

No. GEB/Stu-Eve/2019/10



Generating Global  
Environmental Benefits - GEB

# ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM & THE WORLD-COURSE OF ACTION FOR BALOCHISTAN

21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2019  
QUETTA



Report of a "Round table  
Conference (RTC)" organized by  
Generating Global Environmental  
Benefits (GEB) in Collaboration with  
Balochistan University of Information  
Technolog Engineering Management  
Sciences (BUITEMS), Quetta

***GEB - A Joint Initiative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
& Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC)***





### *List of Acronyms*

BSAPs	Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
GEB	Generating Global Environment Benefits
EMIS	Environmental Information Management Systems
IDDV <sub>s</sub>	Integrated District Development Visions
MoCC	Ministry of Climate Change
NEMIS	National Environmental Information Management Systems
NCS	National Conservation Strategy
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PCS	Provincial Conservation Strategies
SOE	Provincial State of Environment Reports
UNDP	United Nations Development Program



## Contents

Executive Summary.....	1
RTC Proceedings.....	2
Remarks by Dr. Faisal Ahmad Khan, Pro Vice Chancellor, BUIITEMS, Balochistan..	2
Opening Remarks by Dr. Saleem Janjua, National Project Coordinator GEB Project .	2
EIMS – Setting the Baseline & Global Examples by Ms. Numra Asif, Programme Assistant, GEB, MoCC & UNDP .....	3
Need of EIMS for Balochistan by Dr. Gohram Malghani, BUIITEMS .....	4
EIMS way forward for Balochistan by Mr. Ghulam Rasool Jamali, Director EPA, Balochistan, Quetta.....	6
Press Release .....	8
Gallery .....	9



## Executive Summary

GEB project funded by the UNDP/ Global Environment Facility (GEF) and is being implemented by the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) aims to remove barriers to environmental information management and mainstream global environment concerns into the economic decision-making of Pakistan. As per the AWP-2019, A Round Table Conference (RTC) was arranged by PMU, GEB project with the title of **“Environmental Information Management System & the World-Course of action for Balochistan”** on November 21, 2019 at Balochistan University of Information Technology Engineering Management Sciences (BUIITEMS), Quetta. The objective of the RTC was to inform stakeholders/selected representatives regarding the integration of research, environment and development and thus enhance their commitment and capacity for the role of research in ensuring environmental sustainability.

The main objective of the RTC were:

- To emphasize on the importance of environmental information and management for Balochistan.
- Address the barriers and challenges that government departments, private, and public sectors are facing in the country with respect to data collection, generation, and analysis.

Therefore, GEB project with the help of stakeholders like BUIITEMS intend to engage all stakeholders for constructing the prospective EIMS for Pakistan. Participants present at the occasion greatly appreciated GEB project overall objectives, as well as its efforts to bring all relevant stakeholders on one page. It was agreed among the participants that activities such as this one are important to increase environmental understanding of the concerned stakeholders/representatives as they have a vital role to play in raising environmental awareness as well as forming public views and perceptions on development projects. Participants of the RTC appreciated the activity and efforts of GEB team and wished that capacity building activities may continue in future through different forums so that they are capacitated with the right information on the environment and thus play their role as “change agents”.



## **RTC Proceedings**

On 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2019, an RTC was held at BUIITEMS, Quetta. The RTC started with the recitation of Holy Quran. Mr. Mohammad Ahsan Achakzai, Chairperson, Department of Economics, BUIITEMS, delivered the Welcome Address. He welcomed the delegation of GEB project, UNDP led by Dr. Saleem Janjua, NPC, GEB Project-UNDP, Islamabad and all participants.

### **Remarks by Dr. Faisal Ahmad Khan, Pro Vice Chancellor, BUIITEMS, Balochistan**

Prof. Dr. Faisal Ahmad Khan, Pro Vice Chancellor, BUIITEMS was the guest of honor for the occasion. He appreciated the theme of event and Dr. Saleem Janjua, National Project Coordinator, GEB project-UNDP into organizing the RTC on a topic that is much needed for the environmental sustainability of Balochistan in specific and Pakistan in general. He overviewed the academic and extracurricular activities of BUIITEMS. It is a flagship institution for academic excellence. BUIITEMS has opened a number of new venues for academic enterprises. The students are advised to explore these venues to the maximum, so that they may be able to claim kinship with the advanced modern world. They must shrug off the trend of being led. They ought rather to lead by being innovative and enterprising.

### **Opening Remarks by Dr. Saleem Janjua, National Project Coordinator GEB Project**

Dr. Saleem Janjua, NPC, GEB Project-UNDP delivered the Opening Remarks. He warmly welcomed all the participants and heartily thanked all to spare their time for joining the event and heartily thanked all especially Dr. Faisal Ahmad Khan, Pro Vice Chancellor, BUIITEMS for the facilitation with the venue and all the arrangements. He delivered a very detailed briefing about environmental information and management, as well as barriers and challenges that government departments, private and public sectors face in the country and also addressed that how Environmental data and information is being produced from different departments but due to lack of coordination, data remains patchy, unreliable and inconsistent. This makes decision making tedious; thus, it is imperative to address basic issues and challenges regarding environmental information and management. While briefing Dr. Saleem Janjua informed that GEB project is an initiative of UNDP,

wherein Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) is going to implement this project. He further explained that development and implementation of any project/plan is incomplete without reliable information and evidence-based data. Data is really important for formulation of a project as well as its monitoring and smooth implementation.

Currently GEB project covers Punjab and KP, and has decided to pilot Environmental Information Management System (EIMS) in these 2 provinces. The core outcomes of project activities are to ensure regular availability of consistent and reliable environmental data; establish a coordinated and robust environmental information management system; and enhance commitment and capacity for sustainable development planning and legislation. He explained that projects like GEB are important for environmental information and management and the subsequent usage of this information for improved decision making. He further explained that Pakistan has a long past of environmental planning and management; however, it was the launch of its National Conservation Strategy (NCS) in 1992 that marked the beginning of its recent sustainability journey. Moreover, highlighting the importance of environmental information and its integration in broader economic development, NCS lead to the creation of the first set of national and provincial institutions that would carry this responsibility. Since then, several projects have been undertaken for the purpose. While significant environmental capacity and awareness has been created, sustainable environmental information management system and integration of environment and development remain to be adequately achieved. Dr. Saleem Janjua further explained that the integration of environment and development requires proactive engagement from all stakeholders of society and engaging universities is an important one, He also explained that objective of arranging this RTC is to provide information to the representatives along with other stakeholders regarding integration of environment and development and thus enhance their commitment and capacity for the role in ensuring environmental sustainability.

### **EIMS – Setting the Baseline & Global Examples by Ms. Numra Asif, Programme Assistant, GEB, MoCC & UNDP**

Ms. Numra Asif presented the concept of environmental information management system to establish a baseline. She elaborated that most of the environment related information is generated for purposes of environmental planning, monitoring and control or government oversight and briefly explained the types of environmental information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. She amicably presented the importance of environmental information system in the country. EIMS plays an important role in understanding the nature of changes and human activities contributing to these

changes. Environmental information can provide a basis for decision making and formulate relevant policies and appropriate practical responses for the global and regional environmental problems. In the absence of accurate, reliable and timely information; people, organizations and governments make bad decisions and they are not ascertain whether those decisions made were good or bad. In past the UN Agenda 21 (1992), Rio de Janeiro called for the establishment of information systems that would improve access to information with environmental relevance and make it available as a basis for decision-making.

She further explained that how the EIMS is established and viewed across the globe. In Africa, Zimbabwe, Europe, USA, India, Turkey information system were established to address different environmental and resource management issues. EIMS serve as a useful tool for the assessment of environmental risks such as flood, heat waves, glacier melting and storms etc. The system then helps contribute toward sustainable development through efficient use of the available resources.

In Pakistan various NGOs are also making important contribution to environmental data and information in Pakistan. Data sources are non-harmonized. Reporting obligations of Pakistan also calls for the establishment of an integrated EIMS at national level. The brief global review of EIMS establishes the fact that it is imperative for Pakistan to establish a national level EIMS.

She concluded with the remarks that Projects like GEB are important as they aim to remove barriers to environmental information management as well as mainstream global environment concerns into economic decision making. Among the stakeholders Academia remains an important stakeholder for support and integration of environment and development. It is the need of the hour to identify issues, address them through research and integrate the research findings into policy making process and thus communicate to the relevant stakeholders.

### **Need of EIMS for Balochistan by Dr. Gohram Malghani, BUITEMS**

Dr. Gohram gave a detailed presentation on the above topic. He explained that environmental information refers to the data held by public authorities regarding the state of water, air, soil, fauna, flora, land, and natural sites and data on activities that are likely to affect. Environmental information also includes data held by private entities, such as companies. Research activities also generate or collect environmental information. Most of the environment-related information is generated for purposes of the environmental plan in brining, monitoring and control or government oversight. Following types of information can be classified as environmental information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.



- Information on the state of the elements of the environment (air, atmosphere, water, soil, natural sites including wetlands, coastal and marine areas, and biological diversity and its components including genetically modified organisms).
- Information on the factors affecting the elements of the environment (substances, energy, noise, radiation and waste, emissions, discharges and other releases into the environment).
- Information on the measures and activities affecting the environment or the factors affecting it (policies, legislation, plans, programs and environmental agreements which affect or could affect the elements and factors).
- Reports on the implementation of environmental legislation (to create better public awareness of how and why environmental legislation is implemented).
- Associated economic information. Specifically, cost-benefit and other economic analyses and assumptions used to calculate the effects of the measures or activities.
- Information on the state of human health and safety. This includes issues related to food safety, the conditions of human life, cultural sites and built structures, but only to the extent that they are affected or may be affected by the state of the elements of the environment.

Environmental information & management is important for understanding changes in our planet and the role of human activities. Access to quality environmental information is crucial for developing relevant policies and appropriate practical responses to global and regional environmental problems. Effective environmental problem solving depends on the appropriate information being brought into action. Environmental Information in Pakistan has a long history.

He further elaborated the need of Environmental information Management System for Balochistan. He briefly explained that due to population increase/migration from rural to urban regions is increasing. The burden on resources is high and impact on environment especially in cities is manifold. Balochistan is facing environmental issues and challenges such as:

- Air pollution due to growing transportation
- Increased solid waste
- Water shortage
- Water borne diseases
- Electricity shortage

He suggested that to overcome these challenges it is vital to establish a coordinated and robust EIMS as well as establish stakeholder collaboration and coordination. It is also important to develop a leaders team from different organizations which works together to ensure environmental sustainability. This can be explained through the following diagram



He concluded his presentation with Margaret Mead quotation “*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has*”. Thus the need of the hour is to strive for collection action to ensure environmental sustainability.

### **EIMS way forward for Balochistan by Mr. Ghulam Rasool Jamali, Director EPA, Balochistan, Quetta**

Mr. Ghulam Rasool Jamali, Director EPA, Balochistan, Quetta was also present on the occasion. He appreciated Dr. Saleem Janjua for organizing such an informative session and stressed on the fact that universities have a key role to play in the environmental sustainability of Pakistan. He emphasized that projects like GEB will help to better organize the data and ensure reliability of the data; but without active participation of stakeholders the objective cannot be achieved. He said that centralized data is not available online. Issues with respect to data availability can be divided into three stages. The first is data generation, second is data sharing, and the third is data utilization. It is imperative to develop SOP’s for these 3 steps. Every department should play an active role for establishing EIMS at the provincial level and the need is to develop a mechanism that all departments should respond to the national level centralized data system. He further added that MoCC being a federal entity should take a leading role and develop SOPs for all departments in which they are bound to report data to a central depository.

The session proceeded with an interactive session. The stakeholders and participants from different departments and organizations unanimously stressed the need for a robust environmental information management system. It was also agreed that all government departments/stakeholders would play their role in a coordinated manner for addressing key issues and safeguarding the environment in Pakistan. Pakistan as a country faces numerous environmental challenges. It is imperative for Pakistan to move towards a low carbon economy, create green jobs, green growth, an ecological

economy, and sustainable cities. Participation from all stakeholders especially institutions is imperative to face environmental challenges and achieve sustainability. Participants of the RTC appreciated the activity and wished that it may be continued in the future through different forums so that they are capacitated with the right information on environment and play their role as “change agents”.

*The activity concluded with the distribution of souvenirs among the guests and exchange of thanks between the guests and organizers.*

---



اس وقت پوری دنیا تیزی سے ہونے والی انقلابی تبدیلیوں کی زد میں ہے، اکثر مسلم ممالک اور انجینئر اہلکاروں کا تیسیراں خطاب

**بقیہ** ڈی سی کوئٹہ

کیونکہ ملک دوم میں ترقی بخیر علم کے نہیں آ سنی لہذا تعلیمی نظام میں بہتری لانے کیلئے ہم سب کو مل کر ایک ٹیم کی صورت میں موثر کردار ادا کرنا ہوگا اور ہر فرد کو اپنا کام ایسا نداء اور ذمہ داری کے ساتھ کرنا ہوگا۔ ذمہ داری کو بھرنے کے لئے ہم کو اپنی ٹیم کے ہمراہ ذاتی طور پر کوئٹہ کے سرکاری تعلیمی اداروں کی عمارتوں اور ان میں موجود سہولیات کا جائزہ لے لیں گے اور وہاں پر تعلیمی ماحول کی بہتری اور ضروری سہولیات کی فراہمی کو یقینی بنائے گئے۔ اور ایسے سرکاری اسکولوں کی عمارتیں جن کی زمینوں کے فروغ نہیں آئیں جلد از جلد سرکاری ملکیت پر ٹرانسفر کیا جائے گا۔

**بقیہ** ماحولیاتی تہذیبیں

موجودہ حالات میں اتوارم عالم ماحولیاتی تہذیبوں



## Gallery









## Group Photo





# GEB MANAGEMENT

---



**Mr. Hassan Nasir Jami**  
Secretary / National Project Director - GEB

Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC)  
Government of Pakistan



**Dr. Saleem Janjua**  
National Project Coordinator - GEB

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) &  
Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC)  
Government of Pakistan



**GENERATING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS (GEB)**  
**BUILDING NO. 301, STREET 87, E-II/ 2, ISLAMABAD**  
**TELL: 051-8319161**

