

**Supreme Court of Bangladesh**  
**Judicial Strengthening Project (JUST)**

# Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) of JUST Project

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**Date:** 9 July 2013, Time: 1:00 PM

**Venue:** Seminar /Training Hall, Supreme Court of Bangladesh

The 2nd meeting of the Project Steering Committee of the Judicial Strengthening (JUST) Project was held on 9 July 2013 at at 01:00 pm at the seminar/training hall of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Dhaka.

The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bangladesh and Chairman of the Project Steering Committee Mr. Justice Md. Muzzammel Hossain presided over the meeting. The following distinguished members of the Project Steering Committee were present:

- 1. Madam Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana**  
Hon'ble Judge of the Appellate Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
- 2. Mr. Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain**  
Hon'ble Judge of the Appellate Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
- 3. Mr. Justice Mohammad Anwarul Haque**  
Hon'ble Judge of the of the Appellate Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
- 4. Mr. Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury**  
Hon'ble Judge of the Appellate Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
- 5. Mr. Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury**  
Hon'ble Judge of the High Court Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
- 6. Madam Justice Naima Haider**  
Hon'ble Judge of the High Court Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
- 7. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed**  
Additional Secretary, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance
- 8. Mr. Shawkat Mostafa Phd**  
Joint Secretary (Law and Planning), Ministry of Home Affairs.

- 9. Mr. AYM Golam Kibria**  
Joint Secretary (Admin), Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
- 10. Mr. Syed Aminul Islam**  
Joint Secretary, Law and Justice Division, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs
- 11. Mr. S.M. Ehsan Kabir**  
Joint Secretary, ERD, Ministry of Finance
- 12. Dr. Md. Akhteruzzaman,**  
Director, IMED, Ministry of Planning
- 13. Mr. Khandaker Nuruzzaman**  
Chief, Programming division, Planning Commission,
- 14. Ms. Won Young Hong,**  
Assistant Country Director, Democratic Governance Cluster, UNDP Bangladesh
- 15. Mr. Jakhongir Khaydarov**  
Chief Technical Advisor, JUST Project, UNDP
- 16. Mr. S M Kuddus Zaman,**  
National Project Director of the JUST Project ( Senior District Judge) and Member Secretary of the Steering Committee.  
Supreme Court of Bangladesh

## **Agenda of the Meeting**

- 1. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes**
- 2. Key Project Implementation Progress and challenges**
- 3. Approval of Revised Annual Work Plan 2013**
- 4. Progress Monitoring in terms of case backlog reduction**
- 5. Decision about Project HR Issues**
- 6. AoB**

## **Agenda 1: Approval of Last Meeting Minutes**

### **Discussion and Decisions**

#### **Discussion:**

Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bangladesh and Chairman of the PSC, Mr. Justice Md. Muzzammel Hossain welcomed the distinguished Committee Members for participating at the meeting, and asked the National Project Director of the Judicial Strengthening Project (JUST) Mr. S M Kuddus Zaman to present the meeting minutes and invited the PSC members to discuss on the issue, if any, and endorse it if there is no objection.

The NPD placed the minutes of the last Meeting of the PSC for perusal and approval by the members of the Committee.

Mr. Shwakat Mostofa Phd, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, told that he attended the previous PSC meeting of JUST. He got the meeting minutes earlier and gone through it. He commented that it is well written and can be confirmed if there is no comments from other members. There were no other comments from the members and all the members consented for its approval.

#### **Decision:**

- **The committee endorsed and confirmed the proceedings of the first Steering Committee Meeting unanimously.**

## **Agenda 2: Project Implementation Progress and key challenges**

### **Discussion and Decisions**

#### **Discussion:**

Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bangladesh and Chairman of the PSC, Mr. Justice Md. Muzzammel Hossain requested National Project Director of JUST Project and the Member Secretary of the Project Steering Committee Mr. SM Kuddus Zaman and Mr. Jakhongir Khaydarov, Chief Technical Advisor, JUST Project, UNDP to present the key project progress and the challenges faced in project implementation. NPD and Chief Technical Adviser apprised committee members on the key achievement and challenges of the project. They briefed the PSC that the project has attained 92% delivery rate in 2012 and 36% so far in 2013. An elaborate discussion was held on the issues presented by them. Hon'ble Chief Justice said, 'we have already witnessed the progress of what they have done and if you have any query regarding any particular issue, you can raise. Director, IMED, Dr. Md. Akhteruzzaman pointed out an issue that the project needs to submit monthly and quarterly

report following format of the IMED, so that they can see about the item what is in DPP and TPP, and can see the progress of the project in terms of money that is allocated to the IMED.

The NPD replied that the purpose of this presentation is quite different. The progress shown here is output and result based. While submitting reports to the Planning Ministry format provided by the ministry has been followed.

Mr. Sawkat Mustofa, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs mentioned that at the PSC of the Police reforms project (PRP) under Home Ministry which is also a technical assistance project like JUST, and in the PSC meetings of that Project impediments and key challenges are delineated in the process of project implementation and PSC gives guidelines to mitigate and resolve them. He requested to place the bottlenecks under each component, if any, for the guidance of the PSC. He further told that JUST project is included in ADP under Supreme Court of which the project needs to show physical activity and monetary achievement as per the government fiscal calendar to show progress of the ADP ministry wise. He mentioned JUST Project need to submit to the planning commission and for the respective ministries evaluation of what it has achieved.

Ms. Won Young Hong, Assistant Country Director of UNDP said that PRP is a quite big project with more than 40 staff under five international component leaders who are able to report component wise but JUST is a very small project. Sometime these differ according to nature and composure of the project. She also urged that from the next time JUST will accommodate government requirement and formats.

### **Decisions:**

- **Impediments in project implementation process will be placed component wise before the PSC for guidelines.**
- **Result and output based report to be continued for the PSC meeting but to Submit to ministry it will follow their formats**
- **Contribute more in hardware part to create facilities and remove logistic problems**

## **Agenda 3: Endorsement of Revised Annual Work Plan 2013**

### **Discussion and Decisions**

#### **Discussion:**

Mr. Jakhongir Khaydarov, Chief Technical Advisor made a power point presentation on the revised Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2013. He thanked the honorable Chief Justice for his visionary and dynamic leadership role in the project and also the government particularly for Ministry of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

Before his presentation, he shared his experience about the ToT on mediation organized in the beginning of JULY where the resource persons were the Supreme Court judges. He informed the members that Justices of the Supreme Court becomes the invaluable resources of the project which is one of the best practices of JUST. It helps young judges to have unique opportunity of interaction with the Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. To enhance the sustainable training capacity of the judiciary TOT on general training principle and methods may resorted in the next year.

He also sought advice from the PSC members about the gender mainstreaming in the project and guidelines on how JUST project can cooperate with sister projects in justice sector to create synergy and expedite project implementation, Supreme Court , MOLJ&PA and others. He mentioned that the UNDP has justice sector projects namely Activating Village Courts in Bangladesh, Promoting Access to Justice, Justice Sector Facility and Bangladesh National Human Rights Commission Capacity Development.

#### **Decisions:**

- **The Revised Work Plan 2013 was approved by the members of PSC.**
- **Cooperation among other justice sector sister projects will be made to make synergy and gender mainstreaming in JUST project implementation.**
- **TOT on general training principle and methods will be resorted in the next year.**

## **Agenda 4: Progress Monitoring in terms of case backlog reduction**

### **Discussion and Decisions**

#### **Discussion:**

The issue of progress monitoring in terms of case backlog reduction was raised by the PSC members and it was elaborately discussed in the meeting. Hon'ble Chief Justice and Chair of the PSC mentioned about the dilapidated and precarious condition of district courts infrastructures and its impact on the justice delivery process. Shortages of manpower, lack of structural facility i.e. court rooms, sharing of single court rooms in terns by judges and magistrates throughout the county were also discussed. The Chair categorically mentioned that without creating an enabling situation for the judges and the justice seekers it is far cry to expect drastic reduction of case backlogs rather it would be rational to monitor progress by the rate of disposal of cases compared to the earlier year. He urged the concerned government stakeholders to take measures to create congenial atmosphere by enhancing structural and financial support to ensure justice service delivery to establish rule of law for the nation.

**Decisions:**

- Concerned government departments will take initiatives to develop structural facility and allocate sufficient financial resources to establish rule of law.
- JUST Project will initiate to attract other donors to support judiciary.
- Case backlog reduction may be replaced with progress in case disposal rate compared to the previous year.

## Agenda 5: Discussion and Decision on HR Issues

### Discussion and Decisions

**Discussion:**

The Chief Technical Adviser apprised the PSC meeting that UNDP advertised twice for appointing National Expert on Strategic Planning which is SB 4 level position but no qualified candidates were found. He also informed that expertise in this area even in international level is rare. Therefore he placed proposal of appointing Programme **Support Officer ( SB3), Project Assistant cum Office Secretary (SB2) and Support Staff** to implement the project activities smoothly as the project activities are being hampered due to shortages of staffs. Moreover, the money allocated for the SB 4 level position of **National Expert: Strategic Planning will** be split into three parts to provide salary for the above mentioned three positions for which no extra cost will be incurred on the project. Accordingly the organogram of the project needs to be revised. The Strategic Planning of the Supreme Court can be conducted by the existing project staffs in 2014 with assistance of national/International consultants for a short period of time.

**Decisions:**

- Considering the scarcity of project staffs and importance to achieve project goals the committee approved the abolition of the position of **National Expert: Strategic Planning** and creation of three positions i.e. **Programme Support Officer ( SB3), Project Assistant cum Office Secretary (SB2) and Support Staff )** to implement the project activities smoothly with no extra cost implication.
- The committee also advised the NPD to revise the organogram of the project and undertake Strategic Planning for the Supreme Court in year 2014 with existing staffs and assistance of competent firm or Consultants (National and International)

## **Agenda 6: AoB**

Mr. Justice Md. Muzzammel Hossain, Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bangladesh informed the meeting regarding limitations and deficiencies of the judiciary in terms of logistics and technical and managerial skills and appreciated the contribution of UNDP for supporting the JUST Project. He expressed his concern over the budgetary constraints of the Supreme Court to overcome the logistic problems of the subordinate judiciary for smooth dispensation of quality justice. He informed the meeting that he convinced the previous UNDP Country Director Mr. Stefan Priesner to keep budget in the Project for minor civil construction for the judiciary which enabled the JUST in establishing some judicial infrastructures in the three pilot districts including two courts rooms in the Rangamati District Court. Hon'ble Chief Justice also informed the meeting that the JUST project also refurbished this meeting room, provided all furniture and also supported necessary maintenance of the air cooler and now this room is being used for workshop, conference and training for the Judges and court officers.

The meeting members appreciated the UNDP for supporting the Bangladesh judiciary in above areas and requested more funding through the project to create enough space to ensure quality justice for all people of Bangladesh.

As there was no other issues to discuss and the Hon'ble Chief Justice thanked all the members for their active participation and concluded the meeting.

Meeting Minutes prepared by

**S M Kuddus Zaman**

National Project Director of Judicial Strengthening Project (JUST)  
And Member Secretary of the Project steering committee