

Architecture Update

Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management (PPDM)

PPDM Jointly Organizes the 3rd AUEDM Workshop

Asian University Network of Environment and Disaster Management (AUEDM) is a network of fifteen universities across Asia. The third work shop of this network was held in Dhaka from 4-6 of June, 2009 at BRAC Center Inn, Dhaka and was jointly organized by the Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management (PPDM), BRAC University and The Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Kyoto University. The major focus of the workshop was to coordinate education and research so that it can be implemented at the field level. The workshop was inaugurated by Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University and a pioneer of disaster management in Bangladesh. Moderators of the discussions were Rajib Shaw of Kyoto University, Professor Fuad Mallick, Director of PPDM, BRAC University and Vice President of AUEDM, and Professor Amir Nawaz Khan of Peshawar University. The other participants were Dr. S. I. Khan from BRAC University, Ramaswamy R. Krishnamurthy from University of Madras, Krishna Pribadi from Institute of Technology Bandung, Yukiko Takeuchi from Kyoto University, Rekha Nianthi from University of Peradeniya, M. Aminur Rahman and Tahmina Rahman from BRAC University. Initially the network intends to prepare an inventory of higher education in Disaster Management identifying current status and gaps, develop curriculum guidelines for disaster education, produce text and reference materials for students and identify key research areas.

PPDM Jointly Organizes a Roundtable Discussion

On 22nd June, the Network for Information, Response And Preparedness Activities on Disaster (NIRAPAD) and CARE-Bangladesh in collaboration with Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management, BRAC University organized a round table discussion on "Sustainable Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangladesh: Opportunities and Challenges for Stakeholders". Professor Fuad H Mallick, Director of the Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management (PPDM) presented the concept note of the session and moderated the discussion. Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food and Disaster Management Mr. Muhammad Sayedul Haque MP, former Food and Disaster Management Minister Mr. Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, disaster management professionals from different government and non-government agencies, representatives from NGOs and donor agencies participated in the discussion.

PPDM Student Conquers Mount Annapurna IV

It was 11:54am Nepalese time on June 14. Two Bangladeshi mountaineers achieved a feat many compatriots dreamt of. Musa Ibrahim, a PPDM student at BRAC University and Tawhid Hossain conquered the Mt. Annapurna IV, a Himalayan peak at the height of 24,682ft, as first Bangladeshis without supplementary oxygen after going through tremendous hardship. They were accompanied by Nepalese climber Sarin Prakash Pradhan, Sherpa Som Bahadur, Ganesh Magar and two-times Everest climber Kailash Tamang. Musa and Tawhid both are members of the North Alpine Club Bangladesh (NACB). They are looking forward to conquering the Mt. Everest by the year 2010 with two slogans 'Youth Unity against AIDS and Drugs' and 'Youth Unity for Mountain and Hill Livelihood'. NACB believe that the youth can change themselves if they wish, only if they wish.

Participation in international symposium

Huraera Jabeen, Senior Lecturer of the department participated the 'Fifth World Urban Research Symposium Cities and Climate Change' in Palais du Pharo of Marseilles, France from June 28-30, 2009. It was organized by the World Bank, the French ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Town and Country Planning, and the French Agency for Development, and was welcomed by the City of Marseilles. For three days, over 150 speakers tried to push forward the research agenda on climate change from a city's perspective and to answer questions around Science and Indicators of Climate Change and Related Impacts; Infrastructure, Built Environment, and Energy Efficiency; Role of Institutions, Governance, and Urban Planning; Incentive policies, economics and finance; Social aspects of climate change: Understanding and reducing vulnerability of urban populations to climate change, especially the poor. Prominent international researchers, managers, and practitioners exchanged their knowledge and experience and proposed key orientations with a view to mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Huraera and Dr Cassidy Johnson of University College London presented a paper 'Built-In Resilience: Learning from Grassroots Coping Strategies to Climate Variability' in the session 'Adaptation of Cities to Climate Change: Overcoming Challenges' in 30th June. The paper was based on surveys done in Korail in Dhaka as a case study as well as looking at how the urban poor are coping with challenges of climate variability. The coping strategies focused both around built environment as well as socio-economic activities. The presentation generated a very lively discussion on scaling up built-in-resilience of the communities in local level as a process of overcoming challenge.

Landscape design field visit

As part of Landscape Design (ARC 412) course students and teachers went to Bhawal National Park to experience natural woodland landscape on June 26, 2009. They also visited two other designed landscape initiatives in Gazipur and in Pubail. Through these initiatives students were introduced to ideas and evidences on repair and creation of natural habitats for creatures other than human beings. Course teachers, Khondaker Hasibul Kabir, Sajid-Bin-Doza and a guest teacher Sourav Mahmud (botanist) guided the study visit.

ANGAN BRACU GRADUATE series

Ar. Rakibul Hasan and Ar. Ehsanul Alam graduated from Department of Architecture, BRAC University in 2007, attended an ANGAN lecture-BRACU Graduate series on 2 June 2009 in the Department of Architecture, BRAC University. They have won ICE-TODAY, AQUA PAINTS interior design awards 2009 in office category. It was the very first Angan lecture delivered by the own products of the department.

ANGAN Lecture by Ar. Hafizul Hasan

Ar. Hafizul Hasan is a faculty member of the Department of Architecture, BRAC University and currently on leave and admitted at Greenwich University, UK in "economics and construction management" as a postgraduate student. He recently came for a visit in Dhaka and delivered an Angan Lecture entitled as "Architecture and Construction Management" on 9 July 2009. He focused on how architectural projects are being constructed and managed in UK at present.

ANGAN Lecture by Ar. Ahsan Ullah Mojumder

Ar. Ahsan Ullah Mojumder, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, BUET, delivered Angan Lecture on his awardwinning competition-project on 23 June 2009. He and his team won the first place in DESIGN FOR THE CHILDREN, 2008 which was an international design competition challenging architects, designers around the world to develop an adaptable, sustainable, culturally responsive pediatric clinic in East Africa. He shared the concept and design process of the project which was really inspiring for the students.

BDI Update

Guest lecturers for MLARR Certificate Course

The postgraduate certificate course on Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (MLARR) hosted a number of guest lecturers in June. Renowned experts from various fields within land acquisition made their mark in MLARR by speaking on their experiences and thus contributing to a broader intellectual environment within the course. Speakers included, Muyeed Chowdhury (Former Secretary to Government of Bangladesh), Naser Ahmed (Director, External Affairs Chevron Bangladesh) B. K. Adhikary (Central Coordinator, DORP), Nadia Goodman (GTZ), Penelope Schoeffel (Applied Anthropologist), Mamunul Khan (Programme Officer, Environment and Sustainable Development UNDP Bangladesh), and Sohela Nazneen (Research Fellow and Research Associate, BDI).

Shahana Siddiqui & Naveed Ahmed's article in The Daily Star Forum

Shahana Siddiqui and Naveed Ahmed jointly wrote an article on land policy and resettlement issues in Bangladesh. Published on 1st June, the article was written as a part of raising awareness on land-related challenges under the MLARR banner. It offered readers a critical examination of laws and practices within the existing legal frameworks on land in Bangladesh and effectively brought together different schools of thought to provide a coherent outlook on the future of land management.

BDI hosts interns from 'Alliance of Students Against Poverty' (ASAP)

BDI hosted five interns from a student organization called 'Alliance of Students Against Poverty' (ASAP). It

is based in Washington DC and is a global campaign to eradicate extreme poverty worldwide by mobilizing the idealism and talents of young students. The interns spent most of their time in the field at BRAC TUP sites conducting qualitative research and interviewing TUP clients.

Continuing research on "Freedom Movements and Economic Struggles in Bengal"

As a part of the research on "Freedom Movements and Economic Struggles in Bengal", Shakhawat Ali was in Calcutta from 22nd to 28th June. The purpose of the visit was to collect existing literature and documents from the Calcutta National Archive, Calcutta National Library and Centre for Social Science Studies in Calcutta. Additionally, interviews were conducted with experts such as, Professor Arun Mukherjee, Department of Philosophy, Jadavpur University and Professor Arun Chowdhury, Department of Political Science, Calcutta University. A team of researchers will be visiting Calcutta next month to follow up and collect more information.

Democratic Governance

1. BDI has signed an MOU with CARE to carry out a research on "Strengthening Social Safety Net Programs for the Extreme Poor" in Bangladesh. This study will assess the impact of different safety nets on the ultra-poor during crises such as natural disasters, climate change and economic crises. The study will be conducted in haor, char and coastal regions of 6 districts.

2. After completing the data collection of "Census on Social Safety Nets", researchers in the Democratic Governance team are involved in data entry and analysis of the study. This census will document social safety net service delivery efforts and the potential gaps that exist.

Creating slum profiles for research on Urban Poverty and Climate Change

Researchers in the "Urban Poverty and Climate Change" programme have collected information on 10 slums in 5 different districts. This data on population, demographic profile, economic status, housing conditions and duration of occupancy is being used to develop specific socio economic profiles of these slums. The profiles of the 10 slums will be used to select 3, where BDI and the Department of Architecture will jointly conduct an action research project. This multi sector project will develop new strategic pathways to ensure tenancy rights, improved health and housing conditions and new sustainable livelihoods to bring about qualitative change in the lives of slum dwellers.

Trainings attended by Omar Faruque Siddiki and Nabil Zuberi

Omar Faruque Siddiki, Staff Researcher and Muhammad Nabil Zuberi Research Assistant, attended a workshop on "Methodology of Stage of Progress" from 4th to 13th June arranged by BRAC RED. The purpose of this workshop was to acquaint participants on new theories and methodologies of poverty measurements. Omar Faruque Siddiki also attended training on quantitative research organized by BU-IED at BRAC Centre. It was a seven day training to familiarize participants on quantitative methods, research analysis, proposal writing, sampling, data collection and research design.

Pathways of Women's Empowerment

1. The Pathways Programme held a Communication Outputs and Influence Mapping Workshop on 4th June, 2009. During the day-long session, researchers worked together on distilling the key messages from the first phase of the research, developed dissemination plans for engaging with key audiences and compiled a common 'Pathways Influence Map' that shows the areas of influence that team collectively has.

2. Sahida Khondaker and Aanmona Priyadarshini visited the office of Shaugat in Potuatuli, Old Dhaka, on 8 June, 2009. Shaugat was one of the first Muslim literary publication houses in Bengal and it published a highly regarded weekly paper by the same name. The researchers visited the office in connection with the research on the 'Cultural History of Bangladesh' and met with Noorjehan Begum, the editor of the magazine, Begum and daughter of Nasiruddin, the editor of Shaugat, with whom they discussed women's writings and women's issues of early 20th century.

3. Dr. Sohela Nazneen, Research Fellow, was selected to be a Visiting Fellow by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at Sussex for the summer. Sohela will be at IDS from June 20-August 15, during which time she will be conducting theoretical research in preparation for a book on feminist organizing

4. Dr. Firdous Azim, Lead Researcher, was invited to be on the BBC Sanglap, a political discussion programme organized by BBC Bangla Radio and Channel I. The talk-show was screened on Channel I on Monday, 22 June at 8 pm and featured a heated discussion about the Tipaimukh Dam. The other participants of the talk-show were Abdul Latif Siddiqui, Minister of Textiles and Jute, Abdul Moyeen Khan, Minister of Communications and Justice Abdur Rouf, a former Chief Election Commissioner.

Deepening democracy, building citizenship and promoting participation

1. Simeen Mahmud, Lead Researcher of the Citizenship team attended the PAA conference in Detroit Michigan where she presented two papers: "How equitable is access to and use of reproductive healthcare and family planning services in Bangladesh? A review of the evidence" and "Measurement of women's empowerment in rural Bangladesh." She also presented a paper on "Why do Garment workers in Bangladesh fail to mobilize?" at the International Association of Feminists Economics (IAFFE) from June 26-28, 2009 at Boston.

2. Saiful Islam, Research Associate has been working on the research brief titled "Researching Citizenship."

Cfl Update

8th International Language & Development Conference

CfL faculty members Sanjoy Banerjee and S. M. Anwaruddin presented their papers entitled "Developing Writing Skills through Community Service: A Bangladesh Perspective" and "Rise of Social Networking Websites and Their Effects of Learning English as a Foreign Language" respectively at the 8th International Language & Development Conference, June 23 - 25, 2009 at Pan Pacific Sonargoan Hotel. Another CfL faculty member Sunida Witayakarn also attended the conference. The speakers and participants were from 12 different countries around the world to discuss on five sub-themes: 1) Language, Gender and Development, 2) The Role of Language in National and Cultural Identity, 3) Sociolinguistic issues: Challenges and Opportunities, 4) Capacity Building and National Development, and 5) Language and Technology.

CfL Lecturer Presents at British Council

Sunida Witayakarn, a CfL Lecturer, conducted two conversation-practice sessions at the British Council, Dhaka. The first session was 'Presentation: Delivery with Expertise' on June 19, 2009, and the second one entitled 'Cross Cultural Communication: Worth Being Aware of?' on June 26, 2009. The issues of cultural diversity, conflicts, and prospect for solution were the focus of the discussions. About eighty British Council members of various professions participated in the sessions.

Participation in Education Symposium

CfL faculty members Sunida Witayakarn and Samina Nasrin Chowdhury attended 'Learning from Neighbours: The Trajectory of Educational Progress - A symposium focusing on Pre-University Education in Thailand' on June 27 - 28, 2009 at Lake Shore Hotel. The program was co-hosted by CAMPE, BIDS and BU-IED. All the discussion in seven sessions wandered around the challenges, success, failure, solution and prospect on different issues such as quality in curriculum and teacher development, and the use of ICT in primary and secondary schools in Thailand to likewise help improve the education system in Bangladesh. Sunida also hosted the session on the first day of the symposium.

Workshop on Teaching Vocabulary

Liza Reshmin conducted a workshop on "Exploring and Learning Vocabulary Through Authentic Texts" on Saturday 27th June 2009. The focus was on teaching vocabulary within a communicative approach to create an ideal environment for students to discover the vocabulary learning strategies best suited to their learning needs and styles that can create students' autonomy and develop reading skills. Participants in the workshop got an opportunity to practice choosing vocabulary and explore some strategies for vocabulary acquisition.

Microsoft Excel Workshop

Sunida Witayakarn, CfL Lecturer, conducted a workshop titled 'Working on Grade Sheets with Microsoft Excel' on June 6, 2009 at CfL Office. The workshop aimed to improve the use of Microsoft Excel to prepare grade sheets for CfL faculty members.

CfL Partners with Open University (UK)

Open University (UK) in collaboration with BRAC University Centre for Languages (CfL) will be conducting a year long assessment of training titled 'MYTEC Training' (Make Your Teaching Experience Count) for developing secondary school teachers under English in Action (EIA), a project funded by DFID. CfL and Open University have signed a MOU in this regard recently. Claire Hedges, coordinator for EIA, has met with the CfL faculty a number of times in this regard. There will be a training session for the assessors next month conducted by Dr. Jane Collins of the Open University. The training will focus on the reflection process of teachers, who will be reflecting on their learning and teaching under the EIA program and on successful completion will receive a certificate on teaching from the Open University (UK).

Lisa Ponzetti's Workshop

Lisa Ponzetti, an English language fellow, conducted a workshop entitled Types of Thinking: Edward de Bono's 6 Thinking Hats on the 20th of June 2009. This workshop was directed toward understanding what Edward de Bono said about using Thinking Hats, a tool used to guide students' critical thinking ability.

Seminars on Effective Presentation

Raihan Jamil, a PhD student at Purdue University in Indiana, USA, is taking a series of seminars for BRACU students at Savar Campus on presentational speaking. Students and professionals have to make presentations and Jamil focuses on how to do them well. "Students seem very enthusiastic about this series. Some of the students are already good speakers, and some are good but they just don't know it yet," says Jamil. He hopes that by the end of this series, the latter group would also realize their potential. He feels grateful that students try to attend the seminars even after their full day of classes. Jamil plans to continue more of this in days to come if this pilot project becomes effective and helpful for his target population - the students here at BRACU.

CSE Update

Celebrating 125th Anniversary of IEEE at BRAC University

A day long "IEEE workshop on Electronics and Communication" was held in BRAC University on Sunday, 14th June 2009. The workshop was organized by IEEE BRAC University Student Branch in collaboration with IEEE Bangladesh section which aim was to introduce the students to the latest tools and concepts of current Electronics and Communication technologies. This workshop was conducted by Dr. AKM Azad, Associate Professor, Department of CSE.

Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed inaugurated the workshop followed by President of IEEE Bangladesh Section Professor Aynal Haque (BUET) with his speech. Professor Rezwana Khan, Vice Chancellor, United International University presented "Laser Technology" in his lecture. "A new Interconnect approach for the Ultra Large Scale Integration System" was presented by Dr, A.B.M. Harun-ur Rashid, Department of EEE, BUET. Mr. Nurul Aktar, CEO of Energypac Electronics Ltd had presented "Current Status of Electronics Industry in Bangladesh" and gave an idea about the opening of R&D for the students as well as fresh graduates in Energypac.

Mr. Mustafa M. Hussain, Assistant Professor, East West University said about the "Trends And Evolution In The Wireless Industry" where he shared few technical information of first generation wireless system. Grameen phone Regulatory Consultant Muhammad Aslam Hayat presented on "ICT Policy of Bangladesh". While in his presentation, he highlighted few key issues which included

ICT4D

ICT and Digital Divide

ICT Policy

Policy issues

Relationship of Policy, legislation and regulation

ICT for all: Some challenges

IEEE Workshop included demonstration of advanced fiber optics communication instrument "Light-Runner" by Indian Delegate Mr. Hitesh Mehta, Managing Director of Fiber Optics Bangalore. Light-Runner is a tool which can provide the optimum technical support to the apprentices in fiber optics arena. He also pointed on telecom market trend, role of fiber optics in telecom industry, industry vs academics, job prospects, training and courses in fiber Optics.

CSE Faculty attended CIM2009 conference

Marzia Alam attended a two day long International Conference on Control, Instrumentation and Mechatronic Engineering (CIM 2009) on June 2nd - 3rd in Malacca, Malaysia. She was invited to present her paper "Performance Improvement of DPDC SCADA On Hard Real-Time OS" at the conference site in Malacca.

International Conference on Control, Instrumentation and Mechatronic Engineering (CIM 2009) organized by University of Technology Malaysia (UTM), one of the leading Universities in Malaysia specialized in Control and Mechatronic Engineering. The conference was held in Malacca, Malaysia this year from June 2nd to 3rd. Control Application Research Group (CARG) of BRAC University had submitted one of their research papers. To the consequence of that, Marzia Alam was privileged to attend that conference and present the paper. CIM 2009 conference is mainly sponsored by Control System Society of IEEE Malaysian Chapter with a joint collaboration with University of Technology Malaysia (UTM) to provide an excellent platform to share the advanced technological expertise and development for knowledge exchange between researcher, scientist, academicians and engineers. Marzia Alam was the only participant from Bangladesh other than people coming from India, Iran, Poland, Singapore, UK. The opening of the CIM 2009 was chaired by Professor Ben M. Chen, National University of Singapore.

ENH Update

Faculty Member rejoins BU

Mr. Mohammad Mahmudul Haque has rejoined BRACU as a Lecturer in the Department of English and Humanities on 7th June, 2009. He has returned from Syracuse University where he was a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) for the 2008-09 academic year.

Guest lecture on Advertising in ENG 404

On 22nd June, Mr. Nazim Farhan Choudhury, Deputy Managing Director of AdComm Ltd., gave a guest lecture for students of ENG 404: Copywriting. He talked about creativity and showed examples of effective advertisements. He also talked about careers in advertising. The guest lecture was coordinated by the course teacher, Ms. Roohi Huda, Lecturer, ENH.

ESS Update

Student awarded Erasmus- Mundus Scholarship

Tawhid Ullah Al- Mahmud, undergraduate student, Department of ESS is going to participate in a student exchange program under Erasmus-Mundus Mobility with Asia Scholarship 2009-10. Tawhid will complete his two semesters at the University of Heidelberg, Germany.

Faculty Member awarded ADB-Japan Scholarship

Kamrul Hasan, Lecturer, Department of ESS has awarded ADB-Japan Scholarship 2009-10. Mr. Hasan has awarded this scholarship to do two years Master of Arts in Development Studies at University of Auckland, New Zealand.

Recently Mr. Hasan has successfully completed Asian Fellowship Program at the Chiang-Mei University, Thailand. His research topic was "Living with HIV-AIDS: A Study of Social Studies and Rejections toward HIV positive people in Northern Thailand".

Faculty Participation in International Conference

Mr. Jahangir Alam, Senior Lecturer, Department of ESS participated in the 17th Annual Conference organized by European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE) held from June 24 - 27, 2009 at Amsterdam, Netherlands. He presented a paper titled "Coping costs of unsafe and unreliable drinking water: The case of slums in Dhaka, Bangladesh". The seminar was organized by the Department of Spatial Economics of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, in cooperation with the Institute for Environmental Studies, both of the VU University Amsterdam.

Liberation War Museum visit by the Students of Bangladesh Studies

On June 20, 2009, a total of 59 students of Bangladesh Studies (DEV101) went to visit Liberation War Museum and Lalbagh Fort, Dhaka, as part of their academic activities.

Department of ESS organized the visit for the students of Bangladesh Studies. In the visit, students were informed about the history and culture of Bangladesh as well as the historical perspectives, archeological evidence and importance of Lalbagh Fort during Mughal period. Faculty members of ESS and house tutors of TARC, Savar accompanied the students.

Village Visit by the student of Bangladesh Studies

A total of 58 students of Bangladesh Studies (DEV101) visited a village named Akran at Savar on June 20, 2009, as an integral part of their academic activities. The ESS Department organized the visit for the students of Bangladesh Studies in which students were introduced with the rural people and their lives and livelihood, rural culture and the greenery of Bangladesh. Coordinator of Bangladesh Studies, faculty members of ESS, counselors and house tutors of TARC, Savar accompanied the students.

IGS Update

Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) organized a three-day training on the "Ethics and Standards for Journalists" from 8-10 June 2009 in Dhaka to sensitize Bangladeshi journalists on ethical standards in reporting and broadcasting. Fifteen mid-career reporters and journalists from national dailies and radio-television stations participated in the training. Ralph A. Frammolino, a former Los Angeles Times journalist who was a finalist for the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting, teamed up with JATRI trainers to offer the three-day course. On the third day of the training a number of news editors from newspapers and radio-television stations participated in a round table to discuss various ethical issues including 'stealing' information, paying for information and sensationalizing news. At the end of the course the participants developed a draft Code of Ethics for Bangladeshi journalists.

The Institute of Governance Studies and the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs jointly organized a daylong workshop styled "Implementation of UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC)-- Action Planning for Compliance" at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on 20 June 2009.

Law Minister Mr. Shafique Ahmed as the chief guest and the State Minister for Law Quamrul Islam as the special guest delivered their speech in the program, while Law Secretary Kazi Habibul Awal was in the chair. German Ambassador to Bangladesh Frank Meyke, and a few government high officials also spoke at the function.

IGS organized an informal colloquium on judiciary on 14 June 2009 at Hotel Lake Shore. Seven Honourable judges of the High Court Division and one from the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court participated in the colloquium. The aim of the colloquium was to generate comments on the draft policy note on judiciary formulated by IGS.

JPGSPH Update

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Mph program

Courses

The course Health Economic & Health Care Financing (MPH 531) took place on June 7-18. The faculty members teaching the course were Prea Gulati, Mehnaz Mahmud, S.N. Shimul; and Mandy Slutsker served as the Teaching Assistant. The students went for a field trip to Kaliakoir village in Savar to collect some information from the community focusing on the principles they learned from their economics course

The course Environment & Health (MPH 541) is scheduled to take place from June 21-July 9. The faculty members teaching the course are Bilquis Amin Hoque and Hasan Mahmud; and Ariful Bari is serving as the Teaching Assistant. The students went to Korail slums and Sonargoan to practically apply their classroom teachings.

ACADEMIC STUDY GROUPS

Dr. Hilary Standing, Prof Sabina Faiz Rashid, and SPH faculty and staff were present. Invited guests from

ICDDR,B, BRAC and BRAC University were also present.

On Tuesday 9 June, as part of the Academic Study Group seminars, Dr. Nasima Selim organized a screening of a documentary titled "Mother Courageous: Maternal Deaths & Discontents in Uttar Pradesh". The documentary was filmed by Debalina Majumder from India. The film was followed by a lively discussion on the current state of maternal mortality in Bangladesh, controversies around the exact ratio measurements, and what could be the possible determinants. Synopsis: Each year 40,000 women die in Uttar Pradesh solely due to pregnancy-related causes. In a journey across seven districts in Uttar Pradesh, the film explores opinions of government officials, activists, ordinary men and women to reveal social discrimination and state-sponsored neglect of women's maternal health.

CENTRES AND RESEARCH INITIATIVES

Health and Development Seminar Series

Health and Development Seminar Series on June 10 2009:

Dr. Valdez answering a question asked by a student

Dr. Joseph J Valadez, currently the Professor of International Health at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine UK, gave a presentation on "Using LQAS for Decentralized Monitoring of Health Systems" for the MPH student at Savar on June 10 2009. The seminar was held for two hours including a Q&A session for the students

Pre-Launch Meeting to discuss Food Security and Nutrition Surveillance Project (FSNSP)

JPGSPH organized a pre-launch meeting to discuss the upcoming Food Security and Nutrition Surveillance Project (FSNSP) on June 4 2009 at BRAC rooftop located at BRAC Centre. JPGSPH with technical assistance from HKI is implementing the Food Security and Nutrition Surveillance Project (FSNSP) with financial support from The European Union. The FSNSP monitors the food security, nutrition and health status of children and women in Bangladesh and promotes the use of this information for policy and program development and advocacy at the national and sub-national levels. The meeting provided an overview of the FSNSP to get a broader understanding of the nutrition and food security surveillance needs of Bangladesh. Participants in the meeting included stakeholders from government, development partners, donors, researchers, NGOs and academicians.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

MPH Students Participate at the Budget Analysis Workshop organized by Jagoree

MPH Students presenting their analysis on health sector budget for FY 2009-10

On June 27, three MPH students, Abu Mohd. Naser, Lameck Odallo, and Sharmin Sharif participated in a Budget Analysis Workshop, jointly organized by Jagoree (a non-partisan platform to engage the youth in policy analysis and political advocacy) and the Business Club of University of Liberal Arts. The objective of the workshop was for young students to deliberate on the proposed National Budget 2009-10. The team from the School presented their analysis of the budget allocated for the health sector. Mahrukh Mohiuddin, Lecturer/Senior Research Associate at the School, is a co-founder of Jagoree and one of the organizers of the workshop.

Seven teams from three renowned public and private universities (Dhaka University, University of Liberal Arts, and BRAC University) and a prominent international youth organization (United Nations Youth & Students Association) presented their analyses on various aspects of the proposed budget. Held in ULAB Auditorium in Dhanmondi, the workshop started with a brief introduction to the key features of the budget from Jagoree. The participating students then separated in groups for analyzing their designated areas before presenting their analyses and recommendations and responding to questions and comments from panelists and other participants. The workshop concluded with a thoughtful set of comments and some stimulating discussions among the panelists.

FACULTY NEWS

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Conference on Minority Cultures

In the "Minority Cultures" conference organized by Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC), June 25-26, 2009 Dr. Nasima Selim participated and presented a paper titled, "Delusion, Heresy or Resistance? Mass Suicide & A Minority Faith in Bangladesh".

GFATM TAG Meeting on HIV/AIDS Prevention Project

A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting of HIV/AIDS prevention project, GFATM- 913 was held on June 29, 2009 at JPGSPH conference room. An update on progress of project activities and contents of stigma and discrimination training manual were shared in the meeting. Prof. Dr. Md. Nazrul Islam, former VC, BSMMU presided over the meeting.

Seminar on Pandemic Influenza: Challenges and Response

The guest speakers at the Seminar

Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control & Research (IEDCR) & One Health Bangladesh held a seminar on 'Pandemic Influenza: Challenge and Response' in the IEDCR auditorium in Mohakhali on June 27 2009. Taufique Joarder from JPGSPH participated in the seminar. Director General of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Prof Shah Monir Hossain, Director General of the Department of Livestock Dr Habibur Rahman, President of One Health Nitish Devnath, Additional Inspector General of Police Aminul Islam, Dr. Stephen P Luby, Head of Programme for IDVS. Infectious Disease & Vaccine Sciences Projects; Professor Mahmudur Rahman, Director of IEDCR presented their speech in the seminar followed by an question answering session.

IUB Seminar Series on UNAIDS Report

On June 28 2009, as part of IUB's Seminar Series, they hosted an UNAIDS report on the "The Status of Attention to Women and Girls in National AIDS Responses: A Forward Agenda for Action". The Seminar focused on the global perspective of feminization of HIV/AIDS. The Seminar was attended by Tanvir Ahmed, Owassim Akram, Eram Cooper, Tisa Muhaddes, Priyanka Silmi, and Mandy Slutsker from the School.

Teaching abroad/outside department

Nasima Selim took lectures in the "Research Method" course for undergraduate Architecture students at BRAC University as a visiting faculty member.

Course on Climate Change and Health attended by JPGSPH Faculty Member

Dr. Enamul Hasib, a Research Associate at JPGSPH has recently completed a short course named 'Climate Change and Health: Impact and Adaptation Policy' at the University of Heidelberg, Germany. The two-week course was offered by the Department of Tropical Hygiene and Public Health which started on June 8 2009. The course addressed different issues of climate change such as climate physics, greenhouse effect, GHG, mitigation and adaptation, adaptation policies, UNFCCC, Montreal and Kyoto Protocol, NAPAs (National Adaptation Plan of Action) of different countries. JPGSPH is in process of starting the same course in collaboration with the Department of Tropical Hygiene and Public Health shortly.

NEW FACULTY

New Staff

Mr. K .M Zahiduzzaman has joined in the JPGSPH as Programme Associate for GF-913 project on June 1, 2009.

Student Affairs

BRAC University Cultural Club (BUCuC)

Rhythm Revive Summer'09

The scorching summer heat was pacified by the clouds that were hovering above in the sky. There was a sudden cool breeze flowing across the cafeteria as the Summer'09 freshmen gathered one by one to face their fate at the BRAC University Cultural Club intake session - Rhythm Revive Summer'09.

The session started with a series of presentations explaining the club dynamics and highlighting on the

moments of the BUCuC experience. The students were enthralled with the spirit and bonding that they were getting to see among the BUCuC members present at the event.

The intake process kicked off when all the freshmen were provided with a questionnaire to fill within an allocated 8.5 minutes. At the end of the allocated time, the questionnaires were collected and the students were kept busy with a few breath taking performances done by the veteran performers of BUCuC. During this period, the moderators were going through the answered questionnaires and distributing the freshmen among interviewers accordingly.

An end to the mesmerizing performance marked the starting of the interview sessions of the freshmen. The interview zone was set at the Indoor Games Room, with five tables set separately for one-on-one interviews. After a grueling 2 hours interview session, and a simultaneous audition round for the performers, the Intake process came to an end.

The day ended with a light snack bite and a lot of good humor to ease up the tension in the air. Over all, the event was one that the fresher's would never forget, just like any other BUCuC experience.

Jolsha Summer'09

Excitement and tension was in the air. The BUCuC newbies were gasping out of breath with the adrenaline rush reaching the peak. The set was ready, the lights were on, the sound buzzing the Indoor Games Room packed with crowd. All awaiting to see the new faces of BUCuC, after all it was Jolsha-for the freshers, by the freshers, with the freshers.

The basic purpose of the program is to let the new BUCuC-ians understand the dynamics of how to put an event together. Things that they could take for granted, the Executive Body wants them to understand that the effort of each and every member is very important for an event to be successful.

The event started with two jaw dropping dance performances, one a duet and the other a solo. The crowd completely abuzzed with the dances were ready to groove to the tunes of the singers. One by one, all thirteen new recruit performers of BUCuC went on stage one by one and set the house on fire. The audience was asking for more and that's when the main twist of the program came- the BUCuC veteran performers got on stage!

The audience went crazy shouting the roof off the top as Ferdous, Kabir and Topon sang some of their all time favorite tracks which were also their all time hit tracks! The evening ended with a very content crowd chanting "Morar Kokil-e", thanks to BUCuC's new found 'Momtaaz' our very own Jenny!

The event rates as possibly BUCuC's one of the top ranking events - as they say, "All well that ends well!"

BRAC University Economics Club (BUEC)

BRAC University Economics Club (BUEC) has recently organized one of the most successful events in its history. It was a seminar on the most talked about issue of recent times in Bangladesh - National Budget of Fiscal Year 2009-10, held on the 24th of June 2009 at UB 0223. The grand event started off at 4 pm and lasted till 6 pm. It was the most houseful and interactive seminar the BU family has ever seen; the reason for this being the Chief Guest Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya. He is one of the most renowned economists of this subcontinent and at present is a Distinguished Fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). The seminar was chaired by Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, the Pro Vice Chancellor of BRAC University.

This houseful event gave space to approximately 160 audiences, which included a number of honorable guests from BRAC itself, the Chairpersons and faculty members of different Departments of BU, faculty members from Dhaka University, the of course the enthusiastic students.

The seminar was brilliantly anchored, starting off with the welcome address to the Chief Guest, the chair and everyone as well. Soon after that, on behalf of BUEC, the Pro VC of BU handed over a small present in the form of a crest to the honorable Chief Guest for sparing time from his precious schedule to enlighten the students of BU. The Pro VC then delivered a brief introduction on Dr. Bhattacharya and of course the Fiscal Budget. Then the main event started with an informative and intellectual speech on this year's national budget by Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya. For visual assistance, he also used a PowerPoint presentation to support his speech. It was a very interesting session. After his speech, the floor was open for a Question Answer round in which the students were so interactive that the Chief Guest was impressed by seeing their enthusiasm.

Finally, the hosts concluded by thanking everyone who helped made the event possible, especially the

Advisor Ms. Afifa Shahrin, all BUEC members and volunteers. They also thanked the Pro VC and of course the Guest of Honor, Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya. Refreshments were served soon after that. The event ended with great success and everyone's appreciation. The Pro VC congratulated BUEC for organizing such a wonderful event so smoothly.

BUEC would like to thank its Advisor Ms. Afifa Shahrin, its Executive Body, Students Affairs Office and the Pro VC for all their support in making the event a great success.

BIZ BEE

Club Fair

BRAC University Business Club (BIZ BEE) organized club fair titled "Summer Sault" on 4th of June for summer semester. The Vice Chancellor Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury inaugurated the event. Almost all the clubs participated in the club fair. The fair came to an end on 8th June by cultural program coordinated by BUCuC & regular film show which was organized by BUFC.

BIZ BEE is one of the most oldest & active club of BRAC University since the beginning of it. Around 140 students signed up at the day of club fair for being a member of BIZ BEE. Being the pioneer student forum for the business students, BIZ BEE is committed towards its members & BRAC Business School. In future BIZ BEE will organize more effective events for its members to explore the unexplored horizon of business.

BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC)

Won prizes at EWU Math Olympiad 2009

On July 4, 2009, altogether 8 (eight) students from BRAC University representing Computer Club (BUCC), Electronics & Communication Club (BUECC) and Mathematics & Natural Sciences Club (BUNSC) have participated in the East West University second inter-university mathematics Olympiad (EWU MO 2009) among all the public and the private universities of Bangladesh. They are Mohammad Murtaza Mahmud (07311001), Sheikh Korban Ali (06310041), Salwa Salam Cynthia (06310019), Mantu Shahriar Mehedi (08301010), Kazi Shudipto Amin (06211001), and Md. Eftakhairul Islam Rain (07310001). The participants were asked to solve a set of 22 mathematical problems at the three-hour event. Among them Murtaza obtained the 4th (fourth) position following BUET students who obtained 1st three positions and the 8th (eighth) position was obtained by Shudipto. The participation was coordinated by their coach Md. Omar Faruque, Lecturer, CSE, BRACU and Annajiat Alim Rasel, Junior Lecturer, CSE, BRACU. Other details are available at www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=95498

Workshop on Microsoft Visual C# 2008

A semester long workshop on Software Development using Microsoft Visual Studio 2008 - C# (.NET 3.5) started on Saturday, 13 June, 2009. It will continue on each Saturday throughout the Summer 2009 semester. BRACU alumnus Md Intekhabul Hafiz (05101021) is voluntarily conducting the workshop. He has been a BUCC member since 2005 and is currently studying at ICT, BUET. Students who have attended classes so far are Imran Newaz Khurshid (06110027), Md. Eftakhairul Islam Rain (07310001), Syed Sabbir Ahmed (08101018), Md Imran Hossain Shaon (08101025), Prosunjit Mallick Dany (09110035), Sayma Jasmine (09301001), Mahbub Zaman Ananda (09301004), Tanjina Islam (09301018), Syed Shaiyan Kamran Waliullah (09301019), Fuad Z. Kamal (09308002), Md. Nigran Islam Mizan (09310058)

Seminar on Current Development Trends in WWW

To make current students, part time workers and full time professionals from all around Bangladesh updated about "Current Development Trends" in the both local and global industry around the Internet, a seminar was held on 16 May 2009, Saturday. It started at 2pm and continued till 9pm with about 150 participants from diverse areas at UB 223 (AH 203). Though this professional field is mostly suited for CSE or IT related students, pioneers (also speakers and attendees) in this field are from Civil Engineering, BBS etc besides CS, CSE, ECE etc. Main speaker for the event was Hasin Hyder from Civil Engineering, RUET who started the trend in 2003 by forming a group/forum called PHPexperts, the largest in Bangladesh for PHP. He authored some international books (published from UK). Among other speakers, there were BRACU alumnus, Saidur Rahman Bijon (2001 batch, CSE) who has become the 7th Zend Certified Engineer (ZCE) in Bangladesh in December 2008 and Emran Hasan (2003 batch, BBS). Topics discussed were How to Become a PHP Ninja? by Emran Hasan, How to make a simple FaceBook Application? by Junal Rahman,

Advantage of using JavaScript Frameworks : jQuery by Anis Uddin Ahmed, How to make Quality Applications by NHM Tanveer Hossain, Overview of OpenSource eCommerce Applications : Magento by Saidur Rahman Bijon, Web Security by Mizanur Rahman, ZCE : Why you need it? How to achieve? by Md Mahmud Ahsan and Scalability by Hasin Hayder. All slides, photo and video are available at <http://slides.phpxperts.net> and at [ftp://192.168.0.84/BUCC Events/2009 Summer](ftp://192.168.0.84/BUCC%20Events/2009%20Summer). Volunteers for the event includes Nabila Naushin (05201002), Rasel Chowdhury (05201006), Zaki Mohammad Abdul Kareem (05201007), Md. Eftakhairul Islam Rain (07310001), Syed Sabbir Ahmed (08101018), Navid bin Sakhawat (07310039), Shammur Absar Chowdhury (07110071), Md. Imran Hossain Shaon (08101025), Shiblee Imtiaz Hasan (07110049), E. M. Yeaseenur Rahman Tahin (07110050), Md. Shamsul Kaonain (06101002), Ahmed Waris Al Majid (06105016), Md. Intekhabul Hafiz (05101021), and Nur-ul-arafat Shomik (05101029). The event was coordinated by Hasin Hayder on behalf of PHPExperts and Annajiat Alim Rasel, Advisor, Computer Club on behalf of BRACU. The event ended with a strong public interest to have another seminar in about six (6) months.

Football Club BRAC University (FCBU)

Football Club BRAC University has went through a lot of modification in terms of spirit and actually in its goal. Rather than just being a student forum, the club actually felt that it should seriously consider its main back bone. So, team development was given the highest priority. There were special drills conducted by Mr Molla the head coach of Sheikh Russel Club. It was indeed an experience for everyone who were present in the practice. Our practice sessions usually takes place at TARC, Savar. It was the first time that we conducted something of this level. The attitude of the players were very positive as the coach was very professional and at the same time realized the limitations of the player. The training sessions were divided into 3 parts. The first was the stretching or the fitness session and then the basic training of football. Then a match was played within the squad. The most encouraging part was each and every player were enthusiastic and were eager to learn and correct their mistakes. Though it is a long time process but the output of the practice sessions that we had last month were very fruitful.

MNS Update

National Workshop on Medical Biotechnology

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury delivered two lectures on "Basics of biotechnology and its potential applications in Bangladesh" at the National Workshop on Medical Biotechnology held in the auditorium of the EPI Building, Mohakhali, Dhaka. The workshop was organized by the National Technical Committee on Medical Biotechnology, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOB and participated by the medical professionals from different medical colleges, clinics and health services in the public and private sectors.

Closing and Certificate Award Ceremony of the Sixth Training Course on Oceanography: Principles and Applications

The Closing and Certificate Award Ceremony of the above- mentioned training course was held on 21 June, 2009 at the auditorium of the Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka. Professor A.A.M.S. Arefin Siddique, Vice-chancellor, University of Dhaka was present as the Chief Guest. Professor A.A.Z. Ahmad presided over the function. Rear Admiral M.H. Khan Founder Chairman and Chief Adviser, NOAMI also spoke on the occasion. Professor Arefin Siddique handed over the participation certificates to the trainees.

The said training course spanning over a period of almost 2.5 months started on the 8th of April, 2009. The office of NOAMI at 10/8 Eastern Plaza (4th floor), Sonargaon Road, Dhaka-1205 was the venue of the lectures which were held in the evening. Twenty nine participants representing different government departments, R/D organizations and institutions of the country attended the course. Eighty lectures comprised the whole course and covered the whole gamut of oceanography- physical, chemical, geological, biological and other aspects like ocean engineering, marine pollution, maritime boundaries and law of the seas. Thirty two resource persons drawn from different academic institutions and R/D organizations of the country having years of experience in their respective fields gave the lectures. Professor A.A.Z Ahmad gave lectures on the topics of physics relevant to the study of oceanography like viscosity sound and acoustics, optics and heat and thermodynamics. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury also gave lectures on the potentials of marine biotechnology.

An integral part of the training course was a field-trip- a sea trip to the Bay of Bengal for two consecutive days by courtesy of Bangladesh Navy. The participants also visited the Beach Sands Minerals Exploitation Centre (BSMEC) of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission(BAEC) and the Radar Station of the Bangladesh Meteorological Department(BMD) at Cox's Bazar. Later on the trainees also made a tour of the labs of Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization (SPARRSO) and the Bangladesh Meteorological Department in Dhaka.

RS Update

Cultural Program

Two cultural programs, one on the 9th of June, 2009 and the other on the 16th were organized by the brilliant boarders of two dorms, Lokmukhi and Krisnochura respectively. The programs were held at Anandapur. The students of those dorms performed dance, songs, drama, fashion show, etc. The rest of the students, teachers, staff of RS, and the participants of TARC were also present as audience and enjoyed the cultural program.

Sports

Cricket

On 05 & 12 June the Inter dorms Cricket matches were held. The first match was played between Dhanshiri and Chhayaneer. Dhanshiri dorm won by 34 runs and in the second match Chhayaneer dorm won by 49 runs defeating Krisnochura Dorm.

Handball

Inter dorm girls' handball matches were held on the 05 and 12 June, 2009. In the first match, Maloncho dorm won by 8-5 goals defeating Roshmidoy dorm and in the second match, Roshmidoy dorms won by 4-2 goals defeating Lokmukhi dorm.

Football

On 10th June, 2009 inter dorm second football match was held between Krishnochura and Chhayaneer and Chhayaneer won by 4-0 goal defeating Krishnochura dorm.

Seminar on Drug Abuse

A seminar on drug abuse was held on Jun 06, 2009. It was moderated by Brother Ronald Drahozal, CSC and director of APON (Ashokti Punarbashan Nibash). He explained how APON is working to provide treatment to the drug addicts and rehabilitation services. He also mentioned about the availability and accessibility of those services for the drug addicts. One of those persons who got recovery from addiction with the help of APON was present in the seminar to share his experience All of the students of RS as well as some of the staff and teachers were present in the seminar. The audience got a real picture of the practices of drug abuse in Bangladesh.

1st CfL Weekend

On June 06, 2009, the first CfL weekend activities were held. The CfL faculties led the co-curricular activities for the students at the Savar Residential Campus. The activities included table lamp painting, T-shirt painting, jewelry box making, creative writing, quiz, debate, etc. Besides their academic courses students actively took part in these co-curricular activities. In addition to that CfL has also offered Chinese Language course and Leadership Building course in this semester.

A Freedom fighter at TARC

As a part of knowing Bangladesh, an experience sharing event was arranged on 13th June 2009 on behalf of DEV course where freedom fighter Maj. Kamrul Hasan Bhuyian (Retd.) shared his experience of the battle field during the Liberation war. Students and the other audience were spell bounded by the audacious tales of the Freedom fighter in his own voice.

Daylight Saving

In accordance with the government order in order to practically save daylight, all the members of Savar campus formed a human chain and changed their clock time one hour ahead on 20th of June at 11.00 pm with a flavor of festival. Everybody enjoyed the moment chattering with Jhalmuri and dancing with music. Just at 11.59 everybody made a huge cyclic human chain and 10 seconds before the 11.00 pm they started

to count down in one voice and at 11.00 pm all of the people present there changed their own time devices into 12:00 O'clock.

Seminar on leadership

On 25th June a workshop on Leadership Skill building was held at MARKULI HALL of Savar Campus conducted by the officials of Grameenphone and it was organized by BRACU Career Service. Most of the students participated in the workshop.

Midterm Exam

Mid term exam were held at Savar Campus on 28th, 29th and 30th of June, 2009. After midterm Savar Campus was closed for three days.

RS Day

The RS Day of the semester was held at MARKULI HALL on June 17, 2009. Fred Johnston, Professor (Retd.) Queens University, Canada was the Guest of Honor. In the session the semester secretary received the guest of honor by welcome speech. Our honorable Pro-VC introduced the guest of honor to the audience who graced the function with a valuable speech later on. After the speech of the guest of honor, Mahfuzul Bari Choudhury, campus superintendent, concluded the session by thanking the guest and others. Khaled Abdullah, the Campus secretary, facilitated the session.

CSO Update

Leadership Skill Building Workshop

Grameenphone Ltd. (GP) has performed a successful half day long workshop on Leadership Skill Building on June 25, 2009 at TARC, Savar organized by Career Services Office (CSO). Mr. Shariful Islam (Manager, HR) and Ms. Taslima Hasnat Jaigirder (Manager, HR) from GP have actively conducted the workshop. A number of 126 residential students and 11 admin and faculty members have actively participated in the workshop. The session was made very organized and interesting by various group activities and exercises. A questionnaire survey on leadership skills of the participants was made and this is to be followed by another survey the next semester to see the leadership skill improvements.

ECE Corporate Visit to LM Ericson Bangladesh Ltd. and Pacific Bangladesh (Citycell)

To create rapport and knowledge of real working environment the students of Computer Science and Engineering Department major in Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE) career services has organized corporate visits to LM Ericson Bangladesh Ltd. and Pacific Bangladesh Ltd. (Citycell) on June 24 and June 29, 2009 for 5 students. This visit was to give them a practical idea about their prospective field of work and the entry requirements to prepare themselves accordingly.

Job Placement

Amitav Debnath Pinnacle Asia Pacific
Aurin Huq Pinnacle Asia Pacific
Mehzabin Razzak Beximco Textiles
Riaz Mohammad Mony Documenta TM Ltd.
Shahnoor Ferdous Khan Prime Bank Limited.
Raisul Islam Nabil Software Solutions and Logistics Enterprise