



WATER MUSEUM

Patuakhali,
Bangladesh

The first ever 'Water Museum' in Asia is located in Bangladesh's coastal district Patuakhali.

'Water Museum' may sound too futuristic for 2014. Has water become so scarce that we have to preserve it in a museum?

WHY WATER

The need to put focus on water comes from a history of abuse wrought upon water and watercourses. Land-centric development in recent years has adversely affected this natural resource. Development, structures, encroachment, pollution, mismanagement etc. have taken serious tolls on it. The results are desertification, salinity intrusion, erratic rainfall and biodegradation.

THE SAD TRUTH

Rivers are losing out, their significance made irrelevant by the argument of the need for development, the requirement of energy for development and similar perspectives. The marine diversity and coastal ecology have drastically worsened, surface water has either fallen or been contaminated.

Bangladesh's terrains crisscrossed by 800+ rivers and tributaries are at risk, Agriculture



and other livelihood options jeopardised heavily affecting people's wellbeing.

We can no longer afford to neglect this natural resource amid growing threats to agrariculture, forced displacement etc. Are we ready to tackle the changing scenario?

WHAT WE STAND FOR

The South Asian nations lack in adequate initiatives to protect the rivers. Biased towards structural intervention, the bilateral treaties and government policies on water management do not look at water from a holistic point of view.

We need an initiative that transcends nation-state boundaries, a regional forum to share resources and responsibilities. We need to realise the commons' right to water and acknowledge rivers' own rights.

A South Asian voice is growing in the Water Commons platform. We intend to uphold the issue of river and its water outside political bias. The need to re-imagine river from a humane and ecological point of view is a must.

The establishment of Water Museum evolved in this backdrop – bringing the issue to the table, building critical awareness around Water Commons, and inspiring conservation and policy revitalisation efforts.

'Water Museum' is the call to action. Let's answer the call!



ON DISPLAY

Water of all the 57 trans-boundary rivers
Items representing culture and heritage
Photos of people's connection to rivers
Map showing all the rivers of Bangladesh
Symbol of a boat stuck on dry river-bed
Digital resource on water management

