

# PAKISTAN WATER AND POWER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



## **PROCEEDINGS**



### **TWO DAYS STAKE HOLDERS SEMINAR ON LAND ACQUISITION AND RESETTLEMENT DIAMER BASHA DAM PROJECT**

**(JANUARY, 6-7, 2011)**

**AT**

**WAPDA ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE,  
ISLAMABAD**

**LAND ACQUISITION AND RESETTLEMENT WING**

**PROCEEDINGS OF TWO DAYS STAKE HOLDERS  
SEMINAR ON LAND ACQUISITION AND RESETTLEMENT  
DIAMER BASHA DAM PROJECT**

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# **TWO DAYS STAKE HOLDERS SEMINAR ON LAND ACQUISITION AND RESETTLEMENT DIAMER BASHA DAM PROJECT**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

A two days awareness seminar was conducted during January 06-07, 2011 for all stakeholders of Diamer Basha Dam Project. The seminar envisaged to sensitize all concerned about the details of the project and to discuss various issues in respect of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and restoration of livelihood of the Affectees. The seminar aimed at providing an opportunity to the stakeholders to express their views freely and present valuable suggestions for the execution of Diamer Basha Dam Project of national importance.

### **DAY - 1: (JANUARY 6, 2011)**

## **2. PROCEEDINGS**

### **2.1 Participation**

A two days stakeholder's seminar on Land Acquisition and Resettlement was held at WAPDA Staff College, Islamabad on 06<sup>th</sup> & 07<sup>th</sup> January, 2011. Among the invitees were all the stakeholders, prominent amongst those included Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from Gilgit Baltistan, Minister and representatives of Government of Gilgit Baltistan, Leader



of the Opposition (Gilgit Baltistan Assembly), Ulemas, Members of Dam Action Committee, representatives from National and Local NGOs, members of Civil Society and officers of all concerned Government Departments. The seminar was inaugurated by the Chairman WAPDA. Her Excellency, Ms Robin Raphel, US Ambassador to Pakistan and Mr. Rune Stroem, Country Director, Asian Development Bank were the Chief Guests. At the Opening Session held on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2011, Haji Gulber Khan, Minister for Health, Government of Gilgit Baltistan and Mr. Bashir Ahmed Khan, Lear of Opposition for Gilgit Baltistan Assembly were also present as Guest of Honor.

### 3. SPEECHES

The highlights of the proceedings of various speeches delivered by the distinguished guests on first day of the seminar (January 06, 2011) are mentioned below:

#### 3.1 Mr. Shakil Durrani, Chairman (WAPDA)

Chairman WAPDA in his opening address welcomed Her Excellency, US Ambassador, Country Director of ADB; representative from USAID, IDB, JICA, AFD, NGOs; Members of Civil Society; the representatives of Government of Gilgit Baltistan; MLAs from Gilgit Baltistan Assembly; Ulema's and other stakeholders of Diامر Basha Dam Project for participation in the Seminar. The Chairman elaborated the role of WAPDA in construction of Mega Hydropower Projects in Pakistan. He highlighted the resettlement issues of the project affectees and various concerns of international financial organizations. He said, "Today's gathering of stakeholder reveals that WAPDA believes in participation and consultation. He advised that the seminar should be made useful. We should develop consensus by mutual wisdom on various issue of Land Acquisition and Resettlement of Diامر Basha Dam Project. He also stressed that the views and opinions may be given frankly and further told that the valuable suggestions of the participants will be documented and incorporated in the Resettlement Action Plan for our guidance. He apprised that WAPDA has created a new Organization of Land Acquisition and Resettlement (LA&R) under a General Manager wherein WAPDA has recruited competent specialists of different disciplines. They are engaged in the preparation of comprehensive Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan for Diامر Basha Dam Project in accordance with Safeguard Policies of International Financial Institutions. He added that we are all conscious of the fact that the Government and the people of Gilgit-Baltistan have offered their valuable lands and are willing to sacrifice their abodes for this supreme national cause. He offered WAPDA's firm resolve to save and preserve archeological and heritage sites of Diامر District and to establish a museum at Chilas. The Chairman appreciated the services rendered by the LA&R team during recent floods for the flood affected persons of Diامر District and thereby wining the confidence of local community. He also desired to establish a Cadet College at Chilas.



The Chairman WAPDA praised and acknowledged the role of Asian Development Bank for providing advisory services to the WAPDA team which is engaged to work for Diامر Basha Dam Project. He also appreciated and thanked Her Excellency, Ms Robin Raphel, for US assistance in Water Sector Projects of WAPDA.

### 3.2 Mr. Rune Stroem, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Mr. Rune Stroem (Country Head, ADB) in his address appreciated the efforts of WAPDA for arranging this Seminar where all the stakeholders have been provided a platform to build a consensus on the construction of Diamer Basha Dam Project and to open discussion on the resettlement issues. He introduced Asian Development Bank as “multinational financing institution which finances mega projects.” He outlined three elements of the Safeguards Policy, the



first being the land acquisition, which he said “must be fair and transparent. It was told that ADB is reviewing the Diamer Basha Dam Project in terms of excess price of land that is to be acquired and the price so fixed is to be paid as has been agreed upon in a timely manner”.

The second element of the Safeguard Policy is “Resettlement” which not only covers relocation of affected people but also includes provision of educational, health facilities besides formulating sustainable livelihood programs for the affected persons.

Mr. Rune Stroem emphasized and regarded “environment” as the third element of the Safeguard Policy in which “we need to look at all the environmental impacts of the projects and have the sufferings mitigated from the areas which are impacted. These mitigations should be transparent and understood by all.” In this regard he stressed for a close liaison and coordination with all the stakeholders. He hoped to look forward to help WAPDA as well as Government of Pakistan to enhance the capacity of hydropower generation to overcome power scarcity. He further added: “we need this kind of stakeholder gatherings to ensure that everyone understands and have a forum to debate different challenges and identify ways to arrive at the appropriate solution. We possibly can find out ways for the development of Pakistan and Diamer Basha Dam area as well as for the improvement of the people in the neighborhood. We look forward to work in partnership with all of you, as well as with WAPDA and Govt. of Pakistan. We look forward a facility that can not only keep reducing the current load shedding in the country but also increase water resources in the country. Pakistan is facing two major problems, one being the electricity production and the other, inadequate water storage. We look forward to help WAPDA as well as Govt. of Pakistan in the generation of electricity and development of water resources.”

### **3.3 Ms. Robin Raphel, US Ambassador**

Her Excellency the US Ambassador Ms Robin Raphel addressed the seminar and said that the United States would support Pakistan in the energy sector. This beautiful auditorium, a gift of US Government , she added: “ I am here to demonstrate US support for Pakistan in its efforts to increase badly needed investment in energy sector like Diemer Basha Dam Project. Hydropower as we all know is expensive to produce and once it is produced it is very environmental friendly. It provides not only energy but also water storage. Because well all know that Pakistan needs to be very careful in the near future in managing its water supply.” We all know that after these floods, how important flood control can be.” She said that there is need to reform tariffs and resolve the debt issues to keep the energy sector moving on sustainable ground. In this regard she referred to the Pak-US Strategic Dialogue in October 2010 and said that all these issues have been highlighted in these dialogues.



Regarding the resettlement and land acquisition issue, she added: “the issue safeguard the land acquisition and resettlement are very important to the groups that will help finance the projects and donors who will provide support in other ways. This issue of safeguards both from people and environment has become impressively more important over the period of time. I am extremely impressed and heartened by this gathering of the stakeholders by WAPDA initiative to bring everyone together so there is a better understanding of how this process will roll out that the stakeholders have a voice and at the end of the day visiting it again when the dam is complete and everyone has become more prosperous and stable because of this major effort.” She ended by thanking the Chairman WAPDA for inviting her to this seminar.

### **3.4 Mr. Bashir Ahmad, Opposition Leader, Gilgit- Baltistan**

Subsequently, Mr. Bashir Ahmad, MLA/Leader of Opposition paid special thanks to WAPDA for arranging the seminar. He assured total support for this mega project from the people and the Government of Gilgit Baltistan. He reiterated that although people of District Diemer would be sacrificing their homes, lands and graves of their forefathers but they are still courageous enough to support DBD Project in the best national interest. The presence of large number of



stake holders from Chilas representing people of all walks of life was a manifestation of participation and commitment.

#### **4. PRESENTATIONS**

The detail of presentations made on the first day of seminar is given as below:

##### **4.1 Dr. Raheal Ahmad Siddiqui, General Manager (LA&R)**

Dr. Raheal Ahmad Siddiqui, General Manager (LA&R) gave a detailed presentation on Land Acquisition & Resettlement of Diamer Basha Dam Project. He introduced the LA&R Wing of WAPDA which had played an active role in restoring the confidence of the affectees of the project area.



He further dilated that WAPDA's LA&R team extended all possible support & assistance to local people during a devastating flood at Chilas. The people appreciated the relief measures taken by the LA&R team. He further assured all out support to people/stakeholders of Diamer District & DBD Project Affectees through Resettlement Action Plan which will be finalized through mutual consultation. WAPDA has so far transferred the Land Acquisition compensation amounting to Rs.700 million to Gilgit Baltistan Government for disbursement. He elaborated that special efforts are being made for the preservation of Rock Carvings, establishing a museum and restoration of heritage buildings.

To establishing a better monitoring mechanism regarding the compensation to be given to Affectees, One Window operation will be introduced wherein the services of NADRA will be utilized for making it transparent and foolproof system, Special initiatives in education, health, sports, heritage, tourism, livelihood restoration sectors will be introduced.

A WAPDA PRO Team from Chilas would also take part in Babusar PRO festival this summer. He further pointed out that WAPDA's Vocational Training Institute at Chilas had become functional from 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2010. This Vocational Training Institute will play a significant role in providing trained local manpower which will be utilized during the construction of DBD Project. He concluded by paying special thanks to all the stakeholders, Ulemas and participants from District Diamer for attending this seminar.

The GM (LA&R) assured the house that the Government will take strict security measures for the safety of the foreigners and the staff working on the dam site. He also pointed out that the current airstrip, which was built in 1930, would be

submerged when the proposed dam will be full to its capacity. To facilitate an easy access to the dam site and project area, an International Airport at Chilas would be needed. Initially, the proposal has not been found feasible by the Civil Aviation Authority. The case is being taken up by the Govt. of Gilgit-Baltistan in this regard. MLA's and other delegates from Gilgit – Baltistan fully endorsed this idea.

#### **4.2 Mr. Vakar Zakria, Hagler Bailly**

Mr. Vakar Zakria of Hagler Bailly Pakistan made a presentation on “An Opportunity for Enhancement of Environment & Livelihood” focusing DBD Project. He expressed that Diamer Basha Dam is a great challenge which may be accepted as an opportunity to open a road for progress for Gilgit Baltistan. He further pointed out that while preparing the Resettlement Action Plan, the livelihood of local people may be given top priority. Their culture, art & architect, may be preserved and cottage industry may be promoted. He also presented the following recommendations:-



- WAPDA may commission a Master Plan for development and resettlement utilizing international and local expertise
- Creation of a Development Authority with local, provincial and federal representation to oversee implementation of the master plan
- Expansion of the infrastructure plan to include an international airport to improve access to the area and the region
- Completion of EIA and the EMP

#### **4.3 Mr. Sibtain Ahmad, Deputy Commissioner, Diamer (Chilas)**

The Deputy Commissioner, Diamer District in his presentation highlighted the details about the land acquisition and assured payment of land acquisition according to the rates agreed in the Ministerial Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2010. The highlights of his presentation are as follows:



- Out of Court settlement of land disputes between Affectees and provincial government achieved.
- Receipt of first ever amount of compensation of Rs.700 million from WAPDA paid.
- Notice under Section-4 of the LAA, 1894 was issued on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2010 and consequently, Revenue Authorities and other officials got the legal authority to enter upon the lands to be acquired and start their work
- After preliminary survey and measurements, Notice under Section-5 of the LAA, 1894 was issued on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2010 and pasted on conspicuous places in the colony area inviting objection from the owners if any.
- Finally after disposing off the objections received in reply to Section-9, Award of land has to be passed, signed and announced on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2011 in Chilas, the first ever Award of the DBD Project.
- Total land acquired is 1194 Kanals and the entire process was completed in a period of 3 months.

#### 4.4 Mr. Hammad Naqi Khan - WWF

Mr. Hammad Naqi Khan of WWF Pakistan (World Wild Life Fund for Nature) made a comprehensive presentation on “**Impacts of Mega Hydro Power Project on Ecology**”. He emphasized on necessity of environmental and cultural impact assessment studies in three major categories i.e. upstream, on site and downstream areas. He talked about the damage caused to environment by improved access of humans, building roads, laying of transmission lines, introduction of exotic species. He informed the



participants that the valleys of dam site are habitats of Markhor and Black Bear which will be disturbed by the intervention. But he updated the participants regarding the positive impacts of Mega Hydropower Project provided the environmental impact is mitigated. He further stated that this dam can provide a wetland habitat for various species of water fowls.

He made the following recommendation:-

- Comprehensive Assessment of all environmental options, alternatives & impacts
- Comply with all relevant national laws as well as international guidelines and best practices
- Conduct a comprehensive EIA and document detailed ecological baseline information
- Allocation of chunk of fund for the rehabilitation of damaged ecosystems.

#### 4.5 Concluding Speech by Member (Water) WAPDA

Expressing his concluding address of the seminar's first day proceedings, Syed Raghیب Abbas Shah, Member (Water) WAPDA appreciated the efforts of organizers to hold a successful seminar with participation of real stakeholders. He apprised the participants that the construction of Diāmer Basha Dam Project will bring in revolution in socio-economic uplift of the people. He reminded the house that the projects are for the people and people are not



for the projects. He assured that WAPDA will fulfill all its commitments which have been made with the affectees of the project. The Member (Water) categorically told, "We will do more than the people can expect". WAPDA will invest in health and education sectors to benefit the people in the Project Area. He further disclosed that a Vocational Training Institute has also been made functional by WAPDA to produce skilled manpower which will be absorbed in the project.

The Member (Water) also emphasized that the stakeholders will be involved in every stage of decision making and nothing will be kept secret from them. He further told that steps will be taken to gap up trust deficit between the WAPDA and the affectees. He thanked all the participants for attending this seminar and making it meaningful in real sense.

## **DAY - 2: (JANUARY 7, 2011)**

### **5. PRESENTATIONS**

#### **5.1 Mr. Saeed Iqbal, ASF**

First presentation on “Promotion of the Marketing of Horticulture Products in the Project Area” was given by Mr. Saeed Iqbal of Agri Business Support Fund (ASF). After briefly introducing Agri Business Support Fund (ASF) and its achievements, he enlightened the participants about the benefits of growing offseason vegetables by using tunnel farming and discussed various techniques which could be used for value addition of their fruits and agri products.

Mr. Saeed Iqbal gave following suggestions for improvement of horticulture crops in District Diamer:

- Capacity building of local community in Value Addition and Processing Techniques
- Offseason vegetables production by using modern techniques
- Improvement in access to markets (peas and other horticulture crops)
- Introduction of certified varieties of walnut and cherries
- Certified seed production
- Community Facility Centres (CFCS) and collection marketing.

#### **5.2 Mr. Shakeel A. Ramay, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)**

Second presentation of the day was regarding Food Security and Livelihoods in Diamer Basha Dam Project which was given by Shakeel Ahmad Ramay from Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). SDPI has conducted a detailed study in 2008 on this project area. He talked about scarcity of agrivable lands, displacement strategy means to increase livelihood and importance of sharing information with project Affectees. He suggested alternative business for Soniwals and ensuring food security in the project area and added that exclusion of women from livelihood plans would not be appropriate, even in a strict tribal society.

He elaborated the food absorption as a term used for the output gained by utilizing the available food. He informed the participants that food absorption is very low in the project area therefore Diamer is a food insecure area.

### **5.3 Mr. Aslam Malik (NESPAK)**

Mr. Aslam Malik (NESPAK), in his presentation suggested that Irrigation and Research Centers may be established in the project area. The people will be benefited with the latest techniques of irrigation and agriculture. A proposal also came from the participants that Diامر Poverty Alleviation Programme should also be introduced and the concerned NGO may be encouraged to take up this task.

### **5.4 Mr. Aimal Khattak, SANGI**

Mr. Aimal Khattak from SANGI was called upon to make presentation on Resettlement Policy framed by SANGI in yesteryears so that all the stakeholders including officers of WAPDA could give their inputs regarding this policy. However, Mr. Aimal Khattak instead of presenting the Resettlement Policy regarding mega projects, chose to make rhetoric political speech which had nothing to do with much talked about "Resettlement Policy". During the question answers session, many stakeholders from various quarters raised serious reservations regarding the role of SANGI viz-a-viz mega projects.

## **6. SPEECHES**

### **6.1 Mr. Attaullah, President Dam Action Committee, DBDP**

During the question answer session, General Manager (LA&R) invited Mr. Attaullah, President Dam Action Committee Diامر to come up on the stage and express his views. Mr. Attaullah highlighted issues and pointed out some of the reservations of the people of Diامر District. He appreciated the role of LA&R Wing for taking everybody into confidence. However, he pointed out that there are 2 or 3 offices of WAPDA working in the dam area which lack mutual cooperation with each other. WAPDA needs to streamline its own departments and promote coordination and harmony within its own ranks. He ended up by demanding that employment must be given to local people in order to reduce poverty in the area. He thanked WAPDA for inviting all the real stakeholders from Diامر District and Gilgit-Baltistan and providing them an opportunity for the first time to express their views in a free environment.

Mr. Atta Ullah also stressed the need on redressal of grievances of the people through committees constituted by WAPDA and District Administration. The Dy. Commissioner informed that such committees have already been constituted and are functional on ground.

## 6.2 Concluding Address by Chairman WAPDA

Chairman WAPDA in his concluding address expressed his sincere thanks to all the participants, Members of the Civil Society, NGOs, guests from Gilgit-Baltistan and all the officers of various Government Departments.

He appreciated Land Acquisition and Resettlement Wing of WAPDA for successful organizing this stakeholders seminar in Islamabad. The Chairman also assured the delegates from Gilgit-Baltistan that WAPDA would take care of the genuine needs of local people and would accommodate the affectees during employment process in the project area subject to fulfilling all codal formalities. The Chair also reiterated that WAPDA will fulfill its commitments made with the people of the project area. It was told that he has already directed to start some welfare projects for the people in the area of health, education and sports.



LA&R Team with Chairman WAPDA and other Guests

The Chairman specifically thanked the Govt. of Gilgit-Baltistan and District Administration Chilas for taking keen interest and assistance not only to make this seminar a success but also to provide administrative support to WAPDA for expediting Land Acquisition and resolving day to day problems of the people at Chilas. He hoped that WAPDA will continue to hold such seminars in future also to benefit the stakeholders. The Chairman assured that the valuable suggestions and views of the participants will be documented for our future guidance.

Chairman WAPDA presented shields and certificates to all the participants of the seminar. After this brief ceremony, the seminar proceedings came to an end.



## 7. SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the presentations and mutual discussions in two days stakeholder seminar, some valuable suggestions were brought to light by the participants which are worth keeping on record. These are summarized as under:

- Off-season vegetables can be a good source of income and prove to be a sustainable livelihood. Measures may be taken to promote and introduce such vegetables in the project area.
- Marketing and processing of fruit and vegetables might prove to be a great source of income generation. Serious efforts need to be taken in this regard.
- Resettlement Plan of Thor Valley Affectees was not included in the RAP by DBC Consultants. LA&R team and Deputy Commissioner Diamer have visited the valley and interacted with the affectees. Their final option to resettle will be incorporated in the RAP.
- Chilas Development Authority may be established to handle development of infrastructure and provision of civic amenities to the people of Chilas and other affectees in the project area.
- Airstrip at Chilas may be reactivated to establish an airport for making an easy access to the project area.
- Grievance Resolution Committees may be constituted in the Project Resettlement Office (PRO) at Chilas.

- WAPDA may commission a Master Plan for Development and Resettlement utilizing international and local expertise
- EIA may be carried out with detailed ecological baseline information
- Capacity building at all levels in the LA&R may be carried out
- There is a need to develop a better sense of understanding and coordination between the WAPDA office located at Chilas and the Project Affectees/public representatives
- To inculcate a sense of ownership and sharing the benefits of the projects, the stakeholders feel that they may be given priority of employment in all project activities and WAPDA should fulfill its commitments with the stakeholders

In the end, the stakeholders coming from Gilgit-Baltistan, other participants, speakers and presenters appreciated the efforts of WAPDA for organizing such a useful and successful stakeholders seminar on Land Acquisition and Resettlement issues of Diamer Basha Dam Project. They hoped that WAPDA will continue to organize such seminars in future.