SIP - Daily Report

Date: 2026-05-18 (Monday)
Day: 02
Time: 09:30 AM – 12:45 PM
Location: Dhaka WASA Bhaban (15th floor, Kazi Nazrul Islam Ave, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh)

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Overview

Today marked our 2nd day of this internship program. It focused on understanding the structure of the Dhaka Sanitation Improvement Project (DSIP) and the technical scope of Dhaka's 2014 Sewerage Master Plan.

Chronological Activities

1. Introductory briefing: Academic introductions and an orientation by the acting Team Leader.
2. Technical briefing: In-depth session with a senior team member on municipal coordination, design frameworks, and field realities.
3. Task assignment: Scheduling upcoming field visits.

Introductory Briefing

The introductory session was conducted with the acting Team Leader as well as the rest of the team (total 6 personnel) accompanied by snacks. It began with taking everyone's introductions and an overview of the Sewerage Master Plan (2014) developed by Dhaka WASA (DWASA). This plan divides the metropolitan area into five distinct sewerage catchments:

1. Pagla Catchment (currently undergoing Phase-I implementation)
2. Dasherkandi Catchment
3. Uttara Catchment
4. Mirpur Catchment
5. Rayerbazar Catchment

Pagla Catchment Highlights

- Aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Target 6.2) to achieve universal sanitation and hygiene by 2030.
- Construction of three main trunk sewer lines 22 km and over 400 km of intercepting mains.
- Expected to serve approximately 1.5 million urban residents.

Administrative Structure

The DSIP office operates as a management consultant to assist the DWASA Project Management Unit (PMU) in running the project. Because the project is co-funded by loans from the World Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), operations must meet strict international criteria. These include periodic utilization reporting, social impact assessments, resettlement action plans, and maintaining institutional gender balance.

Technical Briefing

A subsequent session with a senior team member detailed the engineering and administrative challenges of implementing these plans:

- Sludge management deficiencies: Currently, only about 20% of Dhaka's fecal sludge is treated. This treatment is limited to chemical dosing for odor reduction prior to river disposal. The completed DSIP network aims to replace this method with comprehensive, modernized treatment.
- Social inclusivity: A dedicated sub-project has been derived from the main framework specifically to design and implement sanitation solutions for low-income and slum areas.
- Project packaging & frameworks: Drawing from previous municipal water supply upgrades (which successfully reduced system losses and unauthorized connections), DSIP is divided into eight separate contract packages (WD-1 through WD-7) distributed among international contractors under Design-Build-Operate (DBO) frameworks.
- Logistical obstacles: To minimize surface disruption, contractors utilize trenchless technology (micro-tunneling). However, progress is frequently constrained by the timelines required to secure road excavation permits from the City Corporations and the need to navigate congested underground utility lines.

Next Steps

At the conclusion of the first briefing, the acting Team Leader assigned two team members to guide our upcoming field activities. We will be provided with existing project reports and literature for review.

Next Scheduled Session: May 19, 2026, at 10:00 AM