

RCE Greater Dhaka: Grand Celebration of World Environment Day 2014

International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT), the host institute of RCE Greater Dhaka has been awarded second prize for its ESD activities, in the weeklong World Environmental Day-2014 Fair organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of Bangladesh. Out of total 91 different institutions including Public and Private Universities, Government's Departments, Donors and NGOs, joined in the fair. Professor Dr Mohammed Aaur Rahman, Director, Centre for Global Environmental Culture (CGEC) and Coordinator of RCE Greater Dhaka received the Crest of excellence from the Deputy Minister, Environment and Forest Mr. Abdullah Al Islam Jakob, MP as a recognition of the outstanding contribution to creating public awareness toward healthy environment for combating the worst effects of climate change.



The theme of the World Environment Day 2014 was “*Raise Your Voice Not the Sea Level Rise*” and IUBAT with RCE Greater Dhaka presented an extraordinary theme “*Science behind Tradition*” and showed thoughtful slogans, videos and posters reflecting climate change, model

of home gardening and grey water recycling project etc. Visitors impressed by the excellent performance of the stall-recorded comments appreciating the devotional commitment of academics of the university.

Professional experts of environmental arena have lauded the role of IUBAT and RCE Greater Dhaka for their wide-ranging involvement in climate change, adaptation program and coastal zone management efforts including plantation of indigenous trees for landscape management and highlighting the scientific values of national and traditional defense mechanisms against natural disasters and climate extremes. The endeavor of IUBAT for establishing “Green Campus” and introduction of “Environmental Sustainability” course mandatory for all to facilitate healthy environment leading to sustainable development were also praised by the experts. The importance of traditional short-cycle biomass recycling, grey water use, excavation of hundreds of thousand large ponds for surface water storage and extended and raised land area; beneficial uses of local foods against conventional chemical fertilizer and pesticide-based agricultural practices those are causing harm to soil, air and water and vanishing habitats of millions of flora and fauna were strongly emphasized.

“Undulation is the beauty of nature and it keeps all the systems running” was explained for easy understanding of the importance of the hills and wet-bodies; locally adapted trees and their behavior in different zones against tornadoes, cyclones, storm, tidal surges, floods and erosion control etc. citing the examples of traditionally planted bamboos, canes, palms and nuts and naturally growing strong barriers like Sal forests and the mangroves. The adverse impact of increasingly withdrawal of ground water for agriculture and industrial uses pushing towards acute water stress and ultimately drought and affecting the size and production, especially of the tree crops and ultimately on the daily life. Thus the need for the traditional wetland, floodplain and coastal zone management practices were highlighted with scientific logics. So the traditional knowledge, biodiversity and landscape management have got the base for mitigating climate change extremes in the national policy planning.

