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Water, Environment and Health

UNU-INWEH WATER HEALTH SEMINAR



Presents

Mr. Khawaja Minnatullah

Date: 11 Sep, 2009 @ 10 A.M.

Location: Council Chambers

Gilmour Hall 111

McMaster University, Hamilton, ON

Free and Open to Public

“Pollution of the Greater Dhaka Watershed”

This presentation focuses on the extent of the pollution problem in the greater Dhaka watershed, identifies main pollution hotspots, and analyses the impact of pollution on the water environment, environmental health, institutional and regulatory challenges, and suggests remedial options.

The Dhaka watershed covers a geographical area of about 1,500 sq. km, which includes the watercourses of Greater Dhaka plus the surrounding areas and river system that are greatly influenced by industrialization. These courses receive the entire pollutant load of the watershed with a population of over 12 million. Greater Dhaka has been a major engine of growth and prosperity in Bangladesh, representing more than 40% of Bangladesh's national GDP. Currently, there is an institutional vacuum where everybody - and nobody - is responsible for protecting the Dhaka watershed.

Environmental degradation of Dhaka watershed is created by the rapid growth of export-based industry, inefficient water use, and an overall unplanned and un-serviced urbanization. Policy with no incentives for environmental conservation, lack of enforcement, poor monitoring capacity and governance constraints are some of the key challenges.

About the speaker:

Mr. Minnatullah is Senior Specialist of Environment and Water, Social Environment and Water Resources Management Unit, of the South Asia Sustainable Development Department at the World Bank.

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