

International Climate Change Week's Report

Facilitator: Future Generation Afghanistan (FGEO)

Venue: Nangrahar Environmental Protection Directorate Conference Room

Date: 28 October 2019

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I. Introduction

In the series of global climate change week celebrations, On Monday 28 October 2019 the Environmental Protection Directorate (NEPA) of Nangarhar province, Future Generations Empowerment Organization (FGEO)/FGA, Environmental Community Institutions (ECIs) and Agricultural Irrigation and Livestock Directorate of Nangarhar province were jointly celebrated the climate change week for one day in Jalalabad city, the event took place in Environmental protection directorate conference room in Jalalabad city.

Climate change, and global warming, is one of the most important environmental issues that has attracted the attention of many countries and people around the world over the past two decades. Scientists believe that this phenomenon has endangered human life and has caused irreparable harm in some countries in recent years. The United Nations named October 24 as Climate Change or Climate Change action day, which is celebrated every year in different countries around the world. This day marked for the first time in 2017, under the slogan of reduction of greenhouse gases.

The program began with the recitation of the Holy Quran. subsequently, Environmental Protection Director of Nangarhar Mr. Aminullah Yousafzai and other participants presented their statements on climate change and their plans to combat climate change in Nangarhar province. The program agenda had three main sessions, the first part allocated to governmental *authorities'* speeches, second part was technical part for presentation about climate change and third part for open discussions among Environmental Community Institutions (ECIs) and governmental/ provincial officials.



2. Program Participants

Future Generations Empowerment Organization (FGEO)/FGA organized one-day session for celebration of climate change week with the participation of governmental officials and environmental community institution members (ECI) in Jalalabad city. The following are participants of the event.

1. Environmental Protection Director of Nangrahar Mr. Aminullah Yousafzai.
2. Environmental & Natural resources Expert in the Governor house Mr. Said Ruhullah Pacha.
3. Director of Sub-Basin River.
4. Director of Natural disaster.
5. Environmental Community Institution members.
6. NGOs representatives and Civil society.
7. Nangrahar University lecturers, students.
8. Media.



3. First Session

3.1 Participants Statements

At the commencement of the event, Environmental Protection Director of Nangrahar **Mr. Aminullah Yousafzai** spoke and welcome all participants of the event, beside he thanked FGA administration for organizing the event. He said that the National Environmental Protection Directorate of Nangrahar province have implemented a number of activities, as well as many programs in the field of public awareness, and have a number of plans for the future as well. He also spoke on the importance of the climate and its effects of climate change, he added that the climate change was in result of human activities and the preservation of climate is not only the responsibility of the Environmental Protection Directorate, but this is the responsibility of all institutions, civil society all citizens. He stated that Afghanistan is facing climate change challenges and right now Afghanistan needs almost 17 billion dollars up to year 2030 to combat climate change effects, he encouraged ECIs members to assist NEPA environmental activities and public awareness programs by way of NEPA has number of plans for the future as well.



Mr. Said Ruhullah Pacha provincial representative and province's expert in environmental affairs spoke and thanked all those who involve in such events, especially FGA administration for gathering people together and delivering public awareness for the people of Nangrahar. He added that provincial office door is always open for the people to share their concern regarding climate change. Mr. Pacha spoke on the effects of climate change and it can affect negatively the people, animals, agriculture. He appreciates the improvements in public awareness regarding environment and climate preservation since last years, but this is not enough, the people should come together and take active part in preservation of the environment.

He stated that the goal of the climate change day celebration is that to aware the effects of climate change globally as well as in the country level and get acquaint with Environmental challenges, and it is the

responsibility of all to work together for combat with climate change challenges, he urged all relevant departments and organizations for Renewable energy production to combat against climate change and other environmental effects, as well as he expressed his cooperation with the Environmental Protection Directorate (NEPA), Environmental community institutions (ECIs) and other related agencies on behalf of the provincial administration.

Mr. Abul Waris Tand, representative of Agriculture, irrigation and livestock directorate (DoAIL) of Nangrahar, spoke about the climate change and the programs of DoAIL for preservation of climate. He stated that there are 64,000-Hectare forest in Nangrahar eleven districts, unfortunately many forests have been cut down by people, while forest and green land have a significant impact on climate. He added that the directorate of Agriculture, irrigation and livestock of Nangrahar and security departments seriously take action against those who destroy forests and agricultural lands.

He also explained the programs conducted, that DoAIL has created 55 associations in Nangrahar to work with people and increase their awareness regarding forest and its importance. Every year DoAIL produce 200,000 to 500,000

plants and distributing to people, governmental organizations free or with 30% discount. The DoAIL are conducting a 42 million Afghani project to create water reserves for rainwater in 6 districts, it will positively affect the level of water and boosts agricultural activities. Beside they plan to work on integrated pest management soon, He also gave good news to participants, that they will implement 1200 million Afghani project developed by Natural resource department, this project will help for restoration of forests and prevention of deforestation.



Abdul Waris Tand, thanked the Nangrahar Environmental Protection Director and Future Generations Empowerment Organization (FGEO)/FGA, for their struggles to increase the people awareness of climate changes and its effects.

The other speakers, **Said Maroof Sadat** representative of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD). He thanked and appreciated the initiative of the public awareness programs such events and added that we have to work more for improvement of Citizen living culture specially in the cities and urban areas. He added that in the past few years many governmental and non-governmental organizations have been worked for preservation of environment, unless vital work is needed in this case, for example, Jalalabad has a plenty of natural opportunities to use.



Building residential houses and the destruction of agricultural lands, lack of canalization system is the major challenges in Jalalabad City, if no prevented it will definitely effect the environment, so he urged that all should come together and work tirelessly for such challenges. He added that rural rehabilitation and development directorate implementing its project through local communities in 22 district, they always counseling with people to make sure that the implementation of the projects are not harmful to natural environment.

Mr. Omid Abdyani, Nangrahar municipality representative, like the others, expressed his gratitude to all the participants. He thanked Future Generations Empowerment Organization (FGEO)/FGA, for holding such events that help people to increase their awareness of climate change and its effects. Jalalabad municipality has launched a public awareness program through mosques and 15 schools for the people and students to raise their awareness how to keep their environment clean, and we all working for the people especially to youths how to change their mind positively about climate and environment and we have done this through holding sport events and other awareness programs.

The representatives of line directories explained the issue of water management and releasing the grabbed land form the hand of the powerful entities in Nangarhar and this was the good news for the participants.

4. Second Session

4.1. Presentations

They all insisted NEPA for enhancement of provincial level coordination in terms of environmental protection programs.

During the meeting, presentations on climate change were presented by FGEO. And the main topics were:

1. Climate change day history
2. Climate change celebration goal, themes
3. Causes of climate change
4. Climate change effects
5. Climate change in Afghanistan



After presentation, video on climate change and its causes and effects was shown to participants to inform people about the causes and effects of climate change and how to prevent climate change.

Dr. Toryalai Sahak, Nangrahar university lecturer and the representative of 3rd district has delivered a presentation regarding environmental communities and its formation in Nangrahar province and as well as the achievements of local environmental communities and barriers to them.

5. Third Session

5.1. Open discussions

The Provincial government directors explained their associated directories future planning to the floor there were many questions raised by participants and responses to participants' questions were addressed by the respective Director

I. Haji Zamari from District-7 Environmental committee member asked from DAIL representative, and said that in our various districts, forests are being cut down and smuggled



harshly because of some powerful entities. Therefore pollution has been caused, so what action has been taken by the agriculture directorate to resolve this issue?

Answer by Tand representative of DAIL:

In the past, our forests were being brutally cut down, but now we have established district-level programs tracing system in those districts where we have forests, and the people who cut down the forests will avoid them and will pass them on to the law, I would like to sure you no could cut down the forest onward rather than the area is insecure or out of the government control



2. Qari Momin a member of the Environmental Protection Committee of district-9 from Pashtoon Abad CDC asked that the Department of Agriculture annually distributes the plants, but latter it is not reared and restores the plant, so what would be the plan of DAIL in future to address this gap?

Answer by Tand Sahib:

Of course, we distribute a lot of plants every year with the help of District managers, but unfortunately they are not Irrigating, it is not our duty, but it is the responsibility of the person to whom handed over the plants, but neglects to irrigate and re-water it.

3. Haji Ghanm Gul EC member of Lndai Wayali CDC from District 9 asked NEPA director, and said that Jalalabad city has gotten very polluted because of bricks factories, since they have been running in Surkhrood district for several years, whether NEPA directory took any steps for their reform?

Replied by Aminullah Yousfzai Director of NEPA:

We have spoken to their union several times regarding for not using of Non-standard material for the burning of bricks preparation process in the factories and they promised us to improve bricks burning materials quality, so they have broken their commitments, and the reason for this was their communication with powerful people and some armed groups, still we are in the loop to avoid them and treat them legally.



Lal Qasam CEI member of Al- Noor CDC from District 9 asked NEPA director for formalization of Environmental committee's institutions (ECIs) with NEPA,

Answer by NEPA director Aminullah Youafzai,



He answered that we are working on that process of Environmental Communities Institutions registration and I hope sooner all established ECIs will be formally registered with NEPA, he added that we have the plan for establishment of more ECIs in the rural area as well, since NEPA have several plans and projects for Environmental protections and they will be

implemented with the close coordination of Environmental committees.

Mr. Yousofzia, Nangrahar environmental protection directorate director once again expressed his gratitude to all participants and Future Generation Afghanistan (FGA). and said today we had a great day full of achievements and we discussed various topics today.

He added, lets come together and cooperate closely with environmental protection directorate to preserve our natural resources and work for our children future to be safe.

The end