



BEN (Bangladesh Environment Network), Japan Chapter BENJapan

Introduction of BEN and BENJapan:

BENJapan is formed with an effort to contribute in Bangladesh's environment sectors, by the Bangladeshis living in Japan in collaboration with Bangladesh Environment Network (BEN) members from all over the world. BEN is working hand in hand with BAPA ("*Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon*" – Bangladesh Environment Campaign). BEN has been set up to facilitate communication among experts working on Bangladesh's environmental aspects, since July 1998.

Objectives of BEN:

- Gather and disseminate information about environmental issues in Bangladesh
- Gather and disseminate information about possible solutions to Bangladesh's environmental problems
- Establish and strengthen connection among various environmental organizations in Bangladesh
- Establish and strengthen connection between environmental organizations in Bangladesh on the one hand and international environmental organizations, on the other
- Formulate various policies that can and should be adopted to solve and avoid environmental problems in Bangladesh
- Generate public opinion in favor of policies necessary to protect environment &
- Persuade and assist the government to adopt and implement environment-friendly policies.

5 Principles of BEN:

- Self-reliance*: It refers to BEN's practice in avoiding external funds and instead of relying on members' contributions to support its activities
- Non-partisan character*: BEN is open to people of different political persuasions (irrespective of political views)
- Emphasis on RB-NRB cooperation*: Resident-Bangladeshis(RB)-Non-resident-Bangladeshis(NRB) cooperation is mutually reinforcing
- Non-hierarchical organization*: BEN grew up as an Internet-based organization. All BEN members have basically the same rights & opportunities in voicing their views & being heard. It has no formal office bearers
- Consensus decision making*: Decisions in BEN are arrived through discussion and consultation

BEN Panels on Various Environmental Problems of Bangladesh:

- Arsenic and Other Ground Water Contamination
- River and Other Water Issues
- Energy Issues
- Global Warming and Climate Change
- Economic, Legal, and Management Aspects of Environment
- Household, Industrial, and Medical Waste
- Surface Water Contamination
- Air Pollution and Other Problems of Urbanization
- Jute
- *Adibashi* Issues
- Population Growth, Forests, and Bio-diversity

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