

2009/may

The Dover Lane Music Festival

BRAC University Cultural Club (BUCuC) members Md. Miftahuzzaman, Riad ul Haque, Tahmid R Safi and Badrul Alam Rupam were invited to Kolkata, India to perform in a cultural evening organized by Mitali, Indo-Bangladesh Cultural Society. They were accompanied by Shams Mansoor Ghani, Advisor, BUCuC & Lecturer, Architecture. The team also attended Dover Lane Music Conference, one of the most prestigious annual event of Indian Classical music where classical maestros performed all night long from 22 to 25 January 2009.

Architecture Update

Faculty performs at 'Rabindra Jonmo Joyonti Utshob' in Kolkata

Upon invitation from 'Shomaroha', Kolkata, India, a cultural organization renowned for its programs on Tagore, Prof. Zainab Faruqui Ali [Shama] has participated in the Rabindra Jonmo Joyonti Utshob or 'Kobipronam' in Kolkata on the 17th May 2009 at the Shishir Moncho of Rabindra Shadan, Kolkata. She has also discussed with the organizers at 'Shomaroha' and 'Mitali' to arrange cultural exchange programs for BRACU students.

Faculty attends international seminar

Professor Zainab Faruqui Ali attended the international seminar on 'The Aga Khan Award for Architecture' held at the National University of Singapore from 19 -21st May 09. She had chaired a session on 'Local Contemporaneity' at the seminar. Architects and academics and students from various countries of the region and abroad attended the event.

Faculty goes on a Study Visit Award to Vietnam

Khondaker Hasibul Kabir, Senior Lecturer from the Department of Architecture went to central Vietnam for a workshop and study visit on "Preventing Typhoon Damage to Housing", 3rd - 9th May, 2009. The study visit was awarded by BSHF (Building and Social Housing Foundation), UK and hosted by DWF (Development Workshop, France) and DWV (Development Workshop, Vietnam). DWF and DWV were awarded the World Habit Award in 2008 for their work in Central Vietnam. The housing was a participatory effort by local people and the organizations. The study visit was awarded to twenty people around the world to share their experiences on housing issues. Kabir shared the "process" of housing experienced in SIDR affected areas (done by local builders, BRAC and the Department of Architecture, BRAC University) and in Noakhali (done by local people, IUCN Bangladesh and the Department of Architecture, BRAC University). The "process" and the outcome were highly appreciated by the international experts in this field.

Painting and landscaping in Noakhali schools

In 2008, local people, IUCN Bangladesh and the Department of Architecture, BRAC University under the guidance of Professor Fuad H. Mallick, together built stronger houses in the coastal areas of Noakhali district. In the beginning of 2009 they built and strengthened two schools. Last month, the final step was to paint and landscape both of the schools. Students and teachers of each school with the help of teachers and other representatives from the Department of Architecture painted the walls of school within three days. They also planned the landscape of the schools and planted fruit-bearing, flowering and timber-yielding trees with students. Participants and representatives from the university were Khondaker Hasibul Kabir, Sayem Khan, Tahmina Rahman, Dr. Elisa T. Bertuzzo and Abdun Nime.

Painting a wall of the Day-care centre, AARONG by freshmen students

Tazkia Tasnim, Emil Theodore Halder, Khalid Osman, Hiba Sharfuddin, Cyrus Sohrab Khan and Mahmudul Islam Khan, a bunch of enthusiastic freshmen students decorated the walls of the 'Day-care Centre' of AARONG head office, Tejgaon under the supervision of Muhammad Nafisur Rahman, lecturer of Department of Architecture. First the students discussed with the children who stay there, then after knowing their desire they started their work. The team tried to satisfy all the requirements of the user. The students have completed their task before starting their residential semester.

New Teaching Assistant

Rabeya Rahman joined as Teaching Assistant in the department. She completed her Bachelor of

Architecture from BRAC University in 2008. Her final year thesis title was "Rethinking courtyard in the urban context". As an architect her interest lies in working for the development sector, assisting those people who cannot afford or are really in need of architects' services.

BDI Update

Lecture by Dr. Bina Agarwal on "Agricultural Collectivities: A Group Approach to Poverty Reduction and Women's Empowerment"

BRAC Development Institute organized a lecture by Dr. Bina Agarwal, Professor of Economics at the University of Delhi, on "Agricultural Collectivities: A Group Approach to Poverty Reduction and Women's Empowerment". Her lecture outlined the potential benefits of small-scale, grassroots collectivities and described some actual success stories of agricultural production collectivities in South Asia. She discussed the contexts in which they were more likely to succeed and how these efforts could be enhanced and replicated. The lecture was followed by a question and answer session moderated by Ms. Khushi Kabir, Coordinator of Nijera Kori.

Documentary Film Show with BUFC

BRAC Development Institute in collaboration with BRAC University Film Club presented the screening of "Shadhinotar Kotha" (Tales of Freedom). The film is directed by Mirza Hassan, Lead Researcher and faculty at BDI. The film is about dreams, aspirations and experiences of female garment industry workers in Bangladesh. It also juxtaposes the view of the workers about their lives against how Bangla fiction and international novels such as Brick Lane, Bengali films and pop songs depict the lives of female garment workers. The film was screened on 25th May, at the Indoor Games Room. The show was followed by a discussion by students, teachers and staff. The discussion was led by media personality, Sara Zaker and Professor Firdous Azim, English Department.

Ashna Chowdhury & Aanmona Priyadarshini participate in a Workshop on Gender Sexuality and Rights

Ashna Chowdhury & Aanmona Priyadarshini of BDI participated in a workshop arranged by The Centre for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS of James P. Grant School of Public Health on "Gender, Sexuality and Rights" from May 9th -12th, 2009 at BRAC Centre Inn. The objective of this workshop was to build capacities and increase understanding of participants on issues of gender, sexuality and rights through a systematic analysis of attitudes, practices, theories and beliefs around these concepts.

Pathways of Women's Empowerment

- Sohela Nazneen and Simeen Mahmud attended an inception workshop on "New Aid Modalities" to discuss research plans on mobilizing resources for women's rights. The workshop took place from the 6th to 9th of May at The Royal Tropical Institute of Amsterdam.
- The Pathways of Women's Empowerment team arranged a workshop at Women for Women to present their research findings on Building Constituencies for Gender Justice.
- The Cultural History project of the Pathways Programme has commenced weekly reading sessions as part of its research on the cultural history of Bangladeshi women. The team meets once a week to discuss, critique and analyse literary and historical readings from the 20th century.
- Members of the pathways team attended a talk by Mihir Sen Gupta, author from West Bengal, on "Desh Bodher Manchitro" at Dhaka University which was organized by the History Department.

Governance

- The Governance team completed the data collection, analysis and first draft report of a study entitled "Ultra-Poor Boys' School Access: An Assessment of Trends in Education and Child Labour in Rural Communities" in May 2009. This study specifically looks at the primary school access of ultra poor children and the discrepancies which exist, if any, between the access patterns of boys and girls. This report serves as a qualitative corollary report to the Social Protection team's study assessing the effects of BRAC's Ultra Poor Program on child labour.
- In order to gauge the levels of extreme poverty and identify specific households, the Governance team has recently completed data collection to create a "Census on Social Safety Nets." This census will document social safety net service delivery efforts and the potential gaps which exist. The data collection

was carried out across 5 locations - Kishoreganj, Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Khulna and Sirajganj.

Social Protection

The Social Protection team at BDI conducted an in-depth qualitative study on "The Impacts of BRAC's Ultra Poor Program on Child Labor" funded by Save the Children UK. While several studies have indicated the success of the program in improving economic and social conditions of beneficiary households, very little is known about the nexus between the program and child labor. This study stems from the assumption that economic and social improvements in household conditions lead to declining rates of child labor; it also seeks to understand the process through which such changes take place, the context in which parents make such decisions for their children and also looks at opportunity costs of child labor. Data collection, analysis and the first draft report were completed in May 2009.

Completion of Household and School Survey Data Collection on - Moving towards Quality Education

BDI is working with the Institute of Educational Development- BRAC University (BU-IED) on their research project, "Moving towards Quality Education: Understanding the challenges and identifying prospective solutions for ultra-poor communities." The data collection for household and school survey on the catchment areas of Purbadhola in Netrokona and Kaliganj in Lalmonirhat has been completed. Based on the data collection, the children from the ultra poor families were identified to participate in the project's focus group discussion, open discussion as well as case studies.

CGAP- Ford Global Graduation Program Pilot Phase

BDI is implementing and managing the CGAP- Ford global graduation program. The program is testing out a methodology to graduate the poorest out of extreme poverty through linking safety nets and access to financial services. BDI is conducting qualitative research on a select number of beneficiaries in India and Pakistan as a part of the CGAP-Ford global graduation program. The purpose of the research is to complement existing quantitative research. Researchers at BDI will follow the lives of the beneficiaries over a period of 12 months and find out their coping strategies and mechanisms.

CSE Update

New Appointment

Mr. Supriyo Shafkat Ahmed and Mr. Mehedi Zahid Sadi has been appointed as Instructors in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, from May 2009. Mr. Ahmed completed BSc. in ECE from BRAC University, and Mr. Sadi has completed BSc. in EEE from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

CfL Update

Corporate Training with NAVANA

The corporate training program for the executives of NAVANA Group has started from 22 April for a 10 week course. The course titled 'Communication and Business Skills' has been organized by BRACU CfL. A total of 30 senior officials are taking part in this course comprising of Operative Director, General Managers, Deputy General Managers and Senior Managers of the NAVANA Group. The course covers the current core issues in global business, such as Business Ethics, Cross Cultural Communication, Improving Organizational Communication, Business Etiquette, Learning Organization, Planned Change Management, Meeting Skills, and Negotiation Techniques etc. The course is being conducted by CfL faculty members who are specialized in corporate training.

Using Internet Tools to Develop Language Skills

The teachers of BRACU CfL took part in two one-day workshops: Using Internet Tools to Develop Language Skills (May 2 & 3, 2009). The workshops were conducted by George Chinnery, Senior English Language Fellow based in Jaipur, India. In addition to introducing a variety of Internet resources useful for developing language skills, Mr. Chinnery raised participants' awareness of the difference between what he calls "Old School" and "New School" in E-teaching. CfL is exploring more ways to integrate the use of these internet tools in their own educational programs.

43rd TESOL Convention in Denver

Liza Reshmin, Lecturer II, participated in the 43rd Annual TESOL Convention held from March 26-28, 2009 in Denver, Colorado, USA. She was selected by BRACU CfL to take part in that conference. She also participated and spoke in a presentation titled "New Pathways for Teacher Training" arranged by Agnieszka Alboszta, instructor and curriculum developer from the University of Oregon. She will use her expertise and knowledge in teaching and developing materials. She will share her experience in a workshop next month for CfL faculty members.

Third Phase of Medhabikash Completed

The Centre for Languages has worked with "Medhabikash" from 2nd to 14th May 2009 and successfully completed the third phase of training meritorious students from disadvantaged backgrounds across Bangladesh. This time 76 beneficiaries participated in the training which was conducted by faculty members and BU students like Imran Newaz Khurshid and C. Zaigam Murshed, who conducted a workshop on Critical Thinking & Writing. Participants also took day trips to the National War Memorial at Savar and the Savar TARC Campus.

Nutrition Talk @ Savar Campus

Sunida Witayakarn, CfL Lecturer, conducted a Nutrition Talk on May 20, 2009 for students at BRACU Savar Campus focusing on the Importance of Healthy Food for Young Adults, Sources of Nutrition, Eating Habits and Eating Disorders (mainly Anorexia and Bulimia). The aim of the Talk was to show the importance of necessary nutrition for students, improve better eating habit and increase the awareness of eating disorders.

Thai Airways International PCL (TG) Internship Interview

Sunida Witayakarn with Career Service Office conducted the interviews on May 21st and 24th for BBS candidates for the internship with Thai Airways International PCL requested by TG Bangladesh General Manager Mr. Kitipong Manityakul. Three students were on the short list and Shajedul Hasib Shadhin majoring in HRM and MKT has recently joined as an intern.

CfL Offers Call Centre Training

Superior Internet Solutions, an American firm partnered with Google and Yahoo, has now amalgamated with BRACU CfL to train students for a better future in the Call Centre Industry in Bangladesh. Scott Kirkpatrick, the CEO and founder of Superior Internet Solutions, along with his team Seth Silvernail, General Manager and Kyle Readdick, International Sales Director, hosted a talk in BRACU's Indoor Games Room on 26th and 30th May 2009 and later, a screening to recruit BRACU students for the Call Centre.

Foreign Language Courses at CfL

BRACU CfL is offering language courses of two types: Certificate level (Basic to advanced) and survival skills (Verbal communication only)

Languages offered: English, Bengali, Spanish, Chinese, French, Russian, Japanese, and Arabic.

- English certificate level: 60hours / 3 days a week - BDT 4000
 - Bengali: 60 hours / 3 days a week - BDT 12000
 - French, Russian, Japanese & Spanish: 48hours / 2 days a week - BDT 4000
 - Chinese: 48 hours / 2days a week - BDT 3000
 - Arabic Certificate level: 60hours/3 days a week- BDT 5000 per level
 - IELTS Examination preparation Course: 45 hours - BDT 7000
- Fee for survival skill courses in all foreign languages: 30 hours / 3 days a week - BDT 5000
Fee for survival skill course in Bangla language: 20 hours / 3 days a week - BDT 8000

Survival: Moving around the city, shopping, ordering food, asking for direction, greetings & introduction. No grammar or writing. The focus is on speaking and listening.

Certificate: Includes all of the above + alphabets + Grammar, reading and writing focusing on four skills: Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking.

Schedules for Languages Courses:

Certificate Courses:

English: Sun, Tue & Thu (6pm-8pm) Start: 16th July

Bengali: Sun, Tue & Wed (6pm-8pm) Start: 1st July

Japanese: Sun & Wed (6pm-8pm) Start: 17th June
Spanish: Sun & Tue (6pm-8pm) Start: 5th July
Russian: Wed & Sat (6pm-8pm) Start: 22nd July
Chinese: Tues & Thu (6pm-8pm) Start: 2nd July
Chinese: Sun & Wed (11am-12:30pm) Start: 14th June
French: Mon & Wed (6pm-8pm) Start: 7th September
Arabic: Sun, Mon & Tue (6pm-8pm) Start: 17th June
Survival Courses:
Bengali: Mon, Sat & Thu Start: 4th July
Japanese: Mon, Tue & Thu Start: 15th June
Spanish: Mon, Wed & Thu Start: 6th July
Russian: Sun, Tue & Thu Start: 23rd July
Chinese: Sun, Wed & Sat Start: 1st July
French: Sun, Tue & Thu Start: 6th September

ENH Update

Undergraduate Thesis Presentation

As a requirement of the ENG 466: Thesis course, the graduating students (Spring 2009) of the Department of English and Humanities gave their thesis presentations on 2nd and 3rd May 2009. The following is a list of thesis presentations given by the graduating students:

Naufela Nafisa Ahmed: "Sexism in Language"
Mushira Habib: "Memoirs or the Recounting of the Growth of the Artist's Mind"
Mahya Karim Rima: "Challenging the 'Popular' in 'Popular Culture': Tracing the Evolution of Popular Culture in Bangladesh through Popular Bangladeshi Cinema from the 1950s-2009"
Ajijun Nahar Jhumoor: "Feedback and Error Correction in ESL Classrooms"
Samira Nafis: "Writing as discovering: Exploring creative nonfiction"
Farhana Nawshin: "Problems in Teaching Speaking in Traditional ESL Classrooms"
Shehrin Nazrul: "The Portrayal of Marriage and Feminine Sexuality in some Women's Writings"
Monira Siddique: "Rise and evolution of Revenge Tragedy"
Sabrina Rab: "Oppressed Women's Voices: An Examination of Sylvia Plath's The Bell Jar and Selected Poems"
Rokshana Talukder: "Teacher's Role as a Motivator and Facilitator in the Department of English and Humanities of BRAC University"
Tamara Zaman: "Feature Writing Experience At NEW AGE"

Master's Thesis Presentation

As a requirement of the ENG 699: MA Thesis course, two graduating students (Spring 2009) of the Department of English and Humanities gave their thesis presentations on 2nd May 2009:
Rabeya Nazrin Khan: "Classroom Interaction in ESL Classrooms: A Comparative Study between Group work and Individual work". Samia Zerine: "Do we need Literary Texts in Language Classrooms? An Investigation on Students' Perceptions"

Chairperson attends conference at Jahangirnagar

Prof. Firdous Azim, Chairperson, ENH, chaired the session on Gender and Genre at the conference "Locating Latin American Literature: An International Conference," held at Jahangirnagar University on May 24-25, 2009. Students and faculty members from BRAC University also attended the session. This was an international conference, the first of its kind organized by the English Department of Jahangirnagar University.

Seminar on Latin American Literature

On May 26, the Department of English and Humanities hosted a seminar on Latin American Literature. The speakers were Norman Thomas di Giovanni, who gave a talk titled "Reflections on Latin American Literature" and Susan Ashe, who spoke on "Argentina: Women Writers and the Short Story." Di Giovanni is a friend and translator of Jorge Luis Borges and an expert on Argentine literature, and Susan Ashe is a writer and translator of Latin American women's literature. The seminar was well attended by students and faculty members, as well as guests Prof. Niaz Zaman, Dr. Radha Chakravarty, and Mr. Mohiuddin of

University Press Limited.

Lecturer attends workshop on Teaching Bangla to Non-Native Speakers

Tabassum Zaman, Lecturer II, ENH, attended a two-day workshop titled "Teaching Bangla to Non-Native Speakers" held on 27-28 May. She was a participant in the roundtable discussion on "The Experience of the American Classroom and Campus" where she shared her experience of teaching Bangla to non-native speakers as a Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant in the US. The workshop was organized by the Bangla Language Institute at Independent University, Bangladesh.

ENG 115 Visit to Dhaka bookshops

As a part of the course Eng 115: Introduction to English Prose, students visited various book shops of Dhaka on May 30, 2009. The purpose of this visit was to introduce them to the different resources available and to acquaint them with the vast realm of books. The students were accompanied by Ms. Sohana Manzoor, Senior Lecturer, ENH, and Ms. Preanka Zara Hai, Teaching Assistant, ENH. The students visited Words n Pages in Gulshan and various book shops in New Market and Aziz Super Market.

ESS Update

New Faculty Reception by Department:

Four faculty members from several universities of North America, Europe and Australia joined in the Department of ESS at the beginning of summer 2009. On May 28, 2009 a warm reception meeting was organized at ESS Conference Room at 9:30 am. Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed was present in the reception meeting. New faculty members introduced themselves and shared their ideas and few days' experiences at BRACU. Dr. Ahmed welcomed newly joined faculties and urged them to share their experiences of teaching and research with junior faculties.

Newly joined Faculties are,

- Dr. Meher Manjur joined as a visiting faculty in the Department of Economics for summer 2009. He is a faculty of School of Economics and Finance, Curtin University of Technology. At BRACU he is teaching two courses: "Topics in Financial Economics" and "Corporate Finance and Economic Analysis" in the Master of Social Sciences in Applied Economics (MSAE) Program. Dr. Manjur did his PhD from University of Western Australia. His area of specialization is International Money and Finance, Banking, Financial Markets. He is the author of a number of books and publications in referred journals.
- Dr. Zebun Nahar Ahmed, Adjunct Professor of Department of Sociology, Duquesne University, US joined in the Department of ESS, BRACU as a visiting faculty for summer 2009. He is teaching the course "Gender and Development" to undergraduate students. Dr. Ahmed did PhD in Administrative and Policy Studies from University of Pittsburgh, US.
- Dr. Minhaz Mahmud, joined BRACU as Associate Professor in the Department of Economics and Social Sciences. He was a faculty member in the Queen's University, Belfast, UK. Dr. Mahmud's area of specialization is Behavioural Economics, Health Economics and Environmental Economics. Dr. Mahmud did his PhD in Economics from University of Gothenburg, Sweden.
- Dr. Farzana Munshi, joined as Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics and Social Sciences. After completing post graduation in Economics from the University of Dhaka, she did PhD in Economics from University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Previously she taught in the Queen's University, Belfast, UK.

Workshop on "Mental Health and Counseling"

On May 23, 2009, the counseling team of BRAC University has conducted a workshop for the students of residential semester titled "Mental health and counseling". It was supervised by Mahbuba Naznin Sani, Lecturer and Senior Counselor, ESS. The workshop focused on three key issues as, physical health, mental health, the importance of mental health and need for counseling. Emphasis was put on the mental health of students and how they can search out professional help if they need.

A total of 223 students of residential semester participated in the workshop. Workshop method was fully participatory. Presentation, group work, assessment session, psychological game and group discussion were organized for the students. Students asked different questions on mental health and counseling help. They shared their psychological problems with the facilitator and sought solutions. Students learned the ways to cope with new environments and the ways to ventilate their negative experiences by sharing with others.

Seminar Participation by ESS Faculties

Dr. Manjur Karim, Associate Professor, ESS was a speaker in a seminar on "Information Disclosure by World Bank" held on May 20, 2009. The seminar was organized by Voice- a National NGO. On May 09, 2009, Dr. Karim gave lecture in a year long workshop on Karl Marx organized by 'Banglar Pathshala', a voluntary organization.

IGS Update

Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI), a training and research wing of the BRAC University's Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), aiming to develop and promote investigative journalism in Bangladesh through world-class training and research, was launched on 7th May 2009. The Minister for Information and Cultural Affairs Mr. Abul Kalam Azad was present at the event as chief guest. About 150 people including eminent journalists, media personalities, NGO leaders, members from civil society were present there. Vice Chancellor of BRAC University Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Mr. Matiur Rahman, Editor, The Daily Prothom Alo IGS Director Barrister Manzoor Hasan and USAID Mission Director Denise Rollins had delivered their speeches in the occasion. The first batch of broadcast journalists trained on the techniques of investigative reporting at JATRI received their certificates at the occasion.

A three-day workshop on 'Parliament and the Media' was held at the Westin Hotel, Dhaka, from 12 May to 14 May 2009. The Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) organized the program with support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and World Bank Institute (WBI). A total of 35 participants including parliamentary Journalists, staff from JATRI, IGS and World Bank took part in the workshop. Mr. Chris Cobb, the Vice-President of the Commonwealth Journalists' Association and a member of the Canadian Parliamentary Press Gallery conducted all the training sessions. Mr. Manzoor Hasan, Director of IGS inaugurated the program and handed out the Course Completion Certificate in the closing session. Hon Speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid, Mr. Abdul Matin Khasru MP and Mr. Abdul Mannan (former MP) were also present as guest speakers. Mr. Rick Stapenhurst, the Team Leader of Parliamentary Cluster Team and Mr. Hassan Shahriar, International President, Commonwealth Journalists' Association also spoke at the closing ceremony.

IGS organized four workshops on Reform Prioritization at Bangladesh China Friendship Center started from 23 May 2009. These workshops were a follow-up from a nationwide consultation where a wide range of issues were identified by a cross-section of society. The issues have been clustered under four thematic areas: (i) Institutions of Accountability, (ii) Constitution and Politics, (iii) Administrative Reforms, and (iv) Citizens' Rights. Members of Parliament, politicians, members of civil society and sector specialists participated in these workshops. The aim of the workshops was to generate focused and objective discussion on these crucial governance issues to identify a possible roadmap for implementation.

A discussion on Media Coverage on Politics and Politicians was arranged at IGS on 11 May 2009. Mr. Chris Cobb, Vice-President of the Commonwealth Journalists Association and member of the Canadian Parliamentary Press Gallery, was the guest speaker. Staff from IGS and BRAC University participated in the discussion.

IGS and BRAC Development Institute jointly organizing a lecture on "Values, Vision, Proposals and Networks: Using Ideas in Leadership for Human Development The Approach of Mahbub ul Haq" at BRAC University on 21 May 2009. Dr. Des Gasper, Associate Professor of Public Policy Management at Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, delivered the lecture.

The Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) organized a two-week training course on Good Governance and Sustainable Water Management for the officials from Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB). The residential training course was held in BRAC Center for Development Management (BCDM) from 9 to 21 May 2009. Twenty young professionals from BWDB participated in the course. The training course ended with a certificate awarding ceremony at BRAC Inn on 21 May 2009 where Vice Chancellor of BRAC University Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Additional Director General (Planning) of BWDB Mr. Wafi Md. Quamrul Huda, Chief Planning of BWDB Mr. Md. Saidur Rahman, and Director of IGS Mr. Manzoor Hasan were present.

Mr. Manzoor Hasan, Director of the Institute visited Kuwait from 16 May to 19 May 2009 in order to provide

technical assistance to the Kuwait government regarding their assessment on the compliance and gap analysis on the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). During this period he provided methodological support from the experience of the Institute during such an assessment done by the government of Bangladesh and the Institute of Governance Studies jointly in 2007-2008.

JPGSPH Update

Academic Programs

Mph Program

Courses

The course "Quantitative Research Methods" (MPH 520) took place on May 17-28. The course was taught by Kazi Mizanur Rahman, and assisted by Dr. Enamul Hasib. The course "Biostatistics" (MPH 521(2)) is scheduled for May 31-June 4. M.A. Hafez and Tanvir Hasan will be teaching this course.

Field Visit

During the two-week course 'Quantitative Research Methods' of the MPH Program, students participated in field studies. The first week the students learned research methodology and in the following week the students carried out group surveys in Kaliakoir village.

Health And Development Seminar Series

David Bergman, a Senior Executive of Bangladesh Worker Safety Programme Centre for Corporate Accountability, was invited to give a talk during the Health and Development Seminar Series. Mr. Bergman presented a slideshow titled "Occupational Safety and Health in Bangladesh: Challenges for the Future". The event took place at TARC Savar on May 14 and was attended by the MPH students and faculty.

Short Courses

The James P Grant School of Public Health is offering a seven-week course on Executive Certificate in Public Health Management (ECPHM): An Innovative Capacity Development Program for Health Professionals in the Public Sector under the Continuing Education Programme. The course is scheduled for May 3 - June 18. An inaugural session was held on May 2 at BRAC Centre with the Chief Guest being Dr Syed Modasser Ali, Adviser to the Honourable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The course will be attended by UNHFPO, Department Civil Surgeon and MO, and government officials working at Upazilla level. It is conducted by Dr. Anwar Islam, Director of JPGSPH, and funded by AusAID.

Events

Seminar on Swine Flu: Global & Local Perspectives

A seminar titled "Swine Flu: Global & Local Perspectives" was jointly organized by JPGSPH and ICDDR,B on May 21, 2009 at Sasakawa Auditorium, ICDDR,B. The seminar highlighted the areas of concerns, preparations, and effective strategies to combat any possible outbreak of swine flu in Bangladesh.

Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, the Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University was the Chief Guest, and Dr. Anwar Islam, Professor & Director, James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), chaired the seminar. Dr. Steve Luby, Head of Programs on Infectious Disease & Vaccine Sciences Division from ICDDR, B and JPGSPH faculty member, spoke of the global perspectives on swine flu. Dr. Be-Nazir Ahmed, Associate Professor & Principal Scientific Officer, Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control & Research (IEDCR), focused on the Bangladesh situation in case of a swine flu outbreak. And Dr. Selina Khatun, National Consultant (Training & Risk Communication), WHO Bangladesh spoke on the role of WHO in combating any potential swine flu pandemic.

The seminar ended with the conclusion that although this is not the time to take aggressive measures, a critical perspective on this public health issue must be adopted to prevent any potential risks. Dr. Anwar Islam, in his closing speech stated, 'There are two things we can take back home from this seminar: one there's no need to panic and two we can always protect ourselves by taking measures like not smoking and washing hands.'

JPGSPH meets the Honourable Vice President of Uganda

The Honorable Vice President of Uganda, Dr. Gilbert Balibaseka Bukenya, had a meeting with Dr. Anwar Islam, Director of James P Grant School of Public Health, at Savar campus on May 9, 2009. During the meeting, Dr. Bukenya explained the essence of public health in eliminating poverty and disease. Dr. Islam was accompanied by Dr. Farah Mahjabeen, Coordinator of Continuing Education Programme, and Dr. Enamul Hasib, a Research Associate at the School. The MPH students also attended the meeting.

CENTRES AND RESEARCH INITIATIVES

CENTRE FOR GENDER, SEXUALITY AND HIV/AIDS - A UNAIDS COLLABORATION CENTRE

Workshop on Gender, Sexuality and Rights

The Center for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS at JPGSPH organized a 4-day workshop on "Gender, Sexuality and Rights" on May 9-12, 2009 at BRAC Centre in Dhaka. This workshop was funded by Realising Rights (DFID funded) and International Women's Health Coalition, New York.

Among the participants were academics and researchers from public and private universities from around Bangladesh, NGO professionals working in sexual and reproductive health and rights, students, rights activists, and representatives from groups belonging to non-normative sexualities.

Pramada Menon, founder of CREA (Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action) based in Delhi, served as the trainer of the workshop. Sessions on local-level research on sexuality, sexual rights, and sexual health were also facilitated by Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Associate Professor of JPGSPH and Coordinator of Realising Rights in Bangladesh; Dr. Dina Siddiqi, Visiting Scholar at the Centre for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, New York University; Ms. Mahrukh Mohiuddin, Lecturer/Senior Research Associate of JPGSPH and coordinator of the training program; Mr. Hasan Ashraf, Lecturer, Anthropology Department, Jahangirnagar University; and Mr. Adnan Hossain, a Phd candidate at the University of Hull, UK.

The objectives of the workshop were to clearly define the concepts of gender, sexuality, and sexual rights, and to create contact and forge relationships among various professionals, activists, and academics in order to integrate their training from the workshop into their personal and professional lives. Another aim was to advocate tolerance, development, and activism on issues related to gender, sexuality, and sexual rights, in addition to promoting further social awareness. It was also an opportunity to expand on gender and sexuality issues introduced in previous activities and workshops organized by JPGSPH since 2007, as well as to discuss and disseminate recent progress in research.

GFATM project -913

A Partner's Coordination Committee (PCC) meeting was organized by GFATM on HIV/AIDS prevention project. The event took place on May 5, 2009 at JPGSPH conference room. The meeting focused on the next project planning that includes strengths, weaknesses, and actions for improvement of the project as directed by Head of the Project/Consortium - 913 Professor Dr. Anwar Islam, Associate Dean and Director, JPGSPH, BU.

ACADEMIC STUDY GROUPS

ASG seminar for this month was held on May 31, 2009 in the JPGSPH conference room. The guest speaker was Sadia Chowdhury, Senior Research Officer ICDDR,B., who is currently studying Medical Anthropology in Amsterdam University, Netherlands. She gave a lecture on the use of Atlas ti (basics) in Qualitative research. The seminar was supervised by Dr. Nasima Selim and organized by Eram Cooper and Owasim Akram.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

TATA Institute Interns Presented a Slideshow of Their Internship Experience at BRAC and in Bangladesh. Dr. Tapash Ghosh and Dr. Hemang Shah, interns from TATA Institute (India), presented their internship experience in the form of a short slideshow. The presentation encapsulated their time spent visiting and assessing government facilities and BRAC health centres in Mymensingh and other regions of Bangladesh. Overall, based on their experiences, the Dr. Ghosh and Dr. Shah concluded that BRAC has been implementing the perfect model of using women as 'change agents' and providing 'accessible, relevant, and adaptable' health facilities and treatments.

FACULTY NEWS

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Dr. Shahaduz Zaman, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Centre for Qualitative Inquiry, has taken a three-year leave to work at New Castle University, UK. He has been appointed in the Institute of Health and Society of Newcastle University, UK. He will be working as a Coordinator of a particular work package of a multi-country research project that will explore various social, cultural and political dimensions of Non-Communicable diseases in four Mediterranean countries including Turkey, Syria, Tunisia and Palestine. He will also be teaching qualitative methods and medical anthropology at the School of Medicine at Newcastle University.

Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid and Ms. Shahanoor Akter Chowdhury attended Cross RPC meeting on 'Strengthening the Research to Policy and Practice Interface: Exploring Strategies Used by Research Organizations Working on Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV & AIDS'. The meeting was held at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Liverpool, UK during May 18-19, 2009. The participants at the meeting discussed experiences, exchanged best practices, and reflected on what has worked well or not in efforts to engage policy makers and practitioners in research on SRH and HIV.

During the workshop, Dr. Sabina presented a paper on Sexuality and Rights by Realising Rights team in Bangladesh. Ms. Shahanoor worked as a Rapporteur of the workshop and was involved in production of the workshop report.

Nasima Selim attended a lecture organized by the Dept. of Women and Gender studies on "Gender Inequality: Neglected dimensions, Hidden Facets and New Alliances" by Professor Bina Agarwal, Dept. of Economics, University of Delhi, India on May 27, 2009.

Nasima's article "An Extraordinary Truth: The Adam Suicide Notes from Bangladesh" has been accepted by the peer-reviewed Journal of Mental Health, Religion & Culture.

Nasima Selim conducted a training session on "Focused Ethnographic Study" for a research team from PIDVS, ICDDR,B on May 26, 2009 at JPGSPH small conference room

Nasima Selim, Shafiun Nahin Shimul and Taufique Joarder began teaching the Research Method course, ARC 522, for the Dept. of Architecture, summer semester, 2009.

NEW FACULTY

Tisa Muhaddes has joined JPGSPH under the Realizing Rights Project as the Communications Specialist. She has a BA in Communications Arts from Marymount Manhattan College, New York. Her prior work experiences encompass publishing, entertainment, media, and teaching areas.

Priyanka Silmi joined JPGSPH as part-time Research Support Staff in April 2009. She is currently studying at North South University in Marketing and International Business. Her responsibilities involve communications and research.

INTERN JOINING JPGSPH

Mandy Slutsker, a Global Health Service Fellow, has joined JPGSPH as an intern from George Washington University School of Public Health, USA. She will be assisting the department in various different projects and assignments. She will be interning with JPGSPH for a period of three months during the summer of 2009. Prior to coming to Dhaka, Mandy spent three years at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, USA.

MNS Update

INASP Steering Committee Meeting

The Meeting of the Programme for Enhancement of Research Information (Phase II) Steering Committee(SC) of International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) was held during 11-14 May 2009 in the BRAC Centre Inn in Mohakhali, Dhaka. Thirty two delegates from twenty one

countries of Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe in addition to local delegates participated. The local participants included librarians, IT officers and staff, scientists, teachers and researchers from different universities and R&D organizations of the country.

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the meeting at the invitation of the INASP and acted as Chairman of the Organizing Committee. Professor Dr. M Shamsheer Ali, President of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences inaugurated the meeting. Ms. Sara Gwynn, Director of Programmes of INASP and Mr. Mahfuz Anam, Editor, the Daily Star were present as special guests on the occasion while Professor Choudhury acted as the moderator. The Steering Committee of the INASP meets once a year. This year the meeting reviewed the progress and constraints in different member countries, and also deliberated on the issues like the needs of the users of INASP facilities, training needs, effective proposal writing, monitoring and evaluation of INASP projects etc. Mr. Mustak Ibn Ayub and Ms. Adeeba Raihan of the Department of MNS acted as volunteers for the different sessions of the meeting.

New Faculty Joining the Department

Dr. Mezbahur Rahman joined the Department as a Professor in Statistics. He joined BRACU on May 14, 2009. Professor Rahman is on sabbatical leave from Minnesota State University, USA. Professor Rahman got his Ph.D in Applied Statistics from University of California, Riverside, USA in 1995. He has over forty publications in reputed international journals. He reviewed numerous articles for several journals. He is an editor for the International Journal of Statistical Science. He is a Dhaka University Alumni of 1986.

Ph. D Viva-Voce Examination, Rajshahi University

Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad attended the viva-voce examination on the Ph.D thesis of Md. Sajidur Rahman, Research Fellow, at the Department of Applied Physics & Electronic Engineering, University of Rajshahi on May 16, 2009. The Academic Council of the University of Rajshahi appointed Professor Ahmad a member of the Board of Examiners for examining the thesis entitled "Monitoring and Analysis of Hydro-environmental Condition in the North-Western Part of Bangladesh and Development of a Satellite Based Aridity Assessment Algorithm". In the Ph.D work the functioning of a coupling of multi-type data like remote sensing data, geophysical data, climatic data & other ancillary information related with the geo-environment of Barind Tract & adjacent flood alluvial plains were studied and analyzed.

The research work was carried out under the joint supervision of a Professor Mumnunul Keramat of the Department of Applied Physics & Electronic Engineering, RU and Dr. Hafizur Rahman, Principal Scientific Officer, SPARSO. Dr. Bimalendu B. Bhattacharya of S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences (Department of Science & Technology, Government of India) came from Kolkata, West Bengal, India as another examiner. The candidate successfully defended his thesis.

INASP Author AID Workshop on Research Writing Skills

The INASP organized the Author AID Research Writing Skills Workshop during 17-21 May 2009 in the BRAC Centre Inn, Mohakhali, Dhaka. Thirty five young scientists, teachers and researchers from universities and R & D organizations from all over Bangladesh participated in the workshop. Professor Dr. Barbara Gastel of Texas A & M University, USA and Prof. Dr. Naiyyum Choudhury were the facilitators. The young scientists were taught on how to develop & prepare manuscripts and project proposals, to select which journal to publish in and in general, how to enhance writing skills. Editors of three local journals also spoke on the journals' requirement for considering a paper for publication. The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. M Shamsheer Ali, President of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences.

Participation in a Videoconference

Dr Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, joined in a multi-country two-hour videoconference discussion connecting the World Bank Headquarters at Washington DC, USA with the South Asian countries that is, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka on "South Asia Regional Collaboration in Nanotechnology for Development" on May 21, 2009 at BRACU videoconferencing room. The multi-country videoconference is part of a series of Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) dialogues organized by the World Bank with an aim to initiate and enrich the dialogues among the various stakeholders as well as bring forward actionable steps towards progress on a diverse range of issues of regional cooperation in South Asia. Professor Tissa Vitarana, Minister for Science and Technology, Sri Lanka delivered the opening remarks, touching on the main challenges and issues for countries in South Asia to develop and collaborate on nanotechnology research. Two keynote papers were presented by Dr. Esther Chang (President, American Society for Nanomedicine and Professor of Oncology

and Otolaryngology, Georgetown University, USA) and Ms. Nadia Afrin (Development Gateway Foundation).

RS Update

Semester Orientation

May 16, 2009 was the day when the new RS students came face to face with real life of TARC in an impressive number of 110 boys and 127 girls. On May 17 an orientation was held at Markuli Hall. The first session was facilitated by Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC of BRACU, where all the staff and teachers of Savar Campus introduced themselves to the students. In the second session Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury, CS of Savar campus, discussed the hybrid of education and fun at TARC. The base of the program included the introduction of teachers of three basic courses of RS (Bangladesh studies, Ethics and culture, English) and short briefings about main courses. The program was received with massive enthusiasm and teamwork as students were divided into groups to introduce new campus norms which they would follow in the on-going semester which entertained the audience with new ideas and dramas. And thus the program ended with experiences at TARC shared by two students of previous RS semester.

Workshop on mental health and counseling

The students of Summer 2009 semester at TARC had the fantastic opportunity to participate in a workshop on Mental Health and Counseling on the 23rd May, 2009 conducted by the Counseling Team of the campus. A grand total of 237 students took part in this workshop where they learnt and also participated in sharing their personal experiences. As the workshop was based non-judgmentally and on confidentiality, it encouraged extensive active participation. The workshop included presentation, group work, assessment session, psychological game for concentration and group cohesion in the workshop.

Food and nutrition

A seminar on "Food and Nutrition" was held on May 20, 2009 at Markuli Hall. The seminar was conducted by Sunida Witayakarn, lecturer, Center for Languages, BRACU. It focused on the effects and the importance of nutrition in our daily life. It made the students aware of proper growth, maintenance of health and prevention of diseases.

Good health

A seminar on "Good health" was held on May 21, 2009 at markuli Hall at 9 am. The seminar was instructed by Md. Harun, founder and president of Bangladesh Yoga association. The seminar included a demonstration of few steps in Yoga where the students also participated. The seminar mainly focused on the benefits of practicing Yoga. It left an effective impact on the students present there.

Football Competition

The inter-dorm Football competition was held on May 29, 2009 at Savar Campus. Chhayaneer Dorm won 5-1 by defeating Dhanshiri Dorm. This was the first football match of RS Summer-2009.

Seminar on Critical Thinking

A day long workshop on "Critical Thinking" was held at OB 01 on May 30, 2009. The students were divided into four small groups (six sub-groups for every session) so that they could share their own thinking pattern very exclusively. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Farid Ahmed, Chairman of the Department of Philosophy, Jahangirnagar University. Mr. Biplab Kumar Halder and Mr. Ahammad Ullah, Lecturer of the course 'Ethics and Culture', BRACU worked jointly as co-facilitator. The workshop included the importance of "Critical Thinking" as well as "Emotional Intelligence". Some tips and tricks were shared by the facilitators to be a good critical thinker by criticizing one's own thinking and by nurturing one's "Emotional Intelligence" or EQ rather than IQ. The workshop was successfully ended with students' evaluation.

Career Services Update

Job Placement Report, May 2009:

Sl. Name Organization

1. Nourin Islam PRAN RFL Group
2. Ridwana- E- Rejina Transcom Ltd.
3. Md. Arifur Rahman FRAME
4. Md. Ikhtiar Hasan Khan Modern Erection

5. Mishkatul Fatema Cell Bazar
6. Zadid Chowdhury Mitshubishi
7. Ehtashamul Haque Unilever
8. Salma Sultana BRAC Bank Ltd.
9. Md. Imran Hossain Phoenix Investment
10. Md. Maksudul Hasan Aarong.
11. Sahebul Karim Korea Telecom Corporation
12. Md. Monjurul Islam BRAC

"The Interview" Spring 2009

"The interview" was organized by Career Services on May, 06, 2009 at BRAC Centre Inn, Auditorium. This session was participated by thirteen well reputed organizations from different sectors namely Standard Chartered Bank, Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corporation, BRAC Bank Ltd, Trust Bank Ltd, City Bank Ltd, BRAC, Paxar Bangladesh, Citycell, Grameenphone Ltd, Techvalley, Therap Bd. Ltd, Aarong and Square Group. The interview was inaugurated by Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University. A number of 250 interviews took place at the event. Every organization had to fill-up an evaluation form provided by CSO. The feedback received from the employers reflected the quality of our students. A good number of students got internship offers through this session.

Grameenphone Interview

On May 17, 2009 Grameenphone has conducted 12 interviews at BRACU campus for the students who missed to face interview at the Mock Interview Session on May 06, 2009 due to time constraints.

On-Campus Interview

CSO is continuously maintaining good corporate relationship with various organizations including some of the renowned recruitment firms in order to promote BRAC University graduates. Recently Peoplescape, recruiting agency working for Unilever Bangladesh has conducted an on-campus written test and interview of our recent graduates for future job prospects at Unilever. A number of 30 students have faced the written test and interview on May 12, 2009.

Student Affairs

Trip to Bandarban by BIZ BEE

On 8th May 2009 BIZ BEE started a journey to explore Bandarban with 21 members and Ms. Sunida from CFL and Mr. Anup Chowdhury from BBS. The tour was designed for 2 days. The team has traveled around most of the beautiful places in Bandarban; which includes, The Water fall, Neelgiri, Neelachal, Chimbuk, Golden Temple and so on. BIZ BEE has also visited the PHP Glass factory, Ship Yard and Patenga in Chittagong. On 11th May 2009 the team came back with bunches of new experiences successfully. There had been a brief presentation in front of the BBS faculty board later on; about the journey which was conducted by the president Atiq Been Rahim and the Vice President Asif Ul Haque.

Global affairs Forum of BRAC University

With great enthusiasm and passion the oath taking event "Bodle Jao, Bodle Dao" took place in BRAC University on 1st June, Monday, 2009 in BRAC University cafeteria. Prothom-alo in collaboration with Global affairs Forum of BRAC University, an active student run organization of BRAC University arranged the event. Hundreds of students and teachers attended the program with great interest.

Both the students and teachers wrote their oaths in the banner. In total seventeen banners were filled up by the oaths written by teachers and students. Many students of the university wrote that they will not hurt their parents anymore. Many wrote that they will not take drugs. Jui, a student of BRAC Business School wrote that she will never disobey her parents. Students also gave nice feedback about the campaign. They said, the slogan of the campaign is quite confusing to them. They preferred the slogan as "Bodle Jai, Bodle Dei" rather than the current one.

At ten o'clock in the morning, Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, the honorable Vice Chancellor of BRAC University inaugurated the oath taking event in BRAC University cafeteria. He said that we have to bring welfare in society as well as in country through good works. To do so, at first we have to give up our small bad habits. He promised that he will do whatever it is required to do for the wellbeing of information

technology. In the event, the advisor and co-advisor of Global Affairs Forum, Professor Manjur karim and Professor Shahidur Rahman respectively were present. Professor Zainub F. Ali, the director of the student affairs of BRAC University was also attended the program.

Celebration SAUFEST 4

BRAC University Cultural Club (BUCuC) feels very proud and honored to have performed at the honor of The Indian High Commission in Bangladesh, on 28th May, 2009 at The BRAC Inn Auditorium. This event was organized as a follow through, for BRAC University Cultural Club's exceptional performance at the SAUFEST 4, in February, 2009 at Punjab University, Chandigarh. A five member team of BRAC University had participated in this event and was awarded as the "Best team" and the "Best Vocalist" (won by Nazia). The evening was an eventful arrangement, with the BUCuC team members performing a song each. The cultural program ended with a dance performance by members of BUCuC. The entire event was organized and facilitated by volunteers and members of BUCuC, who had worked very hard to make this event a success.

At the end of the cultural event, all attending members and guests were invited by the Vice Chancellor for dinner. The evening ended with a hearty seven course meal and a warm and friendly conversation over dinner.

GDLN Update

GDLN Videoconference discussion held at BRAC University

A two and Half hour, multi-country "Global Dialogue workshop on Service Delivery & Electronic Identification (eID): How National ID Cards and Other eID Applications can Improve Service Delivery and Governance" on May 7, 2009 " was held at BRAC University on May 7, 2009. Participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Moldova, Mozambique, Uganda, and Grenada/OECS were connected through a program organized in collaboration with GDLN (Global Development Learning Network) and the World Bank.

The intent of this training workshop to learn how electronic identification (eID) cards and other secure identification technologies are being used to improve governance and service delivery in areas such as social benefits and health. The session began at 6:00pm with a presentation from the World Bank HQ in Washington by Deepak Bhatia, e-Government Applications Practice Leader (CITPO), the World Bank. The seminar was present case studies from Pakistan, Belgium, Estonia, and other countries. Discussions focused on the implementation considerations for eID cards and lessons learned to date. For instance, critical success factors are often neglected and overemphasis is put on hardware and software. Among others, Mr. Md. Nazmul Huda Khan, ndc, Secretary, Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology, Brig Gen Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury, Project Director, NPD, PERP Project Election Commission Secretariat, representatives from World Bank Dhaka Office, representatives from Bangladesh Computer Council and other Private sectors took part in the discussion.

High-Level South Asia Regional GDLN Dialogue on South Asia Regional Collaboration in Nanotechnology for Development

A multi-country two-hour videoconference discussion was held on Thursday, May 21, 2009 (Bangladesh time 6.30 pm to 8:30 pm) connecting through World Bank Headquarters, Washington DC with the GDLN VC Centers in Colombo, Delhi, Dhaka, and Islamabad .

Nanotechnology demands an unprecedented collaborative and integrated approach to science and technology. This can only be achieved through a high degree of regional collaboration to leverage the knowledge and technology needed for such products as slow-release drugs, for those in remote areas; inexpensive, maintenance free solar panels, for powering rural clinics and refrigerating medicine; nano-capsules for herbicide delivery; and nano-sensors for water treatment.

This South Asia Regional GDLN session had been organized by Manju Haththotuwa, Sara Al Rowais, Anil Srivastava, and Juan Blazquez Ancinto. The session brought together key policy makers in the region to share their experiences in nanotechnology in addressing the key constraints to development in South Asia, and defines the areas, level of engagement and the potential benefits of a South Asia Regional Collaboration in Nanotechnology. The presentation was followed by a cross-country discussion, moderated by Mr. Ejaz Ghani Economic Adviser, South Asia PREM, World Bank, while the whole session was coordinated by Mr. Juan Blazquez, GDLN South Asia.

The discussion focused on i) the countries' Research initiatives and development activity in nanotechnology and ii) common set of challenges faced by the region in competing with the growth of nanotechnology in the developed as well as the rest of the developing world, and iii) discussing the opportunities for joint research and collaboration in nanotechnology across the region. Discussant from the participating countries volleyed questions to the presenter and sometimes came up with answers themselves. Among others, Prof Al-Nakib Chowdhury, Dept of Chemistry, BUET, Dhaka, Md Abul Basher representatives from World Bank Dhaka Office, and teacher, Researchers and students of BRAC University took part in the discussion.

e-Learning course on "APO Energy Auditing 2009 Phase 1"

This course was organized By Asian Productivity Organization (APO) in collaboration with National Productivity Organization (NPO) Bangladesh and the Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) of the World Bank platform from 25th May to 28th May 2009 at BRAC University Video Conference Centre.

The intent of "APO Energy Auditing 2009 Phase 1" was to train the participants in the concept, principles, and fundamental elements of energy auditing including how to carry out energy audits in industries and buildings. This course was enable participants to develop energy auditing skills with inputs on energy management and is prepare them for receiving in-depth advanced training on energy auditing. The main faculty comprising two resource speakers delivered presentations from India and Japan. There were 25 Participants in Bangladesh Site.

The Countries connected by Video Conference were Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Thailand, Vietnam, and Mongolia.