

2010/september

Architecture Update

Sharing session at the Department of Architecture

Department of Architecture organized a sharing session on September 26, 2010, where Dr Robert Hodgson, Azit Roy and Risal Ahmed together shared their experiences of a 10-day workshop on "hands-on building with the community at Sundarban village in Dinajpur". Students and professionals from five different countries and local builders from different parts to Bangladesh participated in the workshop and eventually they helped building a house with the community. Main building materials of the house were cement-stabilized compressed earth blocks and bamboos.



Workshop



Dr Robert Hodgson



Azit Roy and Risal Ahmed

Dr Robert Hodgson is a civil engineer consultant and honorary university fellow at the University of Exeter; one of the founders of Housing and Hazard group and one of the trustees of RedR UK. Azit Roy is a farmer, singer, poet and a builder. He has been involved in different action research projects on low-income housing since 1996. Risal Ahmed is a student at the Department of Architecture. He was the former the president of BRAC University Environment Awareness Forum.

Workshop Dr Robert Hodgson Azit Roy and Risal Ahmed

ANGAN lecture

German political scientist Mr. Dieter Reinhardt visited Dhaka and delivered an ANGAN Lecture on 28 September 2010 in the Department of Architecture. He is working as a scientific research assistant at the Institute for Political Sciences and at the Institute for Peace and Development (INEF) of the University Duisburg-Essen/Germany. His research interests are Reform of the UN-System, Security Policy and Civil Conflict Management, International Policy of Humanitarian Assistance and Failing States.

The title of the lecture was "Green Governance: one solution for two problems? Climate change and economic shocks - perspectives from China, India and Bangladesh."

Md Hafizul Hasan rejoined after completing his higher study

Md. Hafizul Hasan rejoined in the Department of Architecture, BRAC University in September 2010. He went to UK in September 2007. He completed his Diploma in Business Administration from Guildhall College, London in December 2008. Then in April 2010, he got his master's degree in Construction Management and Economics from Greenwich University, UK. He has been with the Department of Architecture of BRAC University since 2002, when the department was established. He also has a master's degree in Urban Environmental Management from AIT, Bangkok and also completed a certificate course in Disaster Management from PPDM, BRACU in January 2007.

PPDM faculty attends a write-shop in Bangkok

Mohammad Aminur Rahman, Lecturer of the Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management (PPDM), attended a workshop on academic writing held in Bangkok, Thailand from 20 to 24 September, 2010. The write-shop was jointly organized by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). Sixteen participants, both academics and development practitioners, from 9 Asian countries participated in the event. The objective of the write-shop was to provide supplemental training on academic writing and argumentation in order to help new authors reach a standard of writing suitable for publication in peer-reviewed journals in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation. It is expected that the training enhances the skills of the participants in order to allow their work to be incorporated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other high-level scientific bodies and consequently inform policy making on key issues of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation. The mentors for this event included Terry Cannon from the Institute of Development Studies at University of Sussex, Richard Klein from SEI, Stockholm, Lisa Schipper from SEI, Bangkok, Akhilesh Surjan from the United Nations University in Tokyo and Justin Ginnett from UNISDR, Geneva.

BBS Update

Students consultation session with the Pro-VC

A consultation session was held on September 20th 2010 at BBS conference room with the undergraduate students of BRAC Business School (BBS). It was facilitated by Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro- Vice Chancellor, BRAC University. Students from different semesters were present at the meeting and discussed several issues of the school. Their opinions and suggestions regarding course content, class room teaching and some relevant logistic support were noted by the Pro-VC. Mr. Ishfaq Elahi Choudhury, Registrar and Suntu Kumar Ghosh, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of BBA Program, BRAC Business School, were also present.

Workshop on creative teaching

A workshop on the Art of Questioning in Creative Teaching was held on Thursday, September 23rd at UB0223. The workshop was designed for the faculty members of the BRAC Business School (BBS) and was facilitated by Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Ms. Samina Anzum Chowdhury, Jr. Lecturer, Teaching Learning Centre (TLC). The workshop was organized by the TLC of BRAC University for discussing on the following areas:

- Why to ask question
- How to elicit response
- How to respond to student responses
- Types of questions
- Exercise to identify the types of question
- Exercise on formulating questions

The workshop received a positive feedback and was appreciated from the faculty members.

Departure, Joining and Research Work of BBS Faculty Members

- Ms. Sharmin Shabnam Rahman, Lecturer has left to pursue Master programs in Investment and Finance at Queen Mary College, University of London.
- Ms. Samina Haque has joined the BRAC Business School as a Lecturer II. She completed her Bachelor of Business Administration from the Faculty of Business Studies, University of Dhaka and Master of Business Administration

from the Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka.

- Mr. Suntu Kumar Ghosh, Assistant Professor, " Predicting Labour Unrest Through the Lenses of Theory of Planned Behavior: Cases from BEPZA" has been accepted for publication in BRAC University Journal, Vol. VII, No. 1, 2010

Students Achievement of BBS

Proggna Paromita Majumder, a student of BRAC Business School, BRAC University and a mentor of the BRAC University Writing Centre, has become the International Climate Champion 2010. To have a better understanding on climate change and what can be done, Proggna has attended an international workshop in Nepal organized and sponsored by the British Council and ICIMOD. The climate champions from Bangladesh, Nepal and Uzbekistan participated in this workshop. The workshop was held in the period from September 19 to 25, 2010.

BDI Update

CPRS 2010 conference on 'war against poverty'

Dr. Syed Hashemi, Director, BDI, attended "Ten years of poverty: what have we learned since 2000 and what should we do 2010-2020?" an international conference hosted by the Brooks World Poverty Institute (BWPI) at the University of Manchester UK from the 8-10 September 2010. The conference brought together leading poverty researchers and actors working on poverty reduction to review the 'state of the art' in poverty reduction, showcase the Chronic Poverty Research Center's key research findings on chronic poverty and to set the research and policy agenda on poverty research for the next 10 years (2010-2020). The keynote speakers at this event included Sir Fazle Abed, Angus Deaton, Ravi Kanbur, Joseph Stiglitz.

On the second day of the conference, Dr. Hashemi discussed his own paper titled "New Pathways for the Poorest: The Graduation Model from BRAC". He also chaired the panel where speakers discussed 'Pathways for the Poorest: Analytical Frameworks and Global Lessons'. Other speakers on the panel included Imran Matin, Selim Raihan and Kate Conroy.

The conference was funded by Chronic Poverty Research Center, the Brooks World Poverty Institute and DFID.

"Social Protection as Development Policy in Asia: The Long-term Perspective"

The meeting on "Social Protection as Development Policy in Asia: The Long-term Perspective" from 27 to 29 October 2010 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok is being jointly organized by Social Protection in Asia Programme (SPA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in collaboration with the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD). The main objective of the meeting is to provide a platform for policy-makers, researchers and international organizations to exchange views, experiences and knowledge on social protection and its role in the development of the countries in the region. BDI's Director, Syed Hashemi will be participating in a discussion on "Building Pathways for the Poorest: Operationalising the Concept of Graduation" and will also present his paper titled "New Pathways for the Poorest: The Graduation Model from BRAC".

At this Conference, SPA - a pioneering programme of research, advocacy and

network building on social protection issues, managed by Institute for Development Studies, Sussex and Institute for Human Development, New Delhi will have its final Research and Policy event to present its key findings and launch its synthesis report. This programme is funded by Ford Foundation and International Development Research Centre (IDRC). In addition, UNRISD will present its flagship report "Combating Poverty and Inequality: Structural Change, Social Policy and Politics".

Exchange students BRACU taking courses at the University of Ottawa

Four students from BRAC University are currently attending a semester at the University of Ottawa, Canada under a five-year exchange program, initiated between BDI and the School of International Development and Global Studies (SIDGS) at the University of Ottawa. The courses taken here by the BRACU students Hafsa Rahman (English Linguistics), Saidur Rahman (Geography and Environment), Daraksha Binte Hossain (Electrical and Electronic Engineering) and Anika Mariam (English and Humanities) will count toward their university degrees back home.



Hafsa Rahman Saidur Rahman Daraksha Binte Hossain Anika Mariam

SIDGS, which works to contribute to the development of knowledge, research and public policies regarding international development and globalization, offers Undergraduate and Master's degree programs in International Development and Globalization. The institution is participating in this exchange program through the Marco Polo International Student Mobility Initiative under which, Ottawa University is developing multi-disciplinary exchange programs with different international faculty and students.

Pilot rollout in five urban slums aimed at multi-sector upgrade

BDI's urban poverty research cell is on the verge of rolling out pilot initiatives in five secondary towns - Rajshahi, Faridpur, Mymensingh, Bhairab, and Khulna, with an aim to instigate a comprehensive, multi-sector upgrade of urban slums, focusing on seven major themes - tenure security and land entitlement, livelihood strategy development and access to finance, health services, schooling and child labor, access to basic utilities, disaster preparedness and climate change and community mobilization.

The interventions to be implemented during the pilots are the fruits of extensive action research carried out by BDI since April, this year, on the funding provided by The Rockefeller Foundation. The implementation, currently funded by BRAC and WaterAid, will be coordinated by BDI. The organization will work with Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and BRAC's Legal Aid and Human Rights Division to explore issues such as security of tenancy and legal identity of slum residents. The lessons learnt from these pilots can help the formulation of future slum upgrading strategies that can have a positive impact on the lives of slum dwellers in Bangladesh, as well as in other parts of the world.

Bangladesh country paper on knowledge, communication and influence

presented at DRC meeting, Rajasthan, India

BDI Lead Researcher Simeen Mahmud presented a Bangladesh country paper on knowledge, communication and influence, coauthored by herself and Lopita Huq, Research fellow at BDI, at the final synthesis meeting of the Development Research Centre (DRC) on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability, held in Rajasthan, India from September 1 to September 9. The event marked the culmination of a ten-year long research partnership between 12 Southern countries coordinated by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) of the University of Sussex.

Other than Bangladesh, 7 other countries shared their overall research experience through country synthesis papers based on a variety of themes. The Bangladesh research paper titled 'Talking Citizenship: Knowledge, Communication and Influence in Bangladesh' was based on the theme - knowledge and influence in the research process. In the paper, the authors explored and reflected on how the knowledge derived from research findings is translated to induce influence and to bring about change. They concluded that although generated knowledge and the process of knowledge generation make considerable difference for different stakeholders, they may not have a direct influence on policy change. On the contrary, policy changes are often more affected by other stakeholders who are better placed to exert influence.

Strengthening Social Safety Net Program for the Extreme Poor in Bangladesh

BDI, in association with CARE Bangladesh has recently completed a research study to explore whether the government's safety net programs adequately protect the poor against natural disasters and other external shocks. The research findings are published in a report titled "Strengthening Social Safety Net Program for the Extreme Poor in Bangladesh" which has been coauthored by Seema Gaikwad (CARE) and Dr. Ferdous Jahan (BDI). On the 26th of September 2010, Dr. SyedHashemi, Director, BDI, presented the research findings at a national workshop held at BRAC INN. The event was attended by professionals at various NGOs, Government policy makers and representatives of donor organizations.

The three main objectives of the research were as follows - (1) To explore if the government of Bangladesh safety net programs protect the poor against disasters (floods and cyclones) and shocks (food crisis, price rise), (2) Which Social Safety Nets are the most/least effective at targeting extreme poor with labor? (3) How are the extreme poor participants of different Social Safety Nets doing in terms of indicators in six villages? The research used a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods. A quantitative survey was conducted on all 1978 households in the six target villages. In addition to this, 24 case studies were compiled to gain a deeper understanding of the underlying issues.

A stand against the eviction of slum dwellers and unlawful occupation of the Government Land Bill, 2009

Over 5.4 million people in Bangladesh currently live in 9,048 slums, which are sprawled across major cities. Future estimates reveal that by 2030, almost 60 percent of the population will be living in urban slums. However, the government has not yet addressed the issue of providing affordable housing for the urban poor. Slum dwellers often face eviction in the absence of anti-eviction laws. Amidst this, BDI, along with a few likeminded groups and organizations, is making an effort to explore the realities of forced eviction and to identify possible re-settlement solutions. The network is currently working to review and expedite the passing of the Anti-Eviction bill by the parliament. Other than BDI, members of the network

include Ain O Shalish Kendra (ASK), KamalHossain and Associates, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Centre for Urban Studies (CUS), Coalition for the Urban Poor (CUP), DushthaShasthya Kendra (DSK), Nagar DaridraBasteebashirUnnayanSangstha (NDBUS), Research Initiative Bangladesh (RIB), RRMURU and Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction (UPPR)/UNDP. As of September 2010, the member organizations have met three times with a primary focus on the aforementioned bill.

Food Security for the Ultra Poor

BRAC Development Institute (BDI) conducted a rigorous baseline survey for the Food Security for the Ultra Poor (FSUP) program - a two year project initiated by the World Food Programme (WFP) with an aim to improve food security and nutritional well-being of 30,000 ultra poor households in Pabna, Sirajganj and Bogra by promoting sustainable livelihoods. On the 30th of September, BDI presented its findings to WFP, donors, and other key stakeholders.

The FSUP project began in January 2009. For the baseline survey, the enumerators interviewed 1,890 respondents. In addition to the quantitative household survey, 20 enumerators worked diligently to capture the detailed life stories of 20 beneficiaries so as to be able to analyze the dynamics of the change that take place in the lives of the beneficiaries from inception to the phase out of the program.

Commencement of the Stories 4 Change Workshops



The Stories 4 Change project of the Pathways Programme at BDI has covered a lot of ground over the month of September. During the beginning of the month, an advertisement was circulated to solicit young writers who can transform the research materials generated by the Pathways Research team into pieces of fictional

stories. The aim of this project is to give share our research findings in a way that will be more appealing and speak to a wider audience. After the participants were selected, a meeting was held with senior writers such as Selina Hossain, Ruby Rahman, Imdadul Haque Milon, Papri Rahman, Moni Haider and others, who shall be serving as resource persons for this project. The project is being lead by Shamim Azad, poet and educator. The first of the Stories 4 Change workshop took place on 30 September and more workshops will continue through the month of October.

Article published in the IDS Bulletin

The article "A Silver Lining: Women in Reserved Seats in Local Government in Bangladesh" written by Sohela Nazneen and Sakiba Tasneem was published in the September issues of the IDS Bulletin (Volume 41 Number 5). This article investigates how perceptions have changed about the role of women representatives in local government. It explores the accounts of women's views, experiences and how they negotiate various structural and attitudinal obstacles, and the changes in the wider socio-political context, to show how women representatives have gained greater voice and social legitimacy in representing specific types of 'women's issues.'

Participation in Writing Workshop organized by Pathways Programme in UK
The Communications team of the Pathways Research Consortium convened in Hove, UK, to participate in a Writing Workshop during 6-17 September, 2010. The aim of the two-week retreat was to brainstorm about the focus and trajectory of the proposed book on Communications and discuss the chapters to be written for the book by the Communications team members. The team had a writing coach to facilitate writing exercises as well as visits from practitioners in the field who shared their experiences and suggested ways to move forward. The writing retreat as well as the travelling expenses for the participants was sponsored by the Pathways Programme. The book is expected to be published by Zed in late 2011.

Article published on Capacity.org

The article "Legitimacy enhances capacity" written by Sohela Nazneen and Sakiba Tasneem has been published at Capacity.org in their September issue on "Local government for gender equality". In the article, the authors argue that affirmative action has little effect if women are nominated - as opposed to being elected - to their seats. The article discusses the conditions under which affirmative action and training of women politicians can lead to effective voice and change on issues that are relevant for women. Their article, can be accessed at http://www.capacity.org/en/journal/practice_reports/legitimacy_enhances_capacity.

Empowering Work Team update

The Work team of the Pathways Programme at BDI is engaged with qualitative interviews on selected women in their field in Narayanganj. The transcriptions of the interviews are in progress and 13 out of the total of 45 have been completed. The analysis of the Survey data has also progressed, which involved carrying out regression models for eight districts separately, tests for sample pooling, etc.

Sustainable Security and Peace Building Research Update

The Sustainable Security and Peace Building as Pathways of Women's Empowerment Project has been engaged with literature review in preparation of writing the full report. Researchers are gathering and analysing literature, produced locally in the Hill Tract regions, regarding security and peace. These include books, leaflets, pamphlets, etc. Researchers are also reviewing the literature produced by NGOs working in the CHT on kinds of the interventions they are applying in the region.

Mobilising Resources for Women's Rights Research Validation Workshops

The Mobilising Resources for Women's Rights Research team organized two validation workshops to discuss their findings on the influence of and the changes in aid structure on women's rights organization (WROs) in the aftermath of the Paris Declaration. The first workshop was held with research partners (Banchte Shekha, Doorbar Networker, BOMSA, BNWLA and Karmajibi Nari) on 30 August, 2010 while a second workshop was held with donors of these organisations (Oxfam, SIDA, DANIDA, Asia Foundation, CIDA, IOM and Manusher Jonno) on 31 August. At the workshop, BDI lead researchers, Maheen Sultan and Sohela Nazneen, discussed the how, in the context of Bangladesh, aid had influenced the way WROs conducted their work; the nature of the relationship that exists between the WROs and the donors and the changes in this relationship; other sources and ways WROs secure resources; and the possible strategies that WROs may undertake in light of the changes in the current aid structure.

ICTS, Gender and Inclusive Citizenship Project commences

The project "ICTS, Gender and Inclusive Citizenship: The Bangladesh Case" is underway with the signing of a contract with the project coordinator, IT for Change. Preliminary research work has also commenced with the establishment of contact with DNET and Click Diagnostics, whose projects will be used as case studies in this research. A research scope has also been developed for the two organizations, and field work is expected to commence next month.

Review of Slum Dwellers International (SDI)

Sohela Nazneen, Research Fellow at BDI, was selected by Slum Dwellers International and the Gates Foundation to be one of the reviewers of the Urban Poor Fund International (UPFI). She was away from 19 September to 3 October in connection with this review. The countries being reviewed are Philippines, Uganda, Malawi and Zimbabwe. During her trip Sohela met the local federation of slum dwellers, relevant government agencies and civil society actors in Uganda and Malawi. The final report will be presented at a conference in Namibia in November 2010.

Cfl update

English Language Fellow joins CfL



Edward Leffew, Senior English Language Fellow of the US State Department has joined CfL from 14th September 2010. Edward has a Masters in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) from San Francisco State University. He has a varied teaching experience in Asia having taught in both schools and universities in China and Vietnam. He also has experience in teacher training and will be working with all the faculties at CfL for furthering their reflective teaching practices. He will also be working with the BRAC PACE (Post-primary basic And Continuing Education)

Programme.

ESS Update

Seminars/ Workshops Organized by ESS Department

- On September 23, 2010 the Department of Economics and Social Sciences organized a seminar entitled, "From Bali to Copenhagen, and to Cancun: Progress or Lack of Progress in Climate Change Negotiations" where the honorable Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, Professor Ainun Nishat shared his personal experiences on climate change negotiations.
- The Investment Climate Unit of the ESS Research Cell organized a workshop on 'Policy Implications of Investment Climate Research' on September 1, 2010 at UB0223. Dr. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro VC inaugurated the workshop. Three research papers from American International University (AIUB), Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), East West University (EWU), and two from BRAC University (BU) were presented. The panel of experts included Dr. Sajjad Johir from Economic Research Group, Prof. Ferhat Anwar from Institute of Business administration-Dhaka University, Prof. A K Enamul Haque from United International University, Dr. Rizwan Khair and Dr. Wasiqur Rahman Khan from BRAC University. Ms. Jisa and Mr. Adnan attended the workshop from IFC. The interns from the five universities, faculty members from ESS department, and the Registrar Mr. Ishfaqe Ilahi Chowdhury were also present. The event was followed by Iftaar.

Seminars/Presentations/Conferences attended

- Dr. Manjur Karim attended a seminar at the Press Club on "Civil Society and Effectiveness" organized by Aid Accountability Group and Reality of Aid, on August 25, 2010. Additionally he attended a seminar on "MDG and Global Partnership" which was organized by "Shushashon Er Jonno Procharabhijan" on September 17, 2010. He was a speaker on both the seminars.
- Mahbuba Naznin Sani (Lecturer and Senior Counselor) attended in the seminar conducted by James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University on 25th September, 2010. Other members of counseling unit, TLC were present there. It was a daylong seminar on "General and Mental Health" for residential students. The objectives of that workshop were to aware and sensitize the students regarding various health related issues, like, our common health concern, reproductive and sexual health and self defense for women as well.
- Farida Akhtar (Consultant of Counseling Unit, TLC) and Mahbuba Naznin Sani (Lecturer and Senior Counselor) conducted a day long seminar on 'Basic Orientation on Counseling' on 16th September, 2010 at Savar campus. The objective of the seminar was to give some basic information to all the residential staffs of Savar campus regarding counseling, the basics of counseling, process of counseling, counseling and other support services as well. Focal persons were selected from every dorm after this seminar.

Publication

Mahbuba Naznin Sani, Lecturer and Senior Counselor at the department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS) published a research paper on "Drug addiction among undergraduate students of private universities in Bangladesh". It has been published in "Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences Journal (ISSN: 1877-0428)" 2010, Volume 5, Pages 498-501.

Joining of ESS Faculty Members

Ms. Tahreen Tahrima Chowdhury joined the Department of Economics and Social Sciences as a Lecturer last month. She completed her Masters in Economics from the University of Dhaka. Her research interests are Poverty and Economic Development, Trade Facilitation and Development, Regulatory Process of Micro-credit Institutions in Bangladesh etc.

ENH Update

Ms. Roohi Huda, Lecturer left for Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada on 02 September 2010, to peruse a second Masters in English where her area of concentration will be English Literature. She was granted partial scholarship by University of Newfoundland for this one-year degree.

IGS Update

The Director of IGS, Barrister Manzoor Hasan, participated in the Asia Pacific Regional Community of Practice in Democratic Governance Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, from 1-3 September 2010. The main objective of the meeting was to explore the challenges and issues, such as internal conflicts, governance, natural disasters and impact of climate change, women's empowerment, impact of global financial crisis and fiscal space in the Asia Pacific region. Overall the meeting aimed to establish the way forward in facilitating a vibrant democratic governance team through substantive debates, knowledge exchange and collaboration to strengthen UNDP's positions, policies and interventions in governance in the Asia Pacific region.

UNDP Country office practitioners, APRC regional governance team, APRC practice leaders and representatives, other regionally represented UN agencies, external experts, government representatives and civil society representatives from the Asia Pacific region participated in the programme. Mr. Hasan gave three presentations on Knowledge Management, Protecting the Planet: the Governance of Climate Change, and the State of Democratic Governance.

Munyema Hasan, Research Associate of IGS (ANSA-SAR project), presented a paper on 'Citizen Monitoring of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Bangladesh' as part of the 5-day Stand Up and Take Action Campaign (SUTA) for the MDGs around the world on 19th September 2010 in Dhaka. This particular session was jointly organised by the United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC), WaterAid Bangladesh, Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and PSTC. The Director of MJF and the Country Director of WaterAid Bangladesh were present. The SUTA campaign was jointly organised by 26 organisations and networks in Bangladesh.

MNS Update

National Inception Workshop on Bangladesh Environment and Climate Change Outlook (ECCO) Report, 28-29 Sept, 2010

Dr. Aparna Islam, Assistant Professor, Biotechnology Programme attended a two day long Inception Workshop of 'Bangladesh Environment and Climate Change Outlook' project. The workshop was organized by the Department of Environment (DoE) with technical help from UNEP and held on 28-29th September, 2010 at LGED-RDEC, Dhaka. In the inaugural function Dr Hasan Mahmud, State Minister of the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of Bangladesh and Dr Mihir Kanti Mojumdar, Secretary of the same ministry were present as Chief and Special guests, respectively. In this workshop thematic area of environment was decided and degradation indicators of those were discussed. Depending on these issues a document would be finalized in future, which would have the state of environment report 2010. This document will be considered as "Bangladesh Environment and Climate Change Outlook (ECCO) Report 2010" which is a mandate as per Agenda-21 where Bangladesh is a signatory.

MS Biotech Student joined Universite Joseph Fourier, France as a Pre-Doctoral Fellow

Ms. Sadequa Sultana recently completed MS degree in Biotechnology from the Dept of MNS. She joined a predoctoral programme in nanobiology & nanobiotechnology at Universite Joseph Fourier, Grenoble, France. Her research project will lead to PhD degree.

Science Articles in the Daily Star by MNS Faculty

Two scientific articles on life science topics written by Md. Riajul Hossain, Lecturer in Biotechnology of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences were published in "Tuesday's Science and Life Section" of the Daily Star. The article titled "The biological clockwork" was published on 7 September where the writer described how beautifully the biological clock operated controlling the circadian rhythms maintaining the 24 hour day-light cycle in living organisms. The article titled "Facial beauty: Genes hold secret" was published on 28 September in which the role of genes in the facial attraction of male and female was explained. The writer describes that females and males both show tendency to be attracted by facial cues written in their MHC genes (Major Histocompatibility Complex), a cluster of genes that plays a major role in the immune system, accounting for the genetic diversity.

Joining of New Faculty Members

Mr. Sheikh Ahmed Ullah and Ms. Sanjeeda Nazneen joined the Department of MNS as Lecturers in Mathematics on 13 September 2010. The Chair introduced the new faculty members in the Departmental Meeting held on 13 September 2010. Everyone present in the meeting welcomed them with warm greetings.

Departure from Department

Adiba Raihan and Nudrat Lohani, teaching assistants in the department, left for Scotland and Australia respectively. The department wishes them a success in all their future ventures.

SoL Update

The Moot Court Society of the School of Law, BRAC University, sent a team to participate in the 6th Henry Dunant National Moot Court Competition, hosted by the Department of Law, Dhaka University and organised by the International Committee of the Red Cross, Bangladesh. The team comprised of mooters Subhrata Ghosh and Monira Nazmi Jahan and researcher SM Hasib Mahmud. The team was coached by the Advisor of the Moot Court Society, Dr. Tureen Afroz. The BRAC University team won the runners up cup and first prize for best memorial. The competition was held on 24 and 25 September.

SPH Update

Academic Programs

MPH PROGRAM

Courses

Andrew Jenkins and Jalal Chowdhury discussing ME with the MPH students
The MPH course Monitoring and Evaluation of Public Health Programme (MPH 691) was taught by Andrew Jenkins, Donor Liaison Officer, BRAC, Dr. Jalal Chowdhury, Coordinator, BRAC RED, and Suborna Camellia, Research Associate from the School, was the Teaching Fellow. The course ran from September 26-30, 2010.



Andrew Jenkins and Jalal Chowdhury discussing ME with the MPH students

The MPH course Principles of Health Communication (MPH 690) was conducted during September 19-23, 2010. The course was taught by Mahrukh Mohiuddin, Adjunct Faculty of JPGSPH while Dr. Taufique Joarder, Lecturer of JPGSPH acted as the Learning Facilitator.

FIELD VISITS

As part of the MPH 691, students visited field activities of Alive and Thrive project implemented by BRAC Health Programme at Kamrangirchar, Dhaka on September 29, 2010.

As part of the MPH 690, students in three groups visited three different sites: Bangladesh Center for Communications Programs (BCCP), Expressions Limited and Bitopi Advertising Limited (Spotlight). Students learned of the different activities of the institutions and observed the development of communication campaigns/materials. Additionally, they received communication materials from the organizations for critical appraisal as part of their assignments.

Centres and research indicatives

CENTRE FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS STUDIES (CHSS)

P4P

JPGSPH completed quality assurance group visits at four research sites in Jamalpur district in September. Additionally, JPGSPH team organized and facilitated a total of eight workshops at Kurigram district on September 19-23, 2010. These workshops were held at three upazila health complexes and in district hospitals. The team is presently working on the reports and simultaneously preparing for the upcoming Jamalpur orientation workshops.

FSNSP

3rd round of FSNSP data collection will start in early October. Prior to that, a refresher's training for the field staffs was organized on October 25-30, 2010.

CPHC

Data analysis for the Revitalizing Health for All: Developing a Comprehensive Primary Health Care Model for Bangladesh project has concluded. The report is currently being written.

CENTRE FOR GENDER, SEXUALITY AND HIV/AIDS (CGSH) Sexuality & Rights (SR) Forum Meeting

On September 4, 2010, CGSH hosted the monthly SR meeting where activists, personnel from development and advocacy agencies, and representatives from the LGBTI community attended to discuss a series of forums with stakeholders to push the SR agenda in Bangladesh.

Health seminar for undergraduate students at Savar

JPGSPH took part in the 3rd public health seminar with undergraduate students organized by CFL at Savar campus on September 25, 2010. Dr. Sabina Rashid, Nuzhat Chowdhury and Anuradha Hashemi went from the school to provide students with basic information on physical, mental and reproductive health. Topics covered ranged from healthy eating, stress and relaxation, substance abuse, sexual harassment and healthy relationships. The lectures were followed by an anonymous question-answer session. Dr. Jannatul Ferdous, a gynecologist, was present at the seminar to answer students' questions. BRAC University counselors were also present and introduced to students as an available resource. The public health seminar with undergraduate students at Savar campus is an initiative taken by JPGSPH and CFL to address students' health and well being concerns in an interactive manner.

GFATM PROJECT 913

Training on HIV/AIDS related issues, management, monitoring and evaluation
A three-week training course on 'HIV/AIDS related issues, management, monitoring and evaluation' for mid-level Managers of GFATM partners and non-GFATM NGOs began on September 26, 2010 at TARC, Uttara under GFATM-funded capacity

building project. This training course is one of the major activities of the project. Managers from different NGOs of 20 district project are participating in the course. The objective of the training is to build and strengthen the capacity of mid-level managers of governmental, non-governmental organization/agencies and private sectors in efficient management and quality implementation of HIV prevention programmes in the country.

Partners' Coordination Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Partners' Coordination Committee (PCC) was held on September 27, 2010 with associate partners' of JPGSPH, BRAC University consortium. The focal persons and accounts officers of Population Council, PIACT Bangladesh and Concern Women for Family Development (CWFD) and Head, M&CH, NIPSOM, participated in the meeting. The main agenda included reviewing the project progress, sharing and orientation of the annual progress, review process, documentation, and sharing the M&E framework. The meeting was presided over by the Team Leader of GFATM, RCC-913 project. Appropriate documentation of programme, finance and M&E were emphasized in the meeting.

School events and other activities

BANGLADESH HEALTH WATCH (BHW)

Universal Health Coverage Activities during September

- The outline of different sub-topics for the major chapters has been created and updated.
- Potential authors have been contacted for their contribution to various sub-topics
- Organized a brainstorming informal meeting with the individuals who have already agreed to contribute, meeting was presided by Dr. Abbas Bhuiya, Deputy Executive Director, ICDDR,B
- Held meetings with Health Economics Unit of MOHFW for their involvement in the study
- Draft preparation of the sub-chapter technical committee

MEETINGS AND VISITS

Meeting with Nova Consultancy Bangla (NCB)

As part of NCB's new research project titled Human Resources in Health (HRH), they contact the School for a series of meetings held over September to discuss various research aspects.

JPGSPH Management Meeting

Tim Evans, Dean, created a JPGSPH management committee consisting of personnel from the School and ICDDR,B. The committee was organized to highlight, discuss, and improve key aspects of the School.

OTHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

INTERNSHIPS

Currently, the School is in communication with potential international intern applicants for placement under various research projects.

Academic study groups (ASG)

The Study of Cosmetics

A short documentary titled The Story of Cosmetics was screened for the ASG on September 23, 2010. The 8-minute animated documentary highlighted the impact

of cosmetic use on the user's health and environment. The documentary's key message was the creation of a more sustainable and just world.

faculty news

Taufique Joarder, a Lecturer, has been recognized as an Emerging Voice due to his essay titled Achieving Universal Health Coverage through Community Empowerment: Comprehensive Primary Health Care Approach in Bangladesh in the 52nd Annual Colloquium organized by Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium. His award winning essay will be published in a reputed journal, and will be presented in the First Global Symposium on Health Systems Research due on November 16-19, 2010 in Montreaux, Switzerland.

Tanvir Hasan, Research Associate, and Tisa Muhaddes, Research & Communication Officer, attended a dissemination seminar at ICDDR,B on the findings of the Participatory Situation Assessment of MSM and Hijra in Bangladesh on September 30, 2010 at the Sasakawa auditorium.

NEW FACULTY

After completing her MPH from the James P. Grant School of Public Health, Mashida Rashid worked as a health systems policy researcher at ICDDR,B. She moved to the JPGSPH in September 2010 as a Senior Research Associate, and is currently coordinator of the strategic planning process for the 10 year plan of the school. She is also involved in reproductive health research.

Students Affairs Update

Technical Seminar on Therap



Computer Club (BUCC) in collaboration of School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) organized a technical seminar on Therap. Therap is an international software company which is currently working in collaboration with the

Ministry of Social Welfare (MSW), the Government of Bangladesh to implement a pilot project to build a national database on persons with disabilities Therap wants to meet the current student base especially those who will be graduating soon and be the 015potential employee of Therap. This seminar was arranged so that the potential students get to know better about Therap. Many of our students are working with Therap in the area of Creative Comic Book style Software Manual Designing, Software Development etc. The speakers were Richard Robbins (Chairman and CEO, Therap Services), Jahangir Alam (CSE Alumnus), Tanjima Ali and Chowdhury Zaigam Murshed (ECE Alumnus) who are current employees of Therap. We also got to know about Therap's plan on penetrating mobile platforms and Data Mining areas. Among the faculty members, Matin Saad Abdullah, Md. Shamsul Kaonain Noman, Farazul Haque Bhuiyan, Dr. Md. Khalilur Rhaman, Annajiat Alim Rasel, and Supriyo Shafkat Ahmed Orphy from SECS were present. Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah from Career Services Office (CSO) was also present. At the end of the seminar, they discussed with Prof Mumit khan about possible internship opportunities and future collaboration. The seminar was held on Sunday, September

26, 2010 at GDLN Video Conference Room, UB 18th Floor. Event details including presentation and more photo are available at [ftp://192.168.0.84/BUCC Events/](ftp://192.168.0.84/BUCC%20Events/)

TLC Update

Workshop on Art of Questioning in Creative Teaching at BRAC University

A Workshop on "Art of Questioning in Creative Teaching" Was held on 23rd of Sept 2010 at UB 0223, organized by Teaching Learning Centre (TLC) and was designed for the Faculty of BRAC Business School (BBS). The total participants were 16 and was facilitated by Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-VC, BRACU. Co-facilitators were Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, In-Charge, CSO, BRAC U and Ms. Samina Anzum Chowdhury, Jr. Lecturer, TLC.

The workshop was conducted through Colloquim Method into two major sessions and both of the sessions were going through Inner and Outer Circle Discussions where each of the participants had the chance to ask questions to the group leaders having the clarifications as well as to share own opinions. Exercises on identifying the Types of Questions and Formulating and Sharing Questions added extra values to the workshop.

Welcome to the newly added members in Core Facilitation Team (CFT), BRACU

The following listed members has been replaced at CFT, BRACU, instead of Dr. Md. Quamrul Ahsan (EEE), Dr. AKM Abdul Malek Azad (EEE), Dr. Farzana Munshi (ESS), Mr. Tanvir Hussain(ESS), and Mr. Matin Saad Abdullah (CSE)

1. Mr. Tarem Ahmed (EEE)
2. Ms. Fariah Mahzabeen (EEE)
3. Ms. Fahmida Saadia Rahman (ESS)
4. Ms. Nirvana Mujtaba (ESS)
5. Mr. Khalilur Rahman (CSE)

1st Experiential Teaching Learning Workshop with Core Facilitation Team (CFT) of BRACU

1st Experiential Teaching Learning Workshop with Core Facilitation Team was held on Sept 16, 2010 at UB 0223, organized by Teaching Learning Centre (TLC), BRACU.

According to 62nd Academic Coordination Meeting (ACC), a Core Facilitation Team (CFT) was developed taking faculty from each Departments, Schools and Institutes for supporting the faculty development initiative at BRACU.

The workshop aimed to explore and develop a greater social bondage between each of the nominated members of CFT. Again, the objective of the workshop also was to develop better ideas to harmonize the faculty's teaching styles based on the learning styles of the students. The workshop was carried out through group discussions, group presentation and exercise, based on i) Socialization processes and ii) How Students' learn VS How we Teach . The workshop has been facilitated by Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-VC, BRACU.

Seminar on "General and Mental Health"

On 25th September 2010 James P Grand School of Public Health, BRAC University conducted a whole daylong seminar on "General and Mental Health" for residential students. On behalf of Counseling Unit, Mahbuba Naznin Sani (Lecturer and Senior

counselor), and three other counselors; Anjuman Ara Eva, Shahenour Akter and Mozumdar Arifa Ahmed were attend at that seminar. The seminar started with the discussion of basic health, self defense for Women, reproductive and sexual health and finally the students were introduced about Health Club.

Career Services Office Update

Orientation Fall2010: Professional Skill Development Program (PSDP)



Orientation for Professional Skill Development Program (PSDP) was held on September 21, 2010. A number of 120 students registered for Fall2010. Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-Vice Chancellor was the key speaker of the session and Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, In-charge, Career Services Office has coordinated the program. From Fall 2010 PSDP is going to follow the redesigned training plan and schedule.

Applied Microsoft Excel Training (AMET)

Orientation for AMET was held on September 22, 2010 at UB0223. Dr. Md. Khalilur Rahman, Assistant Professor and Mr. Farazul H. Bhuiyan, Lecturer, Computer Science Department along with Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, In-charge of the Career Services Office conducted the orientation program. Various aspects of the training have been highlighted during the session.

PSDP Fall2010 Coordination Meeting

The 1st Coordination meeting for Professional Skills Development Program was held on September 25, 2010. Mr. Rezaul Kabir, CIO, Novotel, Ms. Sharmin Sultan, Human Resource Manager, Robi Axiata Limited and Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, In-Charge, Career Services Office were present in the meeting.

Internship Presentation BUS400

Internship Presentation of BUS400 took place on September 30, 2010 for a number of 34 students of Summer 2010.

September, 2010 Job Placement News:

1. Md. Fakhrul Matin Standard Chartered Bank Ltd.
2. Ashfiqul Islam BRAC as Young Professional
3. Joydip Sinha Roy BRAC as Young Professional