

BRACU e-Bulletin 2013/ November

Architecture Updates

Faculty awarded Scholarship

Mr. Imon Chowdhoree, Senior Lecturer of Department of Architecture has been awarded the Endeavour Postgraduate Scholarship 2014 for conducting a PhD program in Australia. With that scholarship the faculty is going to start his program next February at the Department of Built Environment and Civil Engineering of Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in Brisbane, Australia. The title of his PhD Thesis is 'Policy and Practices for Developing Climate-Change Resilient River-side Urban Poor Settlements in Bangladesh'.

Faculty attended a conference in China

Sheikh Rubaiya Sultana, assistant professor of Department of Architecture and **Shajjad Hossain**, lecturer of Department of Architecture attended an international conference in Beijing, China. The conference titled "Beijing forum" was held from November 1st-3rd, 2013. In 2013, the forum celebrated its 10th anniversary.



Rubaiya and **Shajjad** jointly submitted the paper. The paper is a part of their ongoing research "Green Street: A Potential Response to the Environmental Aspect of Urbanization of Dhaka city, Bangladesh"

BIL Updates

BIL Faculty Attended Hornby Regional School in Kathmandu, Nepal



Mohammad Rejaul Karim, Lecturer, BIL attended a week-long workshop from 26 to 30 November, 2013, titled "Low Resource Classroom". The workshop was organized by Hornby Education Trust and was held in Kathmandu, Nepal. **Mr. Rejaul Karim** was nominated by British Council, Dhaka as their representative. **Dr. Richard Smith**, associate Professor of University of Warwick led the facilitation team that included **Dr. Amal Padwad**, a Hornby Scholar from India and **Dr.**

Jovan Ilic, Head of Programmes at British Council, Nepal.

It is worth mentioning that the purpose of the workshop was to help teachers get more resourceful through all possible options available around their surroundings. On completion, all the participants were awarded with a certificate of attendance by the Country Director of British Council, Nepal.

BDI Updates

Regional MLARR Learning Workshop at Sri Lanka



A workshop on Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (MLARR) was held from 16-22 November 2013 at Sri Lanka. It was organized by University of Peradeniya and sponsored by the World Bank. **Dr. Ferdous Jahan**, Director, Centre for Resettlement Studies (CRS), BRAC University was invited as one of the

trainers in the workshop. There were participants from five countries: India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Among Thirty three selected participants, five were Bangladeshi and three were from BRAC Development Institute (BDI).

The main workshop commenced and facilitated by **Chaohua Zhang**, Lead Social Development Specialist of the World Bank. Three different sector specific presentations were held in first two days of the workshop. The workshop was designed to bring together the sector specific experiences and considerations on resettlement issue.



Reshmy Nair, Associate Professor, Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad, started the presentation on road sector. Followed by that presentation the Principal Expert & Resettlement Engineer of National Engineering Services Pakistan (Pvt.) Limited (NESPAK), **Imran-Ul-Haq** presented on hydropower sector. Finally, **Dr. Jahan** discussed about urban resettlement. The trainers effectively focused the important issues of each sector and explained their country experiences to explain the scenario more clearly.

The main objective of this workshop was to share and enrich knowledge. There was a group exercise after the presentations. This exercise actually gave the participants the option to design their project on the given facts reflecting their own experiences and their learning from the presentations.

Thus, a weeklong workshop worked as a platform to share existing knowledge and generate new ideas on different sectors where resettlement experts need more focus.

Training Course on Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (MLARR) at Rural Electrification Board (REB), Bangladesh



BRAC Development Institute (BDI), BRAC University and World Bank jointly organized a three day training course for the officials of Rural Electrification Board (REB) and Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB), Bangladesh from 28th-31st November, 2013. The training was held in the head office of REB at Nikunja-2, Dhaka. To plan, promote, develop, operate and maintain an integrated and efficient power transmission system network it has to acquire huge amount of lands linearly for electrification purpose. Subsequently, for intensification of adequate understanding on management of land acquisition and resettlement policies the training program has been conducted. The training covered different aspects of resettlement such as, public infrastructure project cycle, the building blocks of resettlement planning, avoid-minimize-mitigate frameworks, national and international policies, stakeholder analysis, consultation and communication, social impact assessment, resettlement action plan, livelihood restoration, monitoring and evaluation etc. The training 18 government officials from different departments of REB and PGCB participated which made the whole program a wonderful combination of theories and practices. The training was led by Dr. **Ferdous Jahan**, Academic Coordinator of BDI. Among other trainers, **Alamgir Kabir** and **Mamun-ur-Rashid** from BDI conducted several sessions. The rest was facilitated by World Bank Consultant **M. Akhteruzzaman**.

Visit to Kathmandu University (KU), Nepal for Consultation Workshop on Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (MLARR)

Md. Alamgir Kabir, Deputy Academic Coordinator at BDI and faculty member MLARR visited Kathmandu University from 08 November 2013 to 10 November 2013. He participated in a workshop titled "Relevance of MLARR for Nepal and Beyond: Sharing of Experiences from South Asia" and presented the relevance of MLARR and BRAC University experience in running the MLARR courses. The workshop was attended by several MLARR experts from Nepal including experts from World Bank, Nepal. He also held several meetings with KU faculty members for designing a credit course at KU as part of the capacity development program on MLARR funded by the World Bank.

Course Development Workshop at Afghanistan on Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (MLARR)

Dr. Ferdous Jahan, Director, CRS visited Kabul from 30 November 2013 to 06 December 2013. During her visit she held a five day intensive course development workshop with three faculty members from Kabul University and Kabul Education University. Four of World Bank staff members also participated in the workshop. The collaborative effort by the Afghan professors, the World Bank staff members and CRS resulted in designing the first ever three credit MLARR course for undergraduate students.

BIGH Update

Sir Abed visits Community-based Midwifery Diploma Program in Sylhet



The BRAC founder and Chair, **Sir Fazle Hasan Abed**, visited Community-based Midwifery Diploma Program offered by the Department of Midwifery, BRAC Institute of Global Health (BIGH), BRAC University, on 09 November, 2013. He was accompanied by **Dr Ahmed Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury**, Vice Chair, BRAC, **Mr. Faruque Ahmed**, Executive Director, BRAC International Programmes and **Dr. Kaosar Afsana**, Director, BRAC Health, Nutrition and Population Programme. In addition, **Ismat Bhuiya**, Director of Midwifery Program and other midwifery program personnel represented BIGH during the visit. It was a special day for the 60 first-year Diploma in Midwifery students enrolled in the three-year Diploma in Midwifery program which is run in partnership with Shimantik and Friends in Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB) in Sylhet. The high-profile visit was intended to further strengthen the links between BRAC and the BIGH on the innovative educational initiative of the Community-based Midwifery Diploma Program (CMDP), being implemented by the Department of Midwifery at the BIGH in partnership with six Implementing Partner Organizations with financial support from the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) and technical support from Jhpiego, the Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB) and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM).



The visit offered an opportunity for students to directly interact with **Sir Abed** and the senior executives of BRAC. **Sir Abed** discussed with the students about the modules covered in their curriculum, health systems, community health and the role of midwives, nutrition, antenatal care and birth preparedness, childbirth and immediate newborn care, breastfeeding and postnatal care, among others. He encouraged the students to work hard to yield improvements in the field of maternal and newborn health.

BIGH co-hosts Urban Health Symposium

BRAC Institute of Global Health (BIGH) co-hosted a pioneering two-day symposium titled Urban Health Symposium: Taking Action for Healthy Cities in Bangladesh, at the PKSF Auditorium in Dhaka on the 22nd-23rd November 2013. Jointly organized by the Centre for Urban Equity and Health at BIGH, Eminence Associates for Social Development, Bangladesh Urban Health Network and the Centre for Equity and Health Systems and icddr,b, the event was supported by GIZ and IDRC.

The Urban Health Symposium brought together a diverse community of concerned scientists, policy makers, as well as individuals and organizations committed to making Bangladesh's cities healthy and productive. Secretary of the Economic Relations Division (ERD) **M Abul Kalam Azad** was the chief guest at the inaugural session with **Dr. Sadia Chowdhury**, Executive Director of BIGH in the chair. Participants came from a diverse background including government, civil society, experts and professionals working on innovative solutions to enhance healthy urban development in the region and beyond, as well as those working at the front lines of policy and practice in Bangladesh, including the next generation, whose involvement in urban issues are crucial to the future.

The symposium aimed to stimulate dialogue and problem-solving amongst participants, by creating a common understanding of the health equity consequences of existing policies and practices, and together, contributing towards the formulation of healthy public policy and improved practice. Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary of the Economic Relations Division (ERD), **M Abul Kalam Azad**, said that the Urban Health Symposium was a unique opportunity for government stakeholders, policymakers, municipal authorities, concerned citizens, nongovernmental organisations to take a closer look at some of the challenges and health inequities facing cities, and take necessary action. **Mr.**

Azad advocated for greater efforts to enable access to affordable healthcare services, safe water and sanitation, especially for the poor. Other urban health challenges that need to be addressed affect both rich and poor equally, including high levels of air or noise pollutions, and ensuring preparedness in the event of natural disasters or disease epidemics.

Several of the speakers observed that rapid urbanization in the country is posing a new set of challenges for the health of city dwellers. "Cities are growing larger and larger and their poor population is growing larger even faster. The consequences for health are immense."

One of the greatest challenges Bangladesh is facing is rapid urbanization. The need for all citizens to take responsibility in ensuring that cities are safe and healthy places to live was also discussed when addressing governance for urban health. **Dr Godelieve Van Heteren**, Director, Rotterdam Global Health Initiative, Anthony Kolb, Urban Health Advisor, USAID, **Dr Kazi Asraf**, architect and author of Designing Dhaka, Economist and Sociologist, **Prof Nazrul Islam**, Chairman, Centre for Urban Studies, among others, were also plenary speakers at the programme.

MPH Students presents final Research Proposal in Methodology Workshop

The MPH students at James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC Institute of Global Health present their final research proposal in the methodology Workshop that took place from 09-16 November, 2013. The main objective of this Methodology Workshop was to equip students with the state of art knowledge on research methodology in public health. The other objective was to fine-tune students' research proposal as per their research questions or objectives.

The methodology workshop was aimed at providing a short review of basic issues in research methodology, e.g., qualitative, quantitative and mixed. The final outcomes of the workshop were the submission of a Thesis Proposal and also utilize their learning to complete their thesis work.

During the first day of the workshop students being divided on the basis of their respective research method presented their thesis proposal to the experts for their feedback. After getting 360 degree feedback from the experts, students got the opportunity to work on their proposal constantly being mentored by the experts. On the final day of the workshop students again presented their final proposal for approval.

REACHOUT Bangladesh team participates in consortium meet



The REACHOUT team of the BRAC Institute of Global Health participated at the second consortium meeting of REACHOUT partner organizations from 04 – 08 November 2013 in Amsterdam. Hosted by the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), Netherlands, the meeting reviewed the progress that has been made for last nine months and discussed on how to move

forward in the consortium project. The meeting also gave an opportunity to interact with the researchers as well as see the volume and quality of the work that has been completed in the early stages of the project by the eight partner countries, four from Africa, two from Asia and two from Europe.

The REACHOUT Bangladesh team presented the Context Analysis result findings on sexual and reproductive health with the focus on Menstrual Regulation (MR). **Dr. Malabika Sarker**, Professor and Director Research of the James P Grant School of Public Health. **Mr. Showkat Gani**, Sr. Statistician and **Yamin T. Jahangir**, Senior Research Associate of the School accompanied her. **Prof. Malabika** highlighted the informal health service providers, public sector providers, private health services, NGO health care, quality assurance, regulation as well as healthcare financing. The REACHOUT Bangladesh team has also put a strategy in place for capacity building under the leadership of James P Grant School of Public Health ensuring a strong South-South Technical Assistance with all the southern partners.

JPGSPH organises short course on Urban Health and Governance

The James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC Institute of Global Health, BRAC University in collaboration with icddr,b, the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) and BRAC Development Institute (BDI) organized a Short Course on Urban



Health and Governance on the 1st to 3rd and the 9th of November 2013. The course aimed to "sensitize decision-makers about alarming trends impacting urban health, their implications for national and human development, and the urgency of multi-sectoral action that addresses complex root causes, and

functional systems of governance for health."

The course was well attended, with a total of 25 participants from a range of organizations including Engendered Health, UNICEF, IPHN/NNS, Save the Children, GIZ, IGS, icddr,b and BRAC. Participants backgrounds and expertise in urban health varied, including professionals from the health, nutrition, social welfare, policy, water and sanitation, education, IT and communications sectors.

Prof. Alayne Adams (Senior Social Scientist, Centre for Equity and Health Systems, icddr,b and Professor at the James P. Grant School of Public Health) and **Kazi Haque** (Senior Research Associate, Institute of Governance Studies) were the primary faculty, leading several of the sessions regarding the role of governance and policy in urban health. **Prof. Alayne Adams** also drew on her research to discuss the unique service delivery challenges and health inequities faced by the urban poor.

In addition to this, **Prof. Sabina Faiz Rashid** (Professor at the James P. Grant School of Public Health) provided insights into social, political and economic environment of the urban poor. Other guest lecturers included (in order of lecture): **Dr. Peter Kim Streatfield** from icddr,b, **Salma Shafi** from the Centre for Urban Studies, **Faustina Perreria** from BRAC, **Dr. Syed Hashemi** from BDI, **Dr. Zakiul Islam** from BUET, **Dibalok Singha** Executive Director at DSK and **Dr. Tanvir Ahmed** from icddr,b.

The course utilized a wide range of pedagogical approaches including lectures, group exercises and discussions, art, fieldwork, and presentations. Participants engaged in stimulating and thought provoking discussions around many facets and complexities of urban health, offering many insights from their own work and experiences.

Course on Public Health Management for TB Programme Managers



JPGSPH at BRAC Institute of Global Health offered a short course on 'Public Health Management for TB Programme Managers' from 16 to 28 November, 2013. Supported by GFATM, the course was organized in partnership with BRAC Health

Nutrition and Population Programme (HNPP), BRAC Learning Division, icddr,b and National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTP). The course was attended by 23 participants (7 Female and 16 male), including Senior Medical Officer, Senior Sector Specialist, Sector Specialist, Senior district managers, District managers, Senior Area Manager, Coordinator, Quality Control Officer from BRAC and one partner organization HASAB. The course was delivered by a highly qualified resource pool of 26 resource persons from governmental, non-governmental, national and international organizations. The course provided critical insight into health systems strengthening in light of TB programmes.

The course started on Saturday, 16 November, 2013 with an Inaugural ceremony. **Dr. Md. Akramul Islam**, Associate Director, Health Nutrition and Population Programme, BRAC , **Tushar Quader Haq**, Coordinator, Short course, JPGSPH, BRAC Institute of Global Health, BRAC University, **K.M. Zahiduzzaman**, Program Coordination Manager, BRAC Institute of Global Health, BRAC University, Gayatri Chowdhury, Research Officer, JPGSPH, BRAC Institute of Global Health, BRAC University and other relevant personnel of JPGSPH, BRAC Institute of Global Health attended the Inaugural ceremony.

Researcher participates in data quality and service delivery workshop

Afzal Aftab, Research Coordinator, James P. Grant School of Public Health, attended a workshop on "Developing Country Capacity in Annual Monitoring of Data Quality and Service Delivery" from 11-16 November, 2013 at Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop was organized by World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with Global Alliance for Vaccine Initiatives (GAVI) and Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM).

The overall aim of this particular workshop was to build country capacity to institutionalize an annual monitoring system of data quality and service readiness assessment. The approach is based on the use of standard methodologies and tools, including Service availability and readiness assessment (SARA). The SARA is designed as a systematic approach for annual verification of service delivery at facility level. The SARA aims to assess and monitor a country's service delivery system including the capacity to deliver maternal and child health services (including immunization), PMTCT, ART, STIs, TB, malaria services and others. It intends to cover public as well as private and faith-based health facilities.

CSO Updates

BRAC University and Prothom-alojobs round table discussion: 'Tackling Graduate Unemployment: The Need for University-Industry Cooperation '



On 16th November, 2013, BRAC University's CSO and Prothom-alojobs hosted a highly pertinent round table discussion, 'Tackling Graduate Unemployment: The Need for University-Industry Cooperation', in The Daily Star Auditorium, Dhaka.

The roundtable served as a precursor to BRAC University's and Prothom-alojobs' Career Fair 2014: 'Tackling Graduate Unemployment', to be hosted January 24-25, 2014, in The Westin hotel, Dhaka.

With the wide ranging effects of graduate unemployment becoming ever more prevalent, industry leaders and senior executives from the private, public and academic sectors were invited to consider ways to advance academic-industry collaboration, to reverse the worrying trend of increasing graduate unemployment.

As an immediate short term remedy, the Career Fair 2014: 'Tackling Graduate Unemployment' was situated within a broader narrative, concerning the development of a national forum, aimed at maximizing graduate employment opportunities, by giving industry and the academic sector a platform to formalize a 'framework of best practice'.

The event was moderated by **Mr. Saleh Uddin Ahmed** (Managing Director of The Daily Star), with **Ms. Humaira Sharmeen** (Head of Operation Prothom-Alojobs) **Mr. Matiur Rahman** (Chief Editor Daily Prothom Alo) and **Mr. Mahfuz Anam** (Editor and publisher of The Daily Star) playing important roles.

Mr. Kumar Murshid (Director of the CSO, BRAC University), who was responsible for organizing the round table, opened proceedings by sketching the context of graduate unemployment in Bangladesh, before calling for greater academic-industry collaboration.

There were a number of other important round table attendees: **Professor Ahmed Shafee VC** (East West University), **Mr. Sharful Alam** (CEO Aamra Technology) **Sara Ali** (MD Bitopi), **Yeasmin Rahman** (Head of HR in GPIT), **Dr. Mahabub Hossain** (Executive Director of the BRAC Centre), **Kaniz Almas Khan** (CEO of Persona), **Mr. M Zulfiquar Hossain** (CEO of Grow n Excel), **Ms. Rubina Husain Farouq** (Vice President of Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs), **Mr. Faiz Khan** (Managing Director of BTI), **Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury** (Registrar [now former Registrar] of BRAC University), **Mr. Saood Bin Masud** (CEO of HR Kites), **Sajjad Zohir** (Professor in Economics, BRAC University), **Mr. Reazuddin Al Mamoon** (MD of the Epyllion Group), **Mr. Humayun Rashid** (Chairman of Energypac Power Generation), **Mr. Shafiq UI Islam** (MD of CRP), **Mr. Md. Shahidullah Azim** (VP of BGMEA) and Mr Azizul Huq (MD of GlaxoSmithKline). Members of the CSO, Prothom Alo and Prothom-alojobs were also in attendance.

Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) Classes Fall 2013

The Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) commenced on October 31, 2013 for both business and non-business students. Participants were divided into five groups, three of which were made up of business

students, the remaining two of non-business students.

Mr. Kumar Murshid (Director of the CSO) and **Professor Riaz Khan** (Dean of Student Affairs) monitored the classes and shared their thoughts on the importance of the PSDP. They also contributed influential suggestions on resume and cover letter writing specifically.

Instructors from the CSO and TLC conducted the classes. The instructors from the CSO were **Mr. Kazi Shahnour Kabir**, **Ms. Shanzida Shahab Uddin**, Ms.

Rakshinda Huq; from the TLC, **Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali**, **Ms. Sabrina Syed** and **Mr. Muhammad Faisal Mubarak**. Interns and part-timers from both CSO and TLC helped the advisors to facilitate the class.

Savar Campus Seminar: 'The Continuing Savar Experience'

With the aim of ensuring residential students continue to apply the teachings and core values of the Savar curricular once they return to the Mohakhali campus, the CSO gave an introductory seminar to residential students (November 29, 2013) on its proposed initiative: 'The Continuing Savar Experience'.

Members of the CSO team were introduced by **Mr. Rehan Ahmed** (Assistant Savar Campus Superintendent) who then, in the collaborative spirit of the campus, took turns conveying different aspects of the initiative.

The CSO was placed in context by **Ms. Rakshinda Huq** (CSO officer) who gave a brief illustration of its functions, in particularly its relation to Savar, and importance to students, irrespective of their department, or the semester which they are completing.

Mr. Jovy Sarjeant (CSO and BIL Consultant) continued by explaining the practical value of Savar's principled aims, which will "distinguish students socially and help them stand out when interviewing, or starting their careers".

Ms. Shanzida Shahab Uddin's (CSO Officer) speech on the 'dignity of work' both encouraged students to appreciate the inherent value of work itself and the importance of practicing civic virtue, to prevent societal fragmentation and further sustainable socio-economic development in a globalised world.

Mr. Sarjeant then worked from this to emphasize why the continued application of the core Savar values by students returning to the Mohakhali campus would reap both short and long term personal and social benefits.

Ms. Rakshinda Huq concluded the event in a light hearted and fun style, by sharing her TARC memories in the form of a panegyric (classical literary style). **Ms. Reachel Jeana Gomes**, CSO intern, and several TARC faculty were also in attendance.

ENH Updates

Hay Literary Festival Dhaka 2013



This very important literary event was held from the 14th to the 16th of November at the Bangla Academy. The Department of English and Humanities (ENH) took part in this programme, with many of the students acting as volunteers, and taking part from the planning stage

onward.

Professor Firdous Azim was an active participant, interviewing **Rosie Boycott**, editor and founder of the feminist journal *Spare Rib*, as well as **Aamer Hussein**, London-based writer. She was also a member in the Commonwealth Writers' Panel. Entitled "Saying the unsayable" and chaired by **Razia Iqbal** of the BBC, this panel talked about taboo topics in writing and literature. Other panel members included **Dr Faustina Pereira** of BRAC and **Dr Shuchi Karim**, part-time Associate Professor of ENH.

ESS Updates

Paper Published

1. **Dr Farzana Munshi's** article (coauthored with A. Bigsten) "Globalization and Inter-occupational Inequality: Empirical Evidence from OECD Countries" has been accepted for publication in *THE WORLD ECONOMY*. The *World Economy* is one of the high ranked journal in International Trade and in Economics.
2. The Paper "Cultural Capital and Higher Education in Bangladesh" Got Published in the *International Journal of Modern Sociology* (Vol. 39, No. 2, 2013) authored by **Lutfun Nahar Lata**, Lecturer, ESS, BRAC University.

"New faces in campus" and "Leaving us"

New faces at BRACU

Management & Admin: **Dr. Asma Akter** joined as a Residential Doctor at BRACU University Campus, Savar, in November 2013. She obtained her MBBS degree from Chittagong Medical College.

Left from BRACU

Mr. Syed Md. Omar Faruk, who was serving as a Lecturer in the Mathematics and Natural Science Department, resigned last November 2013 and joined in Shahjalal University of Science & Technology (SUST). **Ms. Monjura Afrin Rumi** was serving as a Lecturer in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering also resigned and left us last November 2013. From administration, Mr. Muhammad Shahjahan was serving as Campus Supervisor left BRACU last November 2013. **Mr. Tahsin Mahmud**, Jr. IT Officer also left us in November 2013.

IGS Updates

Workshop on Requisition, Specification and Essentials of Procurement

A workshop on requisition, Specification and Essentials of Procurement was held at the BRAC Centre Inn on 7th November, 2013. A total of 30 participants from different departments of BRAC, those who are involved with procurement participated in this workshop. The workshop was conducted by two IGS faculties, **Mr. Rashed Morshed** and **Mr. Md. Zikrul Islam**. IGS training wing facilitated the workshop.

Training on Effective Supply Management

IGS Director **Dr. Rizwan Khair** with the participants of the Training on Effective Supply Management IGS organized a two-day training programme on Effective Supply Management: Analytical Techniques for Decision Making on 15-16 November 2013 at IGS Conference room. A total of 14 participants from different organizations such as, Titas Gas, T&D Co. Ltd., Munshi Enterprise Ltd. BRAC University, BRAC, UCEP, Rahim Afrooz Distribution Ltd. Saiham Group and UNHCR attended this short training course. The focus of the training was on the analytical techniques for decision making. IGS Director **Dr. Rizwan Khair** handed over the certificates among the participants on 16th November. The course was conducted by IGS faculty **Mr. Arafat Ishtiaque** and facilitated by IGS training wing.

CIPS November Series Examinations

The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) November 2013 examinations were held from 18-22 November at the BRAC University. A total 94 examinees from different public and private sectors appeared in the examinations. Exams were held in two shifts a day to cover 28 units of CIPS course. The exams were conducted by IGS training wing.

MAGD News: Courses in November

During November, MA in Governance and Development (MAGD) programme ran

with 4 courses, namely: Public Project Management, Public Policy Analysis, basic course in English (special emphasis on IELTS), Public Private Partnership and Dissertation. The mid-term examinations for MAGD course were held in this month. IGS Director **Dr. Rizwan Khair** conducted the presentation on Public Policy Analysis.

IGS Staff attended a GIZ and ACC Workshop for Introducing Media against Corruption Award

A preparatory workshop for introducing an Investigative Reporting against Corruption Award for journalists in Bangladesh was held on 14 November 2013 at the Chitra Hall of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka. This workshop was jointly organized by GIZ and Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) of Bangladesh. The meeting was conducted by GIZ Senior Advisor **Tim Pfannmueller** and attended by representatives from think tanks, media and the ACC. IGS Project Manager **Ekram Hossain** attended this programme.

The objective of the workshop was twofold. Firstly, the workshop would help to develop criteria that will guide the selection process of the winners of this award and secondly to define a jury as well as a consortium which will chair the media prize. The meeting was attended by among others, ACC Commissioner **Md. Shahabuddin Choppu** and Director **Abdur Rob Nokib**, senior journalist **Abed Khan**, BFUJ President and the CEO of Boishakhi Television **Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul**, DG of Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) **Shah Alamgir**, GIZ officials **Vinay Kumar Jha** and **Sandra Voglreiter**.

IGS Co-organized a Short Course on Urban Health and Governance

IGS researcher **Kazi Nurmuhammad Hossainul Haque** during one of his lectures at the Short course on Urban Health and Governance Course IGS, in partnership with James P. Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) of BRAC Institute of Global Health (BIGH) and BRAC Development Institute (BDI) organized a four-day short course on 'Urban Health and Governance' from November 1-4, 2013, at JPGSPH, Mohakhali, Dhaka. IGS Senior Researcher **Kazi Nurmohammad Hossainul Haque** was one of the resource persons in the course. A total of 25 participants from different organizations such as: ICDDR,B, Save the Children, Unicef, BRAC Health Division and IGS attended this course. IGS Communications Assistant **Sameeah Zahangir** participated in the course.

The course identified and apprised emergent issues of urban areas, both globally and within Bangladesh, including the social, political, environmental and economic determinants of health which have implications for health and inequalities in poor urban environments. A half day field trip to Mohakhali Sattola

Boundary Slum in Dhaka was organized to sensitize participants to the lived reality of the urban poor and will encourage participants to critically think about the challenges facing these communities. Current interventions in the health, lived environment, water and sanitation sectors that address the health needs of the urban poor were assessed and explored through a variety of methods including guest lectures, group activities and case studies

IGS Staff Attended Urban Health Symposium: Taking Actions for Healthy Cities in Bangladesh

A two-day symposium on Urban Health: Taking Actions for Healthy Cities in Bangladesh was held on 22-23rd November 2013 at PKSF Auditorium, Agargaon, Dhaka. The event was organized in collaboration with the Centre for Urban Equity and Health, JPGSPH, BRAC University, Eminence Associates for Social Development, Bangladesh Urban Health Network and Centre for Equity and Health Systems, icddr,b. The event was jointly sponsored by GIZ and International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. IGS Researcher **Nabila Zaman** and Communications Assistant **Sameeah Zahangir** attended this event.

The event was organized with the objective to create awareness of urban health and health equity consequences of current policies and practices in different sectors, to simulate dialogue and problem-solving about how to move towards healthy public policy and practice across sectors and lastly to initiate collective thinking about the post 2015 agenda and the promotion of healthy cities in Bangladesh.

The symposium brought together a diverse community of concerned scientists, policy makers, as well as individuals and organisations committed to making Bangladesh's cities healthy and productive. The event was divided into plenary and breakout sessions, which were conducted by renowned figures of national and international civil society organisations and public sectors. The event was attended by among others, **Dr. Sadia Chowdhury**, Executive Director of BIGH, **Dr. Sabina Rashid**, Dean of JPGSPH at BIGH, Prof. Alayne Adams, Senior Social Scientist, ICDDR,B, **Dr. Ahmed Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury**, Vice Chair of BRAC, **Professor Nazrul Islam**, Chairman of Centre for Urban Studies, **Dr. Aminul Islam**, Assistant Country Director, UNDP, **Prof. Fuad H Mallick**, Pro Vice Chancellor of BRAC University and **Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman**, Former Advisor to the Caretaker Government.

IGS Co-organized 'The Second Policy Analysis Workshop'

Participants at the Second Policy Analysis Workshop at BRAC Centre Inn Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) in collaboration with Bangladesh Public

Administration Training Centre (BPATC) conducted a week-long workshop on policy analysis titled, The Second Policy Analysis Workshop under NUFFIC project during 24-28 November 2013 at BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka. The workshop was supported by two Netherlands based partner organisations of the NUFFIC project - MDF Training and Consultancy (MDF) and International Institute of Social Studies (ISS). A number of officials from BPATC and research faculty members of IGS, **Syeda Salina Aziz, Kazi Nurmohammad Hossainul Haque, Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Md. Harun-Or-Rashid, S M Gubair Bin Arafat, Farhana Razzaque**, and Programme Manager **Nuzhat Jabin** participated in the workshop. **Mr. Sunil Tankha** from ISS and **Dr. Rizwan Khair** from IGS facilitated the workshop.

The workshop aimed to make a more thoughtful, effective, and equitable participants in policy analysis work, especially in the making of choices about action. The workshop sought to achieve this goal by giving participants more understanding of techniques/tools and of processes, including concepts, theory, frameworks, more skills in using all these and in contributing as a policy player. More importantly, the workshop was organized to help participants design a curriculum and develop a course about preparing, designing, selecting and analyzing 'public policy'. It was mainly on and in prescriptive policy analysis, the content and use of analytical (and procedural) approaches and methods to guide policy design and choice.

IGS Staff attended Training on FMI Practical Financial Management for NGOs

IGS Finance Officer **Narayan Chandra Das** attended a five-day training programme on FM1: Practical Financial Management to NGOs: Getting the Basics Right held at Hotel Lake Castle, Dhaka from November 24-28, 2013. The training programme was conducted by UK-based Management Accounting for Non Governmental Organisations (MANGO). The training was attended by representatives from different organizations such as SDC, World Fish, Swisscontact, SKS, NDP, Taranga and RDF.

Publications by IGS Staff

Newspapers Articles/OpEds:

- The Daily Star: Violence and order in natural state by **M. Shahidul Islam**, 2 November, 2013
- The Kaler Kantho: Political Culture and Election Time Government by **Md. Rafiqul Islam Talukdar**, 28 November, 2013
- The Daily Independent: Anti-Corruption Drive: A Challenge to Governance Print Edition by **Md. Rafiqul Islam Talukdar**, 29 November, 2013
- The Daily Star: Let girls be girls not brides by **Rubayet Hamid**, 30 November,

2013

Interview of IGS Research Fellow Published in China

The Link Times, a monthly magazine in China, published an interview of IGS Research

Fellow **M Shahidul Islam** titled, 'Conversing with an Economist', which appeared in its November 2013 issue.

The interview can be accessed at the link below:

[http://www.mshahidulislam.com/book-doc/
Interview_Geoeconomics&Strategy_times_October%202013.pdf](http://www.mshahidulislam.com/book-doc/Interview_Geoeconomics&Strategy_times_October%202013.pdf)

MNS Updates

MS Research Thesis Defence, 8 November 2013

Three students of MS Biotechnology Program defended their theses on 8 November, 2013 at the MNS Department. The Examination Committee was chaired by **Professor A.A. Ziauddin Ahmad**, Chairperson of the Department. **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury**, Coordinator, Biotechnology and Microbiology Program, **Professor Zeba Siraj** of the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, University of Dhaka, **Professor C. R. Ahsan**, Department of Microbiology, University of Dhaka- the external examiners, **Dr. Mahboob Hossain** and **Dr. Aparna Islam** were present in the presentation program. At first **Ms. Upama Sarker** presented her thesis entitled "Effect of growth regulators on plant regeneration and shoot induction in tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.)". During this scientific endeavor **Ms. Sarker** was an MS fellow and her work was funded by the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences and the United States Agricultural Development (BAS-USDA) Endowment Fund for Priority Agricultural and Life Sciences fields. Her thesis was supervised jointly by **Professor Zeba Siraj** and **Dr. Aparna Islam**. On food safety and study of microbial flora of raw vegetables **Ms. Aditi Mondal** gave the second presentation. The title of her thesis was "Isolation and characterization of *Escherichia coli* from raw vegetables". Interesting information came out from the research. This work was jointly supervised by **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury** and **Prof. C. R. Ahsan**. Finally, **Mr. Shafkat Shamim Rahman** presented his thesis work entitled "Isolation and characterization of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* for the production of ethanol from organic sources". The research was done to explore an alternative fuel source. The research was conducted under the joint supervision of **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury** and **Dr. Mahboob Hossain**.

A Visit to The Saidabad Water Treatment Plant, 26 November, 2013

Efficient supply of drinking water is one of the big challenges for Bangladesh. Fast growing urban and rural population and uncontrolled intensifying industry add to the degradation of the water quality for drinking purpose. Extensive pollution of rivers and water bodies as well as declining ground water tables make drinking water supply an increasingly challenging task. To meet this problem an advanced water treatment plant was installed in Dhaka city in 2002. Twenty two students alongwith three teachers namely **Dr. Mahboob Hossain, Dr. Mohamad Sorowar Hossain** and **Mr. Fazle Rabbi** of the MNS Department, BRACU went for a study tour of the water treatment plant in Saidabad, Dhaka on 26 November, 2013 to have a practical experience of how raw water was being treated and then supplied to the whole city of Dhaka for drinking purpose. The plant treats the water from Sitalakhya river. The plant is able to supply 500,000 cubic meter of water every day (45 mld/day) which accounts for 32% of the total drinking water supplied in the city. The team spent a quality time at Saidabad Water Treatment Plant acquiring knowledge about the process of treating raw water supplying safe drinking water to meet the thirst of millions people throughout the Dhaka city.

RS Updates

Integrated Quiz in RS



On November 6 and 18, 2013 integrated quizzes were held in the Duronto field in Savar campus. All the students, in groups, participated in answering the timed questions of the quizzes, that covered topics like sports, development organizations and geography of Bangladesh, Nobel prize winners, national days, international days, Bangladesh economy and world famous revolutions. The students showed great enthusiasm and spirit during the session. All the faculties and management staffs also attended the quiz sessions.

Seminar on 5 decades of Development



On November 16, 2013 a lecture on Economy of Bangladesh: Achievements and Challenges took place at Markuli Hall as part of the experiential learning activity of Bangladesh Studies course. The session was facilitated by Professor D. **Syed M Hashemi**, Chairperson, ESS department, BRAC

University. The purpose of this session was to introduce students to the achievements that Bangladesh has had since its independence. The primary focal points of the discussion were poverty reduction in Bangladesh, development intervention by NGOs and micro-finance. The students participated enthusiastically and spontaneously.

Cultural Night

On November 29, 2013, a cultural night was celebrated in Anandapur, with students performing cultural activities. They performed dance, duet songs, solo songs (Bengali and English), ramp, classical dance etc. Everyone evidently enjoyed the night. Some faculty members, management staffs and house tutors were present in the program.

