



## **INTERNATIONAL PLANNING WORKSHOP**

on

**Conceptualizing Effective and Efficient Adaptation Policies to Climate Change in Bangladesh**

**To be held at the Rockefeller Foundation's Study and Conference Center in Bellagio, Italy**

**May 20-22, 2008**

### **Workshop Summary**

Bangladesh is recognized as one of the countries that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and climate variability. Despite an impressive amount of research on the implications of climate change on Bangladesh, the actions taken so far are insufficient for a variety of reasons. First, there is a lack of consistency even among recent impact assessments. Second, there is a lack of studies analyzing the cross-sectoral and cross-spatial implications of climate change. And third, there is a lack of integrating climate change adaptation policies into the broader development strategy.

Yet, it is feasible to overcome these lacks as there already exists a generic model, the Millennium Institute's Threshold 21 (T21), that, after the customization for Bangladesh and a few extensions, would provide an ideal platform upon which scientific knowledge about climate change and the broader development agenda can be integrated into a single multi-disciplinary framework for policy design and decision making in Bangladesh. However, given the complex ways climate change will impact Bangladesh physiologically, economically, and socially, the needed extensions of the T21 would need to be designed by a combination of scientists, development economists, policy-makers and civil society representatives.

Hence, it was therefore agreed to organize a three-day planning workshop to bring various stakeholders together to brainstorm on the complex issues and to draft a research program and policy framework on conceptualizing effective and efficient adaptation policies to climate change in Bangladesh. As the recent global climate change assessment studies have pointed out, the time to act has come. The costs of delaying to act now more than outweigh the costs of preventive actions. While this conclusion was referring to international mitigation policies, it also applies to country-specific adaptation policies.