

# **BANGLADESH**

## **1. LOCATION AND CAPABILITY OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES**

Since 1965, Bangladesh has planned to build a nuclear reactor at Rooppur to deliver the country from constant shortcomings of electricity. First, Westinghouse was to build it, later Canada, the Soviet Union, France and even Saudi Arabia have been involved in the reactor project. In 1997, the World Bank refused to finance the project. The IAEA is willing to provide consultancy in the installation and operation of a nuclear reactor at the Rooppur plant, scheduled to commence operation in 2009.

<http://www.antenna.nl/wise/index.html?http://www.antenna.nl/wise/499-500/countr.html>

<http://www.world-nuclear.org/nb/nb01/nb0134.htm>

<http://www.worldenergy.org/wec-geis/publications/reports/ser/nuclear/nuclear.asp>

### **Research Reactors**

Power Reactors- 0

Operational: 1

<http://www.iaea.or.at/worldatom/rrdb/>

## **2. NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES**

### **Research Centers**

AECD: Atomic Energy Centre

BAERE: Bangladesh's Atomic Energy Research Establishment

INM: Nuclear Medicine Institute

NMC: Nuclear Medical Centers

BSEC: Beach Sand Exploration Centers

Radiation Testing Laboratory, Chittagong

Rooppur Plant at Pabna

AERE: Atomic Energy Research Establishment

<http://www.rca.iaea.org/BGD/BAEC%20Latest%20WelCome%20Page%20.htm>

### **Nuclear Cooperation**

*United States:* In November 2000, Bangladesh signed an agreement with the US for cooperation on nuclear power. Under the agreement, Bangladesh is to receive technical assistance for its planned Rooppur nuclear plant. <http://archive.wn.com/2004/01/30/1400/bangladeshpower/>

*China:* Bangladesh is expected to sign an agreement with China in April 2005 on the use of nuclear energy, aimed at strengthening the country's capacity to explore and exploit nuclear minerals available in coastal and hilly areas. The agreement would also pave the way for developing nuclear reactors for power generation. <http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/05mar21/inter.htm#4>

*IAEA:* The Technical Co-operation Department of the IAEA completed several projects in Bangladesh during 2002, i.e. training in neutron and thermal analyses on the TRIGA reactor, training on radioactive waste management, and training on clinical applications of gamma camera imaging.

<http://www-tc.iaea.org/tcweb/achievements/Achievements2002.pdf>

## **3. INTERNATIONAL NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS**

### **Treaties Signed and Ratified, date of deposit**

APM Convention, 6 September 2000

Biological Weapons Convention, 11 March 1985

Certain Conventional Weapons Convention, 6 September 2000

Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, 8 March 2000

Chemical Weapons Convention, 25 April 1997

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, 31 August 1979

Outer Space Treaty, 14 January 1986

Bangladesh ratified the IAEA Additional Protocol 30 March 2001.

## Multilateral Groups

Conference on Disarmament

### **4. POSITIONS TAKEN IN INTERNATIONAL FORA ON VARIOUS ISSUES OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT**

*Fissile Material Treaty:* “The 1995 NPT Review Conference had called for an early commencement and conclusion of negotiations on FMCT which constitutes an important step forward in the non-proliferation context. Bangladesh supports the negotiating mandate for a non-discriminatory, multilateral and international and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other explosive devices. Negotiations should extend to existing stockpiles without which any such treaty will be incomplete.” -Statement by H.E. Mr. Reaz Rahman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, to the Conference on Disarmament, 16 March 2004.

<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/cd/speeches04/16MarchBangladesh.pdf>

*Disarmament:* “We are concerned at the lack of progress on the part of the Nuclear Weapon States to accomplish the elimination of their arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament. We wish to stress that the threat to humanity is derived from the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use. We cannot but underscore the need to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear weapons to save the world from the dangers of nuclear weapons. We urge that the parties concerned commence negotiations on this issue without delay.” - Statement by H.E. Mr. Shamsher M. Chowdhury, Foreign Secretary, to the First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, 14 October 2004. <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/1com04/statements/Bangladesh.PDF>

*Practical Steps:* “Bangladesh... attaches enormous importance to these undertakings and instruments at hand and urges upon all not to allow these achievements slip away in 2005, but to make every innovative and constructive effort to further strengthen these tangibly, to the benefit of Article VI of the NPT. All actions called for in 2000 under the 13 practical steps are all critically important and need specific recommendations towards further progress beyond 2005.” - Statement by Saida M. Tasneem to the Third Preparatory Committee of the 2005 Review Conference, 30 April 2004.

<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/npt/prepcom04/bangladeshCL1.pdf>