

12

ESRI donation to BUET JU

Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc U.S.A. (ESRI) has donated US\$ 30,000 worth of computer software to establish Geographic Information System (GIS) laboratories at two universities in Bangladesh. This was an outcome of a meeting between Dr. Hemayet Hossain, Lecturer in the School Environmental Planning at the University of Melbourne, Australia and Dr. Jack Dangennond, the President of ESRI during Dr. Hossain's visit to the U.S.A. last September, says a Press release.

Dr. Hossain has been undertaking research in GIS and its applications in developing countries with the aim of modernising existing land and environmental information systems. He believes that computerised geographic information systems can help address many of their socio-economic environmental problems which are ultimately related to the management of land and environmental resources. Last January, he was invited by the Government of Bangladesh to take part in a policy seminar on "Urban Land Management in Bangladesh" which was also sponsored by the United Nations Economic and Social Council for the Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) Dr. Hossain participated in the seminar as an ESCAP resource person and presented an invited paper on the prospects for computerised land information systems in Bangladesh.

ESRI has donated two 5-key Arc/Info Lab kits which will be installed at the Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology at the Jahan-girnagar University in January 1991. A short course of GIS being offered by Dr. Hossain will follow the installation to train personnel from relevant public and private organisations responsible for Planning and management of land and environmental resources. It is expected that these two GIS centres, the first of their kind in Bangladesh, will facilitate the development of research and training programmes and encourage the use of GIS techniques in addressing many of the country's Planning and management problems.