

Delta Peoples Alliance [DPA] to launch struggle for rehabilitation of Indus Delta

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First time an alliance of the people directly affected by the diminished flow of fresh river water to the deltaic region of Sindh in the tail end of river Indus was formed with sponsorship of Pakistan Fisher-folk Forum (PFF).

The organization was named as Delta Peoples Alliance (DPA) with Abdullah Murghur as its convener and Amir Bux Jat as its secretarty. A large number of representatives of the deltaic communities, whose livelihood was destroyed by ecological disaster taking place in the Indus Delta due to drastic cut in water discharges downstream of Kotri Barrage were present on the occasion. The moot took place at Thatta on Sunday last in which an organizational structure was given to the DPA. A 10-member Steering Committee was also formed with Mohammad Ali Shah, Qasim Malah, Sajan Shaikh, Mustafa Zaur, Wafa Akram Abbasi, Allah Bux Temro, Gulab Shah, Ali Khan Chandio, Irshad Gandro and Ali Bhao as its members.

The Steering Committee of DPA later on met under the chairmanship of Mohammad Ali Shah, Chairperson of PFF during which it was decided that now the people directly affected by the water scarcity in the tail end of river will launch a struggle for the rehabilitation of the Indus delta, where the disastrous ecological degradation has affected the livelihood of 2.7 million human souls whereas 2.2 million acres of fertile agricultural lands have been spoiled by the sea intrusion; the mangrove cover has been reduced from 600,000 ha to 73,000 ha and a number of fish species have become extinct.

The alliance of people, who had come from Ketu Bandar, Khari Chhan, Jati, Shah Bandar, Baghan and Keenjhar Lake decided to convene a meeting of DPA Steering Committee on November 13 to finalize the modus operandi of the struggle to be launched for the rehabilitation of the Indus Delta. It was also decided to hold a convention of the Delta Peoples Alliance soon to give final shape to the plan of the peoples struggle for seeking water discharges in the downstream of Kotri Barrage for sustainability of more than 600,000 acres of agricultural crops and 175 kilometers of human habitat stretching to the Sindh coast.

P.S.

* Published on the website of the PFF.