



Rising sea level: Emerging threat to human security

Some decisive impacts of sea level rise for the people of Bangladesh are extreme salinity concentration in soil and water, damage of habitation and forests, fresh water crisis, eroding beach and coastal land, acute health hazards, loss of fisheries, agriculture and biodiversity etc.

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It is alarmingly noted in the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of IPCC's Working Group-I (WG-I) entitled "Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis" that the Global Mean Surface Temperature (GMST) has increased throughout the last 19th century, and past three decades have been warmer than all the previous decades followed by the warmest decade of the 2000's. It indicates we are living in a warmer planet with emergent risks, and constant threats to well-being. Currently, the UNEP Emissions Gap Assessment-2012 projects that if present emission trends continued, climate warming would reach the range of 3.5°C to 5°C by 2100 that would adversely

affect our living planet. Growing thermal expansion leading to climate warming, however, is overwhelmingly expediting the melting and discharge of mountain glaciers and grand ice capes of Greenland, Antarctic and Himalaya that results into the sea level rise.

Already, it is well documented that ocean thermal expansion and glacier mass loss are the predominant catalysts to Global Mean Sea Level (GMSL) rise during the last quarter of 20th century. Thermal expansion alone is projected to contribute over half of the average rise. Besides, the AR5 of IPCC (WG-I) estimates that global glaciers (excluding the peripheral glaciers around Greenland and Antarctica) contributed to sea level rise

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Melting ice: Rising sea level.

World Environment Day 2014 Special

Combating climate change impact

Taking inspiration from small island developing states

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GLOBAL warming is a major challenge for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), it is causing ocean levels to rise. Due to their small size and isolation, SIDS are more vulnerable to natural and environmental disasters, climate change and sea-level rise. However, these islands have also been successful in overcoming their

"Small Island Developing States the world over are facing a host of risks related to climate change, from temperature increases that negatively affect agriculture to sea level rise that threatens the very existence of some nations,"

environmental problems. From Palau to Puerto Rico, the stories of resilience and innovation abound. From Trinidad & Tobago to Tonga, Samoa to

Suriname, the problems that these small islands face – climate change and extreme natural disasters, waste management, unsustainable consumption, degradation of natural resources, in the midst of overpopulation and continuing industrialization – are the problems that challenge us all.

World Environment Day is an annual event that is aimed at being the biggest and most widely celebrated global day for positive environmental action. In fact environment activities take place all year round and climax on 5 June every year, involving everyone from everywhere. The observance of World Environment Day began in 1972 and has grown to become one of the main vehicles through which the United Nations encourages positive action for the environment.

Through WED, UNEP enables everyone to realize not only the responsibility to care for the Earth, but also reminds one and all of their individual power to become agents of change. Every action counts, and when multiplied by a global chorus, becomes exponential in its impact.

WED is a big celebration, engaging millions across the globe through events on the ground in over 100 countries. Every year, participants, young and old, organize clean up campaigns, art exhibitions, tree planting drives, concerts, dance recitals, recycling drives, social media campaigns and different contests themed around caring for the planet.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) celebrates the World Environment Day 2014 at the cutting edge of the fight against climate change by Barbados, a Caribbean island. This island is the host for this year's WED celebrations.

The focus for this year's celebrations is Small Island Developing States (SIDS) with the slogan 'Raise Your Voice: No Sea Level'. Barbados, a 430-square kilometer nation with a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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World Environment Day 2014

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