

2010/december

BRACU Hosts SAUFEST 2010

South Asian Universities Youth Festival (SAUFEST) 5 "Friendship Forever"



The fifth South Asian Universities Youth Festival, SAUFEST-5 (2010), hosted by BRAC University lit up to witness an amazing array of cultural exchange. Earlier this year BRAC University had organized the 1st BRAC University Inter University Youth Festival which paved the way to selecting the best performers from Bangladesh in categories of dance, singing, public speaking and sketching. On 23rd December 2010 the Savar campus of BRAC University opened its gates to SAUFEST 5. With its promise of friendship forever Bangladesh began its first foray as a SAUFEST host with registration under the BRACU student volunteers' guidance. The various participants of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal Pakistan and Sri Lanka began their journey of SAUFEST 5 by registering for the variety of cultural activities offered. The festival was organized by BRAC University Bangladesh, under the aegis of Association of Indian Universities (AIU). Event partners of the festival are BRAC, Aarong Milk, Aarong, BRAC Bank, Channel I, Nescafe, South Asia Foundation (SAF) and Bashati Consortium. [Read More...](#)

BRACU celebrates Victory Day

To celebrate the 40th Victory Day, a discussion was held at BRAC University on December 16, 2010. Prof. A A Ziauddin Ahmed, Chairperson, Mathematics and Natural Sciences, BRACU was the chief speaker for this event who shared his own experiences of the liberation war.



"This day reminds me of the supreme sacrifice of our freedom fighters who will ever shine in our hearts like the luminous stars in the sky but at the same time we must remember the spirit of the liberation war,"

Professor Ahmed quoted. The freedom fighters gave us an independent country and now it the nations responsibility to protect it and respect the supreme sacrifices of millions of liberation thrust people, he added. The whole atmosphere was overjoyed with the presence of Professor Syed M Hashmi, Director, BDI and also a freedom fighter. He also shared his experience as a freedom fighter as portrayed some of the aspects of war and journey as a fighter. He said "We wanted a country where justice will prevail over injustice and wrong and we have achieved it." Everyone wanted a country of their own, a culture and traditions of their own and the thought and desired to achieve it made me join the war and show a green-red flag. Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Registrar , BRACU was also present during the event. He encouraged the new generation to pay tribute to the memories of the day and the martyrs who laid down their lives for the sake of our Independence.

Faculty members of different departments, university officials and the students showed their presence with joy and excitement and took the event as a learning experience about 'Liberation War.' Lastly the Registrar ended the event saying, "So let us remember the sprit of the victory establish laws in the country to build it as a country which rightly be called 'Sonar Bangla'."

Architecture Update

Critique Week

Generally, the last week of the semester is scheduled for the final Critiques of the design studios. Final Critiques of design works of freshmen through fifth year were held this semester from December 02 to December 07, 2010. Bashirul Haq, Rafiq Azam, Shayer Ghafur, Salauddin Ahmed, Mejbah Uddin Ahmed, Ehshan Alam , Huraera Jebeen, Community people of Rishipotti, Bhairab were present as guest critics in different critique sessions. Prof. Fuad H Mallick, Prof. Zainab F Ali, all members of the faculty and students of the department attended the jury as well.

Faculty attended a Training program

Ar. Rahat M Niaz, and Ar. Shajjad Hossain, lecturers, Department of Architecture were awarded fellowships to attend a training program on "Decentralised Wastewater Treatment and Reuse" from 12-15 December, 2010 at BRAC-CDM, Savar. Water Aid Bangladesh, in collaboration with Center for Science and Environment -CSE (INDIA) organized the program. There were thirty five participants from different government departments and other universities.

Exhibition of Design Works

The 4th year architecture students of BRAC University organized an exhibition of their design works at the ground floor of the university building at the end of fall 2010 semester. The event was an effort to share knowledge and ideas to solve urban low-income housing problems, which exhibited innovative design proposals of such housing for a community of cobblers and broom-makers at Dakshin Rishipotti, Bhairab. The exhibition ran from 2nd to 9th December and was visited by many enthusiasts including students, teachers, foreign delegates, renowned architects, development activists, the mayor of Bhairab and also the people from the community for whom the exercise was done. There were 10 design suggestions in total, where each one was done by a group of two students who has completed an extensive study of the existing situation beforehand and went on to designing a sustainable habitat for the community considering the future effects of climate change. The design processes suggested and followed by the course instructors were also very new where the design decisions evolved in a bottom up manner. Designers worked with the community in such a way as if the community itself were designing. This project is a part of the collaboration with the University of Manchester, UK and the research program "Climate change and urban poverty in Bangladesh" (ClimUrb).



BBS Update

Seminar on Marketing

Mr. Sazidul Islam, GM, Brand Strategy & Planning, Spotlight Event Management, a sister concern of the oldest marketing firm in Bangladesh, Bitopi gave a seminar on Marketing .The seminar took place on December 2, 2010. For the seminar, Mr. Sazidul Islam talked about 3 different parts.

1. Marketing as a career

In this part he talked about different field of marketing, current scenario in the country and globally all scope of marketing as a career.

Share audio visuals of different marketing campaign (global and local)

2. Brand

This was an interactive session where students went through the basic elements of a brand and prepare a brand of their own, random presentation and discussion.

3. Brand Strategy & planning

In this part he explained how to prepare a brand strategy, how to plan brand campaign launch, how to use and select different media tool and finally what are the key elements of execution of the brand in the market.

The seminar was conducted by Suntu Kumar Ghosh, Assistant Professor and BBA Program Coordinator, BRAC Business School.

Seminar on Operations Management

A Specialty Topic Seminar on Operations Management: Continuous Improvement for Operational Excellence was held on Dec. 8th, 2010 (Wednesday), from 3:30 to 5:15 PM at BRAC University, UB 0223. Speaker was M. Obaidul Gani. He holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from BUET, Dhaka, M.S. in Engineering & Operations Management from Wayne State University, Michigan, USA, and received his Executive Education in Operations Management from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA. He also holds a Professional Engineering License, Certified as a Lean & Six-Sigma professional to work in the field of Continuous Improvement (C.I.). The topics that were discussed are Operations Management & Business Process Optimization, Lean Manufacturing & Toyota Production System (TPS), Six-Sigma DMAIC Methodology, Continuous Improvement Culture & Organization Change Management, and Prospect of Continuous Improvement in Bangladesh and academic Programs. The seminar was conducted by Dr. Sanaul Mostafa, Director, BBS and Mimnun Sultana, Lecturer, BBS.

Internship Presentation of BBS Students: Fall 2010

The internship presentation for Fall 2010 of BRAC Business School (BBS) was held on December 9, 2010. To fulfill the requirement for the Degree of Bachelor of Business Administration in BRAC University, 24 students from BRAC Business School made their presentation in front of two different faculty members from BBS.

Training and Research Work of BBS Faculty Member

- Suntu Kumar Ghosh, Assistant Professor, BRAC Business School has been approved as an Invitee Research Associate at Rikkyo University, Japan. To serve that purpose, he may have to stay in Japan from January 5th to February 2nd 2011.
- Suntu Kumar Ghosh "Measuring general consumer's perception about bottled mineral water exists in Bangladesh" has been accepted for publication at the 2011 MAG Scholar Conference to be held from May 29- June 01, 2011 in Christchurch, New Zealand. All accepted papers will be published in the proceedings CD with an ISBN number. A selection of the conference papers will also be considered for publication in International Journal of Business & Society.
- 3rd International Conference of Global Business and Management Forum held on 23rd December 2010 (Thursday) at Southeast University campus. BRAC Business School faculty Md. Jabir Al Mursalin presented a paper titled "Stereotyping of Women in Advertising: A content Analysis Study on Bangladeshi Print Media Advertisement" ' jointly written by Ms. Syeda Rawnok Afza and Md. Jabir Al Mursalin. Prof. G. M. Chowdhury, Director, IBA presided over the session while executives of different organizations and teachers from different universities were present in the session. The research paper gained huge appreciation from the audience.

Feedback Session with Outgoing Students of BBS

BBS has organized an open discussion session where its graduating students freely expressed their experience with BRACU and the corporate world and also put forward some suggestions on how to improve certain academic and non-academic aspects of the university. The faculty members, In-Charge of Career Services Office and a number of outgoing students have participated in the meeting chaired by Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRACU. In the meeting, students expressed their satisfaction with academic standard of BRACU. They were very glad to share the information that BRACU has got a good image in the corporate world and the employers are keen to hire the BRACU graduates. They also requested the authority to bring some changes in the academic and administrative procedures to make the BRACU system more responsive to the students-needs. Dr. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRACU in his concluding remark reminded the students about their role as the ambassadors of BRACU and also urged them to put their best effort to uphold the image of the institution in the society by their good deeds.

BDI Update

International Conference on Islam and Politics in South Asia

BDI conducted a very successful conference titled "Transcending Binaries: Islam and Politics in South Asia" at BRAC Centre on December 18th and 19th, 2010. The conference brought together leading scholars who work on South Asia and Islam from reputed institutions such as Jawaharlal Nehru University, University of California at Berkeley, University of Texas at Austin, University of Amsterdam, Johns Hopkins University, Ryerson University in Toronto and BRAC University.

The conference began with an introductory note by Vice Chancellor Professor Ainun Nishat, followed by an opening speech by chief guest Dr. Mashiur Rahman, Adviser to the Honorable Prime Minister on Economic Affairs. Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley, Saba Mahmood set the perfect tone for the conference with her incisive keynote speech asking for a critical recontextualization of secularisms in the face of the US war on terror on the one hand and the rise of Islamic fundamentalism on the other. The panel discussions that included noted scholars such as Willem Van Schendel, Kamran Ali, Zoya Hasan, Amina Jamal, Dina Siddiqi, and Ali Riaz, centered on ideas of nationalism, modernity, women's empowerment, asking for a critical examining of existing modes of thinking and a broadening of existing analytic concepts. The conference also had a live telecast with writer Tariq Ali from London, and closed with concluding remarks by Dr. Gowher Rizvi, Adviser to the Honorable Prime Minister on International Affairs.

BDI feels that the conference offered the perfect academic and critical platform to think through many critical issues that are currently extremely pertinent to the cultural and political landscape of South Asia. Well-received by the participants and others who attended as guests, BDI hopes to keep the discussions and debates alive through future collaborative initiatives with conference participants as well as take the issues to a wider audience. Future plans include putting the conference papers together into an edited volume of essays.



Roundtable on "Women and Visual Media: Representation and Engagement"

A day-long roundtable on Women and Visual Media: Representation and Engagement was organized by the Pathways team on 22 December, 2010 at the CIRDP Auditorium to discuss the relationship of women to television watching and the implications this has for media actors, academics and activists. The roundtable featured two research presentations. The first presentation titled "Women Watching TV: Surfing between Fantasy and Reality" presented by Samia Rahim shared the findings of the research on women in urban and peri-urban areas of Dhaka city. Kaberi Gayen, shared her views regarding the first research presentation and Sara Zaker moderated the discussions.

The second presentation titled "Pahari Media O Nari" was presented by Sahida Khondaker and shared the findings of the Pathways research on media productions produced in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. A panel chaired by Professor Helal Uddin Khan Arefeen and composed of Mahmudul H Sumon, Sanjib Drong, and

Saymon Zakaria, discussed the findings of this research and shared their views. The roundtable ended with a closing panel that chalked new directions in media studies and research and featured Muhammad Jahangir, Asif Saleh, and Rokeya Rafique. The session was chaired by Firdous Azim, who was also the Lead Researcher of the two researches that were presented.

"Religion in Women's Everyday Lives: Implications for Secular Rights Movements"

A roundtable on Religion in Women's Everyday Lives: Implications for Secular Rights Movements was organized on 29 December, 2010 at the BRAC Centre Inn that brought together activists, academics, researchers and practitioners to discuss the new ways and forms of religious engagement in today's world and how this shapes understandings about rights, gender and personal relations in women's everyday lives. The roundtable was organized to discuss the findings of the Muslim Women and Religion research that was conducted by the Pathways of Women's Empowerment Research Program at BDI.

Firdous Azim commenced the program by providing an introduction and the background to the research, the main presentation was given by Samia Huq, who discussed the lives of young, mobile Bangladeshi women-garments factory workers, students and participants in taleem circles- to understand how religion manifests itself and how rights, relations, and entitlements are interpreted by them. A panel discussion followed the presentation where noted activists reflected on the findings of the research and discussed what lessons it offers the secular rights movement. Panellists included Rahnuma Ahmed, Sara Hossain, Salma Khan, Shirin Akhtar, and Roushan Jahan. The panel was chaired by Perween Hasan.



Consultation Workshop on Expanding Services to the Poor

In collaboration with Tongi Pourashva, BDI organised a consultation workshop on expanding services to the poor titled Scaling-Up of Good Practices in Tongi Pourashava through Appreciative Inquiry on 18, December 2010 at CDM, BRAC, Rajendrapur. Other partners involved were Local Government Division, MoLGRD&C, Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction Project (UPPR) and Water and Sanitation Program of the World Bank. The workshop was inaugurated by a welcome speech by the Mayor of Tongi Pourashava and an opening address by Ali Ahmed, National Project Director, Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction (UPPR) Project, Local Government Engineering Division. The day-long session was aimed at interacting and engaging with slum dwellers to understand, from their perspective, issues such as what they consider to be the best practices to solve their problems, why they consider such practices to be the best, how these practices work and whether they can be replicated in other areas. After dialogue and discussion among the participants, including Ferdous Jahan, Santanu Lahiri and Ali Ahmed, Abdul Motaleb and Azahar Ali, five good practices were identified along with indicators for the validation of each practice, methods of replication were outlined and a work plan for Tongi Pourashava was developed. BDI will further engage in

follow-up activities with Tongi Pourashava.

Seminar on Microcredit and Health Services Experiment in Rural Bangladesh

The Institute of Microfinance (InM), Bangladesh and The Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health, School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA organized a seminar on "Findings from Microcredit and Health Services Experiment in Rural Bangladesh". The Seminar was held on 30th December, 2010 at the BRAC Center Auditorium. Simeen Mahmud, Lead Researcher, BDI, presented her research findings on the "Measurement of Women's Empowerment in Rural Bangladesh". Professor Stan Becker and Dr. Ruhul Amin, Johns Hopkins University, USA also presented their research findings. Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, Honorable Minister for Information and Cultural Affairs, Government of Bangladesh was the chief guest at the seminar.

Exchange Program with University of Ottawa

BRAC University has embarked upon a student exchange program with the University of Ottawa. The School of International Development and Global Studies (SIDGS) in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ottawa and BRAC Development Institute (BDI) at BRAC University are aiming to establish a student exchange program that wishes to institute a protocol allowing the exchange of undergraduate and graduate students. Students must be registered as full-time students in either institution. Courses taken in the host institution will count toward a university degree in the home institution. The coordination of the exchange program was initiated between Syed M. Hashemi (Director of BDI), John Sinclair (Senior Fellow at SIDGS) and Gordon Betcherman (Professor at SIDGS). Four students, two from the undergraduate and two from the Master's level, from BRAC University attended the semester of Fall 2010 at the University of Ottawa. Seven undergraduate students from the University of Ottawa will be attending BRAC University classes for one semester starting January 2011.

'Mobilising Resources for Women's Rights' Report Finalised

The team working on the project on 'Mobilising Resources for Women's Rights' finalised their Bangladesh country report. This report is part of a comparative study conducted with Ghana. The report focuses on the impact of donor funding on the way women's rights organisations work. It extensively looks at how the women's rights organisations are dealing with changes brought forth by the Paris Declaration which stresses aid effectiveness and donor harmonisation that have led to a decrease in donor funds for women's organisations. The report will be available in print in March. A write up based on this report in Bengali will also be published in March.

MDS Field Trip to BARD, Comilla

BDI organized a three day field trip to the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla for its MDS students from 2 December to 4 December, 2010. Dr Tofael Ahmed, Faculty of Rural Development led the team of 25 students in their visits to BARD, Chouddaygram Upazilla and Pourashava Complex, DIDAR and Bamoil Comprehensive Village Development Program and Lalmai Moinamoti, where they conducted interactive sessions with local political leaders and Upazilla level government officials on aspects of local governance.

MLARR Field Trip to Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project

Students of BRAC University's MLARR program participated in a field trip to The Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project on 18 December, 2010. The trip provided students with practical experience on land acquisition and resettlement issues. The students went to two resettlement villages on both sides of the Padma, Mawa and Jajira, to observe the implementation of Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and compensation payments to project-affected people. They also conducted an interactive session with implementing partner CCDB.

The Pathways Stories 4 Change Project Nearing Completion

The Stories 4 Change project is nearing its final phase with the submission of the final draft of stories by the

writers. The stories have been judged by a selection committee and the final round of revisions are taking place. Shameem Azad, the Project Leader is working closely with the writers to produce the final stories, and is also in talks with the proposed publishers, Mowla Brothers, about the book. The book will contain a selection of stories produced from the Stories 4 Change project and is expected to be published in March 2011.

CfL Update

Workshop on 'Leadership Skills in ELT'



A workshop on 'Leadership Skills in ELT' was conducted by TESOL Arabia Leadership and Management SIG Teacher Leadership Academy from 2-3 October, 2010 at BRAC Inn Centre. The two day workshop organized by BELTA sought to harness the leadership potential of teachers from universities, colleges and schools both from Dhaka and outside. The sessions were conducted by prominent teacher educators from the Gulf region who shared their expertise and insights about the importance of developing leadership skills in the field of English Language Teaching. The highlight of the program was the session chaired by Dr. Christine Coombe, the current TESOL President-elect (2010-2013). Several CfL teachers participated in the workshop and gained an insight into the ways to assess leadership potential and how to successfully implement change.

SECS Update

IEEE Distinguished Lecture On "Outcome-based Education For Learning To Learn" By Prof. Rashid

On the fabulous evening of 23rd December, a seminar on a very unique topic was organized by IEEE BRAC University Student Branch in collaboration with Control and Applications Research Group (CARG). "Outcome-based Education for Learning to Learn" was the topic of the seminar and the speaker was Prof. Muhammad H. Rashid.

Dr. Rashid is a renowned personality in the field of electronics & power engineering. He published more than a dozen of books, has more than 130 technical papers bearing his name, and has taught in many universities in different countries like University of Connecticut, Concordia University, Purdue University and King Fahd University. He was also involved with Brush Electrical Machines Ltd. and Lucas Group Research Centre. At the very beginning, students who attended the seminar were confused with the topic, which is very obvious, because of its elusiveness. And that curiosity brought in unexpected amount of attendees in the MNS seminar room.

At the start of the seminar, Dr. Azad gave an introductory opening speech and the chairperson of the EEE department, Dr. Sayeed Salam, presented a crest and a welcome gift to Dr. Rashid. During the seminar, many other faculty members from School of Electrical and Computer Science together with many enthusiastic students were present.



The topic of the seminar became clear when Dr. Rashid started his presentation which was filled with motivations to progress in life, how to think like an engineer, how one should prepare and chose the path and many other inspirational talks. Like the last three words of the seminar topic said "Learning to learn", the presentation was all about how we should be learning; a very unique presentation and the least that we can expect from an engineer. During the seminar, he also showed a very popular book of him named "Microelectronics-Circuits, Analysis and Design" which is being followed in many engineering schools around the world.

When the question and answer session came at the end of the presentation, he was showered with questions from faculty members and student alike. Dr. Rashid, being like a fatherly figure to most of us who were present during the seminar, answered all of them with patience, examples and wonderful suggestions. After the end of the seminar, he happily interacted with the faculties and few curious students despite being a person with a very tight schedule. Upon leaving the room, it was understandable that he was very pleased with the response that his speech received.

At the end of the event, it was a great success and a moment of joy for IEEE BRAC University Student Branch and CARG. It would not have been possible without the immense contribution and hard work of the organizers. All in all, it was a seminar with a difference.

ENH Update

Department Party:

Students of ENH organized a farewell party for the largest group of graduating students on 09 December 2010 in the department. Songs, performances, speeches and slivers of memories from both the teachers and students made the occasion unforgettable for the graduating students of 2010.

Thesis and Internship Report Presentations:

B.A. Thesis and Internship Report Presentations:

B.A. students presented their internship reports and theses from 18-23 December 2010. As the program is divided into three concentrations, the list below illustrates that:

Name of the student	Title of presentation
Literature	
Shaila Sharmin (Thesis)	The Colonized Mind: A Study of Post Colonial Realities in Selected Modern Fiction
Zarin Rafiuddin (Thesis)	Various Psychologies of Post-Apocalyptic Texts
Sonika Islam (Thesis)	Madness and Women: A Reading of Three Women's Novels
Linguistics and ELT	
Farah Naz Mehreen (Internship Report)	The ESL Methods into Practice: A Case-study in a Primary School
Methela Rahman (Internship Report)	Selection and Adaptation of Language Teaching Materials: An Internship Report Based on a School in Dhaka
Urfa Zewar (Internship Report)	Implementing English Language Teaching Methodology in UCEP (Under-Privileged Children Educational Program): An Observation
Ummay Sabi Tultul (Internship Report)	An Analysis of Teachers' Role: A Case Study
Rummana Tasniem (Internship Report)	Feedback on language learning: A case study in a primary school
Nushrat Akhter (Thesis)	Communicative Language Teaching in Secondary Level of Bangladesh: Teacher' and Students' Perspective
Tanzeel Chowdhury (Thesis)	The Impact of Intelligence on Second Language Acquisition
Mesbahul Haque (Thesis)	Do Pre-reading Activities Help Learners Comprehend a Text Better?
Media and Cultural Studies	
Khondokar Nusrat Hossain (Internship Report)	A Practical Experience at <i>The New Age</i>
Ridwan Rouf Khan (Internship Report)	News Production in a Private TV Channel in Bangladesh: An Insider's View
Antia Reza (Internship Report)	Practical Experiences of Print Media at <i>Star Campus of The Daily Star</i>
Nahian Bin Asadullah	A Practical Experience at A Publishing House: <i>University Press Limited</i>
Sadia Afrin Arin (Internship Report)	An Observation of the Practical Application of Theories in Print Media

M.A. Thesis Presentations:

The following students of Linguistics and ELT presented their thesis this month.

Linguistics and ELT	
Lucky Akter (Thesis)	Teacher Talk Time in ESL classrooms in Bangladesh
Farhana Zamil Tinny (Thesis)	RJ Style of Speaking: Is It Creating A Sub-Culture?

IGS Updates

IGS organized four roundtables on the four chapters of The State of Governance in Bangladesh, 2009 (SoG), i.e. Food Security, International Labour Migration, e-Government and Energy over the month of December 2010. Chairmen of the related Parliamentary Committees, lawmakers, experts, academics and columnists participated in these roundtables. Dr. AMM Shawkat Ali, former advisor to the Caretaker Government, Dr. Tasneem Arefa Siddique, Chair of the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, Dr. Anannya Raihan, Executive Director of D, Net and Dr. M Tamim, former advisor to the Caretaker Government chaired the four roundtables respectively. Based on the recommendations from the roundtables IGS will produce a policy note which will then be widely disseminated among relevant policy making and implementation agencies.



Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) of IGS organized a discussion session on Sharing Experience with the Journalists on Health Situation of Bangladesh on December 14, 2010 at JATRI Conference Room. A delegation team included the students and faculty of the Florida based Hope Foundation of USA Nova South-Eastern University, who shared their experiences with the journalists of Bangladesh after their visit. In the inaugural speech Chief of Programs at JATRI, Mr. Jamil Ahmed welcomed the participants and introduced them with JATRI staff. Dr. Ifthekhar Uddin Ahmad, chairperson of Hope Foundation, Dr. Sirajul Islam, trustee member of Nova, Badruddoza Sumon, reporter of the Daily Samokal also spoke in the program. Journalists from different media houses attended in this discussion.

JATRI organized a public lecture on Right to Information and Media on December 15, 2010 at JATRI Conference Room. Journalists from different print and electronic media attended in the program. Chief Information Commissioner Muhammad Zamir delivered the key note speech in this discussion. At the outset of the program Chief of Programs at JATRI, Mr. Jamil Ahmed welcomed all guests and briefly shared JATRI-activities. The program was moderated by Barrister Manzoor Hasan, Director of IGS.

Affiliated Network for Social Accountability-South Asia (ANSA-SAR) based in IGS & the Global Partnership Fund (GPF), in partnership with the World Bank Institute and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), hosted a workshop with Bangladeshi parliamentarians on -Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight: Stronger Linkages between Citizens and MPs- on 13 December, 2010 at the Westin Hotel. The workshop was attended by 20 participants, including nine MPs representing both benches in the National Parliament.

Director of IGS, Barrister Manzoor Hasan, visited Ho Chi Minh City of Viet Nam to participate in the Workshop on UNCAC Implementation from December 02-03, 2010. The objective of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Viet Nam to monitor and report on corruption and anti corruption efforts (in compliance with the UN Convention against Corruption, UNCAC). The conference brought together 40 participants including the working team and UNCAC Implementation Review Group, members of compiling group, representatives of UNDP and other international consultants. Mr. Hasan was

invited to provide technical assistance in formulating the strategy by providing methodological support from the experience of the Institute of Governance Studies's joint assessment with the Government of Bangladesh 2007-2008. In his input, Mr. Hasan highlighted scopes, contents, methodology, application and lessons learnt of the gap analysis in Bangladesh.

MNS Update

6th International Plant Tissue Culture & Biotechnology Conference



Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Dr. Aparna Islam and Ms. Jebunnesa Chowdhury attended the three-day long 6th International Plant Tissue Culture & Biotechnology Conference held at the University of Dhaka on 3-5 December, 2010. The conference was organized by the Bangladesh Association for Plant Tissue Culture & Biotechnology (BAPTC&B). The conference included seven scientific sessions where over 50 papers including key note papers were presented. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury chaired a session entitled "Biosafety and Public Acceptance of Genetically Modified Plants". Dr. Andrew F. Roberts, Deputy Director, Center for Environmental Risk Assessment (CERA), ILSI Research

Foundation, Washington, USA and Dr. Vibha Ahuja, General Manager, Biotechnology Consortium India Ltd (BCIL) presented two key-note papers during this session. Dr. Aparna Islam acted as the rapporteur in the "Functional Genomic, Proteomics" Session and Jebunnesa Chowdhury played the role of a Rapporteur in the Session 4. The speakers covered the topic "Use of Molecular Markers in Crop Improvement". Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Muehlbach, University of Hamburg, Germany and Prof. Dr. Shahida Hasnain of Panjab University, Lahore, Pakistan were the chairman and co-chairman of the session respectively. People from home and abroad presented their results and among them some papers discussed - molecular marker linked with QTLs for arsenic accumulation in rice, mapping of salt tolerance QTLs from Bangladeshi coastal rice Boilam, DNA fingerprinting of aromatic rice, LDLP as a marker for discriminating low temperature tolerance and sensitive jute. Professor Dr. Narendra Tuteja from the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), India presented the key-note paper on identification of RNA helicase promoters and its function in food security under climate change. Ms. Jebunnesa Chowdhury acted as rapporteur on the session entitled "Use of Molecular Markers in Crop Improvement". Fifteen papers were presented during that session.

Jatiya Samannita Unnayan Foundation 13 Year Celebration and Award 2010

Jatiya Samannita Unnayan Foundation celebrated its thirteen of existence and held the JSUF Award Ceremony on 04 December 2010. A number of distinguished persons in different fields were honoured. On the occasion a discussion meeting was held on the theme: Subsidy in Agriculture: Problems and Prospects. Professor Abul Barakat, Prudent, Bangladesh Economics Society delivered the keynote address. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury was awarded JSUF 2010 award in science. Among others who received awards included Professor Mesbahuddin Ahmed (Education), Ms. Selina Hossain (Literature) Professor AK Azad Khan (Medicine) and others. Mr. Abul Mal Abdul Muhit, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Finance, GoB was the Chief Guest at the award ceremony and distributed prizes among the recipients.

National Workshop on Science and Technology Policy 2010

The Ministry of Science and ICT of GoB organized a day-long workshop on National Science and Technology Policy 2010 at the auditorium of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission on 09 December 2010. The Policy document was formulated by a committee formed by the ministry with Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, as Convener. The committee developed the policy document based on information available in the NST Policy 1986 and the draft NST Policy document 2005. The draft document formulated by the Committee was circulated to different academic and research institutions and different ministries for

comments. The revised policy document further revised on the basis of comments received was presented by Professor Choudhury at the NCST Meeting held on 27 June 2010 and chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister who is also the Chair of the NCST. The Hon'ble Prime Minister suggested that the document be circulated to the members of the NCST and more organizations for comments before finalizing and a workshop may be organized for brainstorming on the policy document. The policy document was again modified in the light of comments received after the NCST Meeting. The present workshop was organized in order for open discussion and exchange of views for further improvement of the policy document.

Professor Choudhury presented the NST policy document in the workshop, presided over by Dr. Fariduddin Ahmed, Chairman, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission with Architect Yeafesh Osman, Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Science and ICT, GoB as the Chief Guest. The workshop was attended by about fifty participants from different ministries, academic and research organizations in the public and private sectors, NGOs and media representatives. A good number of suggestions and comments were presented by the participants. Professor Choudhury was requested to incorporate the suggestions and comments as far as practicable and submit the final NST policy to the Ministry by the end of this month.

BRAC-BRACU Synergy Meeting

Professor AA Ziauddin Ahmad, Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Dr. Aparna Islam participated in the Brac-BRACU Synergy Meeting held on 20 December 2010 at the Indoor Games Room of BRACU. Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor, BRACU was the Chief Guest and Dr. Mahbub Hossain, Executive Director, BRAC was the Special Guest on the occasion. Professor Golam Mohammad Samdani, Pro Vice Chancellor moderated the Synergy Meeting. The participants felt that there was ample scope for synergy between BRAC and BRACU in the diversified programmes of BRAC by linking those to the academic programmes at BRACU. However, there is not enough information to the faculties of the BRACU about different programmes of BRAC. As such there should be more exposure of BRACU faculties to different programmes and activities of the BRAC. Programme Heads of different units may meet the faculties in relevant disciplines for possible input from academic experts of BRACU in the respective programme of BRAC which may be helpful in enhancing respective programme and activities. On the other hand the BRACU students in different disciplines may be sent to relevant BRAC units for internship. Two project proposals were floated for synergy from the theme table on education including Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed, BRACU, Sayeed Salam, BRACU, Md A Saleque, BRAC, Manoranjan K Mondal, BRAC, Profulla Chandra Barman, BRAC, Aparna Islam, BRACU, Naiyyum Choudhury, BRACU as participants. It was proposed that good synergy could be developed between BRAC and faculties of EEE and MNS in some specific programmes of BRAC such as in the improvement of BRAC solar systems (BRA-EEE, BRACU) and impact study of BRAC agricultural intervention (BRAC-MNS, BRACU).

Bangladesh JSPS Alumni Association AGM and Symposium on Climate Change and Biodiversity

The Bangladesh JSPS Alumni Association organized its AGM and 2nd International Symposium on 21 December 2010 held at the auditorium of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) with Dr. Hasan Mahmud, State Minister, Ministry of Environment and Forests, GoB as Chief Guest. The Alumni Association was formed at the initiative of the JSPS, Tokyo with the objectives of bringing together the JSPS Fellows to share their scientific knowledge and expertise among themselves and also the Japanese scientists under the auspices of the JSPS. The theme of the symposium was climate change and biodiversity. Bangladesh is one the victimized countries affected every year by natural calamities due to the change of climate and its related aspects. Stronger Hurricanes/Cyclones/Typhoons, Floods, Earthquakes, Landslides etc do not only damage our economic growth but also destroy our environment severely. Rising sea levels and refugees and migrations are the major future problems in Bangladesh. It is estimated that around 200 million people could be affected by sea level rise by the year 2050. Two keynote papers were presented in the symposium. - Current Status and Future Direction of Wildlife Managements in Japan by Prof. Dr. Yoshihiro Hayashi, Tokyo University of Agriculture, Japan. and Climate Change and Bio-diversity-Bangladesh Perspective by Prof. Dr. Naiyyum Choudhury. The discussants included, Dr. Wataru Takeuchi, Director of JSPS Bangkok Office, Prof. Dr. Shunitz Tanaka, Graduate School of Environmental Earth Science, Hokkaido University, Japan, Prof. Dr. Ryohei Kada Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Kyoto University. In the afternoon election of the Executive Council was held and Professor Choudhury was re-elected as President of the Bangladesh JSPS Alumni Association

5th International Conference on Microbiology of Food, Health and Hygiene

The Department of Microbiology, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences and Bangladesh Japan Association for Science and Technology jointly organized the Fifth International Conference on Microbiology of Food, Hygiene and Environment held on 26-28 December 2010. Dr. Abdur Razzaque, Minister for Food and Disaster Management, GoB was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Over 250 participants including 42 participants from foreign countries took part in the conference and 149 papers and posters were presented. Two posters were presented from the Department of MNS in the Conference. Two MS Biotechnology students, Ms. Nusrat Jahan, presented a poster on Biosensors- Present Trend a-in Research and Future Applications and Mr. Samsad Razzaque presented a poster on The Study of Proteomics in Health and Diseases. Both the posters were highly appreciated by the participants. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury chaired a scientific session devoted to food and environmental microbiology.



Participation in the Inter-University Mathematics Olympiad

A group of BRAC students from MNS and other departments of BRACU successfully participated in the Inter-University Mathematics Olympiad, 2010 at the North South University, held on December 30, 2010, which was jointly organized by Bangladesh Mathematics Society (BMS) and Dept. of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science of North South University. The team was led by Dr Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, Assistant Professor of the department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) and Advisor of BRACU Natural Sciences Club (BUNSC) accompanied by Nakib Haider Protik, Teaching Assistant at the MNS Department. MNS Department and BUNSC jointly coordinate the event. A total of 22 students have been registered of which 9 students have participated in the final round.

Paper published by MNS faculty member

Professor M. Arshad Momen of University of Dhaka and Nakib Haider Protik of the MNS Department BRACU coauthored a paper titled Simulating The Abelian Chern Simons Action On The Moyal Plane published in Annals of West University of Timisoara, Vol. LIV, 2010, Physics Series. The paper can be found online at the following webpage: http://www.physics.uvt.ro/anale_uvt_fizica/

Thirteenth Asian Congress of Fluid Mechanics (13 ACFM)

Thirteenth Asian Congress of Fluid Mechanics (13ACFM), organized by BSME (Bangladesh Society of Mechanical Engineers) was held on 17-21 December, 2010, at Islamic University of Technology (IUT). Professor Jiachun Li (China), Chairman of Asian Fluid Mechanics Committee and Professor Fazle Hussain (USA), Honorary Chair of Asian Fluid Mechanics Committee, cherished the whole occasion with their glorious presence. The whole event ended with huge success because of the presentation of near about 250 research papers in different technical sessions by renowned researchers from home and abroad. Three different mini symposiums were also arranged by the organizer. Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed, Department

of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of BRAC University presented a paper entitled "On Dark Solitons of Gravitational waves in Pulsar Plasma" in the Astrophysical fluid session of the Congress. Another paper entitle "Computational Fluid Dynamic study of flow behavior in Membrane module with multiple filaments" was also presented in the Environmental and Natural Fluid Mechanics session by Sharmina Hussain, Assistant professor, from MNS Department. Mr. M. Jakir Hossen, Senior Lecturer also participated in the Congress as a co-author of a research paper from the same department.

ESS Update

Seminars/Workshop/Conferences attended by ESS Faculty

Dr Farzana Munshi, Assistant Professor, ESS, presented her paper titled, "Globalization and Occupational Wage Inequality: Some Empirical evidence" at the second research conference on Empirical Issues in International Trade and Finance from December 15-17, 2010. The conference was organized by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Delhi, India. The paper she presented is forthcoming in the December issue of The Bangladesh Development Studies (BDS) published by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies.

Mr. Haydory Akbar Ahmed, Lecturer II, ESS, presented a paper on "Growth, Public and Private Investment in Bangladesh: An Empirical Analysis" in the 3rd International Conference on Business Competencies in a Changing Global Environment 2010 jointly organized by Global Business and Management Forum, USA and South East University Bangladesh on December 23, 2010, Dhaka at South East University.

ESS Seminar Series

Department of Economics and Social Sciences organized a seminar entitled as; "Trade Policy and Food Option" presented by Dr. Will Martin on December 27, 2010. Dr. Will Martin is research manager in Agriculture and Rural Development in Development Research Group, World Bank. He mainly discussed how trade can promote food security in developing countries.

SPH Update

Academic Programs

MPH Program: The MPH students are currently working on their independent thesis studies, which will act as the culminating project for their MPH degrees.

CENTRES AND RESEARCH INDICATIVES

GFATM PROJECT - 913

Training on HIV/AIDS Related Issues, Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (GFATM- RCC project)



Two 10-day courses on "HIV/AIDS related issues, management, monitoring and evaluation" were jointly organized by James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), BU and National Institute of Preventative and Social Medicine (NIPSOM), under the project titled 'Building and Strengthening the Technical and Institutional Capacities of Government, NGOs, and Implementing Partners'. The project, funded by GFATM (RCC), aims at Expanding HIV Prevention in Bangladesh.

NIPSOM conducted two batches course with the assistance of JPGSPH, BRAC University. Both courses took place at the hall room of NIPSOM, Mohakhali, Dhaka. The courses were held on December 12-21 and December 22-30, 2010. Participants included

Deputy Civil Surgeons, UHFPOs and Medical Officers (MO). A total of 39 participants from 20 project districts attended the course. The main purpose of the course was to contribute to better management and quality implementation of HIV/AIDS prevention program in the field level through developing the capacity of the mid level managers. The training course encompassed three important areas i.e. HIV/AIDS related issues, Management, Monitoring and Evaluation with an exposure visit to Infectious Disease Hospital (IDH).

Aside from internal resource persons, a number of expert resource persons from NIPSOM, DGHS, NASP, Mitford Hospital and NGOs working with most vulnerable populations facilitated the sessions in the course. The participants of the course are expected to transfer the HIV prevention knowledge and skills to their colleagues and provide appropriate care and treatment to PLHIV at the grassroots level.

A formal inaugural and concluding session was held at the end of both the courses. The Director General of DGHS, Director-MIS, and Director- Admin, DGHS, Director, NIPSOM, Line Director, NASP & SBTP and Finance, DGHS, Head of Dept. of MCH- NIPSOM, Team Leader, GF 913 package and GFATM staff of JPGSPH, BRAC University attended the inaugural and closing session. The participants were awarded with certificates for successful completion of the course.

SCHOOL EVENTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

BANGLADESH HEALTH WATCH (BHW)

During December 2010, the following activities took place under BHW

-- consultation meeting with BHW co-author of Chapter 3 on December 13, 2010 for the statistical data collection from MOHFW

-- Meeting with Dr. Rounaq Jahan and Dr. Abbas Bhuiya on Dec 29, 2010. The agenda was to inform Dr. Rounaq Jahan about the current status of the Bangladesh Health Watch. The deliverables from the last published report of BHW (2009) came up during the discussion.

FACULTY NEWS

Ms. Tisa Muhaddes attended the monthly Sexuality and Rights meetings at Bandhu headquarters on December 4, 2010. The next meeting will be held at the Centre.

Career Services Update

Internship Presentation BUS400

The Internship Presentation for the course BUS400 took place on December 9, 2010. A number of 28 students of Fall 2010 did their internship presentations with their assigned supervisors.

6th Convocation Photo Session (Second Phase)

Career Services Office organized the photo session for the graduating students of 6th Convocation. The second phase of the photo session took place on December 11, 2010 and a number of 42 students attended the photo session for the convocation brochure.

Job update December 2010

1. Marjana Zaman NovoTel
2. Muhaimin Al Avir United Leasing

Internship Placement Fall 2010

- 1 Nafisa Farhana CSO AB Bank Limited
- 2 Shettalumna Nasir Self Ananash TRS Ltd.
- 3 Golam Musabbir Self Babylon Group
- 4 Md. Rafiqul Islam CSO Barger Paints Bangladesh Limited
- 5 Lina Afroz Khan CSO BRAC Bank Limited
- 6 Arif Bin Kamal CSO BRAC Bank Limited
- 7 Atiq Been Rahim CSO CA Firm
- 8 Ashfaq Mustafa Anwar Self Dutch Bangla Bank Limited
- 9 Ehsanur Rahman CSO Dutch Bangla Bank Limited

- 10 Gazi Shariar Mahin Self Eastern Bank Limited
- 11 Md. Lutful Bari CSO EXIM Bank Limited
- 12 Saiful Osman CSO EXIM Bank Limited
- 13 Yaseen Ahmed Salahuddin Self EXIM Bank Limited
- 14 Mofliha Masnoon CSO First Security Islami Bank Limited.
- 15 Ashiqur Rahman Self Gulf Air
- 16 Khushnuma Yasmin Zaman Self ICB
- 17 Sonia Islam CSO Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited
- 18 Sonia Islam Self Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited
- 19 Cornelious D. Rozario Self L,Exobo International
- 20 Labonee Ahmed Self Latitude-23
- 21 Md. Mafiul Islam Self M/s. Marfi Electronics Ind. Ltd.
- 22 Md. Tanveer Rahman CSO Nestle Bangladesh Ltd.
- 23 Behejat Fatima Chowdhury Self Ogilvy
- 24 Md. Rashidul Haque CSO Peoplescape
- 25 Nusrat Haque CSO Prime Bank Limited
- 26 Sabrina Nasser Lya CSO Robi
- 27 Sarmiz Fatema CSO Robi
- 28 Upama Khayer CSO Robi
- 29 Md. Sirajus Salekin CSO Sanofi Aventis
- 30 Rakhshanda Talukder Self Singar Bangladesh Limited
- 31 Monamee Afroze Ishika CSO Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
- 32 Saima Kabir Eva CSO Standard Bank
- 33 Anika Sania CSO Standard Chartered Bank
- 34 Asif Ahmed Noor CSO Standard Chartered Bank
- 35 Susmita Roy Talukder CSO Standard Chartered Bank
- 36 Md. Jobair Alam CSO Systain Consulting
- 37 Hedayet Morshed CSO The City Bank Limited
- 38 K M Noor Self The City Bank Limited
- 39 Sumnum Sultana CSO Unilever Bangladesh
- 40 Adite Tarafder CSO Uttara Bank Limited