

2010/august

BRAC University Observes National Mourning Day



15 August 2010 was the National Mourning Day and the 35th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. On this occasion, BRAC University organized a discussion and a prayer meeting on August 15, 2010. The function began with the recitation from the Holy Quran. Speakers at the function discussed about the life and contribution of Bangabandhu and recalled the memories and events surrounding Bangabandhu. Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, addressed the function as the Chief Guest. Registrar of the university Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Professor Syed M Hashemi, Professor Fuad Hassan Mallik, Professor Sanul Mostafa, Dr Turin Afroz and noted vocalist Sadi Mohammad spoke on occasion. Sadi Mohammad rendered a few songs in memory of Bangabandhu. Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-Vice Chancellor, conducted the prayer seeking divine mercy for those brutally killed along with Bangabandhu on 15 August 1975.

BRAC University Freshers' Orientation, Fall Semester 2010



The orientation ceremony of the Fall Semester 2010 for the newly enrolled undergraduate students of BRAC University (BRACU) was held at the BRAC Centre Inn, Mohakhali on 31 August, 2010.

Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, addressed the ceremony as Chief Guest. Professor Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro Vice Chancellor, Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Registrar, and Professor Mumit Khan Chairperson, CSE of the university, also spoke on the occasion.

Welcoming the newly enrolled students at BRAC University, Professor Ainun Nishat said the goal of the university was to provide an excellent broad based education with a focus on professional development for students, to equip them with the knowledge and necessary skill for leading the country in its quest for development.

The BRAC University provides an environment for faculty development in order to ensure a dynamic teaching environment.

Professor Golam Samdani Fakir asked the newly enrolled students to devote their time and efforts to acquire knowledge that would equip them to face challenges of the 21st century.

It may be mentioned that BRACU offers a wide range of subjects in science, arts and engineering in a number of undergraduate and graduate programmes. The University has already earned its place as

premier educational institute of higher learning in the country.

Architecture Update

Faisal Karim Bhuiyan selected for The Rafiq Azam Travel Bursary for Architecture

The Committee for The Rafiq Azam Travel Bursary for Architecture (RATBA) has been selected the candidate for the Bursary through an interview held on August 31, 2010. Faisal Karim Bhuiyan (ID 07208009), student of fourth year won the Travel Bursary for 2010. The candidate was selected on the basis of performance in design studio, communication skills and motivation. Faisal will be traveling to Malaysia for two weeks in September 2010.

Critique Week

Generally, the last week of the semester is scheduled for the final Critiques of the design studios. Final Critiques of design works of freshmen through final year were held this semester from August 08-12, 2010. Bashirul Haq, Shamsul Wares, B.K.S. Inan, Naim Ahmed Kibria were present as guest critics in different critique sessions. Prof. Fuad H Mallick, Prof. Zainab F Ali, all members of the faculty and students of the department attended the jury as well.

Final Year Thesis Project Critique

The students of the final design studio presented their graduating projects on August 11-12, 2010. The projects included News Museum, The no mans land project, Rehabilitation Center For the Differently Abled, Old Dhaka, Zainul Abedin Art Institute, Maymensingh, Gulshan Club, Resort at Shalna , Rajendrapur, Monojogot -125 bed Mental Hospital (with 125 bed rehabilitation Center), Juvenile Correction Center Jaipurhat, Fakir Lalon Shah Complex , Kushtia, Birshresto Motiur Rahman Memorial And Aerospace Museum, Mahasthan Garh Museum at Bogra, Orphanage at Farmgate, American International University of Bangladesh, National Museum, Aga Khan Academy at Dhaka, Marine Biological Research institute, Shilpokola Academy at Khulna, Church Complex , Sreemongal, Faculty of Fine Arts Jahangir Nagar University and Center for Science and Technology.

Architects Professor Abu H Imamuddin, Jalal Ahmed, B.K.S. Inan, A.S.M Ismail, Chief Architect Department of Architecture , Sheikh Ahsan Ullah Mojumder, Nahas Khalil, Prof. Fuad H Mallick, Prof. Zainab F Ali, members of the faculty and students of all design studios were present at the critique. Students from architecture departments of different universities attended these sessions.

Faculty Returned after completing master's degree

In the last week of August, Mr. Imon Chowdhoree has resumed his job as a lecturer in the dept. of Architecture after coming back from two years' study leave. During the study leave he completed a master program on Urban and Regional Planning with a focus on Disaster Management, a graduate certificate program on Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance and a graduate certificate program on leadership from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, USA. As a requirement of his masters he did his final research on Earthquake Mitigation Planning and title of his final paper is " Policies and Legislations for the Built Environment in Earthquake Mitigation Planning: A Case Study of Dhaka". His study was fully funded by Asian Development Bank- Japan Government Scholarship Program (ADB-JSP). At the same time he was a fellow of the East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii. He also received an opportunity of a two month internship in the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), UN Headquarter, New York, USA. He was the activity Coordinator of the East West Center Participants' association 2009-2010.



<Imon Chowdhoree is performing in a Cultural Program, organized by the East West Center



Music album "Onibarjo" launched by faculty

Shams Mansoor Ghani, faculty of the Department of Architecture as a part of De illumination launched a music album "Onibarjo" on 25th August, 2010 in Rifle Square under the banner of Deadline Music Limited. Shams Mansoor Ghani played his role as back vocalist and the keyboardist.

Internship of the Department of Architecture

To fulfill the requirement for the Degree of Bachelor of Architecture in BRAC University, an architecture student who has completed her/his fourth year need to work as an architectural trainee at an architectural firm of repute. The architectural firm can be in Bangladesh or abroad. The objective of the internship is to gain knowledge of the professional practice. As a requirement of ARC 300: Practical Training, the following students have completed their internship.

ID | Name | Name of the Firm

05308005 | SHAREQ RAUF CHOWDHURY | Architect Marina TabassumMARINA TABASSUM ArchitectsHouse 13/a, Road 3Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205
06108018 | SYED SAQIFUL HASSAN | Architect Khurshid SarwarPuraloy Prokaushali Ltd.5/1 Block E, Lalmatia, Cell: 01713032411, 01711861144 Phone: 8118714
06108010 | SUHAILEY FARZANA | Architect Khushnu Panthaki HoofVASTU SHILPA Consultants "Sangath", Thaltej Road, Ahmedabad - 380058, Gujrat, India.
06208002 | MOHAMMAD INTEZA SHARIAR | Architect Muhammad Foyez Ullah Volume ZeroHouse-98, Road-25, Block-A Banani, Dhaka
06308003 | DURDANA PARVEZ | Architect Nurur Rahman KhanTanya Karim N.R. Khan & Associates House# 24, Road # 9A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209
06308005 | TAMZID FARHAN | Gurjit Singh Matharoo Matharoo Associates24/E, Capital Commercial Centre, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad - 380006
06308009 | FABIHA PINAZ | Architect Muhammad Foyez Ullah Volume ZeroHouse-98, Road-25, Block-A Banani, Dhaka
06308012 | NAZMUL HAQUE SARKER | Architect Mustafa Ameen Domus Safura Tower (14th floor), 20 kemal Ataturk Avenue, BananiDhaka - 1213, Bangladesh

BBS Update

SIFE delegates meet BRAC Business School Students

On 18th of August SIFE China delegation team meet a group of students of BRAC University at BRAC Business School Conference Room. The students shared their ideas with the Chinese team and notable BBS faculties. Mr. Salehuddin Ahmed, former Pro-VC of BRAC University & Chief Technical Adviser, International Poverty Reduction Centre in China was present in the meeting. Delegates shared their ideas & views on Business, Entrepreneurship, Higher Education & student's mobilization in development. Mr. Teddy, Staff, SIFE China described about SIFE in a nutshell. SIFE is an international non-profit organization that works with leaders in business and higher education to mobilize university students to make a difference in their communities while developing the skills to become socially responsible business leaders. Participating students form teams on their university campuses and apply business concepts to develop outreach projects that improve the quality of life and standard of living for people in need. SIFE has its operations in 40 different countries with 42 thousand active student members. Later on Yolanda HE, Director of Business Advisory Board Department, SIFE in Nottingham Ningbo China elaborated about SHIFE in China and its prospective future in Bangladesh. In open discussion session students came to learn about two of the projects of SIFE, China. Ginseng and BEEVELOP are the projects he described about. At the end, the students had a friendly networking session with the Chinese team.



CfL Update

BRAC University Students awarded Chinese Government Scholarship

Three BRAC University Chinese language students have been awarded full-free scholarships by the Chinese Govt. to study in China in 2010. The students are Sudipto Sajol Kha of EEE, Sheikh Korban Ali of ECE

and Mohammad Nurul Islam, who was undertaking evening Chinese classes at BRACU. All of them are students of Chinese language courses conducted by experienced Chinese language instructors at Cfl.

Sudipto will be studying Electronic and Information Engineering at South West Jian Tong University. Korban Ali will be attending the same institution and his major will be Information Security. Mohammad Nurul Islam will be studying in Beijing University of Chemical Technology where his major will be Chemistry.

ENH Update

Sabreena Ahmed's translation of Saleha Chowdhury's short story "A Stopwatch and 400 Calories" and Ahmad Mostofa Kamal's "The Model on the Billboard" was published in the anthology Contemporary Short Stories from Bangladesh edited by Dr. Niaz Zaman and published by University Press Limited, Dhaka. The book was launched at the Goethe Institute Dhanmondi on 09 August 2010.

On 20th August Professor Firdous Azim gave a presentation entitled 'It's the Image that Matters: Cultural History of Women in Bangladesh' at the University of Western Sydney in Australia. This was part of an international conference entitled 'Being Bengali at home and around the World.' Professor Anisuzzaman, member of the governing board of Brac University was the keynote speaker. Interestingly, the first event of this conference was held by ENH in December 2009. Professor Firdous Azim presented the same lecture on 28th August at the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies, Dhaka (AIBS).

On 30th August four graduating students of the ENH Department presented their thesis/internship report. Following is the list of students and the topics on which they presented.

Fatema Tuz Zohora Road to Creativity-Grey Dhaka

Rumana Sayeem A Practical Exploration of Print Media at New Age

Farheena Sharmin Depiction of modern Civilization in Yeats, Williams and Eliot

Sadia Afrin Chowdhury Forays into news and Current Affairs and Programming

ESS Update

Seminars/Presentations/Conferences attended by ESS Faculties

Dr. Shahidur Rahman participated in a day-long Workshop on "Men, Health and Gender Equity in Bangladesh" at BRAC Inn Auditorium on Aug. 2, 2010. The workshop was organized by James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. The participants shared their views on gender inequality in Bangladesh and reproductive behavior.

Departure and Joining of ESS Faculty Members

Mr. Mohammad Jahangir Alam, Senior Lecturer, and Mr. Iftekharul Haque, Lecturer, have left to pursue funded PhD programs in Economics at the University of Calgary and the University of Guelph, both in Canada, respectively.

Dr. A.M. Tanvir Hossain has joined the Department of Economics and Social Sciences as an Assistant Professor. He completed his PhD in Economics from the University of Wyoming, USA.

Students Achievement

Nubaha Mahbub went for a Masters program in Economics at the University of Calgary, Canada.

Mahnaz Nazneen, enrolled for a funded Masters in Environmental Economics at the University of Birmingham, UK.

Shaikh Tanzia Fahmin Ahmed went to UK for a Masters in Economics at the University of Bristol

IGS Update

Institute of Governance Studies launched "The Judiciary: Policy Note" on 11 August 2010 at JATRI Conference Room, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka. Dr. Mizanur Rahman, Chairman, National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh was present as the Chief Guest at the launching ceremony. Dr. M. Shah Alam, Member, The Law Commission, Barrister Harun ur Rashid, Former Bangladesh Ambassador to the UN, Geneva and Dr. Shahdeen Malik, Director, School of Law, BRAC University were the Guest Speakers. Vice Chancellor of BRAC University Professor Ainun Nishat chaired the programme. More than 30 journalists from both print and electronic media covered the programme. "The Judiciary: Policy Note" is a part of IGS Policy Note Series on 'Institutions of Accountability'.



IGS offered technical assistance to the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of the Government of Bangladesh in holding the second of the Public-Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC) meetings. The meeting was held on August 19, 2010 (Thursday) in the NEC Conference Room 02 of the Planning Commission Campus in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Air vice Marshal (Rtd.) A K Khandker, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Planning and Chairperson of the Public-Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC), chaired the meeting. Ms. Munyema Hasan, Research Associate of IGS, presented a paper in the program on "Social Accountability in Public Procurement". It may be recalled that the PPSC is formed under the auspices of Public Procurement Reform Project - II (PPRP-II), which is funded by the World Bank, to create citizen engagement in public procurement processes in Bangladesh, consists of representatives from academia, business community, think-tanks and civil society organizations along with government officials. The Committee will evaluate the broad impact of the Public Procurement Act and Rules on country's actual procurement practices and put recommendations to the Government to make appropriate changes in Procurement Act and Rules. The Committee will also discuss some cases of irregularities and successes in government procurement and make recommendations in this regard. The first meeting of the Committee was held on February 03, 2010.



IGS organized a certificate giving ceremony on 28 August 2010 for the 22 successful participants of the CIPS TOT for Level 4 courses. Secretary, IME Division gave away the certificates and other guests from CPTU, World Bank and Director, IGS attended the programme, which was followed by an Ifter. IGS is collaborating with Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, UK to provide procurement training to selected government servants under the World Bank funded Public Procurement Reform Project II (PPRP-II) of the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of the Government of Bangladesh. As this course is offered for the first time in Bangladesh a one week long TOT session was organized from 11 June to 19 June 2010 at IGS's Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) office at 13 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka for the prospective CIPS procurement trainers, which included Bangladesh Government's national procurement trainers, and IGS and BRAC Training Division staff. The TOT was conducted by CIPS Master

Trainers Mr. Jeremy Johnson and Mr. Howard Sheldon.

Journalism Research and Training Initiative (JATRI) of IGS organized a roundtable on Media and Indigenous People on the occasion of International Day of the World's Indigenous People at JATRI Conference Room on 05 August, 2010. Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary, Bangladesh Adivashi Forum presented the keynote paper in the program. Raja Devasish Roy, Chakma Circle Chief and member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, was the chief guest and Prof. Sadeka Halim, member of information Commission was the special guest in the program. In his speech Raja Devasish Roy urged the government to take necessary measures to end discrimination against indigenous people. The indigenous people should have the right to self-determination for their social, political, cultural and economic development, he said. He also urged the journalists to work for the betterment of indigenous communities deprived for years. Prof. Sadeka Halim said recognition of the indigenous people in the constitution is a must to restore the '72 constitution. Mr. Dulal Chandra Biswas, Director General, Press institute of Bangladesh moderated the discussion while Mr. Jamil Ahmed, Head of JATRI, prominent journalist and columnist Mr. Jaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, and Mr. Sanaullah Lablu, Head of News and Programme, Radio ABC also gave their speech in the program.

Director of IGS, Barrister Manzoor Hasan, participated at a workshop on 'Collaborative Research on South Asia Tax System' in Singapore organized by the 'Governance Institutes Network International (GINI)' from August 8-9, 2010. The purpose of the workshop was to formulate a detailed integrated proposal for research conducted by collaborating institutions, focusing on the proposed research themes identified by the participants for research within their respective countries in Asia. During the workshop, Mr. Hasan gave a presentation on 'Political Economy of tax Regime in Bangladesh' and also Co-chaired a session on Organization and Planning. Twenty one Delegates from Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, USA, and Canada joined the workshop.

MNS Update

Science and Feature Articles in the Daily Star by MNS Faculty

Four scientific articles on life science topics and one feature article on the study visit of Saidabad Water Treatment Plant by BRACU MS Biotech students written by Md. Riajul Hossain, Lecturer in Biotechnology of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences were published in the "Tuesday's Science and Life Section" of the Daily Star in four consecutive weeks. The article titled "Biotechnology: Apex of Life Science" was published on 10 August where the writer focused on different scopes and areas of biotechnology and its potential to be a leading science in this century. The article titled "Epigenetics: Changing gene's expression" was published on 17 August where the changes of gene expression inside humans without the change of DNA sequences has been discussed. The article titled "Origin of modern humans" was published on 24 August where the human ancestry and evolution for the present day humans have been discussed. The article titled "Superbugs that clean up environment" was published on 31 August where the writer talked about the potential of the use of genetically engineered microorganisms, the so called superbugs, to rid the environment of unwanted agents, a process termed as bioremediation. The only feature article titled "BRACU MS Biotech Students visit SWTP" was published in the Star Campus Magazine, a weekly supplement of the Daily Star, on 29 August. The article was about the study trip of the MS Biotechnology students who were accompanied by some teachers to visit the Saidabad surface Water Treatment Plant (SWTP) on 25 July.

MS Thesis Defenses of MS in Biotechnology Programme

Debashish Paul, Salma Mir, Md. Jahedul Islam and Sadequa Sultana students of 'MS in Biotechnology Programme' defended their thesis on 16th August 2010. Both Debashish Paul and Salma Mir carried out their research work at BIRDEM. They investigated the association of vitamin D and Calpain 10 gene polymorphism in relation to diabetes mellitus in a Bangladeshi population, while Md. Jahedul Islam worked on protocol development for detection of Salmonella enterica Typhi by nested PCR at ICDDR,B. Sadequa Sultana did her thesis work at Laboratoire Chimie et Biologie des Metaux, CEA Grenoble, France, under a joint collaboration programme between BRAC University and CEA-CNRS. She studied on optimization of photoproduction of hydrogen by the bacterium Rhodospirillum rubrum. Through these theses defenses all four students completed their endeavor to attain MS degree in biotechnology.

3rd Consultation Workshop on Best Practices in Teaching at BRAC University

Dr. Aparna Islam, Assistant Professor, Biotechnology Programme, attended the half day long 3rd Consultation Workshop on Best Practices in Teaching at BRAC University. The workshop was aimed to recognize the present perception on the best practices, identify the present practices of teaching and learning and finally, what additional measures that could be taken to improve the situation including student-teacher interaction. At the end of the workshop each group submitted their opinion to achieve best teaching practices to make BRAC University a unique educational institute. Following the workshop Dr. Islam became one of the 22 members of the Core Facilitation Team (CFT) for Faculty Development Initiative at BRAC University.

SECS Update

Robotics Display of SECS Students

The School of Engineering and Computer Science, BRAC University organized a Robotics Project display on August 12, 2010. Undergraduate students majoring in Computer Science, Electrical, Electronics and Communication fields participated in the display with 8 of their projects. The Chairperson of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Prof. Sayeed Salam, as well as other faculty members of SECS was present during the demonstration of the projects.

Some of the projects displayed were: Remotely control home appliances by SMS, industrial robotic arm, humanoid robot to detect weather information, rotatable solar panels, light and sound level detecting spy robot, line follower robot etc.

The event allowed the students from all departments to know about the student thesis and research projects which are going on by SECS students. It has become an inspiration for new students to start new projects of their own using the latest technologies that are out there.

Thesis Presentation of SECS students: Summer 2010

The thesis presentation of Summer 2010 of School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) was held on 12th August, 2010. 20 students from Department of CSE and 25 students from Department of EEE presented their thesis/project presentation in front of two different thesis panels consisting of honorable faculty members from SECS. Students from EEE department presented their research work on various advanced topics such as: Robot Manipulator for industrial purpose, ECG Simulator, Acquisition and monitoring of multichannel ECG, Advanced Solar hot water system, Quantitative analysis of day light saving time, Design and development of a QPKS modulator, Designing and implementing antennas and Structures to implement polarization diversity in a 60GHz wireless system, Performance analysis of a wireless communication system using smart antenna. Thesis topics presented by the students from CSE department includes: Implementation of speech recognition system for Bangla, Machine translation system for translating English to Bangla, Porting open-source E-learning software in to mobile platform, Dealing with jamming in wireless sensor network, Design, testing of wimax Internet system in an outdoor environment etc.

New Joining

Dr. Md. Mosaddequr Rahman has joined as Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) on 29th August 2010. He did his Ph. D from Nagoya Institute of Technology, Nagoya, Japan. He was working as a research associate at University of Windsor, Windsor, Canada before joining at BRAC University. He has also served as a faculty in the Department of Electrical Engineering at King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals from 2001-2005. His major research interests are in the areas of micro-electro-mechanical systems (MEMS) based sensors and actuators, and solar energy materials and solar cells.

Faculty Update

Nazmus Saquib, Lecturer has left for higher studies in University of Manitoba (Canada) in 12th August

2010.

Annajiat Alim Rasel and Rumana Rahman has been promoted to the position of Lecturer I on 17th August, 2010.

SPH Update

Academic Programs

MPH PROGRAM

Courses

The MPH course Aging and Health (MPH 681) was taught by Dr. Zarina Nahar Kabir, Karolinska Institutet; and Kuhel Faizul Islam, Research Associate, was the Teaching Fellow. The course ran from July 25 - August 5, 2010.

The MPH course Environment and Health (MPH 541) was taught by Bilquis Amin Hoque and Andrew Jenkins; and Asif Kashem, Research Associate, was the Teaching Fellow. The course ran from August 8 - 26, 2010.

The MPH course Reproductive & Sexual Health & Rights (MPH 660) was taught by Dr. Sabina F Rashid, Associate Professor & MPH Coordinator, and Dr. Malabika Sarker, University from Heidelberg; and Anuradha Hashemi, Research Staff, was the Teaching Fellow. The course ran from August 29 - September 8, 2010.

FIELD VISITS

As part of the MPH 681, the following field sites were visited - Probin Hitoishi Shangha (BAAIGM) and Sir William Beveridge Foundation, Dhaka



As part of the MPH 660 course, the following field sites were visited by the students and faculty - Azimpur Maternity Hospital, and Shimantik Urban Primary Healthcare Project

Manoshi (BRAC Health Program)

Students interviewing villagers at their study field site As part of the MPH 541 course, to look at the rain water harvesting sites, students were divided into groups and conducted a short exploratory study at Matlab, Chandpur district

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (CEP)

Executive Certificate in Public Health Management (ECPHM)

The third course on Executive Certificate in Public Health Management (ECPHM): An Innovative Capacity Development Program for Health Professionals in the Public Sector is specifically tailored for upazilla health and family planning officers and other health officials from the MoHFW. The course ran from July 18 - August 12, 2010 inclusive of a week- long field trip. There were 20-25 participants. The inaugural ceremony was attended by the first secretary Rachel Payne, Australian High



Commission, Pro VC Chaired the inaugural session. It was also attended by the senior programme officer of Aus Aid and DGHS and the Registrar of the University. Under the overall leadership of Dr. Anwar Islam, former Associate Dean and Director, James P Grant School of Public Health, the course will bring together highly trained teachers/experts from MOH&FW, ICDDR, B, NIPSOM, NIPORT, BRAC and other institutes of higher learning.

Centres and research initiatives

CENTRE FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS STUDIES (CHSS)

Meetings on CHSS Projects

Dr. Tim Evans, Dean, held a series of meetings with the general staff to learn about the research projects currently under the CHSS on August 29 & 30, 2010. Additionally, the GFATM team also presented the contents of their projects at those meetings.

Research on Pay for Performance (P4P)

Ms Nuzhat Chowdhury, Research Associate, and Ms Nadia Alamgir, Research Associate, organized and facilitated 16 teambuilding workshops at GOB health facilities in two districts Gaibandha and Jamalpur. The objective of the teambuilding workshops was to revitalize team spirit among GOB health service providers working under MNCH unit at selected three upazilla and district hospital in each of the mentioned districts. The presentations held by the JPGSPH team were highly appreciated by the honorable guests and participants. These workshops also explored existing work team activities at upazilla and districts under MNCH.

Research on FSNSP

Due to personal reasons, Dr. Mckenzie Andre, the Project Manager, left Bangladesh. Dr. Akoto Osei been seconded from HKI regional office to replace him. The project is experiencing 2nd round of data collection. After the end of this round, official inaugural ceremony of FSNSP will take place where findings of the 1st round will be disseminated. Date has not yet been confirmed.

Revitalizing Health for All: Developing a Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) Model for Bangladesh Data analysis of CPHC project has been completed. The report is currently being written.. The project received an extension to January 31, 2011 and received extra funding of \$3,500 (Canadian dollars) from IDRC, Canada.

CENTRE FOR GENDER, SEXUALITY AND HIV/AIDS (CGSH)

International Conference on Taking Men's Health Seriously



Alan Greig, Dr. Hilary Standing & Dr. Imran Rizvi presenting at the conference Sadaf Saaz Siddqui, Benjamin Davis, Anuradha Hashemi, and Suborna Camellia presenting at the conference. Dr. Pereira served as the moderator

On August 1, 2010, an international conference on men's health was organized by the School at BRAC Centre with international and national speakers working with men's and women's health. The conference was co- sponsored by the Centre for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS (CGSH), BRAC University (<http://sph.bracu.ac.bd/>) and the Realising Rights Research Programme Consortium (www.realising-rights.org). Realising Rights is funded by the UK Department for International Development (Grant no. HD43). Speakers came

from IDS, African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC), London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (LSTMH), ICDDR,B, Population Council, Engender Health, Naripokkho, and from the School. The conference was attended by 150 participants.

The conference brought together public health experts and practitioners, academics, activists, advocates, policy makers, and the media in order to disseminate the different reports on the need for taking men's

health seriously, and how men's health directly and indirectly affects women's and children's lives.

The conference was inaugurated by Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-Vice Chancellor, and by Dr. Anwar Islam, former Associate Dean and Director. Dr. Sabina F Rashid, Associate Professor & MPH Coordinator, and Dr. Hilary Standing, Professor and Research Fellow, IDS, also presented at the conference. Dr. Hilary Standing, Dr. Faustina Pereira, Director, BRAC Human Rights and Legal Services, and Dr. Tahera Yeasmin, independent consultant, moderated the discussion sessions. The conference was set up by Tisa Muhaddes and Alizeh Ahmed.

Workshop on Men, Health & Gender Equity

Participants engaged in group work A participant posing a question to Alan Greig and Jerker Edstrom, the facilitators of the workshop

On August 2, 2010, a workshop on Men, Gender and Equity was held at BRAC Centre, co-sponsored by the Centre for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS (CGSH), BRAC University and the Realising Rights Research Programme Consortium. The workshop followed an International Conference on Men's Health which took place the previous day. Both international and national speakers from across the globe participated and presented at the conference showcasing theoretical, practical, and future issues of engaging men's participation in working with masculinity, equity, and combating violence against women (VAW).

Jerker Edstrom, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex, and Alan Greig, Independent Consultant, facilitated the workshop. Participants came from a wide range of backgrounds such as - CARE, Naripokkho, UNAIDS, AusAID, Family Health International (FHI), Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB), Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition (BWHC), Shimantik, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), African Population Health Research Centre (APHRC), UNFPA, ICDDR,B, Population Council, Bangdhu, Gonoshasthro Kendro, BLAST, Marie Stopes Clinic, GTZ, SSFP, BRAC Health, BRAC Gender & Diversity; from educational institutions such as State University of Bangladesh, BRAC University; and from the media such as BSS, The Independent, and New Age. The workshop was set up by Anuradha Hashemi.

Research on Gender-based Violence in Urban Slums in Dhaka

The first draft of the research report has been submitted to the Principal Investigator for review.

SRHR Alliance

The School has become a member for the Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) Alliance organized by Oxfam composing public health practitioners, advocates, donors, and activists.

School events and other activities

EU ASIA LINK PROJECT

EU Asia Link Project: Building Partnership for Better Health

Dr Timothy G Evans, Dean, has replaced Professor Dr. Anwar Islam as the Project Manager of EU Asia Link Project: Building Partnership for Better Health (BD/ASIE/2006/144465) effective from September 01, 2010. It has been formally requested to EC for one year no-cost extension of EU Asia Link Project up to October 31, 2011.

BANGLADESH HEALTH WATCH (BHW)

Visit by President of Women's Health Coalition

On August 8, 2010, Ms Adrienne Germain, President, Women's Health Coalition attended a meeting organized by the Bangladesh Health Watch. She had some queries about the existing HNPSP and on the progress made so far. She urged Bangladesh to become a part of the Obama's Global Health Initiative.

Round-table Discussion Minutes

The two round table discussions' (June 05 & 19, 2010) meeting minutes on the dissemination of report findings have been edited several times after receiving feedback from working group members of BHW. The final edited discussions are due for submission today.

Meeting with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

A meeting was held with Health Economics Unit (HEU) of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) for their contribution in the upcoming report of Bangladesh Health watch (BHW) on Universal Health Coverage (UHC). At the meeting, it was discussed how MOHFW can add to the BHW report. A preliminary report on National Health Accounts (1997-2007) containing different statistical data has been released and BHW is currently reviewing the contents.

OTHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Farewell to Associate Dean and Director

Dr Anwar Islam, former Associate Dean & Director, ended his tenure at JPGSPH on August 31, 2010. A farewell iftar and dinner was held at Niketan TARC to mark his contribution and presence at the School. Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, Dr Tim Evans, Dean, JPGSPH, Dr. Sabina F Rashid, Associate Professor & MPH Coordinator, and other School staff were in attendance at his farewell.

Ethical Review Committee of JPG SPH

ERC has received 13 review requests since August 2010 and approved 10 of them. The last project given approval was 'Preventing Linear Growth Faltering and Reversal of Stunting among Low Birth Weight Infants in Bangladesh: A Community-based Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial'. The project will be carried out by Sohana Shafique from University of Toronto and BRAC RED.

INTERNSHIPS

Interns from University of Nagasaki



Interns from the University of Nagasaki spend a few weeks at the School in order to promote research, education, and capacity-building especially in the area of health development between the two institutions. Ten interns and two faculty members from the University visited BRAC, JICA and ICDDR,B's project sites and public hospitals to acquire first-hand knowledge and experience on health systems, project management, and project activities; understand the process of problem analysis and formulation of projects. At the end of the visit the students presented their reports based on their experience with the School. The internship ran from July 27 - August 17, 2010. This is the third batch of interns from Japan.

Faculty news

Dr Sabina F Rashid, Associate Professor & MPH Coordinator, facilitated a sexuality and rights session for international participants, at Sheraton Hotel in the first week of August for International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB).

Dr Farah Mahjabeen, the Research Project Coordinator for P4P, attended the QAG meeting at Mymensingh Medical College on August 24, 2010. QAG Team will accredit the designated centers where P4P will be introduced

Dr Nasima Selim, Lecturer II, has taken a year-long study leave from the School to pursue a Masters in Medical Anthropology at the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. She has received a full NUFFIC scholarship for her masters. She is expected to rejoin the School in September 2011.

Dr. Enamul Hasib's, Lecturer, review paper on climate change and nutrition has been accepted for presentation at the Canadian Conference on Global Health in Ottawa and International Conference on Urban Health in New York.

Mr. Owasim Akram, Research Associate, presented his research findings from his sexual and reproductive health concerns of married men and their access to health service providers in a rural area of Bangladesh at

the international conference on taking men's health seriously on August 1, 2010.

Ms. Suborna Camellia, Research Associate, and Anuradha Hashemi, Research Staff, presented their research findings from their gender-based violence in urban slums in Dhaka at the international conference on taking men's health seriously on August 1, 2010.

Ms Tisa Muhaddes, Research & Communication Officer, attended at day-long workshop on Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) on August 3, 2010. The workshop and meeting was organized by Oxfam.

Ms Tisa Muhaddes, Research & Communication Officer, and Ms. Anuradha Hashemi, Research Staff, attended the Sexuality and Rights meeting at Bandhu head office on August 7, 2010. The next meeting will be held at the School.

Ms Tisa Muhaddes, Research & Communication Officer, and Ms. Anuradha Hashemi, Research Staff, attended a Network for working with men and adolescents meeting at Save the Children Denmark's office on August 17, 2010. The meeting was held to brainstorm on strategies to engage men and male adolescents in working to combat Violence against Women (VAW).

Ms. Anuradha Hashemi, Research Staff, and Ms. Alizeh Ahmed, from the School participated in the workshop on men, health, and equity on August 2, 2010 organized by CGSH at BRAC Centre.

New faculty and interns

Dr. Timothy G Evans joined on August 8 as the new Dean of James P Grant School of Public Health.

Ms. Alizeh Ahmed, a MPH student from London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, volunteered during the month of July at CGSH. She assisted in coordinating the international conference and workshop.

TLC Update

An Informal Meeting with the Members of CFT of BRACU

A one hour informal meeting with the Core Facilitation Team (CFT) for faculty Development Initiative at BRAC U was conducted on 30th of August'2010 at UB0503 by TLC. Al most all of the members, who were selected from different schools, departments and institutes of BRACU for the CFT were present on this meeting. From the Steering Committee, Prof. Dr. Md. Golam Samdani fakir, Pro-VC and Facilitator of CFT , Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed, Director ,CfL, Prof. Fuad Hassan Mallick, Chairperson, ARC, Prof. Syed M. Hashemi, Director, BDI, and Prof. Mumit Khan, Chairperson, CSE were also present on that meeting. The main purposes and outcomes of the meeting were following:

- A formal introduction and socialization among all the members of CFT
- To fix time for the Experiential Learning Workshop for the CFT (has been fixed for the 2 Thursday of each month)
- Having the commitment from all of the members of CFT for disseminating the learning experiences to their respective departments, schools and institutes that they are going to achieve from the upcoming Experiential Learning workshops.

The meeting ended up with the commitment from the members of Steering Committee to provide all kind of strategic supports to the CFT.

Consultation Workshop on "Best Practices in Teaching at BRAC University"

Based on the Academic Coordination Committee (ACC) the 1st Consultation Workshop on "Best Practices in Teaching at BRAC University", organized by Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) of BRACU was held on 12th of July'2010 aimed to share the on going best teaching practices ,identifying existing gaps and developing the means for improving quality teaching at BRACU. The Vice Chancellor, Pro-vice Chancellor, Chairpersons,

Heads and Directors of the Departments, Institutes and Schools were present there and shared their precious experiences and suggestions. The 2nd Consultation Workshop on "Best Practices in Teaching at BRAC University" was held on 5th of August'2010 for the further discussions on the identified existing gaps in teaching at BRAC U as well as on possible follow-up actions; those were came out from the 1st Consultation workshop. A need for organizing another consultation workshop on that issue with other senior and more experienced faculty of BRACU was emphasized at this meeting.

3rd Consultation Workshop on "Best Practices in Teaching at BRAC University"

The 3rd Consultation Workshop on "Best Practices in Teaching at BRAC University" aimed to response and take initiatives to the suggestions given in the 2nd consultation meeting. It was held on 22nd of August'2010 and was designed for the senior and experienced faculty of BRACU, who were selected from different Schools, Departments and Institutes. The workshop was facilitated by Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-VC, BRACU and co-facilitators were Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, In-charge, CSO; Ms. Samara Mortada , Head of Writing Centre and Ms. Samina A.nzum Chowdhury, Jr. Lecturer, TLC.

Prof. Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor of BRACU and Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Registrar of BRACU were also present on this workshop.

The workshop Moderators were: Prof. AAZ Ahmed, Chairperson, MNS, Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed, Director, CfL, Prof. Syed M. Hashemi, Director, BDI, Prof. Fuad H. Mallick, Chairperson, ARC and Prof. Mumit Khan, Chairperson, CSE. The workshop came up with an agreement of the need for developing a Core Facilitation Team of BRAC U who will take the responsibility to develop the faculty development initiatives of their own respective departments. The Proposed Core Facilitation Team members are:

1. Mr. Sajid Bin Doza, ARC
2. Mr. Md. Nafisur Rahman, ARC
3. Ms. Sadia H. Kazi, CSE
4. Mr. Matin Saad Abdulla, CSE
5. Ms. Rukhsana Rahim, ENH
6. Ms. Asifa Sultana, ENH
7. Dr. Md. Quamrul Ahsan, EEE
8. Dr. Md. AKM Abdul Malek Azad, EEE
9. Mr. Ivan Shafat Bari, CfL
10. Ms. Farrah Jabeen, CfL
11. Mr. Md. Golam Jamil, CfL
12. Dr.. Farzana Munshi, ESS
13. Mr. Tanvir Hussain, ESS
14. Mr. Mahmudul Haq, BBS
15. Mr. Shawkat Kamal, BBS
16. Ms. Afsana Akhter, BBS
17. Mr. Anup Chowdhury. BBS
18. Dr. Saira R. Khan, SoL
19. Ms. Taslima Yasmin, SoL
20. Dr. Abu M. Khan, MNS
21. Dr. Aparna Islam, MNS

CSO Update

PSDP Final Assessment Summer 2010

The final assessment of Professional Skill Development Program (PSDP), arranged by CSO was held on August 28, 2010. The assessment started from 9:30am and ended at 3:00pm. The assessments were conducted by Mr. Dominic S. V. Bennett, General Manager, HR & Training Aarong, Mr. Rezaul Kabir, Chief Operating Officer of Novotel, Mr. Monojit Kumar Ojha, Head of Accounts, BRAC University and Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, In-charge Career Services Office, BRAC University. The objective of the assessment was to familiarize the students with the real world job interview and also assess the outcome of the program. The students were enthusiast about the program and 123 students participated from summer 2010 PSDP batch.

Internship Orientation, Fall 2010



BBA

Orientation for Internship program (BUS400) was held on August 29, 2010 at 3:00pm - 4:00pm. Among 40 registered students willing to pursue internship in Fall 2010, a number of 21 students attended the session. The focus was to prepare and create awareness about successful completion of their internship. Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, In-charge of the Career Services Office conducted the program.

Architecture

Internship orientation of Architecture was held on August 24, 2010. A number 12 prospective interns from Department of Architecture attended the session. The focus was to familiarize the students with professional aspects during their internship. Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, In-charge of the Career Services Office conducted the session.

Job Placement Update

1. Jacy Mark Rozario bracNet (Part timer)
2. Md. Anower Parvez OTOBI
3. Md. Moniruzzaman OTOBI
4. Snigdha Iqbal Standard Chartered Bank Ltd.
5. Imran Sattar Standard Chartered Bank Ltd.
6. Md. Nazmul Ahsan Singapore Airlines
7. Mohammad Ariful Hoque Avery Dennison Bangladesh