

2009/april

Participation of BRAC University Team at the 4th South Asian Universities Youth Festival, 'SAUFEST 4' in Chandigarh, India

The 4th South Asian Universities Youth Festival, popularly known as SAUFEST 2009 was organized this time at Chandigarh, India by Panjab University. The event was attended by a total of 29 University teams from across India, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. Bangladesh also did not miss out on this prestigious cultural event involving the whole South Asian region. BRAC University represented Bangladesh at SAUFEST and won two prestigious awards, the 'Best Team of the Festival' and the 'Best Vocalist of the Festival' award which was given to Nazia Ahmed.

A 14-member BRAC University team arrived at Panjab University campus on 11 February 2009 headed by Dr Tureen Afroz, Assistant Professor, SoL and Md. Shajjad Hossain, Lecturer, Architecture. The events began the day after and BRACU performance began with very contemporary dance of Shabnam Mostofa. She danced to Nelly Furtado's 'Powerless' in classical notes. The fact that the lyrics of the song were a mixture of English and Panjabi was a way of celebrating the merging of cultures.

Apart from Nazia Ahmed's inspiring performance of 'Amar Har Kala Korlamre'. Adrita Anower and S.M Miftahuzzaman sang a lovely duet of Tagore's 'Amar Bela Je Jay'. Adrita also sang Tagore's 'Bhalobashi Bhalobashi'. Among all performances, only Adrita sang a Tagore song which brought in pin drop silence to the hall. Miftahuzzaman presented a solo performance which was his own composition. The songs by Adrita and miftahuzzaman were appreciated very much to the audience as that set up the romantic atmosphere at the Panjab University Auditorium. Ahmed Bin Parvez performed a Bhawaiya song- 'Shorbonasha Padma Nodi'. The aura of the unique song added a completely new flavor. BRAC University team's last song was sung by Salman Raihan Khan, the BRACU rockstar singing 'Shei Tumi'. The singers presented a group performance 'Purbo Digonte Shurjo Utheche'. The forcefulness, strength as well as melody in their voices touched everyone's heart.

Among other performances by the BRACU team was the debate. Fahim Mostofa and M. Sanjeeb Hossain, debating partners, parted ways and debated against each other as well as debaters from other countries. The motion set was, 'Youth is most potent force to establish peace in South Asia'. Sanjeeb's utopian aspiration of seeing a united South Asia holding the hands of youth was well received. Fahim stressed on experienced and young for a better world.

The other dancer was Tamanna Zaman Khondokar who danced to the music 'Dokhina' a tribal song portraying Santal girls enjoying a festival. Tamanna also presented a duet with Shabnam 'Baje Dekho Bangladesher Dhol', a lively and youthful rhythmic musical piece typical of Bengal.

The mime show by Syed Parvez Imran and Md. Mehedi Hasan Tushar was also a great success. The symbolic storyline showed that no matter how powerful a country might be, hard times can come without prior notice and there are always neighboring countries, large or small, which come forward with helping hands.

Md. Amzad Hossain Siddique offered his instrumental expertise with the performances of the BRAC team members.

All in all, the 4th SAUFEST was a stimulating experience for BRAC University and Bangladesh. It was a good chance for the team to represent Bangladesh in the multicultural environment and BRAC University team used the opportunity to its best. The team was well directed by Dr. Tureen Afroz, Assistant Professor, School of Law and Shajjad Hossain, Lecturer, Department of Architecture.

Dr. Aparna Islam, Assistant professor of Department of MNS, BRAC University and advisor, BuCuC and Shams M Ghani, lecturer, Department of Architecture and co-advisor, BuCuC supervised the rehearsals. Dr. Zainab F Ali, Director, Student Affairs coordinated the process of participation of the team with SAUFEST authority, AIU (Association of Indian Universities) and Panjab University. After having seen the outstanding performance and organizing skill of the team in the event, SAUFEST Committee has sent invitation to BRAC University to arrange the festival in Bangladesh next year.

Last year, 3rd SAUFEST was held at Kathmandu University, Nepal where BRACU team also made an outstanding performance. Md. Nazmul Ahsan, senior student of BBS and participant of that team, helped this year's BRACU team in the preparations.

Another important factor of the festival was the cultural exchange among the students and teachers from the different provinces of India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Afganistan which was a great enriching experience. In this special bulletin, The SAUFEST team of BRACU would like to thank all, especially to the Vice Chancellor Professor J R Choudhury, who gave their support to make the BRACU team successful in 4th SSAUFEST

Architecture Update

Graduates of the Department of Architecture win the first prize

Ehsanul Alam and Rakibul Hasan, graduates of the Department of Architecture won the First Prize in the 'ICE-Today Aqua Paints Interior Design Awards 2009' for their interior design of the corporate offices of the Asian Tiger Capital Partners, UTC building, Dhaka. The competition was held in association with the Institute of Architects, Bangladesh. Ehsan is of the first batch Architecture graduates of the department in Fall 07 and Rakib of the second batch in spring 08.

Open House Exhibition

Design Studio-IV displayed their entire semester's work in an open house exhibition on 15 and 16 April, 2009 in the Department of Architecture. Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury the Vice Chancellor inaugurated the exhibition. Guest critics were urban designer Ziauddin Khan, Artist Ronny Ahmed, Ar. Mithu and Ar. Amity Kundu. This was a great opportunity for the entire batch to display their works to the members of the university and to the general people.

'10 days in Mymensingh' Presentation on UPPR P Survey by Students

A research seminar "10 days in Mymensingh" was organized on Wednesday on 15 April 2009. Five senior students presented their experience and findings from the work they did in Stranded Pakistani Government Refugee Camp, Patgudam, Mymensingh. The students did a physical and socio-economic survey to help the baseline survey for the project in the area. The work was funded by UNDP under the Urban Partnership for Poverty Reduction Project (UPPR P). The program was attended by the senior staff and consultants of UNDP and UPPR P as well as the chairperson, faculty members and students of the department.

Critique Week

Generally, the last week of the semester is scheduled for the final Critiques of the design studios. Final Critiques were held this semester from 12 April to 18 April. Ar. Mostofa Khalid Polash, Sculptor Hamiduzzaman Khan, Ar. B.K.S. Inan, Ar. Nowssad, Ar. AKM Serajuddin, Ar. Taimur Islam, Ar. Rafiq Azam, Dr. Elisa Bertuzzo [Asst. Prof. for Architecture and Urban Design Kunsthochschule Berlin-Weihenstephan, Germany] and Dr. Gunter Nest [Associate Prof. School of Design, Mysore University] were present as guest critics in different critique sessions.

Final Year Thesis Project Critique

The students of the final design studio presented their graduation projects on 18 April 2009. The projects included Rehabilitation Center for Autistic Children in Dhaka, National Cultural Center for Children in Purbachal, Airport in Cox's Bazar, Church Complex in Sreemongol, Coast Guards Headquarters in Chittagong, Fashion Design Institute in Savar, Bangladesh Air Force Base in Cox's Bazaar, Montazuddin Home for Old People and Children in Noakhali, NGO Headquarters in Dhaka and A Resort Complex in Rangamati.

The guest critics included Prof. Shaheda Rahman, Head, Department of Architecture, BUET, Ar. Bashirul Haq, Ar. Uttam K Saha, Ar. Nahas A. Khalil, Ar. Sk Ahsanullah Majumder. Prof. Fuad H. Mallick, Prof. Zainab F. Ali, faculty members and students of all design studios were present at the critique. A large number of students from architecture departments of different universities attended these sessions.

An Evening of Cultural Program

Students of the Department of Architecture arranged a cultural program in April 2009. There was active participation of students from Freshmen 01 to Senior 04 in the areas of songs, instrumental music, drama, recitation and dance. It was a refreshing and recreational evening with a difference. Faculty members and students were present in the event.

BDI Update

Launching Ceremony of Certificate Course on "Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation"

BDI and the Department of Architecture launched a three month postgraduate certificate course on "Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation" on April 28th at BRAC Auditorium. The course is targeted towards government officials and students who are interested to build their skills and acquire training in land acquisition to minimize social and environmental risks and better meet the needs of development affected people. The event was chaired by Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury. Syed Abul Hossain, Minister of Communications, was the chief guest. Justin Lee, Australian High Commissioner was special guest.

Naila Kabeer with BDI Qualitative Research Team

Naila Kabeer, Professional Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies, spent a few days at BDI. BDI is implementing and managing the CGAP- Ford global graduation program. The program is testing out a methodology to graduate the poorest out of extreme poverty through linking safety nets and access to financial services. BDI staff, with Naila's assistance, is conducting qualitative research on several countries to better understand how the poorest improve their economic and social conditions and lead sustainable economic activities.

BDI Hosts Staff from Pakistan and Yemen

BDI serves as the secretariat for the CGAP-Ford global program on "graduating the poorest out of extreme poverty". Staff from two pilot projects in Yemen and Pakistan spent a week with BDI and BRAC's Targeting the Ultra Poor (TUP) program to determine how best to use BRAC's experience to streamline their own projects.

Pathways of Women's Empowerment

The Pathways of Women's Empowerment team arranged a workshop at the Mahila Parishad and Naripokkho during the second week of April to present their research on Building Constituencies for Gender Justice.

Maitri Mukhopadhyay, Professor at the Royal Tropical Institute of Amsterdam visited BDI. She identified areas for policy influence for the current and past phase of Pathways. As part of the planning strategy for the second phase she identified readings for research on cultural history. She also helped in the pre planning phase of New Aid Modalities and their influence on development agencies work on women's rights.

As a part of capacity building, Shahida Khondokar Research Associate from Pathways of Women's Empowerment visited Manila to attend an international workshop on "Feminist Advocacies for Interlinking Gender Justice and Economic Justice".

Local Governance

The Local Governance Research Group completed a report on the livelihoods and survival strategies of Dhaka's urban poor working children. The research was conducted by Reaz Mehdi, Tajnin Surin, Omar Farooq and Ashraful Alam. Korail and Badda slums were chosen as study sites.

Dr Ferdous Jahan attended a two day conference in Manila on "Access to Justice for Urban Poor", organized by the Asian Development Bank on 23rd-24th April.

BDI Research Brief Series Started

The first BDI Research Brief entitled "Seeing like a Citizen-Vision of Shorkar", was published in April by the Citizenship, Participation and Accountability Research team. For a democratic nation, it is imperative to understand how citizens view "Shorkar" (literally the government). This brief attempts to understand the concept of "Shorkar" at the grassroots level through an analysis of the perspectives of poor women.

BDI and PPRC Joint Research on Safety Net Programs in Bangladesh

BDI and the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) have jointly started a new research. The research will determine how to ensure adequate safety net coverage of the poorest and how to effectively graduate them out of extreme poverty. The research will start by taking stock of existing safety net programs and coverage and identifying good practice initiatives that focus on building ladders for the poorest. Subsequently BDI and PPRC will plan out action research and advocacy strategies to redefine the

safety net agenda with a dual emphasis on protecting consumption through safety nets and promoting livelihoods through building markets.

Film Show by Mirza M. Hassan at the Public Library

As a part of a National Documentary Film Festival, The Bangladesh Documentary Council screened Shadhinotar Kotha (Tales of Freedom) a documentary on women's empowerment at the Public Library on Saturday on 18th April. The film has been directed by Mirza M. Hassan faculty and research coordinator at BDI.

IGS Update

IGS organized a two days workshop on the Judiciary on 15th and 16th April 2009 at Radius Center, Bay's Galleria, Dhaka. The purpose of the workshop was to generate focused and objective discussion on issues pertinent to the Judiciary and identify policy guidelines. The participants were the academics, sitting and former judges, lawyers, officials from the Attorney General's Office, members of parliaments, civil society members and international experts. A policy note with specific policy recommendations will be developed from the discussions of the workshop.

A discussion meeting was arranged at IGS on 21 April 2009. The key speaker was Dr. Devendra Raj Pandey, the former Finance Minister, Chairpersons of Rural Self Reliance Development in Nepal and Transparency International Nepal. He shared the current situation of Nepal, which was followed by a question answer session. The discussion was attended by with all IGS staffs.

Journalism Training & Research Initiative (JATRI) established by the Institute, organized its first training course on the "Techniques of Investigative Reporting for Broadcast Journalists" from 28th to 30th April 2009 in Dhaka. Thirty reporters from radio and television stations attended the course conducted by Emmy Award-winning producer and journalist Barbara Dury. The participants received certificates upon successful completion of the course.

The third and current batch of MAGD students visited IGS on 30 April 2009. A half day discussion was arranged for the students to familiarize them with IGS activities and staff. Dr. Akbar Ali Khan, the former Director of IGS was also invited and he addressed the MAGD students and the IGS staff on various governance issues in Bangladesh.

Mr. Manzoor Hasan, Director of the Institute, presented a paper on 'Relevance of Right to Transparent Governance in Today's Society' at a workshop organized by the South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR) on 21 April 2009 at BRAC Centre INN, Dhaka. The participants for the workshop were lawyers, social activists, parliament members and other civil society members from all over Asia.

RS Update

Two Canadian Students Visit Savar Campus

Two Canadian students visited BRAC University Savar Campus on 2nd of April. After arriving at Savar campus, Campus Superintendent gave an orientation on Residential Semester. They observed different activities of RS. They also observed various training program of BRAC at TARC.

Inter University Final Football match

The inter University final football match was held on 3rd April between Spring 06 VS Spring 07 and finally, Spring 2007 won after drawing 1-1 and winning 5-2 on penalties. Nadim(Spring 06) was the man of the match and Shahid(Spring 07) was the man of the tournament and Mithun & Shahid were the highest scorers of the tournament. The honorable VC, Pro-VC, Registrar and CS enjoyed the final match and distributed the trophies and medals to the champions and runners up.

Seminar On Gender Ethics

The Seminar on "Gender Ethics" was held on 4th April, 2009 from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm at MARKULI Hall. Mrs. Sheepa Hafiza, Director of BRAC Training, Advocacy & Gender conducted the seminar. All the students of HUM103 (Ethics and Culture) were present in the seminar.

Final CfL Weekend

Center for Languages (CfL) had organized weekend programs at BRACU Savar Campus on April 11, 2009. In this semester, CfL offered a good number of activities. The activities included pottery designing, jewelry box making, fruit and vegetables curving, creative writing, block painting, sketch and t-shirt designing. Students beside their academic courses actively took part in these co-curricular activities. To encourage the students, all the products which students made during the semester were displayed and sold at Markuli Hall at 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. The final Quiz competition was held on the day. Then at 2 pm the final round of the debate competition at the Residential Semester, Savar was held between two students' teams. Asif Japata, (BBA) was adjudged the Best Debater. At 3:30 pm CfL had organized a cultural program. Students performed dance, song, drama, fashion show, etc. Mrs. Sayeda Sarwat Abed, Director, CfL was present and distributed prizes amongst the winners of the Debate and Quiz competition.

Lecture on NGO

A lecture on NGO was held on 12th April, 2009 from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm at MARKULI Hall. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, BRCU conducted the lecture. All the students of Savar Campus were present in the session.

Pohela Boaisak at Savar Campus

To celebrate the Bengali New Year, the students of BRACU Savar Campus organized a daylong 'Boishakhi Program' on April 14, 2009. The daylong program was started with a "Anondorally". After that, teachers, staff, students took 'Panta- Elish' at BHITHEKA as Bangalee tradition. Then there was a "Barshobaron program" where students performed Bengli song, dance etc. After that the final six a side cricket tournament was held between students' team and RS staffs' team and RS staffs' team won the match by 53 runs. In the afternoon students organized 'Kite Flying' in the field and another 'Baoul Sondha' was organized in the evening. The Boishakhi program was a great success in terms of student participation.

Closing sessions of RS Spring 2009

The closing sessions of RS Spring 2009 was held at Savar Campus on 16th April 2009 at MARKULI Hall on 11:00 am. The VC and the Pro VC were present in the sessions and distributed the prizes of the Dorm Championship. Some students were awarded VC's certificates and the honorable VC sir distributed the certificates.

Student Affairs

BUCuC member Avik Dev wins 1st Place

Avik Dev, an active member of the BUCuC and a student of architecture, won the 'Prothom Maan' 1st position in Rabindra Sangeet [Tagore song] at the 'Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Sammelon' the biggest country-wise competition on Tagore songs held in Dhaka in March 2009.

ENH Update

Guest Lecture on Women and Islam

On April 1, Samia Huq, a PhD student at Brandeis University (USA), delivered a guest lecture on women and Islam for students of the MA course ENG 611: Basic Readings in Feminist Literary Criticism. The lecture was organized by the course teacher, Prof. Firdous Azim.

Dramatic Presentation in ENG 114

On April 16, the students of ENG 114: Introduction to Drama gave presentations and a lively dramatic performance. The students presented on topics ranging from "Freewill and Predestination in Oedipus Rex" and "Use of Realism and Expressionism by Arthur Miller" to "Elements of a Morality Play in Dr. Faustus." There was a very lively oral presentation from Congreve's play The Way of the World. The program ended with a highly entertaining dramatic performance from Shakespeare's Macbeth. Students from various departments attended and enjoyed the session.

MNS Update

Award Ceremony of Vice Chancellor's 'Outstanding Contribution to Co-curricular Activities' at BRACU, April 2, 2009

Dr. Aparna Islam, Assistant Professor in Biotechnology in the Department of Mathematics and Natural

Sciences received the Vice Chancellor's 'Outstanding Contribution to Co-curricular Activities' Advisor Award on 2nd April 2009. The award was given to her for her mentorship of the BRACU Cultural Club (BUCuC). BUCuC received the 'Best Club' award among the twenty eight clubs and forums of BRACU.

Inauguration Ceremony of the Sixth Training Course on "Oceanography: Principles and Applications", Dhaka, April 7, 2009

The inauguration ceremony of the sixth training course entitled "Oceanography: Principles and Applications" was held at the auditorium of Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka (AECD) on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 10 am. The course is being organized by National Oceanographic & Maritime Institute (NOAMI). Professor Nazrul Islam, Chairman, Bangladesh University Grants Commission was the Chief Guest at the ceremony presided over by the Chairman of NOAMI, Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad. Rear Admiral M. H. Khan, Former Chief of Naval Staff, Founder Chairman and Chief Advisor, NOAMI, resource persons, NOAMI members and participants in the course attended the function. Twenty-nine participants from different governmental agencies, academic institutions & organizations, such as, Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB), Bangladesh Navy, Coast Guards, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC), Survey of Bangladesh (SOB), SAARC Meteorological Research Centre (SMRC), Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BEAC), Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (BCSIR), Petro Bangla, Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO), Inland Water Modelling (IWM), Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB) have registered for this course. Eighty lectures on different aspects of oceanography-geological, biological, physical, chemical- and topics on ocean engineering, marine pollution, ocean survey and law of the seas comprise the course. More than thirty resource persons will be delivering lectures on various topics of their expertise. The course will run for ten weeks ending in June, 2009 and it also includes a field visit to the Bay of Bengal and Cox's Bazar.

First Meeting of the International Biotechnology Advisory Committee, Rabat, Morocco, April 12-14, 2009

The first Meeting of International Biotechnology Advisory Committee (IBAC) of the Islamic Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) was held at the ISESCO Headquarters in Rabat, Morocco from 12-14 April 2009. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, participated in the meeting at the invitation of the ISESCO as a Member of the IBAC from Bangladesh. The IBAC has been formed by the ISESCO as a taskforce dedicated to promote and foster biotechnology initiatives in consonance with implementation mechanism of the strategy for promotion of biotechnology in the Islamic countries. Professor Choudhury presented the country paper on biotechnology in the Meeting.

Consultation Meeting on Health Ethics in the Arab World and Eastern Mediterranean Region: Role and Contribution of Different Interested Parties, Rabat, Morocco, April 15-16, 2009

The joint Consultation Meeting of the ISESCO and UNESCO on health ethics was held at the ISESCO Headquarters, Rabat, Morocco from 15-16 April, 2009. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the Meeting at the invitation of the ISESCO. The meeting reviewed global movement in study and research in health ethics and discussed its impact and relevance in the region. Ongoing initiatives/programmes of different organizations like the WHO, EMRO, UNESCO, ISESCO, TDR were discussed at length in order to achieve a collaborative approach regarding health ethics within the region and outside.

SPH Update

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Mph program

Courses

The course "Epidemiology" (MPH 522) began on March 29 and was successfully completed on April 16, 2009. Dr. Shams El Arifeen, Steve Luby, and Kazi Mizanur Rahman taught the course. Dr. Enamul Hasib and Dr. Mizanur Rashid Shuvra were the teaching assistants for the course. The course "Biostatistics" (MPH 521(1)) started on April 26. The faculties for the course are M.A. Hafez and Tanvir Hasan.

Seminar Series

Health and Development Seminar on "An Integrated Model of Health Care Delivery"

Beth Trudell presented her lecture to the MPH students at Savar campus on 13th April as a guest speaker of Health and Development Seminar Series. She spoke about "An Integrated Model of Health Care Delivery" from her experience at Kaiser Permanente. She believes that the unusual structure of the organization, the

physician reward system, and the focus on preventive care make it an unusual model. She stated that the way physicians are paid directly affects the quality of healthcare and that the patient should be a part of the decision-making process during treatment.

Beth spent twenty-two years working for Kaiser Permanente, the largest non-profit, private provider of healthcare in the world. She was the director of training and development for Kaiser Permanente International, and she managed healthcare projects in South Africa, Russia, and Japan. She retired from Kaiser Permanente in 2006.

EVENTS

Roundtable on "Save Lives, Make Hospitals Safe in Emergencies"

On the occasion of the World Health Day 2009, James P. Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), BRAC University and the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) jointly organized a Roundtable Discussion. The theme of The World Health Day 2009 is "Save Lives, Make Hospitals Safe in Emergencies" which emphasizes the importance of resilient and accountable health facilities that are capable to withstand such disasters and are prepared to serve both the people directly affected and others in surrounding communities. The Roundtable Discussion was held in on 12th April 2009 from 03.30 PM to 05.30 PM at the Video Conference Room, Aarong House, BRAC University. The Roundtable Discussion was jointly chaired by Prof. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University and Prof. Muzaffer Ahmad, Chairman, Board of trustees of TIB. Dr. Anwar Islam, Professor and Director of JPGSPH moderated the session.

It was discussed that people of Bangladesh are susceptible to natural disasters such as floods, droughts, cyclones, tornados as well as other emergencies like fire, road/river transportation accidents. Hospitals of Bangladesh face challenges in dealing with extra workload during disasters. Reduced functional capacity of hospitals and inadequate infrastructures that render services unreachable to affected areas in addition to low supplies and human resources cause difficulty in providing sufficient help. However, in Bangladesh, disaster management is archaic and reactive rather than proactive. Attention needs to be given not only at particular time when media attention exists, but communities should be made aware and responsible to take proactive initiatives against contamination of reservoirs, community disasters and so on. Hospitals and structures like school buildings which are used in disasters should be designed with extra precaution. It was suggested that old buildings like Dhaka Medical College should be renovated and other building like hostel area of cyclone centers, emergency healthcare rooms in flood zone should be put in order to withstand emergencies.

CENTRES AND RESEARCH INITIATIVES

Centre for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS - A UNAIDS Collaboration Centre

James P. Grant School of Public Health under the guidance of National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT) organized a dissemination seminar on the "Improvement of Reproductive Health". The seminar was held in BRAC Center Inn auditorium on April 26. It was attended by various government, local NGOs, and international NGO officers. The chief guest for the event was Mr. K.C. Mondol, Director General of NIPORT.

Centre for Health Systems Studies

Primary Health Care (CPHC): Taufique Joarder took over the responsibilities of the project along with Shafiun Nahin and Ariful Bari under the supervision of Professor Anwar Islam. Literature review of the project has been started and questionnaire for screening the performance of UHCs has been developed.

GFATM project -913

Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Meeting:

A meeting of Technical Advisory Group (TAG) that has been established under GFATM project- 913 was held on April 2, 2009 at 1:00 pm at JPGSPH conference room of BRAC University, Dhaka. Distinguished participants from National AIDS/STD Program (NASP), Save the Children, USA, NIPSOM, Population Council, UNAIDS, GTZ, CARE Bangladesh, PIACT, BWHC, BSMMU, AAS and CAPP attended the meeting. The meeting chaired by Dr. Anwar Islam, Professor & Director, James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. The meeting mainly discussed the update of GFATM-913 project, the Standards Tools and Operating Procedures (SOP) for services to PLWHA and the TOR for District AIDS Committee (DAC).

Consortium Management Committee (CMC) Meeting:

A meeting of Consortium Management Committee (CMC) was held on April 30, 2009 at 12:00pm at JPGSPH conference room of BRAC University, Dhaka. The Director, Country Director, and the focal people of partner organizations participated in the meeting. The meeting chaired by Dr. Anwar Islam, Professor & Director, James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. The challenges of the first phase and future program direction of GFATM-913 were the main agenda of the meeting. The CMC is responsible for ensuring smooth implementation of activities of GFATM project- 913.

ACADEMIC STUDY GROUPS

ASG seminar for this month was held on April 28, 2009 at 3.00 pm at the SPH conference room. The guest speaker was Muhammad Mahbubul Islam Bhuiyan, ICDDR, B on "Web Browsing for Scientific Purpose". The seminar was supervised by Dr. Nasima Selim and organized by Eram Cooper and Owasim Akram.

FACULTY NEWS

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Dr. Anwar Islam, Professor & Director of James P. Grant School of Public Health attended a conference in Hong Kong organized by World Bank Institute on April 17-18 2009. The two-day conference involving renowned public health institutions of South & South-East Asia had participants from China, Indonesia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh at the conference. It was decided in the conference to form a Health Systems Network named 'Asia Health Systems Knowledge Network'. James P. Grant School of Public Health has become the founding member of the network and has agreed to host a meeting of the network in 2010. The Network will develop a plan to deliver 3 courses regionally. The courses will be on Pay for Performance, Public Private Partnership and Health Equity. James P. Grant School of Public Health is involved with other members in residing these courses. A meeting will be held in Beijing in July to further discuss the course structure in Health Equity.

Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Associate Professor was invited to attend a meeting on 'Global Public Health Education' at George Washington University, in Washington DC from April 4 to 9, 2009

Dr. Nasima Selim presented her paper, "Love in the Time of Globalization: Narrating/Examining a Transnational Queer Experience" at the "Queer Thoughts Conference", Jadavpur University, India, organized by Sappho for Equality, 10-11 April, 2009.

Dr. Hilary Standing was in Manila, Philippines from 14-16 May having been invited to a WHO WPRO regional consultation on primary health care and health systems strengthening. The meeting was attended by country representatives from countries where there is a concern about capacity to meet the MDGs in maternal and child health

Dr. Farah Mahjabeen Ahmed, Coordinator, Continuing Education Programme attended a course on 'Facilitation Skills for Development' from April 21 to May 1, 2009, at the Asia-Pacific Development Communication Centre, Dhurakij Pundit University, Thailand. The course mainly focused on adult learning principles, training process and management, facilitation fundamentals and role of a facilitator

Mr. Shafiun Nahin Shimul, Lecturer at the School and in charge of a research project related on TB, attended a day long workshop on 27th April, 2009 held at NTP (National Tuberculosis Programme) conference room on "Development of Strategic Plan: TB Related Stigma in Bangladesh" organized by Nuffield Centre for International Health and Development, University of Leeds, UK and NTP, Bangladesh. In this workshop different stakeholders and experts from WHO, NTP, BRAC, ICDDR, B, and University of Dhaka were present. Dr. James Newell, Professor, University of Leeds, presented the keynote and summary of the report on "Understanding of the Causes of Stigma and Discrimination Associated with TB in Bangladesh".

Mr. Shimul also participated in a conference entitled "Meeting the Challenges of Global Recession: Recommendations for National Budget 2009/2010" held on 29th April, 2009 at Conference Room, BIDS (Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies) where Honourable Minister of Planning, Government of Bangladesh, was present as Chief Guest. Meanwhile, a group of leading economists, members of planning commission and different high officials of government and non-government services were present at this seminar.

ESS Update

Post Graduate Diploma Course on Macroeconomic Development

The Department of Economics and Social Sciences, BRAC University jointly with Bangladesh Institute of development Studies (BIDS) is going to offer six months 'Post Graduate Diploma Course on Macroeconomic Development'. The program is designed for the officials working in General Economic Division, Planning Commission and selected ministries of Government of Bangladesh, with an aim to enhance their capacity in PRS (Poverty Reduction Strategy) and MDG (Millennium Development Goal) monitoring in Bangladesh. The course will be funded by United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Upon signing the contract on April 22, 2009, a meeting was held on April 28, 2009 at ESS Conference room, chaired by Dr. Anwarul Hoque, Chairperson ESS. In the meeting discussion was made on curriculum development of the course. The program will start from September 15, 2009.

Paper Presentation by Faculty Member

A K Iftekharul Haque, Lecturer, ESS, presented a paper titled 'Impact of Agricultural Productivity on Bangladesh Economy: A CGE Exercise' in Second South Asian Training Programme on CGE Modelling held at Kathmandu, Nepal on April 23, 2009. The seminar was organized by South Asian Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE) and South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM). The paper used a customized Social Accounting Matrix of Bangladesh economy and used CGE modeling technique to capture different scenarios regarding agricultural productivity. Mr. Haque was trained with CGE modeling techniques by SAWTEE and SANEM in July, 2008.

On April 16, 2009, A K Iftekharul Haque, presented a key note paper in a roundtable discussion titled 'Budget and Social Safety Net Programmes: Perspective of Marginalized' organized by Shamunnay, a non-government non-profit development organization at National Press Club. The paper made a brief appraisal of the existing Social safety net programmes in Bangladesh and analyzed the expenditure pattern of the conditional and non-conditional safety-net programmes. Finally the paper came up with some suggestions for the Budget 2009-10.

New Faculty Member in the Department

Dr. Minhaz Mahmud joined as an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics and Social Sciences. He is a faculty (on leave) of the Queen's University, Belfast, UK. Dr. Mahmud's area of specialization is Behavioural Economics, Health Economics and Environmental Economics.

Seminar Participation by ESS Faculty Member:

Dr. Manjur Karim, Associate Professor, ESS was a speaker in a seminar on 'How to Aid Workers in the Phenomenon of Global Financial Crisis' on April 21, 2009. The seminar was organized by Nagorik Shonghoti, a national NGO and held at Monisingh-Farhad Trust Auditorium, Dhaka. On April 26, 2009, Dr. Karim was a speaker in a seminar on 'Special Quota for Indigenous People in Higher education of Bangladesh', organized by Research and Development Collective, Bangladesh. He was a speaker in another seminar on 'Natural Resources of Bangladesh and Multinational Corporations' organized by National Committee for Oil, Gas and Port Protection, held on April 18, 2009.

CfL Update

CfL Chinese Language Competition

April 1, 2009 CfL held the First Chinese Language Competition at BRACU. The three winners of the competition were Mehedi Hasan and Asma Ahmed, freshmen from BBS Dept. and Afsana Akter, a freshman from CSE Dept. They were to participate in the Chinese Language Competition in the Chinese Embassy on April 3, 2009.

Three BU Students Awarded Chinese Government's Scholarship to Study in China

Chinese Embassy held the Second Chinese Bridge-Chinese Proficiency competition on April 3, 2009. A hundred students from different universities participated in the competition. Each contestant was to finish four items such as speech, answering the questions, handwriting, and performing songs or dance. Counselor Liu offered Chinese Government's Bronze Medals and scholarships to three BRACU students: Afsana Akter, Mehedi Hasan and Asma Ahmed, who are to study Chinese language in China for 1-2 year(s).

Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro Vice chancellor of BRACU, Mrs Sarwat Abed, Director of CfL, and Lu Min, CfL Chinese Language Instructor, were present in the competition. The competition was followed by a dinner at a Chinese restaurant.

Sunida Witayakarn Conducts a Conversation Session at British Council

The British Council, Dhaka invited Sunida Witayakarn, CfL Lecturer, to conduct a conversation session for its members on April 24, 2009 at British Council Auditorium, Dhaka. The session was on "The Art of Introducing Oneself and Others" with an aim to introduce and familiarise the participants with the authentic use of English language to introduce themselves and others along with the techniques of ice breaking and building the first impression. There were about 40 participants in the interactive discussion.

Shaheen Ara to Present her ELT Paper in the 7th Asia TEFL Conference

Shaheen Ara, CfL Lecturer, is to present her ELT research paper titled "Different Strokes for Little Folks: The Need for Different Methodology for Primary English Education in Bangladesh" at the 2009 Asia TEFL International Conference scheduled to be held on August 7-9, 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand. The theme of the conference is Collaboration and Creativity in English Language Teaching and Learning in Asia. The focal point of her paper is how methodological flaws of teaching English at primary level leads to students' low proficiency in English.

CfL Welcomes Boishakh of 1416

An array of food and a collage of red and white colours adorned CfL as the faculty members and Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed Pro-Vice Chancellor of BU, welcomed the Bangla New Year on April 25, 2009. The belated celebration was very traditional, with unique and tasty contributions from the whole faculty, who welcomed the Year 1416 saying goodbye to a successful end to the spring semester and with bright hopes for a great beginning to the new summer semester.

Final CfL Weekend of Spring 09 Observed in Savar Campus

CfL leads the extracurricular and co-curricular activities for the BU students in its Savar Residential Campus. Throughout the semester, CfL faculty members facilitate and supervise various student activities. Moreover, three weekends in each semester are exclusively allotted for CfL activities. The final CfL Weekend of Spring 09 was observed on April 11, 2009 when the residential semester students had an opportunity to showcase their creative talents. The products of their semester-long creative endeavors, such as sketches, painted T-shirts, carved-vegetable artwork etc, were displayed. Students also participated in intellectual activities such as quiz competition and debate. The day-long program concluded with a cultural event comprised of songs, dance, recitation of poetry, and a one-act play.

Career Services Update

Standard Chartered Bank Networking Session

Networking session is one of the important events organized by Career Services Office (CSO). On April 02, 2009 CSO has organized the networking session with Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) in order to promote one of their recruitment program called "International Graduate" (IG) recruitment. During the session Mr. Sandeep Mukharjee, Head of HR, SCB was the main speaker, Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, BRACU was also present at the event along with some faculty and admin members. The speaker highlighted the seven steps of the IG program to the participating students. The participants were informed about the process of the "IG" recruitment and career prospects at SCB. A number of 74 students participated in the event. The session concluded with a Q/A round and light refreshments.

Internship Orientation Program Summer 2009

On April 09, 2009 the orientation program for Prospective Interns Summer 2009 has been conducted by CSO. This session gives an overview of internship starting from availing internship to successful completion. All information is given to registered students and all general questions are answered regarding internship during this session. A number of 85 prospective interns from various departments joined the Internship Orientation Program Summer 2009 and the session concluded with light refreshments.

Md..Rezoan Ahammed BRAC Bank Ltd.
Md. Moniruzzaman Aftab IT.
Farhana Nowshin Redox Chemicals Ltd.
Sadia Hossain British American Tobacco, Bangladesh
Asaf-Ud-Daula British American Tobacco, Bangladesh

Intra University Football Tournament 2009

Amidst a lot of expectation and hype the "Intra University Football Tournament 2009" started on the 6th of March at TARC, Savar. In total 8 semesters formed their own team and participated. The tournament was conducted according to the proper FIFA rules and regulations. The referees were from the federation. The inaugural match was hosted by the student affairs director. Finally after 3 days of non-stop football four teams qualified for the semi-finals. Spring 08' played against Spring 07' in the first semi-final in which Spring 07' defeated them 3-1. In the other semi-final spring 06' defeated fall 07' with the same goal margin. The tournament saw some individual brilliance. Nadeem and Jisun of spring 06, Shahed and Tanzil of Spring 07', Rifat of Fall 07' and Maruf of Spring 08'. The much awaited final was held on the 3rd of April. The match was witnessed by the honorable Vice Chancellor, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Registrar and faculty members of BRAC University. The turnout of students as supporters were simply outstanding as over 250 people watched the nail biting match. The atmosphere was simply electrifying with buzz all around. The match was not able to finish in the due time as both the teams were locked in 1-1 and it went to the tie breakers. Spring 07' defeated Spring 06' by 4-1 in the tie breakers and emerged as the new champion. It was heart breaking for Spring 06 but no one could deny their effort on the field. The tournament was concluded by our honorable Vice Chancellor and Pro-Vice Chancellor giving away awards and the trophies. Everyone present in the field are bound to accept that they witnessed a match that they will forget as the environment was something that cannot be explained if not seen by own eyes. The Football Club of BRAC University will be able to produce the same kind of tournament ever year with more innovation.

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