

2011/january

BRACU Board of Trustees meeting held



The first meeting of the Board of Trustees, BRAC University (BRACU) was held at the conference room of the university on January 26, 2011. Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG, Chairperson, BRAC and Board of Trustees, BRACU chaired the meeting.

Trustees Board Members Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor, BRACU Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-VC, BRACU, Mr. Faruq Ahmed Choudhury, Advisor, BRAC, Professor Dilara Chowdhury, Former Professor, Department of Government and Politics, Jahangir Nagar University, Ms. Rasheda K. Chowdhury, Executive Director, Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), Ms. Tamara Hasan Abed, Director, Aarong, AAF, BDFP, Mr. Sukendra Kumar Sarkar, Treasurer, BRACU and Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Registrar, BRACU were present in the meeting.

Visit of Vice Chancellor of South Asian University



Professor G.K. Chadda, Vice Chancellor of South Asian University (SAU), Delhi, along with Professor Saxena of the same University called on Professor Ainun Nishat, VC, BRAC University and met the senior faculty of the University on 3 February 2011. Professor Ainun Nishat welcomed the honoured guests and explained to them the present position and future plan of BRAC University. Professor Chadda gave a presentation covering the vision, mission, current activities and future plans for the SAU. He hoped that SAU and BRACU will be able to explore areas of mutual cooperation and will benefit from each others' resources. Professor

Nishat reciprocated the feelings and hoped that the two Universities work out specific areas where mutually beneficial academic programmes could be chalked out.

AIT President visited BRACU

Professor Said Iradnoust, President of Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand visited BRACU University on 16 January 2011. Professor Iradnoust called on the Vice Chancellor and met senior faculty members. They discussed possible areas of cooperation, exchange of faculty and students, as well as drawing up collaborative academic programme that would benefit both the Universities.

BRACU holds orientation for freshers

BRAC University Spring 2011 semester orientation was held At BRAC Centre on the 9th of January 2011. The orientation programme started with the BRACU anthem sung by the students.

Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor, BRACU devoted his speech to all the parents and students who joined BRACU and ensured a bright future for the students. His speech erased any doubt, if there was any, from the parents' minds whether BRACU was the right place for their children or not. He also mentioned about the highly experienced faculties with their enormous support for the students. The speech of Pro-Vice Chancellor, Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, and Registrar, Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury highlighted mostly on the code of conducts and strict disciplines of BRACU.

BRAC is renowned for its discipline and any misconduct is not tolerated. Pro Vice Chancellor said, "Zero tolerance is strictly followed in BRACU and we make sure any sort of disrespectful activities does not happen." The orientation program was addressed by a BRACU Alumni, Mr. Imran Sattar. He shared his unforgettable journey in BRACU and how BRACU helped him to make his job life much easier.



Another session of the two -day orientations was held on Monday in its Savar campus, where the orientation was for the students hosted by the students of BRACU. A warm and inspiring speech from Professor Mumit Khan, Chairperson, CSE Department helped students to know more about BRACU rules and regulation and Stawb Peter Halder hosted the program. The whole day program was to present the students all the places, academic activities of BRACU and make them familiar with it. The presentation included Academic Systems and Rules, Advising and registration process, necessary information about BRACU, different clubs and forums i.e. co curricular activities and lastly a funny presentation of the freshers. The second day of orientation ended with a vibrant performance from the students -dancing and singing. It was a fitting end to quite a memorable experience for the new students.

Architecture Updates

Faisal Bhuiyan received a certificate of award of Rafiq Azam Travel Bursary for Architecture

The Committee for The Rafiq Azam Travel Bursary for Architecture (RATBA) selected the candidate for the Bursary, the interview was held on August 31, 2010. Five candidates were selected for the interviews. Faisal Bhuiyan (ID 07208009) won the Travel Bursary for 2010. Faisal traveled Malaysia for two weeks and offered a thoughtful presentation to the students in the ANGAN Lecture Series, based on his visit in Malaysia. Faisal received a certificate of award from Architect Rafiq Azam, Principal, Shatatto: Architecture for Green Living. Professor Fuad H Mallick also present in the occasion.

Khondaker Hasibul Kabir's garden landscape has chosen for exhibition



Senior Lecturer Khondaker Hasibul Kabir's garden landscape "Ashar Macha" (Platform of Hope) at Karail, Dhaka has been a part of a travelling exhibition "[re] designing nature, Current Concepts for Shaping Nature in Art and Landscape Architecture". The exhibition started on 25th November, 2010 and will continue for two years travelling to Vienna, Berlin, London and other large cities of Europe. Works of contemporary landscape architects and artists have been selected where landscaping has been used as a tool for ecological protections for the urban peripheral communities. The garden has been and is continuously in participation with the inhabitants of the community, Kabir and the students. The exhibition is supplemented with photographs, write up and an 8 minute documentary directed and produced by the young film maker Quamrul Hasan.

Student-faculty jointly participated an international symposium

Risal Ahmed, a graduate of the Department of Architecture and Tahmina Rahman, Research Assistant of Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management presented papers at the "Technical Design for Community Adapted Affordable Housing" an international expert symposium on affordable climate- resilient housing design for southwest Bangladesh held during 24 -26th January, 2011 at Agargaon, Dhaka. Risal's presentation was on the community participation based on the project "Climate Change/ Disaster Resilient Habitat" on Padmapukur cluster village, a cyclone Aila affected area at Shyamnagar, Shatkhira. This is being implemented by the Department of Architecture, BRAC University and BRAC. Tahmina's presentation was on behalf of Practical Action study team on the findings of the social aspects of disaster affected communities at Shatkhira and Morrelganj that are cyclone Sidr and Aila affected areas.

New faculty

Architect A.K.M. Sirajuddin joined BRACU as senior lecturer on January 09, 2011. He has completed Master

in Human Settlements with distinction from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KULeuven), Belgium with VLIR (Flemish Interuniversity Council) Scholarship. His research work titled "(Re) Claiming a Water City: Visions for Dhaka." Mr Sirajuddin graduated from BUET and later, attended an advance post graduation course on Architecture, Energy and Environment at Lund University, Sweden with a fellowship from SIDA. He taught in Khulna University and afterward served as faculty in Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology and North South University. Mr. Sirajuddin also has worked as architect consultant. He, in a group of three architects, won the first prize in the competition held for "National Independence Monument (Shadhinota Stambha)" at Suhrawardi Uddyan, Dhaka.

New junior lecturer

Tanjina Khan joined as junior lecturer on 2nd January, 2011. For the last two years she has been working as a teaching assistant in the Department of Architecture. She completed her Bachelor of Architecture from BRAC University in 2008. She has received the Australian Government's scholarship 'Endeavour Award' for her masters' course. She is leaving Bangladesh her masters on 'Sustainable design' in the Department of Architecture in 'The University of Sydney' on 9th February, 2011.

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 from September, 15, 2010 to December 15, 2010.

SI	Student ID	Name	Name of the Firm
1	02108002	Tasneem Imam	Architect Naim Ahmed Kibria Studio-5/12, Block-F Lalmatia, Dhaka-1207
2	05108020	Nur-E Dipa Shamima Muttaqi,	Chlodagh Smith AECOM Australia Pty Ltd. 3 Forrest Place, Perth WA 6000 GPO Box B59, Perth WA 6849 Australia
3	06108015	Tamanna Ahmed	Bashirul Haq & Associates Ltd. 35B/2 Indira Road Dhaka-1215
4	06108017	Sadat Hamid	Architect Jalal Ahmed JA Architects Gr. Floor, House-78/1, Road 7A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka
5	06208001	Lamia Wejeehah Hossain	Architect Khurshid Sarwar Puraloy Prokaushali Ltd. 5/1 Block E, Lalmatia Dhaka, Bangladesh
6	06208006	Arijita Areen Chowdhury	Ajit Koujalgi INTACH, 62 rue Aurobindo Pondicherry 605001 India
7	06308002	Shekhar Adittay Sayeed	Architect Muhammad Foyez Ullah Volume Zero House-98, Road-25, Block-A Banani, Dhaka
8	06308004	Anindita Biswas	Ajit Koujalgi INTACH, 62 rue Aurobindo Pondicherry 605001 India
9	06308010	Ahmed Bin Parvez	Architect Muhammad Foyez Ullah Volume Zero House-98, Road-25, Block-A Banani, Dhaka
10	06308014	Shifat Mahmud	Architect B K S Inan CAD Ltd House no-CWN (B)18/B Road-44, Gulshan-02, Dhaka
11	07108001	Adiba Mahroze Hoque	Architect Khushnu Panthaki Hoof VASTU SHILPA Consultants

			"Sangath", Thaltej Road, Ahmedabad - 380058, Gujrat, India
12	07108006	Tanzir Taher Chowdury	Robert Stephens RMA architects pvt. ltd. 4, Express Building, 9, Dinanath Mangeshkar Marg, Tardeo, Mumbai - 400 036 India
13	07108007	Syeda Tamara Zafar	Architect Khan Md. Mustapha Khaled Vistaara Architects (Pvt.) Ltd. Apt. D1, SE(H)6, Road 143 Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212
14	07108008	Adnan Ferdous Haque	Architect Khan Md. Mustapha Khaled Vistaara Architects (Pvt.) Ltd. Apt. D1, SE(H)6, Road 143 Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212
15	07108009	Sabiha Ambareen Haque	Architect Nurur Rahman Khan Tanya Karim N.R. Khan & Associates House# 24, Road # 9A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209
16	07108010	Tanzil Idmam Shafique	Architect Mustafa Ameen Domus Safura Tower, 20 Kamal Ataturk Avenue Banani, Dhaka.
17	07108016	Shaoki Shamim	Architect Khushnu Panthaki Hoof VASTU SHILPA Consultants "Sangath", Thaltej Road, Ahmedabad - 380058, Gujrat, India
18	07108018	Mahmuda Alam	Jaisim - Fountainhead 1 75/1 Pavillion Road Jayanagar East 1st Block Bangalore 560011 India
19	07108019	Shabnam Mustafa	Sheril Castelino C & M Architects, Auroville, Tamil Nadu, India
20	07108023	Raiyan Ul Momin	Architect Nahas Khalil Arc Architectural Consultant House 60/A, Road 7A Dhanmondi, Dhaka
21	07108024	Ateshin Rukhsa	Chitra Vishwanath Architects Biome Environmental Solutions Pvt Ltd, No. 1022, 1st Floor, 6th Block H.M.T. Layout, Vidyanarayapura, Bangalore - 560 097. India
22	07108026	Nuzhat Sharmin	Architect Nurur Rahman Khan Tanya Karim N.R. Khan & Associates House# 24, Road # 9A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209
23	07108027	Sanjana Ahmed	Architect Mustafa Ameen Domus Safura Tower, 20 Kamal Ataturk Avenue Banani, Dhaka.

BBS Updates

Orientation Session for the Students of Executive MBA Program



An orientation session for the students who joined the Executive MBA program of BRAC University in the Spring semester of the current academic year was held at the BBS conference room on the evening of January 12th, 2011. The program started with an ice breaking exercise through which the participants of the program introduced each other. This was followed by a welcome speech by the honorable Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, who is also the present head of the business school. The various aspects of the Executive MBA program were then discussed by the program coordinator, Mr.

Shawkat Kamal. The program concluded with a highly interactive discussion session which involved the participants and the faculty members present.

Presentation on "Targeting the Ultra Poor" at BRAC Business School

A presentation was held at BRAC Business School on January 20, 2011 on the topic "Targeting the Ultra Poor". The presentation was conducted by Ms. Rabeya Yasmin, Director, Ultra Poor Program BRAC. The presentation was organized as an effort by business school to familiarize the faculty members with the diverse dimensions of poverty reduction program BRAC undertakes to serve the poorest of the poor. Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor BRAC University, Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro- Vice Chancellor, BRAC University and all the faculty members of BRAC Business School were present in the occasion.

Ms. Yasmin, in her presentation highlighted on

- Basic definition of Ultra Poor
- The objective of the Program
- The program description
- The achievements

Most people recognize that within the ranks of the poor are those at the very bottom who are significantly more resource constrained and who are faced with far severe problems in meeting basic needs. Variously labeled as "The poorest", "The extreme Poor" and "The ultra Poor" they have far limited resource endowment and more restricted livelihood options. Since January 2002, BRAC has started a programme for the extreme poor called "Challenging the Frontiers of Poverty Reduction, Targeting the Ultra Poor", in short CFPR-TUP, which is a careful combination of protection, prevention and promotional approaches to address the agenda of ultra poverty reduction in Bangladesh. During the presentation, Ms. Yasmin shared how this program has changed the lives of many. By the end of each program the participants gain confidence, gain sustainable livelihood and graduate out of the rank of ultra poor. The presentation was followed by a participative discussion.

Presentation on Bangladesh Capital market at BRAC Business School

Mr. Mamun Rashid, Citigroup Country Officer was invited to lead a discussion on the Bangladesh Capital Market in 3rd BBS meeting of 2011. He made a short presentation on the topic and later on facilitated a discussion on it.

Mr. Mamun started his discussion with the potentials of different sectors in Bangladesh. He also stated the capacity constraint in different sectors. The agriculture and the export/import are the main driver of our economy. But, we are staying at the bottom line of the export market due to lack of expertise in this sector. Mr. Mamun mentioned that, the capital market has become one of most vibrant sectors of the economy in last decade though it has little impact on the GDP as it is not a real sector. At present, our capital market is suffering from acute intelligence deficiency syndrome. He stated that capital market of Bangladesh is run mostly by the retail investors, who have almost no knowledge about the stock market. Thus, there are scopes for manipulation and that actually happens. The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has only 445 listed companies with a huge market capital of \$52 billion. And 25% companies of this overheated market are Z-category shares. Mr. Mamun said that though CDBL came up with the goal of reducing the information asymmetry, it could not stop the market manipulation. He also told that the current market PE is much higher than that of other countries. Lastly he urged that unless we take adequate measures to nurture and nourish the market it will be quite difficult to overcome the shortcomings of capital market.

The presentation was followed by a question-answering session. Mr. Anup Chowdhury added that more than 90% of the profit of the financial institutions in last year came from investment in stock market and the rest 10% of the profit was from real sector. He asked that if the contribution of real sector remains in this level will there be any impact on the GDP of our country? Besides, considering the sluggish stock market, Mr. Intisar asked what should be the investment decision for the novice investors now. At the end, the Pro-VC Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir handed over some gifts to the distinguished guest on behalf of BBS.

BRAC Business School Contingent Attends Inertia Marketing Summit

The Management Department of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, India organized an international summit headlined "Inertia" in the college's Park Street Campus. The two day mega event spread over the 28th and 29th of January 2011, and attended by teacher -student contingents from colleges and universities in India, Singapore and Bangladesh. The BRAC Business School team was the only contingent from Bangladesh representing a Bangladeshi university. The student team members consisted of Ratul Dev, Hiroq Dev Roy, Sabbir Hossain Chowdhury and Tunvir Islam Faysal. All the students were in their senior year at the BRAC Business School. The students participated in two events: a case study presentation and a crisis management exercise. They were lauded by the audience for their admirable delivery and enthusiasm. Mr. Shamim Ehsanul Haque, a lecturer from the school was also part of the BRAC Business School team. He formed part of the two executive discussion panels which consisted of many noted business luminaries and academic stalwarts of Marketing from various well-known business names and institutes of India. Mr. Haque delivered two talks on the two topics that were discussed by the executive panels: "Tracking the Trends in Marketing in the 21st Century", and "Towards Cutting Edge Marketing Organizations-Strategies for Global Competitiveness." The talks had been well received by the large audience and a very lively discussion ensued.

Over the two days this mega event attracted almost 2000 students and professionals with a vested interest in Marketing, and the summit generated much publicity- there was very good press and electronic media coverage. The summit organizers presented the BRAC University speaker and the student team with special crests to mark the occasion.

Advanced Research Methodology Course for the Faculty of BBS

BRAC University is organizing a special course on Advanced Research Methodology for the faculty of BBS. Professor Syed Shahadat Hossain of Dhaka University has been assigned to facilitate the course. Dr. Hossain has been a Professor of Applied Statistics in the University of Dhaka since April 2004. He is also working as an adjunct faculty of the PML (Bangladesh campus for MBA programme of Royal Roads University BC, Canada), DCLE (Study centre of London School of Economics in Bangladesh) and the Department of Population Sciences, University of Dhaka.

A total of 21 BBS faculty are attending the classes on every Tuesday for three hours. This course has been specially designed for the faculties of BBS to enhance their research skill and to prepare them to conduct management research on different areas. It is expected that at the end of the course all of the faculty (in a group of three) will come out with a research proposal which they can carry forward later. The University is also thinking to develop a follow up mechanism for ensuring quality research by the faculty, once the training is over.

BDI Updates

Mobilizing at the Grassroots

This will be the fourth research brief from the citizenship team at BDI. While the earlier three issues dealt with members of grassroots organizations' understanding of the 'shorkar', of 'citizenship and rights' and how they make their demand for rights heard, this issue looks at the various strategies grassroots organizations adopt to mobilize people, the kind of space it creates for people at the grassroots level and how outcomes differ on the basis of their mobilization strategies.

Post- Nagorik Adhikar Mela NGO Dialogue

A month after the Nagorik Adhikar Mela was held in January 2010, a dialogue with the mela organizers/ participants was held to review the experience of organizing the mela, the mela itself and explore on the one hand the future of the mela and on the other, the future of this loose network created between the rights based organizations during the mela. This brief will mainly deal with the outcome of this dialogue.

'Devaluation of Daughters Revisited: Change or Continuity'

Initial framework and structure of the paper from the 'Devaluation of Daughters Revisited: Change or

Continuity' research is being prepared. Over the past few months, the regression analysis of the quantitative data was being carried out and the sixty odd qualitative interviews were transcribed and translated. The authors are currently structuring what the paper will look like and what each of the authors will be working on.

Launching of MDMP Program

BRAC Development Institute (BDI) at BRAC University launched a Masters in Development Management and Practice (MDMP) program for the first time in Bangladesh. The program is a member of the Global Network of Masters in Development Practice Program, based at the Earth Institute at Columbia University in New York, supported by the MacArthur Foundation. MDMP is targeted at academics, researchers and management staff in the development sector, both in government and non-governmental organizations. Professor Syed M. Hashemi inaugurated the opening session of the program on 9th January 2011.

Program Manager from Columbia University visits BDI

Andre Correa d'Almeida, Program Manager at the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University visited BRAC Development Institute on 19th January 2011. During his visit he held several meetings with the director and senior members of BDI. He also had an interactive session with BDI masters students. The aim of his visit was to discuss various issues related to the Masters in Development Management and Practice (MDMP) program.

Baseline Surveys in Urban Slums

The Urban Poverty research cell at BDI has conducted both quantitative and qualitative baseline surveys at two more intervention sites - Pashchim Mission Road Railway Colony at Tongi and Balurmath Slum at Dinajpur.

The process documentation for these interventions is taking place at Tongi and Dinajpur through participatory observations, FGDs, beneficiary interviews, stakeholder interviews, and discussions with related government and non-governmental organizations. Process documentation in the rest of the three districts - Khulna, Rajshahi and Mymensingh- will commence shortly.

In Mymensingh, CDC form and CAP has been done

In terms of physical and architectural mapping, two architects have already begun work and the architectural map of Duldul Camp Slum in Mymensingh has been completed. Work is currently being undertaken in Tongi and within March 2011, the physical mapping in five intervention slums will be completed.

Stories 4 Change Manuscript Finalization

The draft manuscript for a book developed through the Stories 4 Change project has been compiled over the past month. Shameem Azad, the Project Leader is liaising closely with the publishers in order to publish the book by next month. Details of the contract with the publisher of the book, Mowla Brothers have also been finalized. The book launch is scheduled for March 2011.

Finalizing Bangla Research Booklet Publication

A large amount of time this month was spent getting six Bangla research publications ready for printing. These booklets cover a range of themes- a) women in local government; b) changes in donor funding policies and their impact on women's rights organisations, c) women health workers, d) changes in the discourses of different actors on women's empowerment, e) the debate between Nazrul and Rabindranath on the usage of the word 'khun', and f) Pahari media. The design, credits and other technical details of the production have been finalized, and the books are expected to be published by mid-February, 2011.

Commencement of Field Research for "Women in the 'Right'?" Research

Teachers: Conceptions of CLT and their Classroom Practices".

Faculty attends BELTA Conference in Rajshahi

A national ELT conference was organized from 7-8th Jan, 2011 by BELTA and University of Rajshahi titled 'Sustaining Innovation in English Language Education'. Mr. Aminul Islam, Lecturer, CfL, conducted a workshop at the conference titled 'Visualizing Language in the Class.' The workshop aimed to demonstrate different techniques and executive procedures that can be applied in a regular English class by teachers to utilize students' language knowledge and communicative behavior within their class time.

ENH updates

Seminar on Tagore



Dr. Sugata Bose, the Gardiner Professor of Oceanic History and Affairs at Harvard University, USA gave a talk entitled "The Idea of Asia in Tagore" on the 19th of January 2011. In his paper, Bose talked about Rabindranath's voyages to various Asian countries such as China, Japan, Indonesia, Iran and Burma. According to him, Tagore wanted to see universalism in individual identity of these countries. He imagined Asia as a border free united continent with each of the countries having its own individual culture, art, and literature. Prof. Bose's lecture encompassed art, music and literature related to Tagore's works. He mentioned poems and songs of Tagore which are seeped with the elements of universalism.

Dwelling in Possibility: A Seminar on the Art of Creative Writing

Tarfia Faizullah, a Fulbright fellow began her series of creative writing workshops with BRAC University students on the 25th of January 2011. In three consecutive sessions she asked the students to read and discuss poems, short stories, and non-fiction with an eye toward writing their own. They also participated in in-class writing exercises, and learning to collaborate with each other. By the end of the Spring 2011 semester, these workshops will help Ms. Faizullah to put together a creative writing journal.

Any student who is interested to participate in these workshops are requested to contact Rukhsana Rahim Chowdhury, Sr. Lecturer and Mushira Habib, Teaching Assistant of ENH.

On 27th January, the Department of English, Stamford University Bangladesh, held a daylong conference on **Language and Literature Teaching: Exploring Opportunities and Facing the Challenges** at its Shiddheshwari campus. A paper titled "The RJ Style: Brought to you by Bangladeshi FM Radio" was presented by Sabreena Ahmed and Farhana Zamil. This joint paper was a part of Zamil's M.A. thesis, supervised by Sabreena Ahmed at ENH. Mushira Habib, Teaching Assistant, ENH presented her paper titled

"Black Desires, White Beauties" at the same conference. Her paper was on Frantz Fanon's fear -desire dichotomy working in the relationships between black men and white women. Her paper looked at V.S. Naipaul's A Bend in the River and David Dabydeen's The Intended.

ESS Updates

Seminars/Workshop/Conferences attended by ESS Faculty

Two papers by Dr Farzana Munshi, Assistant Professor, ESS, were published in international journals titled, "Globalization and Occupational wage Gap in Developing Countries: 1983-2003", The Bangladesh Development Studies, Volume XXXIII December 2010 No.4. and "Capital Mobility and Tax Competition: Empirical Evidence from South Asia" International Review of Business Research papers, Volume 6, December 2010 No.6.

Hydory Akbar Ahmed, Lecturer of ESS has attended a Curriculum Review Workshop organized by the Institute of Governance Studies, BRAC University at Savar BCDM, held on 14-15 January 2011. The workshop was designed to review the existing curriculum and delivery mechanism of MA in Governance and Development program offered to the Bureaucrats of Bangladesh. Dr. Gowhar Rizvi, Advisor to the PM was present in this workshop.

IGS Update

Third PPSC meeting held

IGS provided technical assistance to the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of the Government of Bangladesh in holding the third of the Public-Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC) meetings. The meeting was held on 06 January, 2010 at the NEC Conference Room 02 of the Planning Commission Campus in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Air Vice Marshall (Retd.) A K Khandker, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Planning, and Chairperson of the Public-Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC) chaired the meeting. 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. It consists of representatives from academia, business community, think-tanks and civil society organisations 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.

Two Days Curriculum Review Workshop

IGS organised a Curriculum Review Workshop from 21-22 January, 2011 at the BRAC Centre for Development and Management, in Savar, Dhaka. Alumni from three batches of the MA in Governance and Development (MAGD) participated at the workshop. Among others Dr. Gowher Rizvi, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Dr Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor of BRACU, Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-VC of BRACU, Dr. Salah Uddin Ahmad, Ex-Pro-VC of BRACU, Barrister Manzoor Hasan, Director of IGS, Donald Curtis, Evaluator of MAGD were present at the workshop. The workshop was coordinated and facilitated by Dr. Rizwan Khair, Academic Coordinator of IGS.

Training on 'Engaging with Citizens for Improving Service Delivery'

The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability (ANSA-SAR) of IGS in partnership with the Bangladesh Civil Services (Tax) Training Academy organized a day-long workshop on Engaging with Citizens for Improving Service Delivery on 18 January, 2011 at the BCS (Income Tax) Training Academy, Dhaka. Forty Assistant Income Tax Commissioners participated in the workshop. The workshop was structured around learning and sharing theme and explored cutting edge insights on strategies, approaches and methodologies that inform and influence social accountability discourses and practices

Round table on 'Use of ICT to enhance information transparency and accountability for the poor: Prospects & Challenges'

ANSA-SAR in partnership with Development Research Network, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the World Bank Institute, hosted a round table discussion on Use of ICT to enhance information transparency and accountability for the poor : Prospects & Challenges on 31 January, 2011 at the BRAC Centre Inn. Participants from different civil society organisations, business organisation and media were present to discuss the current status, challenges and future prospects of using ICT in implementing Right to Information Act in Bangladesh.

ANSA SAR provides technical assistance to the Asia Foundation-Sri Lanka

The Chief Operating Officer of ANSA-SAR, Dr. Gopa Kumar K Thampi designed and moderated a session on Social Accountability and Political Economic Review - The Local Governance Project- The Asia Foundation-Sri Lanka from 23-30 January, 2011 to assess the nature of challenges and key issues to achieve the social accountability strategic objectives in the context of an overall political and economic analysis. The session was mainly focused on a road map for introducing social accountability mechanism and tools to partners and stakeholders, enhancing their capabilities for implementing and institutionalising social accountability mechanisms and leading practices at local, sub national and national level.

Presentation on Right to Information: Legacies, Profiles and Challenges

Dr. Gopa Kumar K Thampi, COO of ANSA SAR made a presentation on Right to Information: Legacies, Profiles, and Challenges on 15 January 2011 for 250 students at the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Center (BPATC). The presentation was the first module of the foundation course and gave the regional and international context of RTI.

JATRI training program on 'Investigative Reporting for Broadcast Journalism'

Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) of IGS organised a training programme on Investigative Reporting for Broadcast Journalism from 09-13 January, 2011 at the JATRI Training Room in Karwan Bazar Dhaka. The objective of the training was to enhance the knowledge of the participants about investigative reporting for broadcast media in Bangladesh. This five-day training covered the theoretical and practical sides of broadcast journalism. The training also focused on the ethics and standards of investigative journalism with a purpose to motivate the participants to practice the ethics in reporting. Apart from the staff training members of JATRI, Sanaullah Lavlo, Head of News & Program, ABC Radio and Mir Masrur Zaman, Joint News Editor, Channel i conducted various sessions of the training as Resource persons. There was a total of twenty one participants from different print and broadcast media houses in the training program.

Public lecture on Media Education

JATRI organised a public lecture on Media Education: Bangladesh Perspective on 12 January, 2011 at JATRI Conference Room. Journalists from different print and electronic media attended in the discussion. Mr. Khaled Muhiuddin, Editor of Media Watch and weekly magazine Saptihik Kagoj delivered the lecture as guest speaker. At the outset of the programme chief of JATRI Jamil Ahmed welcomed all of the guests and briefly spoke about JATRI and its activities. Broadcast Journalism and Deputy Director of Bangladesh Betar Mr. Faroha Surawardy, Media Component Manager of DAI Mr. Zahid Hossain, Assistant Editor of The Daily Amardesh Mr. Ayed Hossain and Senior Journalist Mr. Chinmoy Mudsuddhi attended as discussants in the programme. The presentation of the guest speaker was followed by a lively question and answer session.

JATRI's Public lecture on Gender and Media

JATRI organised a public lecture on Gender and Media: Bangladesh Perspective on 23 January, 2011 at the JATRI Conference Room. Journalists from different print and electronic media attended the discussion. Mr. Robaet Ferdous, Associate Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of the University of Dhaka, delivered the lecture as guest speaker. In his speech Mr. Ferdous pointed out that the media are

portraying the stereotyped image of women and presenting them as weak, passive, dependent and sex objects. The root cause of the representation is the patriarchal mindset of the people working in the senior positions of the media. Among others Fahmida Rahman, reporter of Desh TV, Mostafizur Rahman Shahin from Gonosakhrota Ovijan, Faisal Mahmud from the daily Independent, Nadira Kiron from Channel i, Rita Bhowmic from Jaijaidin, Jahanara Ferdous from ABC Radio, Tanjila Nijhum from the daily Kaler Kantha, Dunia Khandakar from CARE Bangladesh, Sima Moslem from Bangladesh Mohila Parishad participated in the lectures

JATRI's Public lecture on Journalism in Bangladesh

A public lecture on Journalism in Bangladesh: Past, Present and Way forward was held at the JATRI conference room on 27 January, 2011. Renowned journalist and editor of the Bangla daily Kaler Kantha Abed Khan delivered the lecture. Journalists from different print and electronic media attended in this discussion. Former managing director of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) and Advisor to the JATRI Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury also spoke in this discussion. The sessions were moderated by Jamil Ahmed chief of JATRI.

MNS Updates

Launching Ceremony of the National Strategy for Developing Chemical Metrology Infrastructure of Bangladesh

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the Launching Ceremony of the National Strategy for Developing Chemical Metrology Infrastructure of Bangladesh(2009-2021) organized by the Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (BCSIR) held at the Press Club on 12 January 2011. Architect Yeafesh Osman, State-Minister, Ministry of Science & ICT, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest and Professor Dr. SM Imamul Huq, Chairman, Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research was the Chairperson on the occasion. The keynote paper was presented by Dr. Mala Khan, Project Director, Instrumentation & Calibration Service Laboratory, BCSIR. Professor Dr. M Mosihuzzaman, former Chairman, BCSIR and Professor Naiyyum Choudhury were the main discussants. The speakers emphasized the need for valid, acceptable and reliable measurement for sustainable industrialization, protection of consumers' rights and protection of safety of human beings as well as plants, animals and environment. Chemical measurements for certification underpinning the trade in this era of fierce competition under the WTO trade regime are indeed essential tools to overcome the major barriers due to WTO Agreements TBT and SPS. It was pointed out during discussion that thousands of Bangladeshi laboratories are conducting chemical measurements not having system of demonstration whether the test results from these laboratories are acceptable, reliable, valid, traceable and the internationally recognized quality or not and it is not possible to attain the reliability, acceptability, validity, comparability and traceability in chemical measurements without setting up technically competent chemical calibration system in the country as well as without practising the science of chemical measurement via establishing a national infrastructure for chemical metrology. The ceremony was attended by a good number of scientists, members of the civil society and news media.

Workshop on National Biotechnology Policy-2010

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Dr. Aparna Islam and Md. Riajul Hossain of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) participated in the Stakeholders' Workshop on National Biotechnology Policy-2010 organized by the Ministry of Science and ICT and the National Institute of Biotechnology (NIB) held at the Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka on 19 January 2011. The inauguration session and technical sessions were chaired by Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Mr. Md Abdur Rod Haolador, Secretary, MOSICT was the Chief Guest at the inaugural ceremony. Dr. Saidul Islam, Director General of the National Institute of Biotechnology(NIB) presented the keynote paper outlining the revised National Biotechnology Policy-2010 and mentioned that the revised draft had most of the features of the original draft National Biotechnology Policy-2005 formulated by a Committee with Professor Naiyyum Choudhury as its Convener. The revised draft contains some additional features in the light of recent developments in different areas of biotechnology and genetic engineering. Scientists and researchers from different public and private academic and research organizations including scientists from the NARS institutes took part in discussion in

the technical session and presented their views and suggestion for modification on the Policy Draft-2010. Over 35 participants expressed their opinions in the three-hour long technical session. Dr Aparna Islam gave her views regarding some modifications in the policy document. The session was rounded up by Professor Naiyyum Choudhury outlining a brief summary of the comments raised by the participants and he requested the DG, NIB to incorporate the comments as far as possible in the revised document.

Students of Biotechnology Program Participate in the Students' Outreach Program at the University of Dhaka



A two-day-long celebration, on the completion of a decade was organized by the Department of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, DU. Honorable Minister Matia Chowdhury, Ministry of Agriculture, GoB was present as the Chief Guest at the inauguration ceremony held at the Senate Bhaban, DU on 29 January 2011. The function was graced by the presence of eminent scientists and academics of Bangladesh, present and former students of the department. Four students from the biotechnology undergraduate program at BRACU, Mr. Iftekhar Mahmud Chowdhury, Ms. Sreoshee Rafiq, Ms. Iffah Chowdhury and Ms. Maisha Mosharrat Chowdhury along with four faculty members, Dr. Aparna Islam, Ms. Jebunessa Chowdhury, Mr. Md. Riajul Hossain and Ms. Farzana Ahmed attended the function.

On the second day a student outreach program was organized. Four students from the biotechnology undergraduate program participated in that session. Professor A A M S Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor, DU and Professor Harun-Or-Rashid, Pro-Vice Chancellor, DU were present as Chief Guests while the Dean of Biological Sciences Professor Shahid Akhter Hussain was present as the Special Guest. Students from twelve different colleges were invited in the event to gain knowledge about biotechnology and genetic engineering through the demonstrations of university students. BRAC University presented two posters on two different topics of biotechnology. Ms. Sreoshee Rafiq and Ms. Iffah Chowdhury presented a poster titled "Plant Biotechnology: to Make the World Green and to Ensure Food Security". Mr. Iftekhar Mahmud Chowdhury and Ms. Maisha Mosharrat Chowdhury presented "Industrial Biotechnology: Prospects and Challenges". Both the posters were appreciated by the organizers, eminent scientists and academics; and also sparked interests among the college students. The presenters of the posters received certificates in the program from the Vice Chancellor at the TSC auditorium of the University of Dhaka.

Mr. Md. Riajul Hossain, a faculty of the MNS Department and also former students of the department showed a Powerpoint presentation on biology titled "Biology: An Overview" to the college students and was also in charge of the "Inter college quiz competition" held as a part of the program.

Residential Semester Updates

The Residential semester, Spring 2011

The Residential semester commenced on 14th January, 2011 with 217 BBS, CSE, ECE, EEE, ESS, LAW, ENH, MIC, PHY and ARC students. Among them 91 are female and 126 are male.

Semester Orientation

A daylong orientation program for the newly enrolled students of RS was held at Markuli hall on January 15, 2011. The session was facilitated by Dr. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-VC of BRACU and Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury, Campus Superintendent of Savar Campus, where all the staff and teachers of Savar Campus

introduced themselves to the students. In the second session CS gave a briefing on RS and Savar Campus. Course teachers of three basic courses of RS (Bangladesh Studies, Ethics and English) gave short briefings about their courses. In a session students worked in groups to make some campus norms which they themselves would follow during their stay at Savar Campus.

Seminar on Drug Abuse



A seminar on drug abuse was held on January 20, 2011 at 02:00 pm to 03:00pm. It was moderated by Brother Ronald Drahozal, CSC, director of APON (Ashokti Punarbashan Nibash). He explained how APON is working to provide drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation services and make them readily available and accessible for the drug addicts. One of those persons who got recovery from addiction with the help of APON was present in the seminar to share his experiences. All the students of RS as well as some of the staff and teachers were present in the seminar. The audience got a real picture of drug abusing practices in Bangladesh

through the session.

1st RS Activities at Savar Campus

To push the students up to come up, speak out and flourish his/her hidden talent, RS offers and organizes, like every semester, many different extra curricular activities at Savar Campus. This time eight activities like Quiz competition, Wall Magazine, creative writing, drama, Spelling bee and so on have been fixed so that students can sign up at least one activity along with their regular course studies. Whatever activities the students are involved in, they are communicating in English with each other, working in groups and nourishing their dormant talent. The first RS weekend was held on 22nd January, 2011.

English Week



A week long program on "English Week" was observed from 24 -30 January to reinforce English Practice in the campus. Every day various language games will take place such as Story telling with apple pass, Back to the board, NO YES/NO, Read if You Can, Stop the Bus and Treasure Hunt in order to boost up English speaking. In addition, during the week students will participate in various competitions namely poster campaign, spelling Bee, public speaking, Announcing, cartoon, writing, Drama, Muppet show, talent show and debate.

On top HANG PEOPLE penalty the most interesting activity where each and everybody was watched from nine to nine and hanged if found speaking in Bengali. English Week left a real impact on students and they will feel more at home in while speaking in English in future days.

Workshop on giving feedback: 29th January:Session on Art of Giving Feedback :All faculty members(regular and part-time) attended a workshop on 'Art of Giving Feedback' which was facilitated by Ms.Liza Reshmin and Ms.Farrah Jabeen,lecturers from CfL.The session was very lively and interactive and all the participant got a clear idea on how to give feedback properly from the session. The workshop will definitely help all faculty members to apply the techniques and benefit from them in future.

Grooming and Etiquette: A seminar on 'Grooming and Etiquettes' was held at Savar Campus on 29th January 2011 and facilitated by Kazi Sarmad Karim, Lecturer of CfL. The session was informal in nature and the discussion was mainly focused on three aspects: how students' appropriate appearance, self-esteem and basic mobile phone manners help create a positive learning environment, boost confidence and maintain social etiquettes. Some videos on both European and American styles of dining were also shown to acquaint students with basic dining etiquettes in formal situations. At the end, Mr. Md Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury, the Campus Superintendent, concluded the session by sharing some of his personal anecdotes contrasting the eating habits in Bangladesh and the rest of the world.

School of Law Update

Winter Clothes Drive by Law Club

Between 16 and 27 January 2011, students of the School of Law donated winter clothes and money to the winter clothes drive conducted by the BU Law Club. On 28 January, 07 students of the BU Law Club, accompanied by 2 members of staff, went to Sirajgonj to distribute a large quantity of winter clothes and 52 blankets which had been collected or bought by donations made by the students and faculty members of the School of Law.

The team travelled to the Beribandh area of Sirajgonj, where there was a community of fisher folk, who lived in dire conditions with little shelter and clothing. The homes were made of reeds and sticks - there were no mud walls to protect from the winter chill.

Each family got either one or two blankets (depending on need and number of family members) and clothes were distributed according to age and gender. In total, 48 families were assisted by the Law Club and the students of the School of Law.

The BU Law Club sends its heartfelt thanks to all who donated money and clothes and to the members of the Law Club and the BU staff who helped in the distribution. Those who went to Sirajgonj were : Ishtiaq Ahamed, Anik Hasan Siddiquee, Saddam Hossain, Mrinmoy Ghosh, Shubhroto Ghosh Shuvo, Saquib Rahman from the Law Club, Sarowar Mahbub from the Business School and Abdur Rahman from the School of Law and Rajib Hassan, Lab Tutor, BRAC University.

SECS Updates

IEEE BRACU Student Branch new Executive Body (EB) formation for 2011

The IEEE (Institute of Electronics and Electrical Engineering) is the world's largest professional association for the advancement of technology. IEEE BRACU Student Branch is about to complete its 3rd year of action at BRAC University. Since its inception, IEEE BRACU Student Branch has regularly held technical speeches by eminent figures, technical tours, competitions and award ceremonies, the purpose being to motivate the young engineers of tomorrow into engineering a brighter future and development of the students' leadership skills through organization of events. IEEE BRACU Student Branch was also recognized as and awarded for being the "most vibrant branch" in Bangladesh at the IEEE Region 10 Congress. With the mission and vision of taking the branch further ahead, the new Executive Body for 2011 was formed in January 2011. The new EB members are as follows, Tasneem Rumman Huq (Department of EEE) as the Chair, Jonayet Hossain (Department of EEE) as the Vice-Chair, Mahmudul Hasan Oyon (Department of EEE) as the Secretary and Syedur Rahman Sakir (Department of EEE) as the Treasurer.

CARG Updates: In January, 2010, 2nd International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology, ICEST 2011 has accepted a paper which is titled "Characteristics and Cost Analysis of an Automatic Solar Hot Water System in Bangladesh" which is based on the CARG project "Automatic Solar Hot Water Heater". In this paper, a comparative analysis has been presented for different types of ETSC. Besides that, the characteristic of a solar hot water system is investigated though out a year. The experimental data have been used to determine the optimum operating temperature for the solar hot water system. Alongside, we also have calculated the payback of the system to determine its feasibility. The result shows that, our system can store the heat energy for 24 hours with a negligible 4% temperature drop in the stored hot water, which is perfectly accurate for the development of automatic solar hot water system. In terms of longevity, annual expenditure and maintenance cost, the solar hot water system is more cost effective than ordinary electric water heater (guizer).

Also, CARG saw the joining of Paul Purification "Research Assistant" last month. Paul Purification has been working on "PWM based Pure Sine wave inverter using microcontroller", another CARG's ongoing projects. For further details please, visit: <http://carg.bracu.ac.bd/>

SPH Updates

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

MPH PROGRAM

The 7th batch of MPH students for the year 2011-2012 officially commenced classes at the new CDM Savar campus this month.

CENTRES AND RESEARCH INITIATIVES

FOOD SECURITY NUTRITIONAL SURVEILLANCE PROJECT (FSNSP)

The Food Security Nutritional Surveillance Project (FSNSP) website has been launched to provide nutrition surveillance information such as methodology, data collection etc. The link of the website is <http://www.fsnsnp.net/fsnsnpweb/pages/>

PAY FOR PERFORMANCE (P4P)

P4P is running its second phase - the intervention phase. One of the major activities under the current phase is to check the quality of public MNCH services in intervention areas. The research completed a set of quality assurance visits to four public health facilities (Jamalpur District Hospital, Islampur Upazila Health Complex, Bakhsiganj Upazila Health Complex and Melandha Upazila Health Complex) of Jamalpur district during the period Januaray 7-13, 2011.

GFATM PROJECT - 913

Strategic Framework Development Workshop

A day-long workshop was held at the School on January 25, 2011 under the programme Expanding HIV Prevention in Bangladesh (GFATM-RCC). The aim of the workshop was to develop two strategic frameworks for developing two BCC guidelines for outreach workers - one guideline for sex worker interventions (SWI) and other one for injecting drug user interventions (IDUI). The workshop was supported by Save the Children USA under National

AIDS/STD Programme, MOHFW

A total of 17 participants attended the workshop and provided valuable inputs on the framework developments. The participants included team leaders and technical people of CARE Bangladesh, Padakhep, Durjoy Nari Shangha (DNS), and Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition (BWHC); Program Managers, Deputy Program Managers of Save the Children-USA; Head of the Department of MCH, NIPSOM; and relevant JPGSPH staff members.

At the end of the plenary session two working groups were formed detailing the strategic framework of guidelines. Ms. Ismat Bhuiya, Team Leader and Senior Project Director of JPGSPH, BRAC University chaired the session

Course on HIV/AIDS Related Issues, Management, Monitoring and Evaluation

A 3-week course on HIV/AIDS related issues, management, monitoring and evaluation started on January 24, 2011 at BRAC TARC Uttara, total of 21 (15 males and 6 females) NGO mid-level staff participated in the course representing 20 project districts. The main purpose of the course was to develop skilled human resources for designing and implementing quality HIV/AIDS prevention activities at the field level.

ACADEMIC STUDY GROUPS (ASG)

Global Public Health

The ASG organized a session Global Health on January 26, 2011. This is a part of ASG's latest initiative to develop virtual linkage between the Harvard School of Public Health and JPGSPH on different issues of Global Health.

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Tim Evans, Dean, was the opening speaker at the World Bank Seminar on Microinsurance for Health held on January 12, 2011 at Westin Hotel.

Dr. Tim Evans, Dean, was the keynote speaker at the Emerging Market Symposium on Urban Health at Oxford University -during the period of January 14-16, 2011. He discussed opportunities for international collaborative engagement on research and training for urban health.

Dr. Tim Evans, Dean, presented the keynote speech at Asia University for Women Global Conference held in Dhaka during the period of Jan 19-21, 2011 on the theme of Redirecting Science for Development.

Dr. Tim Evans, Dean, attended the 2nd Global Forum on Human Resources for Health and Prince Mahidol Awards Conference during Jan 25-28, 2011. He moderated the opening plenary session examining progress in Human Resources for Health Action Plan agreed in Kampala in 2008. He also moderated a session on measurement tools for health workforce. Extensive discussions were held related to new partnerships with JPGSPH, new curricular opportunities in public health and health professional education reform.

Dr. Tim Evans, Dean, moderated and summarized BRAC's Manoshi programme dissemination workshop on January 29, 2011. The workshop identified priorities for scaling up maternal and child health services in urban slums.

Dr. Sabina F Rashid, Associate Professor & MPH Coordinator, took a six-month sabbatical under the Fulbright Research Fellowship to the United States. She is expected back in August 2011.

Dr. Farah Mahjabeen Ahmed, Sr Lecturer and Coordinator, Continuing Education Programme visited the Graduate School of International Health Development, Nagasaki University, Japan from January 23-31, 2011 to give lectures and attend board meetings.

Md. Saiful Islam, Research Associate, was honored for his strong commitment and dedicated services in helping the needy students of rural Bangladesh by the Volunteers Association for Bangladesh (VAB), a Non Resident Bangladeshi (NRB) on January 22, 2011.

Tisa Muhaddes, Research & Communication Officer, attended the Brochure Committee meetings on behalf of SPH to design and contribute to the graduation book.

TLC Updates

3rd TLC Workshop on Teaching and Learning at BRACU



3rd TLC four days workshop on Teaching and Learning at BRACU had been held during 03-06 January 2011 at Savar Campus. The workshop was organized by Teaching Learning Center (TLC) and was designed for the newly recruited faculty of BRACU along with several experienced mid-level faculty members. The total participants' number was forty. The facilitators were Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Prof. Fuad H. mallick, Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Mr. Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury, Ms. Farida Akhter, Md. Shawkat Kamal, Md. Golam Jamil and Ms. Samina Anzum. The workshop started with the opening comments of Prof. Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor of BRACU. In his short constructive speech, he welcomed all the participants, shared his own teaching experiences and ideas on the types of students, teaching tips and techniques ,creating learning environment, art of questioning and the students' evaluation system. The workshop was continued with the sessions on Synergy between BRAC and BRACU, BRACU Professional Guidelines (code of conducts), and the Residential Semester of BRACU. The session on Why students behave the way they do provided the insights on students' behavior that would help the faculty develop a more learner centered classroom environment in their teaching at BRACU. The sessions on How to start the First Session, How to prepare a comprehensive course syllabus and microteaching had a very positive impact to the faculty especially to the new instructors who are new to BRACU and in their teaching careers. They could have the opportunity to prepare themselves for a more confident beginning as the effective performer at BRACU. The sessions on the art of questioning and Students grading: The Teacher as an Evaluator of students' performance was two another important sessions led them being more comfortable in grading the students' assignments fairly. Finally the session on Personal Development: Habits of High Performing Teachers could help the instructors explore with the effective habits of teachers. Creating the Social Norms for the workshop at the social gathering evening and organizing the Cultural Evening on 3rd day by the participants added extra values and learning insights to the participants. The workshop was wrapped up by giving certificates to the participants.

4th TLC Workshop on Experiential Teaching Learning with CFT of BRACU on VIPP



4th TLC Workshop on Experiential Teaching Learning with CFT of BRACU on Visualization In participatory Programs (VIPP) was held on 27th January'11 at UB 0223. The workshop started at 1.00p.m. and ended up

at 5.00 p.m. It was designed into two sessions. The beginning session starts with a short discussion on the Roots of Visualization In participatory Programs (VIPP). After that several hands-on group activities, like-how to write idea cards, single dot and multiple dots approach and traffic signs were demonstrated. The group exercises on Hanji Vs Nan-ji and Fish-pond led the workshop more interactive and participatory.

In the Micro-Teaching session the presentation was on Western Drama from ENS department and the presenters were Ms. Rukhsana Rahman and Ms. Asifa Sultana. A number of 14 members of CFT, participated the workshop and facilitators were Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir and Ms. Samina Anzum Chowdhury. The workshop was wrapped up by the closing comments followed by creative and constructive feedbacks by the facilitators and the members of CFT.

CSO Updates

BBA Internship Orientation, Spring 2011

Orientation for Internship program was held on January 05, 2011 at 3:00pm - 4:00pm. Among 60 registered students willing to pursue internship in spring 2011, a number of 36 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.

Orientation Spring 2011 : Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP)



Orientation for Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) was held on January 06, 2011. A number of 90 students attended the orientation Program of 144 registered students of PSDP. Five sections have been opened for PSDP, Spring 2011. Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, In-charge, Career Services Office was the key speaker of the session and she also coordinated the program. Ms. Taslima Hasnat Jaigirder, Manager (Employer Brand & Engagement) Of Grameenphone Limited, Md. Rezaul Kabir, Chief Information Officer of NovoTel Limited, and Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, In-Charge of Career Services Office, will be the resource persons for the program.

PSDP Assessment Fall 2010

The final assessment of Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP), arranged by CSO was held on January 08, 2011. The assessment started from 10:00am and ended at 4:00pm. The assessments were conducted by the following resource persons:

1. Tahmina Zaman Khan, Service Skill Development Manager of Brac Bank Limited
2. Ms. Fabiha Ashekeen Ahmed, Resourcing Manager of Standard Chartered Bank, Mohammad Atiqur Rahman, Asst. Manager (HR & Administration) of Rupayan Group
3. Tanzim Samad Choudhury, Administrative Officer of Save the Children UK
4. Ms. Sharmin Sultan, General Manager, (Resourcing) of Robi Axiata Bangladesh Ltd, BRAC University and Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, In-charge of Career Services Office, BRAC University.

Priyanka Das Kotha , Rafi Uddin Sharik , Suprio Ranjan Nath , Farzana Bint-E-Rafiq , Nazmul Haque bhuiyan participated at the session as volunteers .

The objective of the assessment was to familiarize the students with the real world job interview and to assess the outcome of the program. The students were enthusiast about the program and 120 students

participated from summer 2010 PSDP batch. Grade points and remarks have been given based on the performance of the interviewed students. Upon successful completion of the program students will be provided PSDP certificates.

UNITOUR - BRAC University



Protomalo-jobs organized a seminar in BRAC University jointly with Career Services Office (CSO) of BRAC University on January 18, 2011 about career of 21st century and learning English. This events learning partner was BBC Janala and event sponsor was Robi Axiata.

Mr. Monjurul Alam, Sr. HR manager of Eastern Bank Limited and Mr. Mehraj Hamid, head HR of Apollo Hospital was the guest speaker of this event. One hour special session was conducted by BBC Janala's brand ambassador actor, model and singer Rafiath Rashid Mithila with Md. Haris, sales and distribution BBC world service trust.

At first Sr. HR Manager of EBL Mr. Monjurul alam presented his speech to the students. His speech was about choosing the right goal for life and right objective for career. He advised students about how to select the goal of life and what should be the objective of career. He motivated students to think more specifically to choose the goal and objective.

Secondly Mr. Mehraj Ahmed came to conduct the seminar. He specified about the importance of extra-curricular activities for building successful career. He took himself as an example to show student how extra- curricular activities helped him to improve his career. He said that from his student life he has been involved in various activities besides study.

In last one hour Mithila, Brand ambassador of BBC Janala came to explain why English is important for our daily life and also for students for their career. She also described why and how BBC janala is helping Bangladeshi people to learn English. She showed students how to subscribe for BBC janala. In the concluding part of the event, Md. Hasir and Mithila both arranged a small friendly quiz for the students where they gave small souvenir of BBC Janala for winner student.

Job Update of January 2011

Sahid Md. Shahid - Therap BD

Ishrat kabir - British American Tobacco, Bangladesh

Raisul Islam - British American Tobacco, Bangladesh

Farhan Monzur Khan - Unilever Bangladesh Ltd

Md. Jahidur Rahman- British Petroleum