

Minutes of the Stakeholder Consultation and Co-design Workshop for ADB assisted project "Maharaj Bir Bikram College (MBB) College Lake Revitalization held on 5th November, 2021 organised by Agartala Smart City Limited.

Date: 5thNovember, 2022

Venue: Three pond lake area near Modern Club

Participants

Chief Guest : Shri Dipak Majumder, Hon'ble Mayor, Agartala Municipal Corporation **Guest of Honour**

Dr. Dilip Kumar Das, Hon'ble and Chairman of the City Level Advisory Forum
Dr.Satyadev Poddar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, MBB University
Shri Kiran Kumar Dinkar Rao Gitte, IAS, Secretary, PWD&UDD etc. Govt of Tripura
Dr.Arunodaya Saha, Ex VC, Tripura University,

Special guest

Dr. Ashok Sinha, Vice Chairman, State Planning Board Shri Santosh Saha, Chairman TTDC Smt. Manika Das Dutta, Hon'ble Dy. Mayor, Agartala Municipal Corporation Shri Sukhomoy Saha, Hon'ble Corporator, Agartala Municipal Corporation

Audience

Faculties of MBB University, Faculties of MBB College, Faculties of BBM College, Faculties of Government Law College, Staffs of IGNOU, Members of Modern Club, Inmates of the Quarters, Residents of adjoining locality, Members of Various NGOs, Social activists, Environmentalists, Members of Angling and Conservation Society, Representatives from Line departments like Agartala Municipal Corporation, Tripura State Pollution Control Board etc.

The whole program was divided into three sessions followed by Lunch. The sessions are:

- 1. Inaugural Session (30 mins)
- 2. Technical Session (30 mins)
- 3. Interactive Session (60 mins)

The meeting started with welcoming of the Dignitaries with live plants. Then the Hon'ble Mayor, Agartala Municipal Corporation, Shri. Dipak Majumder spoke about the various developmental activities carried for the development of the city.



The Technical Session started with the presentation of Dr. Shailesh Yadav, IAS, Chief Executive Officer, Agartala Smart City Limited.

Dr. Shailesh Yadav, IAS, Chief Executive Officer, Agartala Smart City Limited delivered a detailed presentation. First of all he shared the overall developmental interventions undertaken by the government of Tripura as well as Agartala Smart City Limited. He discussed the various outcomes of the project. He also spoke about the process, budgetary allocation and loans undertaken for the project from ADB. He also mentioned about the objectives of the MBB lake vitalization project and proposed layout. He showed the photographs of current site and graphical presentation of proposed intervention to be undertaken. He explained in details the outcome of the project and the reason for taking up the project. He also explained the advantages that the local people would have once the project is completed.

Mr. Chinmoy Nag, Vice President, M/S Mecgale Pneumatics Pvt Ltd, Contractor for the project gave a detailed presentation of the construction methodology. He explained that pontoon method will be used for piling in order to avoid and minimize impacts. Photographs and short video from similar practices used in other projects was also displayed to explain and provide clarity about piling technology to be used for construction which was appreciated by the participants.

Mautusi Chaudhuri, Environmental & Social Nodal Officer, Agartala Smart City Limited presented the E&S concerns. She mentioned about the consultation carried out, baseline environment parameters and results of testing the lake water, biodiversity surveys carried out during planning and design as well as concerns and issues that are addressed in the design. She also talked about environmental monitoring, social issues, concerns, ecology & biodiversity survey conducted and mitigation measures. She explained about the grievance redressal mechanism and gave the contact details for registering grievances. There is a dedicated calling and whatsapp number (6909370797). People can whatsapp or call in this number. There is also a dedicated email where anyone can mail. The email id is smartcitygrievance@gmail.com. It was also informed that various reports and studies on this project are fully disclosed and available Agartala Smart City Limited website as well as ADB website. All participants were encouraged to download the report and get in touch with the ESNO and CEO for any related query or information.

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After the presentations are over the house was opened for discussion with all the members of the audience. CEO, ASCL requested everyone to openly express their opinion on the project. The audience took great interest and participated in the discussion spontaneously.

Some of the highlights of the discussions are:

MBB College Lake Consultations points raised by the people

1. Jayanta Bhattacharjee, PTI Editor

- Pointed out that Fisheries toilet outlet exposed to lake is contributing in polluting the Lake. It should be closed.
- Depth of the lake has been reduced due to siltation and sedimentation and hence digging and dredging was proposed to be done.
- Concerns were raised for movement of amphibians due to the piling work at the Public Zone B. Requested to Eensure no disturbance of amphibians occurs due to piling work.
- Lake area encroached and captured by the people since 1950. Demanded eviction of those people.

2. Subir Debbarma – President, Angling and Aquatic Conservation Society.

- Welcomed the efforts of Agartala Smart City Limited for its revitalisation work in the MBB Lake.
- Pointed out the importance of the lake as a notified wetland of the state.
- Requested that the development of the Lake should not hinder the continuing angling activities on the Lake.

3. Amiyo Choudhury, Vice-President, Angling and Aquatic Conservation Society.

- He mentioned that there are around 150 members in the Angling and Aquatic Conservation Society.
- He mentioned that certain royalty are collected by the society from the anglers and they are willing to deposit that to the Govt. Exchequer. They gave several applications in this regard too but no department is ready to take that.
- He further requested that during the development of the lake the interest of the anglers should be taken into account.

4. Basu Debnath, Local Resident.

- Inlet and outlet of the lake should be balanced properly. Reference was mentioned about Dimsagar Lake.
- Lights of low power should be used so that it should not affect aquatic bodies.

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- Solid waste management should be proper at the lake. Sufficient dustbins should be provided.
- Environmental monitoring of the lake should be done in a sustainable way to check the effect of the development on the lake.

5. Sumit Sarkar, Social Activist.

- The development proposed for the revitalization of Lake is not adequate.
- Its effect on the eco-system need to be studied well.
- Movement of amphibians at Public Zone B may be impacted.
- Irreversible damage on the water body/ eco system will happen.
- Migratory birds will be affected.

6. Nabendu Bhattacharya, Journalist.

 Proposed to increase the depth of Lakebed level to be increased by dredging so that the aquatic animals can live.

7. Kalyan Debnath, Senior Reporter.

• Raised the point about the inclusion of Wetland as Ramsar Site.

8. Dr. Ratan Deb, Principal, BBMC College

- Inadequate lighting around the lake during the evening time. It should be improved.
- Beautification of Lake would improve the status of the College.
- During NAAC accreditation beautification of Educational Institution carry points and so he requested Agartala Smart City to look into this matter.

The Dignitaries on the dais also took part in the discussion

1. Dr. Dilip Kumar Das, Hon'ble MLA and Chairman of the City Level Advisory Forum

- Monitoring is assured and details are uploaded in the reports on the website and also disclosed on the ADB website.
- Series of consultations were organized and the current stakeholder consultations is also part of this discussion and dialogue
- Process is transparent and open

2. Dr. Ashok Sinha, Vice Chairman, State Planning Board

- Questioned about the maintenance of the Lake project once the project is completed and suggested budgetary allocation to be done in order to ensure that managing bodies are able to maintain the development work implemented
- 3. Dr. Satyadeo Poddar, Vice Chancellor, MBB University.

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- 4. Area of Public Zone B will be reduced significantly to minimize environmental & local concerns.
- 5. Dredging will be examined & considered as a part of any other future project because it will involve significant environmental & monetary impact.

The consultation workshop ended with vote of thanks to all by Dr. Shailesh Kumar Yadav, IAS, Chief Executive Officer, Agartala Smart City Limited.

(Dr. Shailesh Kumar Yadav, IAS)
Chief Executive Officer
Agartala Smart City Limited

Copy to:

1. PS to Secretary, UD Department for kind information of the Secretary.

2. Website of Agartala Smart City Limited.

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