SIP - Daily Report

Date: 2026-05-19 (Tuesday)
Day: 03
Time: 10:00 AM – 01:25 PM
Location: Dhaka WASA Bhaban (15th floor, Kazi Nazrul Islam Ave, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh)

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Overview

Today marked our 3rd day of this internship program. It focused on further understanding the structure of the Dhaka Sanitation Improvement Project (DSIP).

Chronological Activities

1. Review previous progress and reports to ensure continuity.
2. Review of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of Dhaka Sanitation Improvement Project (DSIP).
3. Briefing on the principles and practical aspects of government procurement and tendering processes.
4. Plan and prepare for upcoming field activities

Document Review and ToR

The day began at 10:00 AM with a review of the previous day's notes. Following this, the supervising team member provided the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Dhaka Sanitation Improvement Project (DSIP). A detailed study of this document revealed several critical aspects of large-scale infrastructure project management:

1. Institutional Responsibilities & Project Management Consultancy (PMC): The ToR clearly delineates which units and organizations are responsible for specific project components.
    a. The PMC holds primary responsibility for Component 1 (Institutional Support for Sanitation Service Delivery) and Component 4 (Project Implementation and Management Support).
    b. The PMC's core tasks involve generating, facilitating, monitoring, and checking the justification of project activities concerning quality control, resource utilization, and financial management.
2. Project Timeline: The total project lifespan is designated as 60 months, with a specific focus on the Pagla catchment area timeline spanning 40 months.
3. Human Resource Allocation: The project requires a total of 193 personnel, with around one-third consisting of international experts.
4. Recruitment & Staffing Criteria: Candidates applying for project roles are evaluated on strict parameters, where a bachelor's degree is the minimum academic requirement, and substantial experience (ranging from 10 to 20 years) is highly prioritized for senior roles.

Briefing on Government Procurement and Tendering

A senior team member conducted an instructional briefing detailing the mechanics of public sector procurement in Bangladesh. Key takeaways included:

1. Project selection: How public utility projects are identified (bottom to top, as opposed to top to bottom), planned, and approved based on municipal needs.
2. Contractor selection: The mechanics of public bidding, where contract awards are theoretically determined by finding the optimal balance between the lowest bid price (least cost) and the highest technical output.
3. Real-world application: Discussion on the practical challenges, regulatory frameworks, and bureaucratic realities that influence public tendering processes.

Next Steps

A tentative schedule has been established for site visits over the next two days to observe operations in the field.

Next scheduled session: May 20, 2026, at 10:00 AM.