

'Innovate edn system to make children successful learners'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday stressed the need for bringing innovations into country's education system to make all children successful learners.

They said all children including disadvantaged and disabled can become highly successful learners if provided with welcoming school environments.

The workshop was organised

by Campaign for Popular Education (Campe) at Brac Center Inn in the city where Save the Children, USA presented a model of its project titled 'SUCCEED: Early Learning for School Programme' financed by United

States Agency for International Development (USAID).

SUCCEED offers a preschool model that demonstrates how well all children can perform in primary school if provided with effective early learning opportu-

nities.

The model also trains up the teachers and parents for playing important role to make the children successful learners.

Campe Deputy Director Tasneem Athar said proper implementation of PEDP-2 (Primary Education Development Programme-2) will indeed take Bangladesh closer towards achieving MDG (Millenium Development Goal) and EFA (Education For All).

It would be beneficial for all concerned NGOs and other civil society groups if opportunity is created for sharing and exchanging views and experiences on PEDP-2-related issues, she added.

Save the Children, USA Country Representative Ned Olney, Director for Education Sector Habibur Rahman, SUCCEED Programme Director Laia Borja, USAID Education Team Leader in Bangladesh Mars Hobbs and Campe Programme Manager KM Enamul Hoque also spoke.

Campe under its 'Quality Education for All' programme has organised series of presentation of different organisation's project model on education to share experiences of others

EASTERN BYPASS PROJECT

Consider environmental, social aspects during implementation

Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmental, social and humanitarian aspects must be taken into consideration during the implementation of the Eastern Bypass project, ministers and experts said at a workshop yesterday.

The project, approved in 2000, aims to protect the eastern part of Dhaka city from flood and water-logging. The project was postponed in 2003 following a failed attempt to construct the embankment with the dredged material of Balu river.

In the face of devastating consequences of recurrent floods, the government has decided to review the feasibility and other studies and update the studies, including environmental Impact assessment (EIA) and Social Impact Assessment (SIA), in order to revive the project.

The Water Development Board organised the workshop on updating the feasibility study on Dhaka Integrated Flood Control Embankment-cum-Eastern Bypass Road Multipurpose Project at a city hotel.

The estimated cost of the project

is Tk 3,000 crore and it is one of the three top priority projects, said Water Resources Minister Hafiz UddinAhmad.

The Eastern Bypass embankment will be constructed from Demra to Mymensingh road, he said, adding that a highway along the embankment will also help ease traffic congestion, raise agricultural production and keep the environment clean.

If there is a political will, the government can implement the project with its own resources, but it will take more time, said the minister. If external aid is available, the project will see rapid implementation, he added.

Dhaka city must be protected from floods, water-logging and other forms of adversities, but the protection measures must pay considerable attention to the environmental and social issues, said Communications Minister Nazmul Huda.

VR Baghirathan, leader of the Study Team, presented an overview of the project, which will connect the eastern and western parts of the

country under road communication network.

Some 136 square kilometres area of the western bank of Balu river in Dhaka city is already protected from floods by embankment. The Eastern Bypass will complete the full flood protection scheme with construction of another 124 square kilometres of embankment in the eastern part.

The Eastern Bypass project contains components like improved drainage system, drainage regulators and retention ponds, a bypass road connecting Joydevpur circle and Chittagong road, and two link roads at Khilkhet and Rampura connecting Dhaka city with the bypass.

Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas also spoke at the workshop attended by technical experts, donor agency representatives and environmentalists.

Secretary of the water resources ministry SM Jahurul Islam was also present.