

### Practical Action Bangladesh wins the APFED Gold Prize




Mr. Nazmul holding the Award with H.E. Mr. Masatoshi Wakabayashi (Minister of Env't. & Ag., Japan)

The Award handed to Mr. Nazmul over by Prof. Mr. Akio Morishima (Ex. Chair of APFED)

Practical Action Bangladesh wins The 2007 Ryutaro Hashimoto APFED Gold Awards for the quality of environment management, alternative strategies for disaster risk reduction and sustainable development practices adopted in its "Disappearing Lands: Supporting Communities Affected by River Erosion" project-Gaibandha.

The Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED) is a regional group of prominent experts based in Japan officially launched at ECO ASIA (Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific) in 2001. The forum aims to address critical issues facing Asia and the Pacific region and propose new models for equitable and sustainable development. "The 2007 Ryutaro Hashimoto APFED Awards for Good Practices" renamed in honour of the late Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto, former Prime Minister of Japan and the first APFED Chair. The award programme aims not only to honour the winners but also to build up a knowledge base of good practices with the aim of sharing the lessons-learned and knowledge gained to promote sustainable development in the region.

It is noted that out of 74 applicants from 18 countries (from North America, Central Asia, South Central Asia, Canada), Practical Action Bangladesh has been awarded the Ryutaro Hashimoto gold prize 2007. It also received \$20000 as award money.

The prize giving ceremony was held on 24 August in Chengdu, China. On behalf of Practical Bangladesh, Mr. Nazmul Islam Chowdhury, the program manager of the Disappearing Lands project, received the award from Prof. Akio Morishima, who handed over the award on behalf of Mr. Masatoshi Wakabayashi (Minister of Environment & Agriculture, Japan). The prize giving ceremony has been sponsored by the State Environmental Protection Administration of China (SEPA) together with the Japanese Ministry of the Environment. It is noteworthy to mention that the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) had been designed as the APFED Secretariat and the Chinese Society of Environment Science (CSES) was the coordinator of the programme. The second and third prizes of The 2007 Ryutaro Hashimoto APFED Awards were given to India and Germany respectively.

Practical Action is a non-profit international development organisation. It was founded in UK by eminent economist, thinker and philosopher Fritz Schumacher (the author of the book-SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL) in 1966. In Bangladesh it started working in 1990 with a vision of "A world free of poverty and injustice in which technology is used to the benefit of all". This prize is a great acknowledgment for Practical Action Bangladesh for its outstanding achievements.

Acknowledgement: Big Lottery Fund (UK), GUK, SKS, SSUS, PBKS, AKOTA & J.A ARCHITECT LTD.

Further contact if any Please mail to nazmul@practicalaction.org.bd

## Pakistan reaffirms fight against terrorism

UNB, Dhaka

Pakistan Foreign Secretary Riaz Mohammad Khan yesterday reaffirmed Islamabad's resolve to fight terrorism and extremism.

"We unequivocally condemn terrorists because terrorism and extremism are anti-progress forces that tend to destabilise societies," he said in reply to a question at a press conference in the city yesterday.

Khan said terrorism is a phenomenon that afflicts many regions and countries in the world, including Bangladesh, Pakistan and India.

Pakistan, he said, has built cooperation with many countries, including India, in countering terrorism.

"In our own interest, we are fighting the forces of terrorism and extremism," he said.

The Pakistan foreign secretary also rejected India's allegation that terrorist outfits from Pakistan are behind the recent bombings in Hyderabad.

"Allegation is rejected," he said in reply to a question.

The incidents of terrorism should be investigated wherever it takes place, he said.

As far as Pakistan is concerned, it is ready to extend assistance for investigation if there is any specific information or specific fact, he added.

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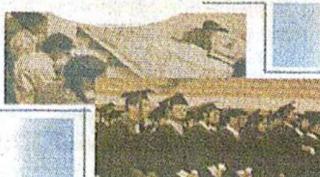
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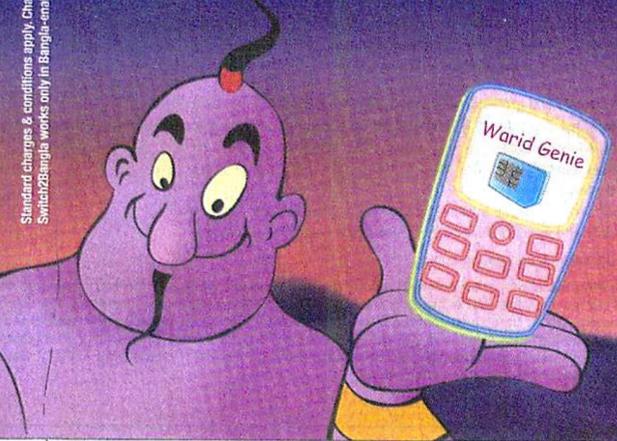
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