

## SAARC Ministers' meet ends 4-pt Dhaka Declaration on climate change adopted

SAARC Environment Ministers' meeting on climate change ended in Dhaka on Thursday adopting a 4-point Dhaka Declaration calling for enhancing south-south cooperation in technology development and transfer for mitigation of and adaptation to climate-change adversities, reports UNB.

The one-day ministerial meeting of the forum of South Asian nations also adopted a 7-point

SAARC action plan on climate change to identify and create opportunities for activities achievable through regional cooperation and provide impetus for regional-level action against climate change through national-level activities.

In the Dhaka Declaration the SAARC countries committed to promoting programs for mass awareness on climate change and

inculcate habits towards a "low-carbon society".

It carries the resolve to cooperate on climate-change issues for capacity building, including the development of CDM (Clean Development Management) projects and on incentives for removal of Greenhouse Gas by sinks, sharing of the results of research and development for mitigating the effects of climate change and undertaking adaptation measures.

The ministerial meeting agreed to initiate and implement programs as per SAARC practice for adaptation for dealing with onslaught of climate change, in order to protect people's lives and livelihoods for food, water and energy securities.

It also called upon Annex-1 industrialized countries to fulfill their commitments as UN Framework Convention for Climate Change for providing additional resources, as they are the main contributors to carbon emissions

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### Dhaka declaration

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into the atmosphere which cause global warming and resultant climate change.

Special Assistant to CA for Environment Ministry Raja Devashish Roy told a press conference that the government has allocated Tk 300 crore in the national budget to deal with detrimental effects of the climate change. "This is a positive signal that Bangladesh government has taken up the issue seriously."

He hoped that more funds might be mobilized from the London Conference on Bangladesh climate change to be held in September against the backdrop of last year's disastrous floods and cyclone Sidr.

In reply to a question, Roy said SAARC ministers agreed in principle to set up a fund on climate change and more discussions would take place at the SAARC Colombo summit.

He said sea-level rise is the main concern for Bangladesh as the UN-sponsored Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports that the country could lose as much as a third of its landmass due to the rise in sea level.

However, Roy said there is no need to get alarmed. There is time for preparations to face the adverse impacts of changing climate.

The SAARC action plan focuses on seven priority areas-adaptation to climate change, climate-change mitigation, actions for technology transfer, finance and investment, education and awareness, management of impacts and risks due to climate change, and capacity building for international negotiations process.