haldar** (Development Alternatives, India): "How are the project proponents going to take care of these organisms who might not be threatened at this point of time but can become threatened due to the industry. Therefore, the project proponent would have to conduct a detailed study on impacts of the industry on the local biota and not the 'threatened species' only. For all this, the project cost could be very high. Now, as an environmental consultant I might scare the project proponents who are my clients as well. So, what should I do? Well I don't have the answer."

**Pawan Kumar Labhasetwar** (Scientist, EIA Div NEERI, India): "I will allow setting up of the

industry if the environmental conditions in the new habitat are similar."

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#### NEAA News

##### ☉ NEAB, Bangladesh: SEMP Funded EIA training

With support from the Sustainable Environment Management Program of the Ministry of Environment & Forest, NEAB plans to conduct a series of EIA training courses for the EIA policy planners, practitioners and promoters in Bangladesh. Details with Dr. Mahfuzul Haque (mafuzul@citechco.net)

##### ☉ NEIAA, Nepal: EIA Training Organized

NEIAA has successfully organized a one-month EIA training program in association with SchEMS from 21st July to 20 August 2000 for HMG Nepal staffs, Ministries, GOs, NGOs and Private sector participants.

In addition to that, NEIAA has published proceedings of (1) SWOT Analysis; (2) Awareness Seminar for higher officials of Nepal (in Nepali); and (3) General Assembly of NEIAA.

##### ☉ PEAA, Pakistan: Code of Ethics & Conduct

Recognizing the significance of services in affecting the quality of life throughout the country, and accepting personal obligation to the profession, members and communities, the members of PEAA approved the Code of Ethics and Conduct and have committed themselves to the highest ethical and professional conduct. For the full text, please contact peaa@iucnp.org

##### ☉ SLEAA Publications

SLEAA has published their News Bulletin of August 2000 issue and the Proceedings of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention, Thematic Session and Training Workshop that was held in Colombo November 5-7, 1999. Copies available with [sleaa@panlanka.net](mailto:sleaa@panlanka.net)

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#### REAP round-up

##### ✓ Bye Anne-Marie, Hi Edith and Margreet

Ms. Anne-Marie Dusablon has completed her internship assignment and returns to Canada in October after some trekking in the Himalayas.

Ms. Edith Anneveldt and Ms. Margreet Pasman join REAP for their internship assignment from September 22, 2000 to January 2001. They are master's degree students of Van Hall Institute, Leeuwarden, the Netherlands. They will carry forward the work on "Integrating Biodiversity concerns in EIA". Their contact: [reap-intern@iucn.wlink.com.np](mailto:reap-intern@iucn.wlink.com.np)

**Announcements:**

➤ **Oct. 18 - 20:** International Pollution Prevention Summit, Montreal, Canada; Contact: The Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention, 100 Charlotte Street, Sarnia, Ontario, N7T 4R2; Tel: +1-519-337-3429; fax: +1-519-337-3486; "<http://c2p2.sarnia.com>

➤ **Oct. 29 - Nov 1:** Regional SEA Workshop for Senior Planners, Islamabad, Pakistan. Contact: Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad ([dpep@comsats.net.pk](mailto:dpep@comsats.net.pk)) or Ms. Neera S. Pradhan ([neera@iucn.org](mailto:neera@iucn.org))

➤ **November 20-23:** Second Annual South Asian EA Conference, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Deadline for receiving abstracts and full papers are **Oct. 16** and **Oct. 31** respectively.

As a part of the Conference, a 2-day (Nov 20-21) Regional Training Workshop on "Integrating Biodiversity concerns in EIA" will be led by Arend Kolhoff (Netherlands EIA Commission) and regional experts. Details, with Ms. Neera S. Pradhan .

➤ **April 26-30, 2001.** International Symposium on Soil Erosion Management, Taiyuan, China. Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, (CAS). The deadline for the receipt of abstracts is November 30, 2000. A copy of your abstract in digital form should be sent by E-Mail to Dr. Zheng Du, [caiqg@mx.cei.gov.cn](mailto:caiqg@mx.cei.gov.cn)

**Health, Safety & Environment Info:** The Global Environmental Management Initiative (GEMI) has announced the availability of a new HSE Web Depot. It is designed to help Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) professionals, facility managers and business unit leaders provide value to their companies by reducing costs and risks and improving performance through HSE information automation. Web site: <http://www.gemi.org/>

**SAREAA Web Page**

The SAREAA Webpage now carries the full text of the SAREAA Convention signed by all NEAA representatives. All issues of the News Bulletins are also posted on the page. The Announcement Section carries the relevant information on the Regional SEA Workshop and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual South Asian Environment Assessment Conference. Please visit:

<http://sareaa.sdnpc.org>



**SAREAA Convention Participants** (August 18-19, Kathmandu): From left to right: Parvaiz Naim; Dr. Ram Bahadur Khadka; Dr. Aminur Rahman; Mr. Cecil Amerasinghe; Mr. Surya Man Shakya; Prof. Haroun Er Rashid; Mr. Syed Shah Tariquzzaman; Dr. Mirza Arshad Ali Beg; Mr. Arif Alauddin; Dr. Zakir Hussain.

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