

BRACU e-Bulletin

2013/September

BBS Updates

Executive MBA Program Orientation Session, Fall 2013



The Executive MBA Program of BRAC University held its latest orientation session for its 10th consecutive Executive MBA (EMBA) batch entering this Fall 2013 on the 16th of September, 2013. Some 48 new students have joined the program in the Fall 2013 semester making a total of almost 400 students currently enrolled in the program. The orientation session was held at the BRAC Center Inn with **Professor Fuad H Mallick**, the Pro Vice Chancellor of BRAC University presiding over the event. The event was further joined by other eminent faculty members of the University, including **Dr. Hafiz G.A. Siddiqi**, Professor Emeritus, BRAC Business School, Professor Golam Mohammad, the Dean of BRAC Business School, **Mr. Mohammad Rezur Razzak**, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of BRAC University MBA Program and the Registrar of BRAC University, **Air Commodore (Retd) Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury**. The program started with a welcoming speech to the new students by the program coordinator **Mr. Tareq Mahbub** followed by an introductory session by the new students with corresponding speeches to follow by the Pro Vice Chancellor and other eminent faculty members. There was a nice presentation on the entire working of BRAC University given by the Registrar. The event was held with much enthusiasm and joyous fervor.

Pre-Departure Orientation Session for USA/Bangladesh Media Exchange Program



Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) had organized a Pre-Departure Orientation Program on 26 September at GDLN for the Bangladeshi media professionals who would be going to visit the USA.

The Bangladeshi Media Professionals Exchange Program (BMP) is a U.S. Department of State supported exchange program, which is being handled by the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Oklahoma, USA, and the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED), BRAC University.

For the 2nd phase of this exchange program, 9 young Bangladeshi media professionals (consisting of 5 male and 4 female) had been selected who are from different electronic and print media backgrounds to visit USA for 5 weeks from October 5 to November 11, 2013. A contingent of U.S. media professionals would also make a reciprocating tour to Bangladesh in January 2014.

CED Signs Agreement to Run IFC-Business Edge Courses



Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) entered into an agreement with Windmill Education Services Limited (WESL) to jointly promote and run training and certificate courses at BRAC University. The proposed training programs are distinctive in being fully researched and synthesized by International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank Group. This excellent training system is designed to strengthen the management skills and business

acumen of company managers, business owners and their staff. This highly credited program is offered by IFC through private partners across 30 nations and is renowned as IFC -Business Edge. Vice Chancellor **Professor Ainun Nishat**, **Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury**, the registrar of BRAC University, **Professor Golam Mohammad**, Dean, BBS, CED Director **Mr. Rezaur Razzak**, IFC country representative **Mr. Alfred Arsalan**, **Mr. Reazuddin Mosharaf**, Managing Director of WESL, **Afshana Choudhury**, Program Manager, CED, **Mr. Shamim E Haque**, Sr. Lecture of BBS attended the signing event.

BRAC Business School organized seminar on "Effective Leadership"



BRAC Business School of BRAC University successfully organized a seminar on "Effective Leadership" held on September 25, 2013 at 5:30 pm at BRAC University Auditorium. The program was arranged by BRAC University MBA Forum. The objective of this particular seminar was to share experiences

with the audience on 'Transforming organizations through effective leadership'

Mr. Kuntal Baveja (Managing Director), Novartis Bangladesh and Country President, Sandoz was the key speaker of the session. **Ms. Moutushi Kabir**, Head of Corporate Affairs and Communications and **Mushfequr Rahman**, Head of Human Resources of Novartis Bangladesh were also shared their views on this occasion.

Among the others, **Professor Golam Mohammad** (Dean of BRAC Business School), **Mr. Mohammad Rezaur Razzak** (Coordinator, MBA Program of BRAC Business School), **Mr. Kumar Murshid** (Advisor, Career Service Office) and **Mr. Md. Tamzidul Islam** (Senior Lecturer, BRAC Business School) attended the session along with a good number of faculties and students.

BDI Updates

Workshop on "Unpaid Care Work: Situating it in Research and Policy Context in Bangladesh"

The Center for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST) organized the workshop on "Unpaid Care Work" on 17 September 2013 at BRAC Centre Inn. CGST is collaborating with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) on a SIDA funded project which aims to develop 'policy asks' around unpaid care work of women and develop alliance to promote unpaid care into policy spaces. This workshop was organized to present a literature review of existing research and policy on unpaid care work in Bangladesh and discuss policy implications. **Lopita Huq**, Research Fellow, CGST/BDI conducted the literature review. Following the presentation on the literature review there was a presentation on the policy implications by **Dr. Sohela Nazneen**, Lead Researcher, BDI.

Maheen Sultan, Deputy Coordinator, CGST and Lead Researcher, BDI also made a presentation on the partnership with ActionAid Bangladesh (AAB) to develop a time-dairy tool and to gather and utilize time-use data from women's collectives in the North-West. Another speech was made by **Simeen Mahmud**, Coordinator, CGST and Lead Researcher, BDI on the collaboration begun with the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistic (BBS) to analyze various data sets.



Participants from AAB, Oxfam, UNDP, BRAC and academicians from Universities and the government representatives of the BBS, Department of Social Services and Ministry of Women and Children Affairs were present in the workshop. A discussion session allowed participants to provide their comments on the presentations and also gave their suggestions on what could be the "policy asks", how to build partnerships around these and how to advocate for these at different forum.

Research Design Workshop on Gender and Political Settlement at Manchester, UK

Dr. Sohela Nazneen, Lead researcher and **Iqbal Ehsan**, Research Associate of CGST/BDI visited the University of Manchester from 22-27 September 2013 to participate in a research design workshop led by the Effective States and Inclusive Development (ESID) Research Centre which is an international research partnership funded by the UK government's Department for International

Development (DFID) and hosted by the University of Manchester in the UK. ESID has partner universities in Bangladesh, India, Uganda, Rwanda, Ghana, South Africa and the USA. BDI is the lead institution for ESID's international work on gender from Bangladesh.

Professor Sam Hickey and Professor Georgina Waylen from University of Manchester were present in the workshop.



This research project falls under ESID's research theme of politics of recognition, and has a cross cutting focus on the dimensions of redistribution, particularly in terms of gendered impacts of health/education policies, and the role of transnational actors/discourses, given the influence of donors and global development/gender discourses on promoting women's political

empowerment and gender equity policies.

Introductory Session Held for Master of Development Studies (MDS) Students of Fall 2013

An introductory session was organized for the new MDS students of Fall 2013 semester. The session took place on 11 September 2013 at BRAC University. **Alamgir Kabir**, Deputy Academic Coordinator at BDI moderated the session. The opening speech was delivered by Dr. **Rashed-Uz-**



Zaman, faculty of BDI. Other distinguished faculty members who were present at the session are **Dr. Mohammed Rabbi**, **Professor S.M. Shamsul Alam** and **Dr. A.S.M. Ali Ashraf**. The MDS program outline and course details were explained to the students in the session.

BIL Updates

Workshops by Beth for the BIL faculty members

Beth Trudell conducted a series of three workshops from the 1st to the 3rd September, 2013. A group of BIL faculty members, along with participants from the departments of ENH and IED, BRAC University, attended the workshops. The three workshops were, respectively, on "Facilitations Skills", "Responding to students' writings" and "Critical Thinking".

It is to be noted that Beth is an English Language consultant, who has facilitated several faculty development programs in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and United States. She has been associated with BIL for the past seven years.

RAI Grooming Session

BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) has completed a three-week intensive training programme with the recipients of the RAI Foundation scholarship, to prepare them for the job market in Bangladesh. Keeping that in mind, the programme included training in skills of exploring the job market, writing CVs and cover letters, facing interviews and writing report, along with telephone etiquettes and manners, dress code and dining manners, job optimization, stress management, basic Mathematics, spoken English and other grooming skills necessary for sustaining in their professional life.

The sessions were conducted by BIL faculty members **Roxana Ahmed Chowdhury, Prabal Das Gupta, Ashek Amin Meraj & Mahbubul Islam** and MNS faculty member **Iftekhar Md. Shafiqul Kalam**.

It is worth mentioning that these scholarship recipients have received their undergraduate education in India and now are being trained to be employed in Bangladesh.

Launching of General English Proficiency Development Course



BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) has launched a General English Proficiency Development Course (GEPDC) for all the staff members of both Savar and Mohakhali campus of BRAC University, which includes the lift operators, the café staffs, the drivers and all the office assistants. The inauguration class held on 22 September 2013.

The course is divided into two levels: Level-1 and Level-2. Each level has 20 classes for three months.

It is to be noted that this initiative shall clearly define BRACU an English medium university in practice, and thus, benefit all the stakeholders of the university.

5th Session of BIL Workshop Series



The fifth session of BIL Workshop Series, an event organized by BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL), BRAC University, was held on Saturday, 28 September, 2013. The topic of the workshop was "Task-Based Learning" (TBL), and was conducted by Beth Trudell, an English Language Consultant.

The participants learnt that "Task Based Learning" is an approach that emphasizes on language as a tool for communication rather than an object for study. Through this method, students develop fluency, accuracy and confidence in using the English language, by focusing on meaning through real-world activities and authentic language. The participants had a very productive workshop and they gained new insights into how to help their students learn a language.

Beth has been working with BIL since 2006. She got her Master's degree from California State University, East Bay, in English for TESOL. She has facilitated several faculty development programs in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and United States.

Sharing by a BIL Faculty Member

On 12 September, 2013, **Pankaj Paul**, Lecturer, BIL shared his learning and experience from a training session he attended last month, titled "Analytical Thinking Skills", in the presence of **Lady Abed**, Director, BIL and faculty members of BIL. During the session he demonstrated interesting games and activities that are meant to improve reasoning ability, analysis and the quality of overall decision making.

Counseling Unit Updates

Sessions for RAI foundation scholarship returnees and Medha Bikash students:

Counseling Unit of BRAC University had visited the Medha Bikash, a program run by BEP (BRAC Education Program), to conduct a



motivational session for the underprivileged students coming from rural and at the same time very successful academic background for last three years and half. Another group of students from the program for RAI foundation scholarship Returnees whom BEP sent to India for their under graduation under Rai foundation scholarship had attended a session as part of Professional Grooming Training. The session generally is divided into two segments. In the first segment, the expert Counselor provides a lecture at a class room setting where particular psychosocial issues are discussed. In this segment, different psychological issue like: Self confidence, Acceptance, Goal setting, developing positive attitude and Motivation are covered. The second segment covers mainly the individual or group counseling sessions for the students who express their need for individual session.

The latest visit for the RAI foundation scholarship returnees group was held on 8th, September, 2013. Different issues were covered in this session, like: Positive attitude, professionalism, need of positive attitude, etc. Other sessions were conducted on 11, 18, 25 and 29 September 2013 for Medha Bikash students. This time 108 students have participated in different session. These sessions were conducted by **Anjuman Ara Eva**. The session could inspire them to realize the broader picture of what they are up to and it also could motivate them towards accepting the realities and setting goals to move forward in life. It was participatory and motivating in developing positive attitude in various professional aspects. After the class, group counseling sessions were done with the students who needed that.

C3ER Updates

Program Manager's participation in ClimbUrb International Workshop

The "ClimbUrb International Workshop" was organized by University of Manchester in September 9 - September 10. On behalf of C3ER, BRAC University, **Mr. Nandan Mukherjee** has participated on that workshop. He presented a paper on "Is livelihood insecurity resulting from impacts of Climate Change leading to enhancement in migration to urban areas in the coastal region of Bangladesh?" The conference took place at Chancellors Hotel & Conference Centre. **Dr. Ainun Nishat, Syed Shahnawaz Ali, Roufa Khanum, Abu Sadat Moniruzzaman, Sajidur Rahman** had their own contributions on that paper.

C3ER faculty attended the Faculty Orientation Workshop organized by TLC

Recently a three day long workshop titled "11th Faculty Orientation Workshop: Step to Success" was held at BRAC University. Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) of BRAC University organized the workshop. Nineteen faculty members from different departments attended. This workshop had been developed for new instructors of BRAC University. Irrespective of their teaching backgrounds, new faculty members attend this workshop. **Mr. Abu Sadat Moniruzzaman Khan**, Senior Lecturer shared his knowledge and experiences about BRAC and BRAC University. The workshop was expected to help participants to understand students, teachers, teaching and learning process of BRAC University.

C3ER faculties participated on proposal writing training course

C3ER **Research Associates Sharmin Nahar Nipa** and **Tanzila Afrin** completed a seven-day training course on Proposal Writing Training held between 29 July-1 August and on 18, 21 and 22 August 2013. The training programme was conducted by Ineke A Pitts, Branch Director/ Course Director of MDF South Asia, Training & Consultancy. The training was held at IGS Conference Room.

C3ER faculty participated on the Practitioners Course on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

C3ER Lecturer/**Research Associate Sharmin Nahar Nipa** had successfully completed the five-days training on "Practitioners Course on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)" held from 01 September-05 September, 2013. The training programme was organized by the Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), a public Trust under the Ministry of Water Resources.

CSO Updates

Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) Orientation Fall 2013



The orientation session for Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) was held on 26th of September 2013 at the Indoor Auditorium of BRAC University. Out of 223 registered students, almost all of the students were present at this program. **Mr. Kumar Murshid**, Advisor CSO delivered the opening speech describing the altered PSDP while **Professor Riaz Khan**; Advisor CSO/TLC described the new workings of PSDP as well. After that he introduced the team members who would give individual advice to PSDP students. The PSDP program is designed to prepare the graduating class to pursue post-graduate employment and academic opportunities. The program had two central objectives. First, it provides extensive information on postgraduate academic opportunities and job market conditions and prospects. Secondly, the program seeks to equip all graduating students with the necessary skills for job search, individual portfolio development and interview preparation.

The individual advisers were divided as per their relevant groups and handed out the course outline for the semester. The individual advisers include members from CSO and TLC. The advisers are **Kazi Shahnoor Kabir** CSO , **Ms. Shanzida**

Shahab Uddin CSO , **Ms. Zinat Fatema** CSO , **Ms. Rakshinda Huq** CSO , **Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali** TLC, **Ms. Samina Anzum Chowdhury** TLC , **Ms. Sabrina Syed** TLC and **Mr. Muhammad Foysal Mubarak** from TLC.

Internship opportunity through "Mock Interview session" summer-2013



"Mock Interview Session" for summer 2013 students took place on 14th September 2013. "Mock Interview Session" every semester as an important component of Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) organizes by Career Services Office. "Mock Interview" provides approaching graduates to have a clear view of actual

interview boards.

Twenty one renowned companies and NGOs participated in the event were: BRAC Bank Ltd., Green Delta Ltd., Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Ltd. (Citycell), Parkway Hospitals Singapore Pte Ltd., Parkway Hospitals Singapore Pte Ltd., Robi Axiata Limited, Save the Children, Point Points by Sheraton, Aarong, Beximco Limited (Yellow), BRAC EPL Investments Ltd, Mott McDonald, Mott McDonald, Airtel Bangladesh Limited, Square, Mutual Trust Bank, Bangladesh Edible Oil Ltd., Reckitt Benckiser (Bangladesh) Limited, Grameen Phone IT, BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Ltd. and BRAC.

A total of 180 students have participated in this event for interview assessment and a total of 21 interview boards were set up. Also some of the students have been placed for the internship in different organizations from the "Mock Interview". After event, the feedback has been received with details on every interviewed candidate, indicating strengths and areas of development of the students. Mr. Kumar Murshid, Advisor CSO was the key speaker of the session and discussed the importance of the Mock Interview session, and discussed the synergy between students and the employing organizations. **Kazi Shahnoor Kabir**, Career Services Executive, explained the entire interview process for conducting the Mock Interview Session. **Ms Shanzida Shahab Uddin**, **Ms. Rakshinda Huq** and **Ms. Zinat Fatema** from CSO and other team members of CSO coordinated in order to make the session a flourishing one. The student volunteers were also very helpful during the event concluded.

BizMaestros: Unilever's Collaboration with CSO

Unilever Bangladesh Limited in collaboration with Career Services Office arranged an Internship Recruitment Program on September 23, 2013 at BRAC University Indoor Auditorium. The program was basically designed to identify the high

performing graduates those will participate in the competition with the other University students. Around 100 students were present at the program; most of the students were students from BBS.

Unilever Bangladesh divided this whole program in two different parts. In the beginning of the program the key speaker of the session, **Taslina Jaigirdir**, Leadership Development Manager of Unilever gave her vibrant presentation focusing on the Unilever Bangladesh Limited. The Next part of the program, students were asked to perform a case study provided by Unilever Bangladesh Limited for preliminary screening process which also includes finding the brightest budding young marketers in campus.

Kazi Shahnoor Kabir, Ms Shanzida Shahab Uddin, Ms. Rakshinda Huq and Ms. Zinat Fatema from CSO were also present at the session. With the help of student volunteers and CSO team the event concluded.

ESS Updates

Dr. Sajjad Zohir Published a chapter in a book edited by J.von Braun and F.W Gatzweiler(eds.),Marginality: Addressing the nexus of Poverty, Exclusion and Ecology,2014.

Dr Farzana Munshi presented her paper titled "Trade Liberalization and Wage Gap: Evidence from Bangladesh Cotton Textile Industry 1970-2010" at 4th Asia-Pacific Business Research Conference held in Singapore during September 30-October 1.

Ahmed Sadek Yousuf and **Nilufa Yasmin** has joined BRAC University in the Economics and Social Sciences Department as a Lecturer this September. **Ahmed Sadek** has completed his Masters from University of Nottingham in 2012 (MSc Economics and Econometrics) and Bachelors from North South University (BSc Economics) in 2010, **Nilufa Yasmin** has completed her B.Sc in Economics from North South University and M.Sc in Finance and Economics from Queen Mary University of London.

IED Updates

ROSC Professional Development Team



A twelve-day Training of Trainers (ToT) programme for the Training Resource Persons (TRPs) and Training Coordinators (TCs) of Reaching Out-of-School Children (ROSC) Project Phase II has been started at IED BRAC University. ROSC is a project of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) that is financed by The World Bank. IED has been selected by The World Bank to provide ToT for the RPs and TCs who will later train up the teachers of Learning Centres at the Anondo School. Alongside, the Institute of Education and Research (IER), Dhaka University will also carry out the training of this programme, and is thus a great opportunity for IED to collaborate with IER whilst work together with the World Bank and GoB.

The sponsoring agency of the project is the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME), and the implementing agency is the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE). The ROSC Unit (ROSC U) of the DPE will implement all project-related activities in consultation with DPE.

The first batch of the ToT was from 14-25 September 2013. A total of 25 participants (13 TRPs and 12 TCs) completed the 1st batch of the ToT. The ROSC Project Director, Co-Task Team Leader from The World Bank and and Director of IER were present in the opening ceremony. The Project Director of ROSC Project II and Director of IER were also present at the closing ceremony.

Introducing a course on Positive and Effective Parenting

A team of 6 from IED attended a "Teacher Certification Program for Analytical Thinking Skills" in Singapore from 29 July to 2 August 2013. The training was organised by LogicMills, the Thinking Academy, Singapore. Participants from Singapore and Bangladesh participated at the training programme together, which aimed at helping participants understand how they could develop the analytical thinking skills of children of various age groups. In particular, IED is hoping to implement these Analytical Thinking Skills for its new BRAC Nobodhara School programme.

Working with the Garment Industry Introducing Psychosocial Well-being in the Workplace



Exploring new opportunities of working with the garments industry, in August 2013, a team from the Institute of Educational Development (IED) visited Ananta Casual Wear Ltd. (ACWL) in Gazipur, Dhaka, to conduct a needs assessment of the workers, the Workers Welfare Committee (WWC) and the management of the factory. IED has several areas to explore and are thus are still at the initial stages of research entering this industry for

the first time.



The team observed a 3-day training programme delivered to new recruits at ACWL, and followed this with informal discussions with the trainees in order to build understanding of the existing capacity building

process of the workers.

The training content consisted of a range of areas, including: work related technical skills; the roles and responsibilities of workers, the WWC and the Workers Participatory Committee (WPC); HR & Compliance; fire and first aid management, and; safety and security issues.

The findings of the needs assessment have helped to reveal certain needs of garments factories, including: the need for a transparent and healthy workplace relationship between workers and the mid-level management, a higher



retention rate of the workers, communication and stress management skills, gender sensitivity, workplace values and commitment. The team intends to further elaborate their understanding and involvement in the upcoming months through conducting Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with workers, revisiting the training module used to train workers in order to incorporate necessary pedagogical and conceptual changes, and eventually piloting a new module and a Training of Trainers (ToT) at ACWL to create a more effective process of capacity building that strives towards the holistic development of workers.

Global Rating of Environment for Bangladesh

What is GROE?

Global Rating of Environments (GROE) is a tool used to measure the quality of ECD programmes. Working in collaboration with international consultants, Dr Faith Lamb-Parker and Dr Virginia Casper from Bank Street College of Education, New York, USA, IED are helping to adapt the GROE tool for the context of Bangladesh.

What is GROE doing?



At present IED has been conducting a pilot test to finalize the GROE tool. As a part of the pilot test, training was conducted by the consultants from 26-29 August 2013. All GROE Team members, including the advisory group, participated in the training. On 28th August 2013, a meeting for experts' opinion on GROE for Bangladesh was also held, where experts from different organisations working in the field of ECD participated. The GROE Team will incorporate the feedback and begin finalizing the tool from October to November 2013. The process will be complete after finalising the English version of the tool, as well as translate it into Bangla (GROE for Bangladesh-Bangla Version).

World Organization for Early Childhood Development

A team of 5 IED professionals attended the 65th OMOP (World Organization for Early Childhood Education) World Conference in Shanghai, China from 11-13 July 2013. The theme of the conference was stated as, "Enhancing the Development of Early Childhood Education: Opportunities and Quality," with 2 keynote speakers from the University of Gotenburg, Sweden and the University of Waikato, New Zealand.. Participants from 72 countries were involved in the conference, where the IED members stood as the representatives from Bangladesh. IED participated by presenting their findings of a research on Early Childhood Development (ECD) in Emergency, conducted by IED's ECD Unit as a part of a global research.

Developing Analytical Thinking Skills





A team of 6 from IED attended a "Teacher Certification Program for Analytical Thinking Skills" in Singapore from 29 July to 2 August 2013. The training was organised by LogicMills, the Thinking Academy, Singapore. Participants from Singapore and Bangladesh participated at the training programme together, which aimed at helping participants understand how they could develop the analytical thinking skills of children

of various age groups. In particular, IED is hoping to implement these Analytical Thinking Skills for its new BRAC Nobodhara School programme.

MNS Updates

South Asia Biosafety Conference and Workshops, New Delhi, India

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the South Asia Biosafety Conference held on 18-19 September, 2013 and then attended two Workshops on i. Understanding Test Protocols: Design, Reporting and Data Interpretation and ii. The Scientist as a Public Communicator held for selected participants on 20 September, 2013 at Taj Ambassador Hotel in New Delhi, India. The Conference and the Workshops were co-organized by the Center for Environmental Risk Assessment (CERA), ILSI Research Foundation, Washington, USA and Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) under the aegis of South Asia Biosafety Program. The purposes of the two-day Conference on 18-19 September, 2013 and one-day workshop on 20 September were to share current scientific knowledge on biosafety issues related to GE crops. Leading international experts from regulatory agencies in the USA, Australia, Canada, Europe, Brazil etc. and from industry and public sector research institutions presented papers in the Conference and shared their experiences. The topics of the Plenary Sessions in the Conference included Challenges to the Development and Regulation of Genetically Engineered Plants in South Asia, Regulation of Genetically Engineered Plants in the Context of Biodiversity, Phytosanitary and Food/Feed Safety Laws, Post-Approval Considerations for the Commercial Release of Genetically Engineered Plants and New Plant Breeding Techniques and Biosafety Risk Assessment. Professor Choudhury chaired the Plenary Session II held on 19 September, 2013 on Regulation of Genetically Engineered Plants in the Context of Biodiversity, Phytosanitary and Food/Feed Safety Laws. Leading experts from Australia, France, New Zealand and UNEP presented papers in that session. Professor Choudhury is a member of the Biosafety Core Committee formed by the National Biosafety Committee of the Ministry of Environment and Forest, GoB.

Second Summit of the South Asian Science Academies, New Delhi, India

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the Second Summit of Science Academies of South Asia held during 24-27 September 2013 at INSA, New Delhi,

India. On day one, i.e. 24 September 2013, a workshop on "Women in Science, Education and Research" was organized jointly with the Association of Academies and Societies in Asia (AASSA). **Dr. Manju Sharma**, Former Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India delivered a special lecture in the workshop on Scientific and Technological Empowerment of Women-Role, Relevance and Application. The Summit was inaugurated by **Dr. T. Ramasamy**, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. The Science Academies of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka as well as Science Academies from Africa, Korea, Malaysia, Mauritius and Turkey participated in the workshop and the Summit. Different issues discussed in the Summit included ICT Tools in Enhancing Quality of Higher Education, Agricultural Productivity, Food and Nutrition, Sustainable Development: Post 2015 Scenario; and Role of S&T and Innovation. **Professor Choudhury** presented a paper in the Summit on Science and Technology for Development: Bangladesh Perspective. It may be mentioned that the First Summit was organized by The Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, India on 6-9 September 2012 at its premises. Presidents and top representatives of nine Academies of the region participated in the Summit. A declaration, "Delhi Declarations", was released at the end of the Summit after detailed discussions and deliberation focused on major societal issues: Energy Options, Health Care and Infectious Diseases, Science Education, Science and Society, Women in Science, Urbanization, Climate Change and Inclusive Innovation. It was resolved to take necessary action for creating a Network of the South Asian Academies of Science and to organize the Summit annually.

"New faces in campus" and "Leaving us"

New faces at BRACU

BBS: **Mr. Chowdhury Shahreaz Ekram** and **Mr. Tahsan Khan** joined as Senior Lecturer and **Ms. Sreyoshi Ahmed** and **Mr. Feihan Ahsan** joined as Lecturer-II in the BRAC Business School in September 2013. **Mr. Ekram** did his EMBA in Marketing from Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka. He also obtained his M.S. degree in Software Engineering from University of Minnesota at Twin Cities, USA. Earlier he did B.E.S. in Business Computer Information System from St. Cloud State University, USA. **Mr. Khan** did his BBA in Marketing and MBA in Finance from Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka. Later on he did another MBA in Marketing from University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. **Ms. Ahmed** obtained her M.Sc degree in Business Studies from Aston University, UK. Earlier she did BBA in Business Studies from North South University, Bangladesh. **Mr. Ahsan** did his M.A. in HR & Industrial Relations from Queen's University, Canada. Prior to this he did BBA in Marketing & Finance and MBA in Marketing from North South University, Bangladesh.

ESS: **Mr. Ahmed Sadek Yousuf** and **Ms. Nilufa Yasmin** joined as Lecturer-I in the Department of Economics and Social Science (ESS) in September 2013. **Mr. Yousuf** did M.Sc in Economics from University of Nottingham, UK and B.Sc in Economics from North South University, Bangladesh. **Ms. Yasmin** did M.Sc in Financial Economics from Queen Mary University of London. Before that she did her B.Sc in Economics from North South University, Bangladesh.

EEE: Three new members, **Ms. Seefath Nayeem**, **Mr. Pratik Al Islam** and **Mr. Mohammad Abdullah Al Shohel** joined as Lecturer-I in the Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering in September 2013. Both **Ms. Nayeem** and **Mr. Islam** did their Bachelors of Science in Power and Electronics from BRAC University. **Mr. Shohel** did his Bachelors of Science in Electronics & Communication from BUET.

CSE: The Department of Computer Science and Engineering added two new members, **Ms. Monjura Afrin Rumi** and **Ms. Aniqua Nusrat Zereen** in their team.

Ms. Rumi did her B.Sc in Computer Science and Engineering from BUET and **Ms. Zereen** did her B.Sc in Computer Science and Engineering from BRAC University.

Management & Admin: **Mr. Shakil Naheyan** joined as an Admin Officer in the Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER) in September 2013. He completed both his BBA and MBA in Finance from Independent University Bangladesh.

Ms. Aditi Mondal joined as a Lab Officer in the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) in September 2013. She did her B.Sc in Biotechnology from K.L.E. Society's S. Nijalingappa College, Bangalore University, India.

Ms. Sanzida Pias joined as an Assistant Admin Officer in the Student Affairs Office in September 2013. She did her BBA in Management from Niilm University, Haryana, India.

"Faculty on Study Leave" and "Re-Joining"

Faculty on Study Leave

EEE: Two faculty members **Ms. Sanjana Ahmed** and **Ms. Ahmed Hosne Zenan** who were serving as Lecturers in the Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering went for Study Leave in last September 2013.

Both **Ms. Ahmed** and **Ms. Zenan** went abroad for pursuing MSc Electrical Engineering for Sustainable and Renewable Energy from University of Nottingham, UK.

Pharmacy: **Ms. Saki Sultana**, serving as a Lecturer in the Department of Pharmacy went for Study Leave in the middle of September 2013. She left for obtaining Master of Science degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Dalhousie University, Canada.

Re-Joining

Ms. Zeenat Jahan, Lecturer, Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) re-joined in September 2013 after completing her PhD experimental part in Industrial Biotechnology from University of Rome, Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy.

RS Updates



On September 14, 2013, the orientation for the 34th batch of RS was held at Markuli Hall, BRACU Savar Campus. The program was collaboratively facilitated by **Mr. Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury**, Campus Superintendent, Ms. **Farrah Jabeen**, Lecturer, BIL and **Mr. Rehan Ahmed**, Assistant Campus Superintendent. The programme, divided into two sessions, focused on the introduction of the faculty and staff members, the

discussion of campus facilities, disciplines and the social capital that must be maintained within the campus.

Story of BRAC

A seminar titled 'Story of BRAC' was held on September 19, 2013 at Markuli Hall, BRACU Savar Campus. The objective of the session was to inform the students about some of the basic points of BRAC prior to their BRAC visit programs. **Mr. Abdur Rahman** conducted the session, sharing the success story of BRAC as a whole among other important aspects.



Session with CSO

On September 21, 2013, **Mr. Kumar Morshed**, Adviser, CSO facilitated a seminar titled "Living with English and Friends" at BRACU Savar campus. As part of the focus of the session, he explained the rationale of the Residential Semester and community living while the students shared their week-long experiences at Savar campus. **Mr. Kumar Morshed** also discussed about the role of English in the students' life in the present context.

Parent's Day



Parents Day of Residential Semester Fall'13 was observed successfully on September 21, 2013 at BRACU Savar Campus amidst the presence of **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, the faculty members and the RS staff members. The parents, who visited the campus, expressed their deep satisfaction on seeing the campus facilities and the way it functions.

Happy Reading Orientation



The Happy Reading orientation for the Fall 2013 semester was held on September 23, 2013 at Markuli Hall, BRACU Savar campus. The Assistant Campus Superintendent, **Mr. Rehan Ahmed**, inaugurated the session, which was then continued by the representatives of British Council. The students then

attended a quiz session and the winner of the quiz was awarded a prize.



Session with Apon on Drug Abuse

The seminar on drug abuse was held on 30.05.13, Thursday from 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm at Markuli hall focusing on the affects of drug use and

rehabilitation mechanism. **Mr. Bro. Ronald Drahozal** who is the CSC and executive director, APON successfully conducted the seminar. During the session two recovering addicted persons who explained how they started taking drugs and suffering eventually, have come from APON. At the end of the session 20 minutes was allocated for question-answer and consultation. The students also talked with them individually.

Public Health Seminar

The Public Health seminar was held at Savar Residential Semester on September 28, 2013. The session was facilitated by a faculty member from the School of Public Health (SPH), BRAC University. The program was designed to familiarize the students with the benefits of health and well being as well as some of the basic things over sexual and reproductive health. The Campus Superintendent inaugurated the session and **Mr. Khule** continued with the first combined session on 'Health and well being'. The second session was divided into two parts conducted by **Professor Sabina** and **Professor Malabika Sarker**. A documentary 'The Generation Walking up Experience' was shown to the students as well.

SECS Updates

CSE faculty member offers training at BCC

During September 3 to 10, CSE department faculty member, **M. Abdur Rahman**, Lecturer III has successfully conducted a government training course at Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC). The 4 day long training session focused on Wordpress. The trainees had diverse backgrounds and represented different organizations including Information Commission, Bangladesh Navy, NIMC, BNM, Dhaka University etc.

CSE Department Faculty becomes Master Trainer for ITEE

As of September 2013, CSE Department faculty member, **Annajiat Alim Rasel**, Lecturer III has become a master trainer for Information Technology Engineers Examination (ITEE) through a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)-BCC, MoICT training project. So far, a total of 21 people have received this opportunity. Other master trainers are from BUET, Dhaka University, University of Rajshahi, BCC, MoICT, NAEM, Bangladesh Computer Society (BCS), Bangladesh Bank, Sonali Bank, and CTO of several IT companies. Further details about ITEE can be found at BDITEC website, <http://bditec.gov.bd>, Information Technology Professionals Examination Council (ITPEC), <http://itpec.org> and it's International Promotional Agency (IPA), <http://www.ipa.go.jp>

CSE department takes part in National Curriculum Design for Training Services for IT/ITES

Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park authority under Support to Development of Kaliakoir Hi-Tech Park Project has requested contribution from faculty members from CSE Department from different Universities, representatives from different Information Technology (IT) / IT Enabled Services (ITES) related associations,

Government organizations, and professionals to provide feedback on development of Course Curriculum for IT/ITES Sector. The developed curriculum is expected to be used in training courses to be offered in future at BCC and at Kaliakoir Hi-Tech Park.

From BRAC University CSE department, chairperson and **Professor Mohammad Zahidur Rahman, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Md. Khalilur Rhaman** and **Annajiat Alim Rasel** (Lecturer III) have made contribution to the syllabus. In addition to overall suggestions, their contributed focused on improvement of the syllabus for, Call Center Agent Training, Search Engine Optimization, and iPhone Application Development respectively. Representatives from Bangladesh Association of Call Center & Outsourcing (BACCO), BCC, and Bangladesh Association of Software & Information Services (BASIS) were present during the session. **Md. Nazrul Islam Khan**, Secretary, Ministry of Information, and Communication Technology (MoICT) has personally followed the event from beginning to end. Chief Guest of the event was **Prof. Dr. A K Azad Chowdhury**, Chairman, UGC (State Minister). Prof. Dr. **Md. Akhtar Hossain**, Member, UGC was a special guest for the event.

ITEE Orientation and mock exams



On Friday, September 13, an orientation program on Information Technology Engineers Examination (ITEE) at BRACU. After the orientation, a total of

four mock exams were held on two different dates that is Friday, September 13 and Sunday, September 15. Both the orientation and mock exams were conducted by **Annajiat Alim Rasel**, Lecturer III, CSE department. Students from CSE and EEE departments, alumni members, and IT staffs have attended the sessions.

Participation in Oracle Day 2013

Annajiat Alim Rasel, Lecturer III, CSE department has participated in the, Oracle Day 2013. The daylong event was held on Tuesday, 17 September 2013 at Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel. The event highlighted the latest breakthroughs. Oracle and Intel at this comprehensive Oracle Day showed how we can innovate and compete more effectively, whether through increased agility, deeper insight, or improved experience. The event focused on Oracle Database 12c, the hottest updates on critical drivers such as Cloud Computing and Engineered Systems, how to recruit, develop, reward, and retain the best talent, how to modernize finance, risk, and performance management processes and more! The event included sessions on Information Lifecycle Automation, Security, Maximizing Availability & Simplifying Consolidation, Optimizing Database, and the role of Operating System as well as hardware in engineered systems, and Driving Database as a Service with Oracle Exadata.

CSE Department Faculty conducts national training for ITEE FE Exam

From Friday to Sunday, a three-day long (September 27-29, 2013) training program took place to deliver the detailed



concept about ITEE and Fundamental IT Engineer (FE) exam. **Annajiat Alim Rasel**, a Master Trainer for ITEE and Lecturer III at the CSE department, has successfully conducted a total of 4 sessions in the training on day 1 and day 3. About 150 persons including students, faculty members, and professionals from different educational, public, and private organizations have attended the program. Among the CSE department faculty members, **M. Abdur Rahman, Md. Shamsul Kaonain, Ms Nabila Naushin**, and **Aniqua Nusrat Zereen** have participated in the program. Among the CSE department students, **Moumita Roy Tora, Rubayat Ahmed Khan, Samiul Islam, Dipankar Chaki, Ipshita Bonhi Upoma**, and **Akib Mahmud** have participated in the training program.



On day 1, **Mr. Hideo Hoya**, Chief Adviser for ITEE project, conducted orientation on ITEE Exam System, followed by a discussion on course content for FE Exam by **Md. Mosaddeq Hossain Khan**, Lecturer, Dhaka

University, and finally **Mrs. Mohsena Chowdhury**, CTO, MAMTech Ltd. together with **Annajiat Alim Rasel** conducted a session on FE Exam System, Passing Criteria, etc. On day-two, a mock exam was held similar to real FE exam. The exam was conducted by BCC officials.

On day 3, **Shah Mostofa Khaled**, Assistant Professor, IIT, DU conducted review of Strategy part and **Annajiat Alim Rasel** conducted Technology and Management part of the FE morning exam. Due to immense interest of enthusiastic participants, a part of the afternoon session was reviewed as well by **Annajiat Alim Rasel** along with several volunteers working in the industry. The training program was a grand success. It was committed towards giving maximum effort to introduce national IT professional skill standard through ITEE in Bangladesh. The training program was held at BCC Auditorium, BCC Bhaban, Bangladesh Computer Council. On request from the participants, supplementary materials will be available from <http://fb.com/groups/bditee> and <http://groups.google.com/group/bditee>

11 persons are to attend national ITEE Exam

Eleven student and faculty members from the CSE department have been accepted by BDITEC to attend the national ITEE FE exam to be held on Sunday, October 27 at Dhaka University Curzon hall. They are **Moumita Roy Tora, Rubayat Ahmed Khan, Samiul Islam, Dipankar Chaki Joy, Ipshita Bonhi Upoma**, and **Akib Mahmud**; all are studying for CSE major at the Department.

Among the faculty members, **M. Abdur Rahman, Md. Shamsul Kaonain, Ms Nabila Naushin, Aniqua Nusrat Zereen,** and **Annajiat Alim Rasel** were accepted.

4 persons nominated for training at InfoSys

Four CSE students near graduation and alumni members received primary nomination for training course in India as a part of a project of Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority, MoICT. The training program is jointly sponsored by InfoSys and Bangladesh Government. Hi-Tech Park Authority will take multiple interviews and will finally select 95 trainees and 4 faculty members from whole Bangladesh for a 12-week long training program. Nominated students and alumni members are Dipankar Chaki Joy, **Tanvir Roushan, Mohammad Zubair Alam,** and **Sadia Binta Kabir.**

Session on HP Technology Update

During 24 to 25th of September, a 2-day long HP Technology Update Session took place at UB 2 Lobby. HP, one of the leading technology companies around the world tried to provide regular technology update, assistance, and guidelines for proper usage of technologies. The session focused on latest printing technology update and guideline consultancy with hands on experience. The event included briefing on latest printing technology, gaming, quiz competition, and prize distribution. Students from different departments took part in those activities.

Participation in WECS 2013

During September 28-29, students **Amit Kumar Dey, Md. Ismail Kiron** accompanied by faculty member, **Annajiat Alim Rasel** of CSE Department have participated in Workshop on Design and Implementation of Emerging Computing Systems (WECS) 2013. **Sadat Sakif Ahmed** and **Radin Ahmed Ehsan**, students of CSE department presented their accepted paper, Parallel Computing using GPU. Keynote, "Taking a leap into the next generation with available technologies" was presented by **Kamal Quadir** from CellBazaar, bKash. Invited talks were "You're hired! When emotion meets behavioral health" by **Dr. M. Ehsan Hoque**, "AI in Robotics and Embedded Systems" by **Dr. Md. Khalilur Rahman** (Assoc. Prof. at CSE Department, BRACU), "Cloud Computing: A Silver lining, or Security nightmare? An Overview of Key Research Problems in Cloud Security" by **Dr. Ragib Hasan**, "Location Based Services in a Collaborative Environment" by **Dr. Mohammed Eunus Ali**. The closing note, "Computerization in Bangladesh requires a paradigm shift" was given by **Dr. M. Kaykobad**. Further details are available at <http://buet.ac.bd/cse/HEQEP/workshop/WECS>.

CARG Updates

Components Testing on Full swing

The Solar Home System (SHS) industry in Bangladesh is expanding rapidly since its inception in 2004. Due to the numerous manufacturers (local and foreign) the resulting device contains components that vary greatly in all parameters. As a

result, the overall quality varies from organization to organization. This unstable quality is increasing with the increased number of SHS installation and thus the system inefficiency. Hence, standard qualification testing is very essential for our country's perspective. Considering this, CARG Testing Center of BRAC University is devoted to do SHS components testing prudently. This center has already got reputation for their authentic and austere reports. Since starting of this center, CARG has done several testing from different companies in Bangladesh. Last month, CARG testing center got their full swing by testing components for different solar companies. In fact, 3 LED tube lights have already been tested rigorously from three different companies and according to the regulation of Testing Center their report has been delivered on time (Within three working days). Hence, companies are very satisfied with rapid and trustworthy reports and they expressed their interest to send more components in this center near future. This triumph has become possible due to the systematic monitoring from **Prof. AKM Azad** (Head of CARG) and **Prof. Sayeed Salam** (Chairperson of the Department of EEE) and also for vigorous research members of this testing center.

Solar Battery Charging Station implementation

The Solar Battery Charging Station (SBCS) is in its implementation stage after having the proposal for the pilot project approved by the BRACU. The project is conducted in collaboration between CARG and BEEVATECH LTD. The primary purpose of the project is to develop an Industrial-University relationship. The pilot project will feature a charging station, designed by CARG, powered by solar energy to charge batteries of the electrically assisted rickshaws. The project is headed by Dr. AKM Azad and the field work conducted by CARG Project Engineer **Rafiur Rahman** and Research Associate **Asaduzzaman Al-Faruq**. The project will be implemented on the rooftop of UB2 (Aarong house). The pilot project has been planned for 6 months, after which a report will be prepared on the project for BEEVATECH LTD and the concerned BRACU personnel.

CARG members register for edX online course

edX (www.edX.org) takes great courses, on various fields, from Universities such as MIT, Harvard, Cornell, California Berkeley, Boston, Texas system, McGill, Toronto and so on. This time edX is offering a new course on "Solar Energy". CARG Research Assistant (**S.A. Khan**), Project Engineer (**R. Rahman**), Research Associate (**A. Faruq**) and other research members have already registered for the course. Thousands of students from all over the world are taking courses and creating an international platform to interact with each other through virtual presence. Hence, it is an opportunity to prove our potential in an international level. Moreover, best student of the course will be invited to the Delft University of Technology for a Delft Solar Energy Center course of one week, to get hands-on lab experience with all the concepts taught in this Solar Energy course.

CARG Publications and Paper Review

Two papers from CARG have been published into the GHTC 2013: "Low Cost Cylindrical Lumen Testing Procedure In Bangladesh Perspective" by CARG Research Assistant **Sabbir Ahmed Khan**, Project Engineer **Rafiur Rahman Surjo**, Research member **Farah Shabnam** and Head of CARG **Prof. AKM Abdul**

Malek Azad; and "Hybridization of Solar Energy with National Grid to Power Classroom DC Loads" by thesis students **Sharzana Reza, Rashik Ahmed, Shadmaan Patwary** and **Prof. AKM Abdul Malek Azad**. Both papers will be published into the IEEE Digital Library. CARG has also reviewed several papers from the IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference (GHTC) 2013 and the Journal of Renewable and Sustainable Energy. CARG has also been one of the official reviewers of the GHTC 2012 and the Journal of Renewable and Sustainable Energy and the Journal of Earth Science Research.

SPH Updates

MPH Students make poster presentation in PHN Course



Under the Public Health Nutrition course, MPH students participated in a vibrant poster presentation on 11 September 2013 on different aspects of nutrition as a requirement of the course. The objective of this poster presentation was to make students look at one selected aspects of nutrition critically and to present their own way of looking visually.

The nutrition issues on which students have touched upon in their posters include vitamin D deficiency, food safety in Bangladesh, pellagra, vitamin A deficiency, folic acid and neural tube development, food fortification, obesity, PMTCT, RUTF, mainstreaming nutrition, climate change and food security, kwashiorkor, zinc deficiency, nutrition-sensitive interventions, nutrition in social safety nets in Bangladesh.

In order to facilitate in-depth research and make the posters lucrative, students were divided into groups consisting of four members each. The poster presentation of each group is followed by an open question answer session. Facilitated by the course coordinator, **Dr. Tahmeed Ahmed**, the question answer session brings light to new ideas and discussion put forward by the students.

MPH Students undertake field visits under SRHR course

Under 'Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights' course students undertake a one day field visit on September 24, 2013 to tertiary level hospitals and Non-Government Organizations providing reproductive and maternal health services.



The objective of this field visit was to understand the quality of care of existing maternal and reproductive health services from different perspectives such as perspective of beneficiaries, providers and clients.

The other specific objective was to investigate the difference between services provided by government tertiary hospitals and non-government organizations. The field visits included Dhaka Medical College, Bangladesh Medical College and Smiling Sun Clinic at Aftabnagar.

Students visit RHSTEP centre, Fistula Ward and Uterine Prolapse Ward and Emergency Obstetric Care centre at Dhaka Medical College. At Bangladesh Medical College, students visited both outdoor and indoor gynae and emergency care services. Similarly at Smiling Sun Clinic students investigated maternal health services that are provided to the clients. Through interview with the clients, service provider and care provider (relatives of patients) students have grasped perceptions of different stakeholders with particular emphasis on supply side and demand side dynamics of reproductive and maternal health services. They have also come up with a comprehensive understanding on how private-public partnership operates in giving reproductive and maternal health services to clients in the context of a low-income country.

IDRC team starts a joint collaborative Health care seeking survey in Sylhet



As part of IDRC project's activity, JPGSPH is collaborating with icddr,b to implement a large Health Care Seeking survey in six urban areas of Bangladesh using real time data collection procedures. Piloting of the joint questionnaire began in Sylhet. In this regard, a training session was organized at icddr,b from 19 to 23 August, 2013 and facilitated by Dr. Alayne Adams, Senior Scientist, icddr,b and Professor of JPGSPH, **Dr. Nadira Sultana Kakoly**, Project-coordinator-IDRC; **Bidhan Krishna**

Sarker, Senior Research Investigator, icddr,b; **Rubana Islam**, Research Investigator, icddr, b and Tessa Hillgrove, Urban Health Scholar, AusAid Program. The training was successfully completed with initiation of the first round of data collection from 01 September, 2013.

Course on Public Health Management for Malaria Programme Managers



The James P. Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) offered a course titled 'Public Health Management for Malaria Programme Managers' in partnership with BRAC Health Nutrition and Population Programme, BRAC Learning Division and icddr,b from 17 August, 2013 to 29 August, 2013. The course was attended by 22 participants (1 Female and 21 male) from the following 9 districts: Dhaka, Mymensingh, Chittagong, Rangamati, Bandarban, Khagrachari, Cox's Bazar, Sunamganj and Sylhet.

Participants included Regional Sector Specialist, Senior Sector Specialist, Senior District Managers, Project Managers, Senior MIS Officer, Branch Manager, Monitoring Officer, Sr. Upazila Managers, Upazila Managers from BRAC and five partner organizations including NUS, HEED Bangladesh, Bandhan, MUKTI Cox's Bazar and YPSA.

The course was delivered by a highly qualified resource pool of 25 resource persons from government, non-government, national and international organizations. The course provided critical insight into health systems strengthening in light of malaria programmes, covering topics such as health systems requirements, human resource management, universal health coverage, health care financing and governance and leadership skills.

The course ended on 29 August, 2013 with a certificate giving ceremony. **Ms. Tushar Quader Haq**, Coordinator, Short course, JPGSPH, BRAC University, **Mr. K.M Zahiduzzaman**, Program Coordination Manager, JPGSPH, BRAC University, **Ms. Gayatri Chowdhury**, Research Officer, JPGSPH, BRAC University and other relevant personnel of JPGSPH were attended the certificate giving ceremony.

Course on Monitoring and Evaluation for TB Programme Managers

The fifth batch course on 'Monitoring and Evaluation for TB Programme Managers' concluded on September 12, 2013. Supported by GFATM, the course was organized in partnership with BRAC Health, Nutrition and Population Programme, National TB Control Programme (NTP), BRAC Learning Division and ICDDR,B completes. The 12 days long course began on 01 September, 2013 with 23 participants from BRAC Health and its partner agencies.

The course provided critical insight into monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of health programmes, in particular of those related to TB. The course offered practical training in tools, methods and applications of M&E for programme personnel for successfully working on programmatic M&E.



Md. Badruzzaman Khan, Manager, Research and Monitoring of Room to Read Bangladesh, who conducted a session on "Monitoring and Evaluation Report", said: "This course will help the participants to increase their knowledge on Monitoring and Evaluation Reporting and importance of that topic. I enjoy teaching in this course and I also learn from the participants about their knowledge on the implementation of program. Participants are very much interactive and willing to learn".

Dr. Farhana Haque, Program Coordinator, SAJIDA Foundation Narayanganj, Dhaka attended the course. She said: "This type of Monitoring and Evaluation Training is very much effective for program implementation in the field. I think this training would



help me become an efficient manager in TB control program".



Sarder Tanzir Hossain, Microbiologist, HNPP, BRAC, Head Office, Dhaka. "This training has been very much benefiting for me and proved as very much effective for me to perform my responsibility in TB control program. I have learnt a lot about M&E which will enhance my knowledge and skills to implement the program precisely".

Dr. Sultana Aflatun Rubana, Senior Sector Specialist, BRAC Dhaka participated the course. She said: "As a part of the monitoring team of BRAC TB control program, I found this training is really effective and important for us. Now I believe I can make myself a better monitor.



FSNSP field staffs receive refresher training

The Food Security Nutritional Surveillance Project (FSNSP) organized a one-day refresher training on August 31, 2013 prior to data collection of the 2nd phase of round 11 as a part of on-going



training activities at FSNSP. At the end of each round of data collection, FSNSP field management staffs receive feedback from all data collection officers and based on findings, refresher trainings are organized before the start of next round. This training mainly focused on the interview techniques of the data collectors. In addition to interview techniques, field staffs were trained on anthropometry measurements and use of PDAs. The day long training was facilitated by the field managers, senior monitoring officers & training officer. A

total of 110 participants attended the training. The training was also attended by BBS staffs who jointly work with JPGSPH in this project. After completion of training, FSNSP staffs moved to the field for data collection of the 2nd phase of round 11. The phase started on 02 September, 2013 which will continue till 21 September 2013.

MOVE-IT completes capacity assessment of health assistants

MOVE-IT has completed the capacity assessment of Shasthay Kormi (health assistants) on 05 September 2013. Two field coordinators from mPower Social Enterprises went to BRAC Office of Mithapukur Upazilla of Rangpur District and completed the capacity assessment session. BRAC Upazilla Manager **Mr. Moklesur Rahman** assisted the mPower team through providing venue and sorting out other logistic issues. From the assessment, total 10 staffs from BRAC have been selected for MOVE-IT projects. They will be trained further along with government's health assistants.

Go4Health team participates at the European Congress on Tropical Medicine

A Go4Health satellite session took place on 9 September to introduce and advocate the aims of the project at the European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH) in Copenhagen, Denmark. **Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid** and **Sameera Hussain** attended the session.

On 10 September 2013, **Sameera Hussain**, on behalf of the JPGSPH Go4Health team, presented at a plenary session at ECTMIH titled "Community voice and the formulation of development goals". **Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid** and **Sameera** attended a meeting with other Go4Health regional hubs to discuss next steps as well as next phase of consultations.

JALI Secretariat meeting

Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid and **Sameera Hussain** attended a Joint Action Learning Initiative (JALI) Secretariat meeting on 9 September to discuss the drafting of the Framework Convention on Global Health (FCGH) and the formation of a Campaign Coalition to take forward the FCGH Manifesto.

5C team meets with partners on final report

The 5-Country project held a meeting with its partner organization RTM-International at RTM office regarding proceeding for final report and dissemination of Health Professional Education Situation analysis, Bangladesh. One set of analysed data of Bangladesh sent for cross country analysis to the lead country, Thailand. Modification of two sets of data (Medical and MPH student survey) according to cross-country feedback is also under process. Meanwhile, the 5C team met with **Dr. Sabrina Flora**, one of the key informant and key stakeholder of the study for some relevant document collection recommended in the roundtable.

NUFFIC holds monthly meeting with consortium partners

CGSRHR hosted a monthly meeting with Bangladesh consortium partners (NIPORT, RHSTEP and JPGSPH) on September 5th to share project updates. The partners discussed next steps and decided to meet on third Wednesday of every month. As part of 8th NUFFIC Mission to Bangladesh the team had a successful meeting with **Ms. Nancy Alexaki**, Senior Programme Officer of NUFFIC on 10th September at RHSTEP's office. **Ms. Alexaki** invited the team to participate in the event of the NICHE day Bangladesh, on the 16th September 2013, organized by NUFFIC and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Bangladesh.

Course on Monitoring & Evaluation for TB Programme Managers



JPGSPH organised a short course titled 'Monitoring & Evaluation for TB Programme Managers' in partnership with BRAC Health Nutrition and Population Programme, BRAC Learning Division and icddr, b from 31 August, 2013 to 12 September, 2013 supported by GFATM. The course was attended by 23 participants (3 Female and 20 male) from 15 districts across the country including Dhaka.

Senior Medical Officer, Senior Sector Specialists, Sector Specialists, Microbiologist, Coordinator-Tb control program, Senior District Managers-HNPP, District Managers and Senior Area Manager from BRAC, SAJIDA Foundation and MAMATA participated in this programme.

A highly qualified resource pool of 12 resource persons from the government, NGO, national and international organizations conducted sessions in their respective areas. The course provided critical insight into health systems strengthening in light of TB programmes, covering Monitoring and Evaluation, Indicators, Frameworks, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, TB related National Indicators, MDG and Global Fund Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators, Data types, Collection procedures, Monitoring and Evaluation Report, Dissemination and Use of Evaluation Results etc.

The course ended on 12 September, 2013 with a certificate giving ceremony. Participants also provided feedback on the course. Among others, **Dr. Md. Akramul Islam**, Associate Director, Health Nutrition and Population Programme, BRAC; Ms. **Tushar Quader Haq**, Short Course Coordinator of JPGSPH; **K. M. Zahiduzzaman**, Program Coordination Manager of JPGSPH attended the certificate giving ceremony.

FSNSP completes round-11 data collection

The Food Security Nutritional Surveillance Project (FSNSP) successfully completed data collection of round-11, phase-2 on 22 September, 2013 which started on 01 September. Senior Monitoring Officers, Quality Control Officers and Data Collection Officers led this data collection effort. Six Quality Control Officer

(QCO) team and 34 Data Collection Officer (DCO) team worked under the supervision of seven Senior Monitoring Officers. Total 94 thanas including both Chittagong hill tracts and plain lands were covered in this round. Like all other previous rounds, data were collected using PDA and paper copy questionnaires in this round. FSNSP collects data on three major seasons in Bangladesh which are: the post-aman harvest period (February-April), monsoon period (June-August) and the post- aus harvest period (October-December) in a year.

NUFFIC SRHR team participates in NICHE Day

The NUFFIC SRHR team participated in the day-long event of the NICHE Day Bangladesh organized by NUFFIC and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bangladesh on 16 September 2013 at Hotel Sarina. The objectives of the event were to review the Netherlands Initiative for Capacity development in Higher Education (NICHE) programme regarding emerging issues/new developments sector related to the formulation of the NICHE Country Programme 2013-2017 as well as to share lessons learned.



H.E. Mr. Alphons Hennekens, the Ambassador of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Dhaka, chaired the programme and it was moderated by **Ms. Nancy Alexaki**, Senior Programme Officer of NUFFIC, the Netherlands. Participants from other NUFFIC partner organizations in the country like BRAC University Institute of Governance Studies, BRAC University Institute of Educational Development, Bangladesh Institute of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh University of Fashion and Technology also were there. On behalf of the SRHR Project team, **Ms. Suborna Camellia**, Project Coordinator and Sr. Anthropologist at JPGSPH, presented the overview of the NUFFIC SRHR Project at the event.

REACHOUT completes data collection from field

REACHOUT team has completed its data collection from two urban slums in Dhaka (Kollyanpur and Keraniganj), and one urban slum (Ghasitola) and one rural site (Lakkatura) in Sylhet. The team has completed in-depth qualitative interviews with CTC providers, and then transcribed for further study. Earlier the team completed 17 in-depth qualitative interviews with its eight partner institutions. The data were required for an inter-country comparison on capacity building with its relevant partners. The first draft of the literature reviews for the best practices on capacity building has been completed along with some initial strategy framework development. The data from the qualitative interviews have been coded, analysed and the key findings have also been identified in this time period according to the Action Plan of the REACHOUT Bangladesh team.

Student Affairs Updates

Computer Club observed International Software Freedom Day

"Freedom is liberty": Software freedom day (SFD) is a worldwide celebration of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS). This year BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC) arranged a daylong national event on September 23rd to celebrate and spread the idea of Free Software. Students rejoiced the event to their hearts content as they were introduced to many Open Source Software representatives. They successfully had spectacular sessions in our campus.

Software freedom day not only introduces us to use open source software, but also gives us the liberty to use them from the typical restrictive requirement and vendor lock-in. Those who love to work with software, for them open source tools and operating system are a great place to explore their idea.

Several organizations took part in this seminar for discussing their respective software or technology, sharing their knowledge, and encouraging the audience to use more open source products. They are from Blender, Debian Bangladesh, Drupal, FOSS Bangladesh, Joomla, Linux Bangladesh, Mozilla Bangladesh, Ruby, Wordpress, and RR foundation. As it was a national event, audience came from all over the nation to explore the idea of "Free Software". "Free software" does not mean the software, which has been cracked, rather it means the software/application/operating system that has no cost to purchase, and sometimes the providers or developers provide the codes to engage developers from all over the world.

Mr. Zafar Iqbal, Director of Marketing department and **Mr. Javed H. Ahmed**, Director of Creative department, anchored the seminar. The seminar started with an inspiring speech of **Md. Shamsul Kaonain**, Co-Advisor, and Lecturer of CSE department, BRAC University followed by **Mr. Amit Kumar Dey**, the President of the Club.



Mr. Ashker Ibne Abbas from Blender conducted the first session and briefed about it. Blender is an open source 3D animation tool for creating animated films, logo, adding visual effects etc. Later he contrasted it with other typical software like Maya, 3D max etc.

Mr. Ratul Minhaz, **Ms. Tanha Islam**, and **Mr. Rifaj Nahiyan** from Mozilla Bangladesh gave their respective speeches about different software, tools, and application of Mozilla Corporation. Firstly, **Ms. Tanha** explained different aspects of Mozilla's Popcorn Maker that is for crafting videos that incorporate images, remixed videos etc. **Mr. Rifaj** shared about the uses of Mozilla Thimble, which could create web pages in a very simple and easy way. Last but not the least **Mr. Ratul** explored the field of Mozilla Operating System (Firefox OS) which is in beta version now.

After lunch, **Mr. Mehedi** discussed about Wordpress blog and website creation in a glimpse. **Mr. Sobuj Kundu** represented Joomla session and he explained its importance in making websites. Then he described how it helps in creating different types of online apps. Drupal is a website for making software, which was explained by **Mr. Anam Ahmed**. He gave some information about different

websites made by them like the web site of Bangladesh Government, White House etc. He proudly shared that the website of Bangladesh government is the biggest website made by them.



Nearly at the end of the seminar, the audience was given a round to ask questions on the sessions. The conductors got remarkable response from the audience as they could answer correctly to the questions. They were awarded for their complete participation in the seminar.

The organizations really appreciated the attempt of BUCC to make this wonderful seminar on SFD successful. They were amused to be a part of this event. After attending this well-organized seminar both participants and audience were convinced to the point that more seminars would help them to make a friendly bond as well as to spread their precious knowledge and BUCC will keep the trend of celebrating this wonderful event every year.

TLC Updates

11th Faculty Orientation Workshop: Steps to Success at BRAC University

With the interactive teaching learning perspective in view and with the dedication to promote excellence in teaching, Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) has been organizing faculty orientation workshops at BRACU on a regular basis. TLC had successfully completed the "11th Faculty Orientation Workshop: Steps to Success at BRAC University", held at its campus from September 2 to 4, 2013. Nineteen faculty members of different departments who were newly recruited in BRACU attended this workshop irrespective of the teaching backgrounds.

In this workshop, sessions were conducted on different topics where the prominent facilitators shared their knowledge on BRAC and BRAC University. The workshop was expected to give the participants a holistic understanding about the students, teachers and overall teaching learning process in BRAC University.

Different topics were discussed in the sessions like teaching methodologies, active learning, critical & creative thinking, course design process, art of questioning, effective evaluation system, microteaching, plagiarism, managing 1st sessions, managing disruptive behavior, peer observation and teaching practices at BRACU etc.



To provide added insight on the students, there was a visit to Savar campus which gave a vivid idea about how the residential semester is promoting students' innovative learning experience.

The presence of **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor added extra value to the workshop. He discussed about classroom leadership and provided guidelines for the participants to be successful in BRACU. Among the other facilitators, **Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick**, Pro-Vice Chancellor; **Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Chowdhury**, Registrar; **Professor A. A. Ziauddin Ahmed**; **Professor Syed M. Hashemi**; **Professor Riaz Partha Khan**; **Professor Md. Sayeed Salam**; **Assistant Professor Mohammad Rezaur Razzak**; **Mr. Asif Saleh**, Senior Director, BRAC; **Ms. Anisa Haq**, Program Head, IED; **Beth Trudell**, Consultant, BIL and TLC Faculty members facilitated the sessions.