

Report on the Inauguration Ceremony of the Integrated Digital Land Record System at Monirampur Upazilla, Jessore

Venue: Upazilla Parishad Auditorium of Monirampur, Jessore

Date: 03.05.2016



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The Ministry of Land of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in partnership with the European Union organized a program to inaugurate "Integrated Digital Land Record System" under the project "Strengthening Access to Land and Property Rights for all Citizens of Bangladesh" financed by European Union in the Upazilla Parishad Auditorium of Monirampur, Jessore on 3rd May 2016. The Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh along with some Non-Governmental Organizations like Uttaran, Manusher Jonno Foundation and Care Bangladesh is working in this project. The technical side of the project is dealt by "Project Technical Assistance Team (PTAT)" of a Netharlandian consultancy Organisation named NIRAS. NIRAS is an international, multidisciplinary consultancy company with over 1400 employees located in offices in Europe, Asia and Africa.

The project was initially designed and launched for duration of three years commencing in November 2012. The implementation duration of the project has been extended for a period of 12 months, up to October 2016. The project has 5 components to support fulfilling the objectives that provide overarching structure for project activities. They are

1. Land Policy Foundation
2. Establishing Authoritative Land Record
3. Legal Audit and Institutional audit
4. Capacity Building
5. Public Education and Awareness

Under component 2, there is a sub-component including

1. **Developing a coherent Institutional Arrangement at Upazilla Level through Integrated Digital Land Record System (IDLRS):**

Crucial works have been accomplished in regard to developing a coordinated institutional arrangement through IDLRS. The most important is bringing IDLRS into a state where test operation has started consistent with the schedule and modalities that was acceptable to the AC Land Office, Sub-Register Office and other Land Offices in Manirampur. This work involved 1. The development of software, 2. Ensuring that necessary hardware and infrastructure are in place, 3. Establishing network connectivity between different land offices, 4. Conducting acceptance tests and training users. The land offices that are digitally connected through IDLRS include the AC Land, the Sub-Register office, the Settlement Office, the Municipal Union Office and the Chaluahati Union office.

As a partner of SALE, Uttaran is taking the main responsibility of the public awareness building of vulnerable land owners especially poor, women, minority group, disabled group etc. and provide support to the land owners, to select landless people and distribute Khasland to them. In addition, Uttaran will document the good practices, learning and challenges of land reform.

SALE organised the event in order to aware people on the new system as well gave a recognition to the system by the Ministry of Land.

Along with these three fields, Integrated Digital Land Record System started in Monirampur Upazilla of Jessore where three different local Govt. offices: Upazilla Bhumi Office, Pouro Bhumi Office and Upazilla Sub-registry offices are going to be connected via server system. The system was inaugurated by the chief guest Mr. Saifuzzaman Choudhury MP in Monirampur Upazilla.

Mr. Saifuzzaman Choudhury MP, Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Land was the Chief Guest of the Program. The special guests were

1. Swapan Bhattacharjee, Honorable Member of Parliament, Jessore-5;
2. Dr. Mesbah UI Alam, Secretary, Ministry of Land;
3. Mr. Mahfuzur Rahman, Chairman, Land Reforms Board;
4. Mr. Sheikh Abdul Ahad, Director General, Department of Land Records and Surveys;
5. Mr. Abdus Samad, Divisional Commissioner, Khulna and
6. Mr. Mario Ronconi, Minister Councilor, Head of Unit-Head of Cooperation, EU Deligation, Bangladesh.

The invited guests of the meeting were

1. Dr. Auvo Finne, International IT Expert, "Project Technical Assistance Team (PTAT)";
2. Dr. Yohannes Gebremedhin, Team Leader and International Senior Legal Expert, PTAT;
3. Md. Amzed Hossain Lavlu, Upazilla Chairman, Manirampur, Jessore;
4. Shahidul Islam Milon, President, Jessore Zilla Awami League;
5. Anisur Rahman, Police Super, Jessore;
6. Abual Hossain, Joint Secretary (Development), Ministry of Land and
7. Dr. Md. Humayun Kabir, Deputy Commissioner, Jessore.

The Inauguration program was arranged solely by Uttaran in the Upazilla Parishad Auditorium, Manirampur, Jessore. Around 200 other guests like many govt. officials, UP members, local political party leaders, school and college teachers and reporters were invited in the program and most of them were present there.



The honorable NPD of SALE project-Md. Samsul Alam

At first, the upazilla Jam-e-Masjid Emam recited from the Holy Quran, and then Geeta Rani Kundu, Councilor of MonirampurPouroshova recited from the Geeta. Then the National Project director of “Strengthening Access to Land and Property Rights for All Citizen of Bangladesh”, Md. Samsul Alam started the program giving opening speech. He welcomed and thanked everyone for coming to the program. He then expressed his sorrows about the lacking the program had like scarcity of sitting space (due to small auditorium) and suffocative hot weather. He then gave a short description of IDLRS system and reminded the background of Survey system starting at 1888 as Cadastral Survey. He said, *“The main challenge was the lacking of technical personalities in AC Land Office, Settlement Office, and Sub-Registry Office. There are not enough working people in the offices. The sub-registry office has helped a lot in this regard but there is scarcity of working people in this office and some people work there contractually. In order to implement this system in the offices, people of the sub-registry offices should be minimally IT trained. We provided IT training to one “Nokol Mobish¹” who was selected by the sub-registry officer. Three people from the AC Land Office had been given training in this regard who are working successfully. To make this work successful, all the people should be helpful to each other.”* At last, he gave thanks everyone for coming to this program.

Then Dr. Auvo Finne, International IT Expert, “Project Technical Assistance Team (PTAT)” delivered his speech. At first, he showed some problems of paper based surveying system then he showed some related advantages of IDLRS. He said, “All the govt. officials of the three offices can access the server

¹ [Copy writer](#)

made by IDLRS. It is in front of us that it is continuous development and the most important fact is centralization.”

After that Yohannes Gebremedhin, Team Leader and International Senior Legal Expert, PTAT gave his short speech. He said the component which is related to today’s program is the contribution towards land policy formulation under the Ministry of Land which is now being subjected to progressive submission. It proposes on how to reform the legal framework can work. Under European Union, the project has created awareness among the general people about land. The consistency of land record and relationship between different entities of land record will help reduce confusion and overwhelming dispute related to land.



Minister Council, EU Bangladesh Delegation-Mr. Mario Ronconi delivering his speech

Then Mr. Mario Ronconi gave his speech on IDLRS and its need towards the people of Bangladesh. He said, *'In order to assure the accessibility of general people particularly vulnerable land owners towards land, European Union has granted 10 million Euro to Bangladesh govt. I am personally happy to be presented here. Various issues like social, political, economic etc. are related to land. So, people of every aspect; rich, poor, dis advanced, physically challenged should have proper access to land administration so that they can secure their land. There is more than one institution in land mutation, record, dispute problems and land administration which creates huge problem in Bangladesh. To solve this problem, IDLRS is the most possible solution.'*

Then Md. Amzed_Hossain_Lavlu, Upazilla Chairman, Manirampur, Jessore started his speech thanking everyone. He said, *"Today's inauguration ceremony is the first step towards the elimination of unnecessary cases and harassment of people because of land"*.

After that Mr. Shahidul Islam Milon, President, Jessore_Zilla_Awami League gave a short speech. He said, *"The Prime Minister has promised us to give a Digital Bangladesh which is being implemented now. The IDLRS will be great advantageous if it is implemented properly. There are still a lots of problems related to land purchase and change ownership. It could be minimized with IDLRS."*

Then Abual_Hossain, Joint Secretary (Development), Ministry of Land gave his speech. He said, *"Among 494 Upazila in Bangladesh, IDLRS is being inaugurated in Monirampur which is really a great deal for the people of Monirampur. The mutation was previously completed manually which will now be done using software in sub-registry office. First there will be land transfer notice from AC Land Office to Union Bhumi Office. Union Bhumi Office would will investigate it and if positive send back to AC Land Office. AC Land Office will then perform the mutation.. Everyone in the land offices should be given training so that they can provide services to the land owners."*

Mr. Abdus_Samad, Divisional Commissioner, Khulna started his speech thanking everyone. He specially thanked for choosing Monirampur for Inaugurating IDLRS. He told the minister, *"We are very honored to have you among us. And also for selecting Monirampur as the first mouja to work under IDLRS. Everybody is supporting their best to make this IDLRS program successful. But there is scarcity of infrastructure in every stage."* He then requested European Union Minister Councilor to expand and give more fund in order to create digitalized Bangladesh.

Mr. Sheikh Abdul Ahad, Director General, Department of Land Records and Surveys started his speech thanking everyone. He said, *"The main topic is to combine both mutation and settlement together to minimize the suffering of general people. The manual land system will be eliminated from Jessore within 1 year. So the land related problems will also be eradicated and the land owners will be able to see their land position as well as land related information online."*

Mr. Mahfuzur Rahman, Chairman, Land Reforms Board, thanked the land Ministry for taking such rigorous initiative. He told, *"In Bangladesh, everything is getting digitalized as well as the land sector. The mutation is done while surveying, in changing the record of rights and when land is sold or given to any inherent. But it takes a huge amount of time like 3-4 months to conduct the mutation. So the IDLRS should be qualitative as well as without harassment. But there are so many challenges regarding this, first to sustain the program and terminate it fruitfully a huge amount of financial and moral support of the govt. is required."*

Dr. Mesbah_Ul Alam, Secretary, Ministry of Land said, *"In order to make the land administration more people friendly, IDLRS is a very bold initiative. The govt. officials who are working in this project should not be transmitted to another areas while the work is going. If new officials come they would be needed to train again. This kind of thoughtful initiatives would help the program to go more smoothly."*

Because of inadequacy of time, Swapan_Bhattacharjee, Honorable Member of Parliament, Jessore-5 just thanked everyone and told the UNOs and AC Lands to perform their responsibilities timely.



Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Land-Mr. SaifuzzamanChoudhury MP

Mr. Saifuzzaman_Choudhury MP, Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Land honored us by being present in the program. He first thanked everyone for organizing and being present in such a great program. He said, *“This is certainly a right stand to reform and I firmly believe this is a memorable situation for both of us and I am sure this will provide us quite generous result in the long term. Today is a historic day. The dream of the honorable Prime Minister is being implemented in the Land Ministry by digitalizing every works. It is a huge challenge to implement in the field level. 85% of everyday court cases harassment of the general people is mostly because of lands. But now the harassment is being minimized to a great extent. Many AC Lands have computerized their office by their own initiative. We can provide policy support from the upper level but if the field level work is not satisfactory then the expected result will not be got. About 2500-3000 land offices are being constructed in the whole country in new design. In Monirampur, the AC Land Office will also be constructed with proper server room, separate office for the AC Land Officer.”*

Humayun Kabir then thanked everyone and ended the program because of insupportable weather.

Then the program ended and the guests were felicitated by providing lunch.

The attendance sheet is attached here: [..\Downloads\Attendance IDLRS.pdf](#)