Non-official Component

Ardeshir Cowasjee writes from Karachi

As far as Kargil is concerned, we should do everything possible to put a damper on it, to try and make the world forget. Scapegoats are always created after blunders, and today it is the army that is being blamed. Some are led to believe that the Prime Minister was not aware of the operation.

IF we are to leap into the next century and, after the passage of half a century, be capable of standing on our own feet and dealing with the First World our people will have to be educated in the profound sense of the word.

A few, very few, have been advocating education for all since early this century. Nawrojee Nusserwanjee Pochajee, an enlightened Parsi of Karachi, left half his considerable fortune for the building of a school, specifically a girls' school, and his money was the seed money with which the Mama Parsi Girls' School was established in Karachi in 1908. As he rightly put it, it is girls who become mothers and at whose feet children learn what no school or college can teach them. Up to 1947, the school restricted itself to girls of the Parsi community, but then, on the request of Mohammed Ali Jinnah it opened its doors to those of all communities. Now, 52 years later, 95 per cent of the girls learning there are Muslims.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif recently gave a birthday present to the daughter of his erstwhile benefactor, General Zia-ul-Haq, drawing money from public funds provided to him to be used at his discretion. He later realised his mistake and reportedly has reimbursed the fund. The question arises: should he have used public funds for personal gain? Would a truly educated man do so? Some maintain that he knowingly did wrong, others that he did so truly believing that the people's money is his to do with as he may please. Whichever way one looks at it, the pointer is towards an uneducated man.

According to the Dawn's calculations, our Prime Minister has so far, during this his second round, made 51 foreign trips. On each, he has taken with him as many joyriders as his, or our, large Boeing can accommodate, and the expenses of each trip have been debited to the people. His flunkies follow suit. Some of his governors and chief ministers fly around the country in their special planes on personal and pleasure trips claiming that to do so is their 'entitlement.'

The trip record entitlement reportedly stands with our Rhodes Scholar, Wasim Sajjad, the Permanent Chairman of the Upper House, who sits one breath away from the presidency. It is said that since he sat in his chair he has made over 88 trips abroad at the people's expense. There may be a corrective letter from his office claiming he has not made 88 trips, but what the letter will not inform us is that he has actually scored 93 and is well on his way to his century.

My friend Ilahi Bakhsh Soomro, boss of the Lower House, is endeavouring to catch up. He uses his entitlement to depart every two to three months with a clutch of MNAs who form a 'parliamentary delegation' to attend various meetings around the world. We are not told whether they go to learn or to instruct, but we do know that they return home as educated as they were.

This 'entitlement' attitude is pernicious and destructive. One of Benazir's governors, Kamal Azfar, grew up in the house of his father, Mohammad Azfar, an officer of the ICS and later of the CSP, a man who cannot be faulted, and who today is the oldest living civil servant in the country. A frail man, he has always lived within his means and can hold his head high as he has the rare distinction of having left the service on differing with Ayub Khan on a point of principle. He and his wife brought up their children well. Kamal went to Baliol at Oxford, one of the world's finest colleges, and was called to the Bar from the Inner Temple. He then studied with the famous scholar Gunar Myrdal.

As Governor of Sindh Kamal gave from his discretionary fund a sum of Rs 10 lakhs to the rich Karachi Golf Club for it to build a gallery in which a plaque with his name engraved upon it would be placed. Now, again we must ask whether an educated man would do this?

Following Kamal's example, the famous banker M B Abbasi, before he ran the NDFC dry, gave Rs 15 lakhs from our financial institution to have his name engraved on a plaque to be placed on a pavilion.

Following the example of Mian Nawaz Sharif, would both these gentlemen be willing to repay the public exchequer? Should either claim to be in a state of virtual penury, as a member of the Golf Club I will vote that the Club repay what it wrongfully accepted, enabling them to pay back to the people what they stole.

Now we come to what the Foreign Office calls the 'non-official component of the Pakistan delegation' to the United Nations General Assembly. Each year the Assembly meets for about three months and non-officials are invited by the Government to go on a jaunt to New York at its expense. Each delegation of five to ten members is scheduled to stay fifteen days at the UN. This time I was put in the ring by the FO on the Prime Minister's directive. Why? The Prime Minister knows me well enough, he says he reads what I write. We have known each other for some time and he knows what I think of him as a man (I like him) and as a prime minister (a complete disaster). Would an educated man have included my name in the list of UN delegates?

I informed the Foreign Secretary that I would not go. The next day I read in the Dawn that the non-official components consisted of "Senator Akram Zaki, Ahsan Iqbal, MNA and Chairman 2001 programme, Fakhr Imam, MNA, Mr Pervaiz Malik, MNA, Senator Javed Iqbal (former chief justice), Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, S M Zafar, Dr Hamida Khuhro, Dr Attiya Enayatullah, Dr Alexander John Malik, Bishop of Lahore, Mr P K Shahani, Mr S A Rahman, ambassador-at-large, Mr Mehdi Masood (former ambassador), Mr Hameed Haroon, Mr Ardeshir Cowasjee, and Ms Nasim Zehra." How many of these joy-riders will go (Nasim has refused)?

Then I read "It is widely expected that either Ardeshir Cowasjee or Nasim Zehra will make a statement in the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly reaffirming the government's adherence to the principles of freedom of speech and the press in Pakistan."

Widely expected? By whom and why? Are Nasim and I not expected to know what is happening in this country? Have I not seen the marks left by the beatings inflicted on journalist Hussain Haqqani's bottom? Do we both not know how editor Najam Sethi's house was broken into by government goons in the middle of the night, how he was dragged away blindfolded and kept for a month in solitary confinement in safe-houses?

Then there arrives a letter from the Foreign Office saying, "Please be informed that the Prime Minister has been pleased to nominate you as a special envoy to visit West Coast cities and Washington to explain post-Kargil situation to public representatives, think-tanks and media."

The Prime Minister may not know, but surely the Foreign Office does, what happens when private individuals address think-tanks and the media in the US and how he is questioned? What could I possibly have told them about Kargil other than, as I have declared publicly, that it was an unmitigated disaster. Do I tell them that I come from an illiterate country of 140 million whose Senate Chairman, the same Rhodes scholar, will not permit debate or discussion on what is euphemistically known here as 'honour killings,' thus legalising murder? Or, that I come from a country where the government sends in a mob to raid the Supreme Court to obstruct the course of justice, a raid filmed by the international media and by the court's own cameras, for which raid it was much later held by three judges of the same court that no one was responsible, implying that in actual fact it never took place? What do I say about the 'extra judicial' killings and of killings whilst in police custody?

As far as Kargil is concerned, we should do everything possible to put a damper on it, to try and make the world forget. Scapegoats are always created after blunders, and today it is the army that is being blamed. Some are led to believe that the Prime Minister was not aware of the operation. Whether he was or not, he must know that the buck stops at his table, or at the table of the Supreme Commander of our Armed Forces, President R A Tarar.

Things could be different if the fun-seekers and looters of the people's wealth ruling over us from Islamabad were answerable to a public that is literate and educated in the greater majority.

Healthcare in a Shambles

by Navine Murshid

In a country where public sector healthcare services are in a shambles, private clinics have been the last bastion of hope for medicare-seekers. Unfortunately, they are in no better condition either. The Directorate of Health and the BMDC must recognise the grim reality.

THE affairs in the country's health sector have been in a mess longer than one can remember. The mounting healthcare strain bears testimony to that, and it is clearly visible that people are not far from throwing their hands in the air out of despair.

The health policy is inconsequential to people's expectations from their government. The health ministry seems to have bestirred itself with too much effort for too little purpose. It would be unkind to compare the authorities to one in a hurry — for health for all by the year 2000 — to shut the stable door after the horse has bolted. In fact, they are mainly stabled in the country's hospitals. And the atmosphere in the government-run hospitals leaves much to be desired. There have been reports of many acts of negligence on the part of doctors, nurses and the people concerned whose primary duty is to ensure proper medical care. The doctor-patient ratio is on the rise as doctors find themselves unable to satisfy the increasing number of patients flowing in. There has also been a case, for example, in the Casualty Operation Theatre of DMCH where a dentist performed appendectomy. The doctors alone cannot be blamed: the lack of proper equipment in reasonable numbers, machines lying around and becoming obsolete, lack of maintenance of operation theatres are only a few examples which add to the drawbacks of the present healthcare system. Where there are fifteen caesarean operations taking place a day, the Gynaecology Department of Dhaka Medical College has just one set of instruments to cater to these obstetric emergencies. Not only do these raise questions about hygiene and spread of diseases, but it also delays the whole operation process which results in inefficiency.

The Institute for the Disabled, reportedly, has a horrific scene to offer: An open veranda with a rusted railing adjacent to a drain filled with used bandage, cotton and needles, which still have blood on them. The open veranda has 36 beds lined up because this also happens to be the postoperative ward. According to doctors, this ward is supposed to be the most hygienic and properly maintained one because this is the place where patients are brought after being operated on. This is a vulnerable state, as patients become prone to various diseases and infections unless they have a clean environment. But the Institute for the Disabled is beyond all that!

An example of machines becoming obsolete can be seen in the open corridor adjacent to the Dhaka Medical College Morgue. In a box where many a poster has been pasted, and which is under the constant aggression of climatic changes, is a cooler that is used to preserve dead bodies. This was brought with the help of the World Health Organisation (WHO) from Finland three years ago. However, the authorities are yet to place it in a proper place. Soon, it will not be in a usable condition.

Problems of the health sector are a major public concern. A Service Delivery Survey was carried out in February and March this year as part of World Bank's review of the Health and Population Sector Programme (HPSP) covering 26,207 households in six divisions across the country. The survey unfolds disconcerting components that need attention and action. The fact that our public sector health facilities are in a shambles has once again been identified. Besides, inefficiency, shortage of specialists and trained nurses, bad behaviour of the health service personnel to service seekers, scarcity of medicine and equipment are discouraging people to approach private healthcare agencies. Circumstances are worse in the rural areas, particularly affecting women and children. The state of the affairs demands immediate improvement.

Health sector inadequacies do not require exuberant sums to adjust. To keep the nation healthy "goodwill" should be placed before both service providers and their controlling authority. Administrative weaknesses seem to be the main reasons why healthcare services are under-achieved. Over-centralisation seems another cause of the bottlenecks. It not only delays implementation but also breeds low efficiency. The worst part, perhaps, is that failures are being caused by cumbersome procedures and plain bureaucratic tangles that should have been addressed and rectified years ago. The FPHP has already submitted its survey report to the ministry. It is vital that the health ministry, plagued by its bureaucratic inertia, does not take unusually long time to evaluate and implement, what is learnt from the findings, in ensuring our right to quality healthcare.

The news of Sir Salimullah Medical College and Mitford Hospital rolling without any essential drugs, including life-saving ones, for the last two months once again reveals the disheartening status of the country's health-and medi-care services systems. Lack of supply of about two hundred such medicines for more than eight weeks sends dreary signals to patients who depend on this hospital located in the old part of Dhaka city. And that patients undergoing surgery are left on their own to buy drugs which are urgent for them from stores outside the hospital premises is another imposing worry. This proves inefficiency of the medi-care machinery in the country.

The absence of essential drugs reportedly originates from financial mismanagement among the hospital authority, the health directorate of the government and Essential Drug Company Limited (EDCL), the firm that provides pharmaceutical products to the government-run hospitals. On the one hand, EDCL freezed their supply because Mitford Hospital owes quite a large amount of money to this concern; and on the other, cash sanctioned for this hospital by the financial wing of the health directorate is not sufficient to resume this supply immediately. The apparent lack of coordination and financing among these authorities are affecting the patients. This asymmetrical anomaly must not be allowed to continue. The health directorate should evaluate whether there is a need to raise budget allocations for the hospital, the hospital concerned should be more cautious about handling drugs so that these don't find way illegally into the stores outside the hospital, and EDCL is expected to be more flexible about supplying medicine so that no patient aches, say, in absence of a 'pathedine'.

The news in the other day's Daily Star on pilferage of drugs from the leading healthcare establishments like Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Mitford Hospital, Institute of Cardio-Vascular Diseases etc., by creating an illegal 'open market' of essential drugs, including life-saving ones, once again exposes our "immorality". Buying and selling of stolen medicines at the Mitford market speak of the thawing nexus between the hospital staff and the traders. Reported non-availability of free medicine at the hospitals bears testimony to the fact that this imbecile trade is engineered by a section of hospital insiders. Again, the fear of marketing blood serum illegally does not seem outlandish in the present ambience. This will add an adverse fillip to our healthcare system, and healthcare-seekers' lives will be jeopardised by infusion-related deadly diseases like Hepatitis B, HIV/AIDS etc.

This syndicated "open drug market" on a frightening scale only points to the animated negligence by the hospital authorities and the health directorate of the government. The result of this is an intensifying irregularity in our already inadequate medi- and health-care system which makes our commitment 'Health for All by the Year 2000' an apparent hype. This wholesale drug marketing must not be allowed to continue. The hospital authorities and the health directorate must shoulder the responsibility for the supply and handling of drugs so that these do not find way into stores outside hospitals illegally. The authority should equip itself with a self-righteous crew of law enforcers to, first, curb, and then, eliminate this felonious communion between the hospital personnel and the drug retailers. An honest endeavour is indeed needed to uproot this kind of licentiousness from within our well-equipped hospitals; otherwise health units outside Dhaka are bound to be influenced by this folly.

Surely, Rubel has done the society a big favour by overcoming his personal bereavement to make public the sordid tale of professional negligence at one of city's private clinics that led to the premature death of his mother, Lutfun Nessa, late last year. The accusations he has made against the management and on-duty medical personnel at the clinic echo the predicament of many others under similar situation. However, there is every possibility that Rubel's cry for justice will not be enough to get the culprits their due. Let alone adjudication, the Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC) has not been able to even frame charges of malpractice and professional negligence in almost each case of similar allegations over the last 28 years due to "lack of enough evidence."

At the Directorate of Health, there has not been much activism, either. The grim track record on regulatory affairs suggests absence of an effective surveillance mechanism for detecting irregularities at the private medicare establishments, decimating the Council's Code of Medical Ethics to mere words. Worse even, despite glaring violations of the Medical Practice and Private Clinics and Laboratories (Regional) Ordinance, 1982, many clinics are reported to have bribed some corrupt inspectors to obtain certificates and for 'clean bill of health' from regulation inspections. Inadequately equipped, in terms of personnel and logistics, these clinics often succeed to attract more patients for their 'reasonable' service charges. As one disgruntled owner of a better-equipped clinic has put, it has become "the best business one can think of." It is people like Lutfun Nessa who pay the price for such rampant irregularities and administrative inertia with their lives.

In a country where public sector healthcare services are in a shambles, private clinics have been the last bastion of hope for medicare-seekers. Unfortunately, Rubel's story suggests that they are in no better condition either. The Directorate of Health and the BMDC must recognise the grim reality. They must dedicate their efforts to shore up the surveillance mechanism so that not one instance of malpractice or professional negligence goes unaccounted for, be it at a private clinic or at a government hospital.

Transit or Transhipment: Looking into the Prospects

by Capt Imam Anwar Hossain

ANYBODY walking up from the customs checking counter to the departure lounge at Calcutta airport will unmistakably notice this fascinating slogan "Heaven lies in the east of India" on the front wall that the stairs lead to and will be charmed by the accompanying tableau depicting the serene and panoramic views of the lush green contours, olive coloured velvety tea gardens adorned with beautiful Mongolian tea plucking girls, spectacular waterfalls dancing with the joy of paradise — the splendour of tranquil beauties of the 'seven sisters' i.e. Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Monipur, Tripura and Mizoram. This slogan is authentically true for the nature lovers but for Bangladesh the truth lies in another area i.e. economy. May be our economic heaven also lies in the east of India.

Our bilateral trade with India through the western frontier has always been a story of financial disaster. Day by day the growing trade imbalance has worked appallingly against us. Whereas our official and unofficial import through the western front is more than US $2 billion, our export is only about US $0.2 billion. In contrast, once Bangladesh opens up its eastern frontier with India i.e. allows transhipment/transit of Indian goods to the eastern Indian states a flood gate of foreign currency earning will open and our economic gain in bilateral trade with India will get a jump-start by earning US $400 million through handling of truck transhipments alone. Like our two other major foreign currency earners i.e. Garment Industries and Manpower Exports, transhipment business may also be multidirectional and enormous. The trade gap with India will thereby be reduced gradually and may even be eliminated altogether. The income from air, sea, river, land and railway transhipments and transit can be bountiful. Some examples of foreign currency earnings through transhipment/transit may be given below:

Land transhipment by truck: Understandably his will be the major commercial operation in the transhipment deal. As per world bank estimate it will generate US $400 million per year for Bangladesh. It will also create many new jobs and enhance income of many business enterprises in Bangladesh including BIWTC, JMB and other government agencies. Downstream benefits will go to many others. As for the fear of increase in smuggling through this route, it could easily be prevented if sealed covered vans or sealed ISO containers are used instead of open trucks for this purpose. There is also a fear of overloading our roads and heavy congestion. Since our own trucks will be plying on these roads, the fear of overloading should not arise. Congestion on our highways are mainly man made and if proper traffic management is undertaken this problem should not exist.

River transit through inland waterways: This business already exists and could be further improved by inclusion of Bangladeshi rivercraft owners permitting them to carry 50 per cent of inter-Indian goods. The present monopolistic operation by CIWTC makes river freight quite high and CIWTC do not have enough rivercraft needed to expand this business. India is contributing for Bangladeshi rivers to be kept suitably navigable for such rivercraft. Bangladeshi river craft owners could earn US $5 million per year from this business. BIWTC, BIWTA and other business establishments would be benefited from this transit/transhipment through river route.

Ocean transhipment through Chittagong/Mongla port: Chittagong port is connected with the seven sisters through railway since the British days. Also there are a number of border check points connected by road with Chittagong and Mongla Ports. Both Chittagong and Mongla ports are connected with Karimganj (Silchar) and Dhubri and Guahati (Assam) through natural inland riverways. Last year (1998) Chittagong port handled cargo of about 15 million tons including Nepal transit cargo. Allowing transit of inter-Indian, direct import and direct export cargo of these seven sisters through Chittagong port would increase cargo handling by another 20 per cent i.e. about 3 million tons per year. Estimating transhipment freight at US $30 per metric ton, our gross income could then by around US $100 million per year. The beneficiary of this business will be C&F agents, stevedores, Chittagong port, Railway, truck owners, lighter/barge owners, thousands of labourers etc. Hundreds of new jobs could be created. If Nepal and Bhutan could be included in the same stream then the total income would go up much higher. Similarly, Mongla port could also be used for transhipment of inter-Indian goods and direct import and export goods of West Bengal, Nepal, Bhutan and Assam. It is likely that the income through Mongla in this manner could be around US $10-20 million per year.

Many are concerned about the congestion in these ports, if transit is allowed. But if capacity utilisation is efficiently ensured, the cargo handling capacity of these two ports could be doubled with just some improvement in logistics and manpower training. Just to give an idea how bad our port handling is, it may be mentioned that an 800 TEU vessel takes 3-7 days to load and unload in Chittagong port whereas in Colombo the same vessel will take only about a day to complete loading and unloading. A Bangladeshi flag vessel 'MV Taraman Bibi' recently took 20 days to load 9000 tons of jute at Mongla Port, whereas the same vessel discharged all this jute in Bin Qasim port (Pakistan) in just four days. If other SAARC ports could already achieve such efficiency, our ports should also be able to achieve the same once the situation will demand so.

Ocean freight for inter-Indian trade: Bangladesh could impose a logical condition on India that 50% of all inter-Indian cargo passing through Chittagong port will be carried by Bangladeshi flag vessels. This way about 1.5 million tons of cargo could be carried by Bangladeshi vessels. Taking sea freight at US $25 PMT on the average, the gross income from this sector could be as much as US $38 million per year through Chittagong port only, while income through Mongla port by similar arrangements could be about US $4 million.

Transit of air cargo passengers: The Seven Sister states are capable of producing huge exportable horticultural and agricultural products. Their nearest Airport is Calcutta which does not have as much International traffic as Dhaka airport. Therefore all these states will depend on Dhaka Airport for their import and export by air. Similarly thousands of tourists could get transit through Dhaka for their inward and overseas air passage. Bangladeshi airports and local airlines and hotels could be immensely benefited through this transit. Income from this sector could be as high as US $10 million per year.

Other possibilities: Bangladesh may allow inter-Indian gas pipe line to pass through Bangladesh soil from Tripura to West Bengal and also a number of inter-Indian power lines. Government could earn huge compensation and recurring annual royalty from giving this facility to India. Opening of transit facilities through Bangladesh will also lay the foundation of the Trans-Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway which would bring future benefits to Bangladesh in many directions.

Transit is a very old transport concept used is many countries for hundreds of years. In olden days, Venice was the transit point between East and West and similarly, Bengal in the East, through its seaports situated at the tip of Bay of Bengal, provided transit for India, Nepal, Assam, northern Burma, Thailand and even South-western China. We have a glorious history of allowing transit and yet remaining proudly independent for most of our recorded history. No country ever lost its sovereignty because of allowing transit. If transit meant loss of sovereignty then countries like Singapore, Egypt, Panama, Belgium and Holland could not have existed. Even China, Japan, and Singapore are allowing military transit till now.

Singapore, from its very inception allowed transit to Malaysia for inter Malaysian goods and foreign goods to pass through. Malaysia recently built many sea ports and improved its port capacity drastically and even then transit trade through Singapore did not diminish. From one multilane causeway Singapore has built another multilane causeway to enhance transit trade with Malaysia. Singapore has become militarily even strong due to its income from unrestricted transit and other inter-regional business. Therefore allowing commercial transit does not put a dent in a country's sovereignty at all, rather it raises a country's financial standing and helps it become also militarily strong to protect its sovereignty. No country, however friendly with us, should be allowed to make us commercially dependent on them with mountainous trade imbalance in their favour. If such a situation is allowed to continue, then our sovereignty may be in real danger.

We must bargain with India for better terms. India should also allow us to use its road and railway routes for our goods to pass through to Nepal, Bhutan, Burma and thereby to China and Thailand on the east and Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asian countries on the west. Our previous governments gave lots of trade concessions to India by reducing tariff for Indian goods imported into Bangladesh. Our past, present and future goodwill to India should be equally reciprocated.

The Seven Sisters are our closest neighbours. As landlocked states, they are much dependent on us for their quicker supplies and spontaneous trade and commerce within India and also with the outer world. Their huge landscape has bountiful untapped mineral and forest resources. We must join hands with them without delay to help them as well as ourselves in the exploitation of these cheap natural resources. Transit is the first step in that direction.

The writer is a Class-I Master Marine (UK)

Measuring Environmental Quality

Search for a Methodology

by Dwijen Mallick

ENVIRONMENTAL Quality Indicators (EQIs) are being increasingly recognized as very useful tools for measuring the state of environmental of country, a region. During the past decades inspired by the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, various international institutes such as World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Resources Institute (WRI), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) etc., have compiled and published hundred of environment related indicators. The process of developing useful indicators has been hampered by the uncertainty regarding what to measure and how to measure in order to characterize the environment.

Recently, there has been significant progress in selecting EQIs. A group of environmental scientists lead by Dr Chang-Ching Yu of Harvard University, USA introduced a Principal Component Analysis (PCA) in 1998 and performed on 14 selected environmental indicators with bootstrapped confidence intervals. The term bootstrap refers to the process of randomly re-sampling the original sample set to generate new data sets and using these new data sets to assess the state of environment of a country or a region. The analysis indicates that the first four Principal Components i.e. air, land, water and biodiversity account for more than 60 per cent of the total variance in the original 14 variables and they have large co-efficient in absolute value.

There is also progress is selecting EQIs in Bangladesh. Recently BCAS and the Ministry of Forest and Environment (MOFE) with support from Asian Development Bank (ADB) organized a national workshop in Dhaka on Measuring Environmental Quality and Environmental Quality Indices (EQIs). The main objectives of the workshop were to: disseminate and validate the tools developed for measuring environmental quality and EQIs by ADB experts; review proposals to alter the methodologies to measure environmental performance at the project level; and identify required adjustments for replicability of the tools in ADB's member countries.

It was participated by a number of environmental scientists from home and abroad and representatives from Ministry of Forest and Environment of the government of Bangladesh, Department of Environment, Department of Forest, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Industry, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Environmental NGOs, donors and media personnel.

The technical sessions of the workshop focused on the following issues: Measuring Environmental Quality and Environmental Quality Indices; Local Perspective on State of the Environment and Experience in use of Indicators for Policy Making; Cost Remediation and Financing Environmental Improvement; Proposal to Alter the Methodologies developed for Project Level Evaluations; and Experience in Donor Project Evaluation.

Dr CC Yu expert of ADB, in his presentation said that during past decades hundreds of environment-related indices had been compiled and published.

The reaction to the methods of measuring environmental quality was critical but encouraging. To make the tools useful, we should try to adapt the methods to the local conditions by using local knowledge and expertise and then we could see how the methods were useful for addressing our national needs. There should be a unified methodology but applicable to specific country situation with some modification and addition to the tools and methods.

— BCAS Feature

Garfield ® by Jim Davis