

ARC Update

Angan travel sketch and Angan lectures

There were three Angan lectures in October. One of them was student Lecture. Two 4th year student of Dept. of Architecture went to United States on the program "Study of the United States Institute of Student Leaders" in the semester Summer 2008. One of them, Ashique-Uz-Zaman went to Green River Community College in Washington and the other one, Suhaily Farzana went to the University of Vermont in Vermont. They made a informative presentation on their experience and learning from there in the Angan Student lecture. The lecture held on 14th October, 2008.

On next Tuesday, October 21, 2008, Department Chair Dr. Fuad H Mallick discussed and shared his experiences in Northern Cyprus in Angan Travel Sketch. He lived and worked there for two years before joining BRAC University.

Last Angan lecture of the month held on 28th October. Ar. Patric D' Rozario, Ar. Selim Altaf Biplob and Ar. Tamanna Sayeed from "Synthesis Architects" presented their Architectural projects in Dhaka and also in some other districts. The lecture was followed by a lively discussion.

Professor Fuad H Mallick attends workshop in Istanbul

A paper titled "Confronting Poverty in the Urban Built Environment" jointly authored by Prof. Fuad Mallick and Yasmin Ara, Lecturer, Department of Architecture was presented by Prof. Mallick at a workshop on, Cities: Understanding Socio-cultural Transformations Workshop held in Istanbul on 15-16th October. The workshop was organised by The Aga Khan University and Istanbul Bigli University.

Student Participation in International Architectural Event

Kafi Newaz Khan student of Department of Architecture, BRAC University attend the Architectural event "ZoNASA" at Jadavpur University, Kolkata. It was a three day event program held on 17th, 18th, 19th of October, 2008 which comprised of events ranged from seminars, design competition, model-making, quizzes, debates, interactive sessions and cultural programs. Teachers and student participants from different countries made the event lively and successful.

BDI Update

Pathways of Women's Empowerment, South Asia Hub

The Pathways programme is nearing the end of its research for many of its themes. The Media Research of the Pathways Programme has almost completed its field research, with only one site remaining. The team was in the field through the month of Ramadan, and has gathered data that promises to yield rich information.

The field research on 'Women's Organizations Building Constituencies' has been completed, and data is being analysed. Sohela Nazneen and Maheen Sultan are writing the preliminary draft of the paper, which will be presented at the Building Constituencies meeting in Cape Town in November.

Sohela Nazneen is also working on how the political parties and NGOs conceptualize empowerment for the 'Conceptualising Empowerment' research. Data collection for this is over and analysis of the data is ongoing.

The field work of the research on Women Health Workers under the theme of Empowering Work was completed in ICDDR,B Matlab and GK, Savar. The data is currently being compiled, analysed and written up.

The Work team had its theme meeting in Delhi during 28-31st October, that was attended by members of the theme from all regions. It was a productive meeting which has given ideas and directions for the next phase of the work.

During 14-18 September, Zarina Rahman and Amena Mohsin visited their partner, Saba Gul Khattak in

Pakistan to share the findings of their work on Women in Local Governance. This was a fruitful meeting where a comparative analysis was done and the common themes coming out of their individual researches were discussed.

Citizenship

During the month of October, 2008, the citizenship team went to Faridpur to present our research findings to the staff and members of ASA. For this we had to prepare a Bengali version of our research findings. We also screened some of our participatory videos during the presentation. The team also conducted a qualitative research with staff and members of Saptagram Nari Swanirvar Parishad, one of the earliest women's organizations of the 70s. We conducted interviews with four SNSP staff members on their organizational goals, culture, programmes, etc and in particular how the organization sustained itself through a crisis in the mid 1990s. Additionally 12 qualitative case studies were done with old and new members of SNSP.

During October, Simeen Mahmud, Lead Researcher of the Citizenship Research team attended a conference in Toronto, Canada on "Learning Democracy by Doing: Alternative Practices in Citizenship Learning and Participatory Democracy" organized by the University of Toronto from October 16 to October 18, 2008. There she was a panel member of the plenary on "Citizenship Learning and Participatory Democracy in the World". At this conference, Simeen Mahmud presented her paper "Building Citizenship from Below: The Bangladesh Experience" in the panel on "Democratic learning in public sphere". There she was also part of the Roundtable on "Bringing together practitioners and researchers: lessons learned from the experiences of three networks". From the October 27 to October 28, 2008, Simeen Mahmud presented her paper "Building Citizenship from Below: The Bangladesh Experience" at the Colloquium on Citizen Participation and Democratic Engagement from October 27th and 28th, at Bristol, UK, organized by the University of West England. She also went to Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at Sussex University where she attended the steering committee meeting of the Development Research Centre (DRC) on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability of which our research is a part. She also attended the workshop of the DRC's Teaching and Learning Group to brainstorm and formulate the curriculum for the course on citizenship and development that is planned on being introduced at MDS, BRAC University.

CfL Update

Teachers' Activities

Paper accepted for Publication

"English Language Teaching Policy in Bangladesh: Shall it be reviewed?" by A.Q.M. Khairul Basher, CfL Lecturer, is to be published in CLIT Journal 2009, University of Wales, Bangor, UK.

CfL Lecturer on Study Leave in China and Scotland

CfL Lecturer Golam Jamil is pursuing the M.Litt in English Language Teaching, an international exchange programme offered by the University of St. Andrews, Scotland in collaboration with Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU), China, at the National Research Centre for Foreign Language Education, BFSU. He is now at Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU), China to study Applied Linguistics, partake in a number of ongoing research projects and also to experience teaching to young learners. Following this, he will attend the University of St. Andrews, Scotland in February to undergo the remaining courses and the dissertation. He is expected to return at the Centre for Languages (CfL), BRAC University in September, 2009.

CfL Faculty Member Attended International Conference in Japan

Kazi Sarmad Karim, CfL Faculty Member, appointed as the Team Leader for the Bangladeshi delegation for the 6th Asian Youth Forum (AYF6 2008), attended a 1-week international youth conference (October 28 - November 5, 2008) together with other participants from across Asia for academic seminars, intercultural workshops, social events and interpersonal exchanges using English-as-a-global-language. The event brings together university students from 15 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, such as Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Pakistan and Russia. The AYF will be a part of a Pan-Asian Conference (PAC 7) hosted by Japan Association for Language Teaching (JALT NPO). The Asian Youth Forum (AYF) is an international exchange program founded in Japan.

New CfL English Language Fellow

Lisa Ponzetti joined BRAC University, Centre for Languages, in September 2008. An American by birth, she

has been working and living overseas since 1997, after she received her M.A. in Applied Linguistics from Ohio University. Although her undergraduate degree is in International Business, she found education to be more interesting and rewarding. She has taught in Mongolia, the U.S., Kazakhstan, and Turkey, primarily at the university level. She also has worked with USAID, kindergarten students, and in teacher training. Lisa is thrilled to be in Bangladesh now. In addition to BRAC University, Lisa will be working at the BRAC Centre with the PACE Program.

New CfL Chinese Teacher

Lu Min, selected as a volunteer Chinese language teacher by Chinese government, joined CfL on November 2, 2008 as an instructor. He received his Bachelor Degree in English Teaching and Master Degree in English Literature from Hebei University, China. Being a professional, Lu Min had worked as an English Teacher at Chengde Diyi Senior Middle School in China for fourteen years. Before coming to Bangladesh, He was the Director for Managing Students' Study in the same school. He expects to be with BRACU for one year.

Students' Activities

First CfL Weekend at Savar Campus - Activities and Seminars

The first CfL Weekend was held on October 18, 2008 for the students residing that Savar Campus. The students enjoyed several activities such as funky necklace making, glass/lampshade/tray painting, debate, photography, cooking, sketching, food carving and quiz competition. More importantly, the students were able to explore the authentic use of English in each activity as well.

Sunida Witayakarn, a Thai CfL instructor, conducted a Nutrition Talk focusing on the Importance of Healthy Food for Young Adults, Sources of Nutrition with the touch on Eating Habits and Eating Disorders (mainly Anorexia and Bulimia). The aim of the Talk was to show the importance of necessary nutrition in students, improve better eating habit and increase the awareness of eating disorders.

Sadra N. Siddiky, a CfL instructor, facilitated the seminar on Community Living. The focus was on Challenge of Dorm Life, Facebook Etiquette: Student-Teacher Relationship on FB, Classroom Behaviour and Elevator Etiquette. This interactive session was designed to help the students be aware of their surroundings and learn how to conduct themselves in a social context.

Career Services Update

On-campus career workshop with JobStreet.Com

On Thursday, October 27th, 2008, Job Street.Com has conducted an hour long workshop jointly with Career Services. The session was conducted by Mr. Aslam Parvez, Business Manager of jobstreet.com. The title of the workshop was "Are you ready to get hired?" The workshop was held in AH104 room from 2-3pm with 25 students. During the workshop Mr. Parvez has discussed covered a range of topics and issues related to career, like cv writing tips and techniques, interview tips and techniques, job search process, current job market trend and so on. Mr. Parvez discussed in details each of the topics. He has given some job hunting tips like: right attitude, preparing all documents, getting prepared for interview, attending interview, try to retain in the job etc. He has given some useful tips also, like in case of cv writing don't be humble, using action/power words, don't copy others resume, setting one's skill, listing accomplishments, researching companies where one is going to apply, customizing cv and maintaining accuracy. There were also guidelines for job hunting process like: head hunting, cold calling, repairing self etc. Overall the workshop was useful and full of information for the students waiting to get into their career.

Job Placements Update:

SI Name Organization

- 1 Md. Jillul Hoque KDS Accessories
- 2 Md. Golam Mostafa BRAC Bank Ltd.
- 3 Tanvir Hasan Khan Media8
- 4 Sajid Rahman Gemcom
- 5 Shoily Shamonti Spinnovation Ltd.
- 6 Sanjoy Deb BRAC Bank Ltd.
- 7 Istiak Ahmad Khan BRAC Bank Ltd.
- 8 Parna Saha Tuli Equity Partners Ltd.

ENH Update

Guest lectures on Editing for ENG 401

Two guest speakers visited the ENG 401: Editing course in October. On 12th October, Mr. Modhon Shahu, Assistant Editor, The Daily Star, gave a guest lecture on editing and related matters. And on 28th Oct, Md. Asiuzzaman, Acting Chairperson of Department of Journalism and Media Studies, University of Liberal Arts, showed a documentary film on editing and journalism titled "Getting the Story." The documentary was followed by a discussion and question answer session with the students. The guest lectures were coordinated by the course teacher, Ms. Roohi Huda.

ESS Update

Participation in Seminars and Forums

A K Iftekharul Haque, Lecturer, ESS attended the South Asian Civil Society Forum on 'Responding to Food Insecurity in South Asia' in Kathmandu, Nepal on 23-24 October 2008. In this two days long program Mr. Haque shared the findings of his study titled 'Food Inflation and Public Distribution System: A Closer Look at the Food Security of the Marginalized'. The paper has been co-authored with Professor Atiur Rahman of University of Dhaka. Mr. Haque also facilitated a discussion of a thematic group on 'Procurement, distribution and viability of the proposed SAARC food bank' and participated in preparing the 'CSO Agenda' for the Meeting of the Agriculture Ministers of the SAARC Member States to be held in November, 2008 in India. The event was organized by South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal, Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS)-International, India, and Oxfam (Novib), The Netherlands.

Mahbuba Naznin Sani, Lecturer and Counselor, has completed the fourth session of 'Certified Transactional Analysis Course in Counseling' held on 17-27 October, 2008 at Dhaka Club, Dhaka. This course has been offered by ASHA Counseling Centre, Bangalore, India.

Mahbuba Naznin Sani, Lecturer and Counselor, attended a seminar on 'Primary of Counseling in Mental Health Care: Need for Professionals in Bangladesh' on October 27, 2008 at TSC Auditorium of the University of Dhaka. The seminar was organized by Counseling and Guidance office, University of Dhaka.

Programs of Bangladesh Studies

On October 11, 2008, a total of 80 students of Bangladesh Studies (DEV101) went to visit Liberation War Museum and Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP), Savar, as part of their academic activities. Department of ESS organized the visits for the students of Bangladesh Studies. Visiting these two places students came to know the history and culture of Bangladesh as well as the various activities and programs of CRP for physically disabled people. Faculty members of ESS and house tutors of TARC, Savar accompanied the students.

ESS Seminar Series

On October 11, 2008, Department of ESS organized a seminar on 'United They Stand: Women in Union'. Dr. Shahidur Rahman, Assistant Professor, made a presentation in the seminar. In his presentation he focused on the patterns of labour union in Bangladesh and women's participation in labour unions.

IED Update

IED at Asia Pacific Regional Meeting on Adult and Lifelong Learning, Seoul

Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Senior Adviser, IED presented the Asia-Pacific regional synthesis report on adult education and lifelong learning in the Asian countries in a conference in Seoul on 5-8 October, 2008 of government delegations, researchers, academics and NGOs. Dr. Ahmed was asked by UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning in Hamburg, Germany to prepare and present the synthesis report to the regional conference. It was one of five regional conferences being organised in preparation for the Sixth World Conference on Adult Education to be held in May, 2009 in Belem, Brazil. The aim of the global conference is to promote lifelong learning as a critical component of the national education systems in order to cope with the challenges of globalisation and sustainable development. Five world conferences on adult education

were held since 1949, the last one in Hamburg in 1997. Sheikh Hasina, the then Prime Minister was the keynote speaker in Hamburg.

Dr. Ahmed also attended a planning meeting in Hamburg on 30-31 October with the editorial team for preparing the Global Report on Adult Education to be presented at the world conference in Brazil next year.

ECD Academic Program reviewed in New York with overseas Academic Partners

Ms. Mahmuda Akhter and Dr. Nishat F. Rahman of Early Childhood Development Resource Centre at IED, and Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Senior Adviser, IED participated in a review of the ECD Academic Programme of IED in New York on 24-25 October, 2008 with overseas academics from Columbia University, University of Victoria, Yale University and Portland State University. The experts on ECD from these institutions collaborated with IED in developing the academic program. The review included the post-graduate certificate course offered during 2007-2008 and the post graduate diploma course planned for 2009. The Open Society Institute of the Soros Foundation supported the development of the academic programme.

The occasion was used to discuss academic collaboration with Red River College in Canada. Professor Janet Jamison and Dean Louise Gordon from Red River came to New York to meet the IED visitors. Red River College has developed a blended teaching program combining face-to-face and on-line instruction based on the latest knowledge of science of early childhood development. IED and Red River College have agreed in principle to cooperate in incorporating the content of science of ECD in IED's academic program for ECD and also to develop short courses on ECD for participants from South Asia.

A staff member goes on study leave to the University of London

Md. Mahboob Morshed, a recipient of Commonwealth Scholarship in the United Kingdom-2008, has gone on study leave to pursue Master of Education (Psychology) at the Institute of Education, University of London.

MNS Update

19th Asian International Network Seminar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Moushumi Zahur, Lecturer of Geography at the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences participated in the 19th Asian International Seminar held in Kathmandu, Nepal from October 19 to 24, 2008. Representatives from thirteen Asian countries participated in the seminar. The main theme of the seminar was "Degrading Environment: A Stark Reality and Our Prime Concern". Ms Zahur also participated in a group discussion on "How to Address Our Local Environment Degradation Issues" and gave a presentation on the theme. The program ended with a filed trip to Chitwan.

Golden Jubilee (1958-2008) of Physics Department, Rajshahi University

Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad was invited to take part in the above-mentioned Golden Jubilee Celebration held in Rajshahi on October 16 and 17, 2008. He belonged to the first batch of students of the Physics Department of RU, completing their Master's degree in 1960. The theme of the celebration was "Moving Ahead with Physics". More than seven hundred ex- and present students of the Physics Department and teachers registered for the event. At the inaugural session held in the morning of October 16, 2008 at the Nazrul Auditorium, RU Professor Sadruddin Ahmed Chawdhury, founder Vice-chancellor of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet and a former Professor of the Physics Department of RU was the Chief Guest. The inaugural ceremony was followed by a technical seminar on contemporary physics where Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad gave a talk entitled "Quo Vadis Physica? (Where Goest Thou, Physics?)". Professor S. M. Qaim from Cologne University and Julich Research Centre, Germany presented a paper on "Radiotracer Development for Positron Emission Tomography (PET)". Dr. A. S. M. Tariq of the Physics Department, RU gave a comprehensive presentation on the research activities of the Physics Department. The Golden Jubilee Celebration also included sessions of reminiscences by both past and present students of the department. There was a cultural function held in the evening of October 16, 2008 followed by a dinner.

SPH Update

MPH Programme

The fourth batch of the MPH Programme is at its final stage. The MPH students have started their Independent Field Study and they are now busy with data collection. The students are working hard with the Research Assistants to produce a special piece of thesis.

Other Courses

Centre for Qualitative Inquiry

The Centre for Qualitative Inquiry (CQI) at the James P Grant School of Public Health began its activities in October. Dr. Shahaduz Zaman, Associate Professor is the Coordinator for the Centre. The first activity was to organize a short course, "Thinking Qualitatively: Theory & Practice of Qualitative Research Methodology" from October 26-November 6, 2008. The objective of this field-based course is to introduce the basic features and concepts of qualitative research; how to apply qualitative research tools in respective disciplines; learn to prepare qualitative data transcripts from descriptive field notes and use qualitative data for analysis and interpretation.

The SPH faculty members who are teaching the course are Professor Anwar Islam, Associate Dean, Sabina Faiz Rashid, Assistant Professor, and Nasima Selim, Lecturer. The Guest speakers include Papreen Nahar, Assistant Professor, IUB & Hasan-ur-Rahman, Research Associate II, BRAC Research & Evaluation Division (RED). The 25 participants from varied background including health, education, business, sociology, politics etc. working in various NGOs joined the course. Professionals and faculty members from BRAC University and BRAC Education Programme are also attending the course. Two of the SPH members participating in the course are Mahrukh Mohiuddin, Senior Research Associate, and Shafiun Nahin Shimul, Lecturer.

Events

HIV/AIDS Student Seminar

An HIV/AIDS Student Seminar took place on October 19th, at BRAC Centre which was attended by over 100 students from both public and private universities including University of Dhaka, Jahangirnagar University, BRAC University, North South University, Independent University of Bangladesh, State University, NIPSOM and many other individuals from various institutions. The forum was sponsored by the Centre for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS a UNAIDS Collaborating Center, and organized by Nabilah Khan, Lauren Van Enk and Dr. Farah Mahjabeen from the School, and the Centre's coordinator Dr. Sabina F. Rashid. The objective of the forum was to raise awareness about the HIV/AIDS situation in Bangladesh and worldwide amongst students. Top researchers and experts in the HIV/AIDS field conducted short information sessions in addition to a question/answer forum at the end of the seminar. The speakers and the forum panel included Dr. Nazneen Akhter from HASAB, Mr. Ezazul Islam from ICDDR,B, Ms. Bridget Job Johnson from UNICEF, Dr. Ezazul Haque from UNFPA and Ms. Mukta from HASAB. The question and answer sessions were facilitated by Ms. Farida Husain, UNAIDS.

The forum was inaugurated by the Pro-vice Chancellor of BRAC University, Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed and the vote of thanks was given by the Dean Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury. All the sessions were well received and reflected in the numerous questions that were dropped in the anonymous question box and in the evaluation forms filled out at the end of the forum.

Faculty news

New Staff

Dr. Enamul Hasib is working as a Research Associate. He has completed his MPH from the University of Wolverhampton, UK. He is a medical graduate completing his MBBS from Sylhet Osmani Medical College. After his MBBS, Dr. Hasib started serving as MO in BIRDEM followed by his next assignment as research associate at Unnayan Onneshan, a research organization. During his stay in UK, he worked as a student staff with the student union of the University of Wolverhampton. He also worked with School of Health of UoW on a project focusing on anti retroviral therapy. He is keen to use his knowledge acquired from the course of MPH to protect, promote and restore people's health through his research activities. His areas of interest include research methodology for epidemiological studies; health policy reforms; public-private and public-public partnerships; impact of water sanitation on health; conservation of nature; HIV/AIDS and anti retroviral therapy.

Mehreen Karim joined the School as Research Support Staff. She has graduated from Temple University, Philadelphia, USA. She majored in Political Science and minored in Anthropology and Religion. She joined the School on October, 2008 and will be working for GFATM under package 913 and in communications. Before joining, she was working with a local NGO (Shishu Tori) that involved working with the street children in Dhaka. She also interned at a law firm in Philadelphia that dealt with women's rights and gender equality. Her interests lie in human rights, world politics and cultural norms effecting human behaviour.

Md. Tanvir Hasan joined the School as Senior Research Assistant. He has completed his Masters of Science in Applied Statistics from the University of Dhaka in 2008. He is working on a project named "Strengthening

leadership through expansion of HIV and AIDS discourse and knowledge base in Bangladesh" funded by UNAIDS. His M.S. thesis mainly focused on identifying risk factor for secondary complication of diabetes mellitus. His research area of interest includes quantitative research methodology, Biostatistics, Econometrics and some social issues like poverty and disability.

Faculty activities

Realising Rights Consortium meeting in UK

Ms. Shahanoor Akter Chowdhury traveled to UK to attend the meetings of the Realising Rights RPC (Research Programme Consortium) during 19-26 October. During this period, she met with the RPC staff at the Institute of Development Studies and attended the meeting at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to discuss the research and communications activities.

Ms. Chowdhury was also involved in organizing the Consortium Advisory Group (CAG) meeting at IDS on 22 October. The main aim of the CAG meeting was to review progress with work plans for 2008-9 and to review outcomes of the midterm review and RPC responses.

Comprehensive Primary HealthCare (CPHC) Training in Bangalore, India

An International Research Training Programme was held in Bangalore, India from 13th to 24th October 2008. The Centre for Public Health and Equity, SOCHARA organized the training programme. This was the first phase of training being conducted as part of the inter-country research project on "Revitalizing Health for All- Learning from Comprehensive Primary Health Care". This study is being supported by a Teasdale Corti grant through the IDRC and the University of Ottawa, Canada. Teams from India, Pakistan, Iran and Bangladesh (Gonoshasthaya Kendra and JPGSPH, BRAC University) joined the training programme. The JPGSPH team was lead by Prof. Anwar Islam, Associate Dean, Dr. Aftab Uddin, Senior Manager, Technical Training Unit, ICDDR, B and Dr. Nahitun Naher, Research Associate, JPHSPH.

News from GDLN Center

3 major activities were held in Oct 2008 at the BRAC University GDLN

Training by APO - e-Learning Course on

1) "The Social Accountability Management System: SA8000"

This course was organized by Asian Productivity Organization (APO) in collaboration with National Productivity Organization (NPO) Bangladesh and Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) of the World Bank Platform from 14th Oct 08 to 16th Oct, 2008 at BRAC University Video Conference Center. The intent of SA8000 is to provide a standard based on international human rights norms and national labor laws that will protect and empower all personnel within a company's scope of control and influence, who produce products or provide services for that company, including personnel employed by the company itself, as well as by its Suppliers/subcontractors, sub-suppliers, and home workers. SA8000 is verifiable through an evidenced-based process. Its requirements apply universally, regardless of a company's size, geographic location, or industry sector. Complying with the requirements for social accountability of this standard will enable a company to: a) Develop, maintain, and enforce policies and procedures in order to manage those issues which it can control or influence; b) Credibly demonstrate to interested parties that existing company policies, procedures, and practices conform to the requirements of this standard. The countries connected by Video Conference were Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Thailand.

2) e-Learning Course on " ISO22000:2005 Food Safety Management System

This course was also organized by Asian Productivity Organization (APO) in collaboration with National Productivity Organization (NPO) Bangladesh and Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) of the World Bank Platform from 28th Oct to 31st Oct 2008 at BRAC University Video Conference Center. The intent of ISO22000 is to provide a framework of internationally harmonized standards for the global food supply chains. It covers all organizations in the food chain from farmers to caterers and defines the requirements for a food safety management system. ISO 22000:2005 can help the food industry to minimize the need for compliance over multiple certification programs. Overall, ISO 22000:2005 assumes that the most effective food safety systems are designed, operated and continually improved within the frame work of a structured management system and incorporated into a company's overall management activities.

The countries connected by Video Conference were Bangladesh, Indonesia, I. R. Iran, Malaysia, and Pakistan

e-Learning Course on " Training of Trainers on Microfinance"

The Fifth delivery of the Microfinance Training of Trainers course (MFTOT5) was organized by The Tokyo Development Learning centre (TDLC) in collaboration with ADBI & Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) of the World Bank Platform from July to October 2008, 2008 at BRAC University Video Conference Center. Microfinance is recognized as an effective development intervention in enhancing access to financial services for low-income and poverty-level individuals. While there is great demand for microfinance services, the main constraint is not a lack of funds but a lack of capacity in operating a sustainable institution. To address this problem, the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), the World Bank Tokyo Development Learning Center (TDLC), which is a member of GDLN Asia Pacific, and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) Launched the Microfinance Training of Trainers (MFTOT) Course in 2005. The last session was held on 31st Oct 08 among the four videoconferencing sessions organized under the 5th Distant Learning Course on Training of Trainers on Microfinance (MFTOT). In this VC, the resource speaker, Mr. Nimal A. Fernando, who discussed policy, regulation and supervision of microfinance based on a broader definition of microfinance. The participants were from different private sectors and Non Governmental Organizations. Two of the BBS faculties, Mr. Anup Chowdhury and Mr. Edward Probir Mondo also participated in this course from BRAC University.

Student Affairs Update

Football Club of BRAC University

Annual Meeting of Football Club of BRAC University was held on 23rd October, 2008 at BU Cafeteria. The main issue in the meeting was to form the New Executive Body for the club. Ex-President Muhammad Abdul Hakim Shaon and General Secretary Kazi Fayzur Rahman handed over their responsibilities to the newly appointed President Maksudul Hasan and General Secretary Shams. Club Advisor Mr. Suntu Kumar Ghosh, Senior Lecturer, BBS chaired the meeting and approved the newly formed committee. The meeting was followed by light refreshment and speeches of Club Advisor, Ex-President, and Ex-General Secretary.

BU Indoor Games Club

During October BUIGC started table tennis practice session, for the upcoming intra-university table tennis tournament. BU is champion of 2006 and, runners-up in 2007 of this tournament. Now, our team is getting ready to carry on their achievements.

BU Film Club

After a long month of fasting and enjoyment of Eid-ul-Fitr, BRAC University Film Club (BUFC) was back to what it does best - events. Its activity was started with a warm up movie show "Rock On" on 8th October. This movie show was dedicated towards the freshers and got a huge response from the new comers. Then we had a very successful club fair where more than hundred new people sign up to join this prestigious club. Also, on occasion of the club fair, we had our newly designed t-shirts printed. In the following day, we had our INTROview session with the new members where we interacted with them and came to know them better.

On 19th October, we had our film show on occasion of the club fair. "The Dark Knight" and "Wall-E" was screened on that day. Following the session of the INTROview, the new ones were assigned to the departments of BUFC and then the departmental meetings were called to let them informed about the various aspects of each and every individual department to which they were assigned. The month was brought to the doorsteps of end with another film show "The Grudge" on 28th October. Besides our activities in Mohakhali Campus, we also have our members in Savar Campus who are working hard to increase the reputation of the club further more by screening movies. Till now, they have screened "Rock On", "Aha" and "The Dark Knight". Also the work of the first ever handbook by BUFC is also undergoing which is planned to be released within the mid November.

AIESEC

A Fusion of Colors and a Spirit of Enthusiasm - two phrases enough to describe the atmosphere of this semesters' club fair program. Every semester, one of the many student clubs and organizations of BRAC University take the opportunity to host a club fair for the university. This time, in Fall 2008, the club fair was organized by AIESEC in BRAC University. Fusion- as the club fair was titled - was one of the most glamorous and the most exhilarating club fairs ever witnessed by students/faculties of BRAC University.

As anyone who has visited Fusion would comment "starting from the entrance of the university till the corners of every floor of the buildings, it was about colors and enthusiasm; and as we entered the university on the day of the event, we were greeted by several hundreds of colorful lanterns and flying birds all around, all made by keen origami."

The program, held in the university cafeteria and in the indoor games room on 16th October 2008, was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury and he did so by making a paper bird out of his own hands and hanging it along with all the others. After inauguration, the organizers had a special video presentation for every one to watch - it was about all the student clubs and orgs that operate in BRAC University, their purpose and objectives, and their recent activities. The audio-video presentation was yet another documentary which proved that the level of zeal and charm possessed by the students of BRACU is nothing less than the visionary heights necessary for bringing positive changes in the society.

The organizers had another surprise for every visitor of Fusion - street magic show. That's right. For the first time in a BRACU club fair, a street magic show has performed by Fahd Kabir of AIUB. This was an exciting part of the event which left the visitors with nothing but amazement.

A total of 25 clubs and organizations of the university had participated in the club fair; they demonstrated their core works and activities to the students and faculties and, hence, got a chance to recruit new members for their clubs. As reported, almost every club had received great response from the students for getting recruited into the student clubs and organizations.

At the end of the clubs program, a cultural program was organized by AIESEC in BRAC University and the BRAC University Cultural Club. The program presented a great number of singing and musical performances by the students of BRACU to the audience. This part of the day was a great mode for the audience to get cheered up and to refresh themselves up before calling it a day.

As the 1st day of club fair ended with great joy and success, a film show was brought forward by BRAC University Film Club on day 2. It had attracted a huge number of audiences into the BRAC University Indoor Games Room as two of the biggest hit movies were being shown on that day (19th October 2008). The two movies showed by BRACU Film Club were "Wali" and "The Dark Knight".

All in all, Fusion - Club Fair Fall 2008 - was a great event for BRAC University to remember. We thank Olympic Industries Ltd. for being the official event partner of Fusion. We also extend our thanks to RadioFoorti and RTV for providing national media coverage of Fusion - club fair fall 2008.

AIESEC in BRAC University began preparing for the club fair one month prior to the event and had worked greatly as a united team altogether. Although organized for the first time by AIESEC in BRAC University, it was one of the greatest University events that everyone of the university would remember as one of the most colorful and high spirited events ever witnessed by BRAC University.

BRAC University National Heritage Forum (BUNHF)

1. Participating in the Club Fair--Fusion with enrollment of 40 new members (freshers).
2. Organizing FRESHERS ORIENTATION on 20th October'08 (Monday)
3. BUNHF organized a Seminar titled "Seminar on WARI-BATESHWAR", a 2500-year old archeological site situated in Wari and Bateshwar villages of Norshingdi district, on 22nd October (Wednesday), 2008 at 3:30 p.m. in AH 203.

The Guest speaker of the seminar was Prof. Dr. Sufi Mostafizur Rahman of Dept. of Archaeology, Jahangirnagar University, who is the excavation team leader on wari-bateshwar. A group of students from JU Dept. of Archaeology also attended the seminar.

Our respected Vice-Chancellor sir-- Prof. Jamilur Reza Choudhury was present on the Seminar including Dean of BBS, Registrar Sir of BU and faculties from different depts and schools

BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC) Events

Top BU Programmers Oct 2008 - Contest II (Group Contest)

The 2nd "TopBU Programmers" programming contest was held on Wednesday, October 29, 2008 during

5pm to 8:45pm in AH 1104, 1105, 1106 computer labs. 6 teams containing 15 students participated in the 5 hour long contest and obtained following ranks.

Rank Team Names Team Members

- 1 Nazguls Khan Md. Anwarus Salam Shiblee Imtiaz Hasan
- 2 SATANS Md. Eftakhairul Islam S. M. Shahed
- 3 Alien Coderz Sarjil Mahmud Imran Kader Chowdhury Md. Imran Hossain
- 4 BRACU Genius Md. Intekhabul Hafiz Nur-ul-Arafat Shomik Shammur Absar Chowdhury
- 5 Please Enter A Name here K.M. Tasbeer Ahsan E.M. Yeaseenur Rahman Tahin Biplab Kumar Saha
- 6 Amra Jitbo Raihan Ahmed Syed Rakib Al Hasan

Top BU Programmers Oct 2008 - Contest I (Individual Contest)

The monthly programming contest "TopBU Programmers" was held on Tuesday, October 28, 2008 during 5pm to 8pm in AH 1104, 1105, 1106 computer labs. The slogans were "Fond of Challenge? Mathematics in Heart?". Total 25 students participated in the 3 hour long individual contest and obtained following ranks.

Rank Name Id

- 1 Annajiat Alim Rasel 04101017
- 2 Shiblee Imtiaz Hasan 07110049
- 3 Khan Md. Anwarus Salam 07141002
- 4 Md. Intekhabul Hafiz 05101021
- 5 Nur-Ul-Arafat Shomik 05101029
- 6 Imran Kader Chowdhury 08101008
- 7 E.M. Yeaseenur Rahman Tahin 07110050
- 8 Sarjil Mahmud 04101001
- 9 S M Shahed 07101007
- 10 Shamim Ahmed 05101007
- 11 Md. Imran Hossain 08101025
- 12 Md. Mahtab Uddin 04101002
- 13 K. M. Tasbeer Ahsan 07101003
- 14 Khandakar Wasim Reza Tonmoy 04101021
- 15 Shammur Absar Chowdhury 07110071
- 16 Mahafuz Aziz 07310028
- 17 Zawad Hossain 07110070
- 18 Md. Eftakhairul Islam 07310001
- 19 Mahbub Morshed 07110075
- 20 Raihan Ahmed 07110073
- 21 Raj Kapur Saha 07210044
- 22 Syed Rakib Al Hasan 07201005
- 23 Biplab Kumar Saha 08301014
- 23 Mohammad Murtaza Mahmud 07311001
- 23 Syed Sabbir Ahmed 08101018

ICT Project Show 2008

Khan Md. Anwarus Salam [07141002] participated and displayed his projects in the BUET CSE Festival 2008 ICT Project Show held during October 29-30.

BUET CSE Festival 2008 - National Collegiate Programming Contest (NCPC)

Teams were BRACU Dreamers and BRACU Nazguls. BRACU Dreamers (Khan Md. Anwarus Salam [07141002 / 04301025], Md. Intekhabul Hafiz [05101021], Annajiat Alim Rasel [04101017]) earned 16th rank solving 2 problems. BRACU Nazguls (Shiblee Imtiaz Hasan [07110049], E. M. Yeaseenur Rahman Tahin [07110050], K. M. Tasbeer Ahsan [07101003]) solved 1 problem. Special thanks to Anwarus Salam for getting our second team from BRACU (Dreamers) accepted for participation in BUET NCPC. The contest was held during 23-24 October, 2008. About 52 teams from different universities participated in the contest.

Inter-university Mathematics Olympiad 2008 at BUET

Two students, namely Md. Intekhabul Hafiz [05101021] and Mohammad Murtaza Mahmud [07311001] participated in the Math Olympiad held on Friday, October 24 as a part of BUET CSE Festival 2008.

Lecture on Quality and Project Management Skills for a Successful Career

About 50 participants including students from BRACU and outside, 6 members of the faculty namely Dr. Sayeed Salam, Syed Saiful Islam, Farazul Haque Bhuiyan, Md. Omar Faruque, Nazmus Saquib, and Apurba Saha attended the event on Wednesday, 22, October 2008. The lecture emphasized on Project Management, Quality Assurance, and Software Development Lifecycle (SDLC). Some real life project examples were shown as well. The lecture was held during 5pm to 6:30pm in AH 903. The event concluded with refreshments and an half an hour long exchange of views at BRACU Cafeteria. The speaker, Muhammad Faysal Islam is currently working as a Senior Quality Assurance Engineer and Project Coordinator for Axispoint Inc (<http://www.axispoint.com>), an information technology company in New York City. Axispoint develops content management, telecommunication and large scale electronic data processing tools in partnership with Cisco and IBM, grossing over \$38 million in revenue for fiscal year 2007. Prior to joining Axispoint, Mr. Islam worked for Bank of America, Scholastic Corporation and eBay Inc. Mr. Islam received his BS in Electrical and Computer Engineering from West Virginia University, MS in Electrical Engineering from University of S. Alabama and Post-Graduate Professional Certificate in Project Management from New York University. He was awarded Ambassador Scholarship in 1999 to study in the US as an undergraduate student. As a graduate research assistant Mr. Islam worked on US government funded research projects for Hyper-spectral object recognition and biometric identification. He has presented his research in IEEE conferences in Orlando, FL and San Diego, CA and published three proceedings with IEEE and SPIE (Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers). Mr. Islam received "University Honor" for completing his MS with the highest possible GPA (4.00/4.00). Mr. Islam is a member of IEEE USA and engineering honor society Tau Beta Pi. He served as the general secretary for IEEE West Virginia chapter for the year of 2002-03. He is also an active member of Project Management Institute (PMI) and American Management Association New York chapter.

Programming Training Class

The 3rd class of Fall 2008 was held on October 22nd, Wednesday in AH1106. It continued from 2:30pm to 8:30pm

ULAB NCPC 2008

ULABNCPC 2008 is the national Computer Programming Contest 2008 hosted by University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. Out of 71 teams, we were able to send 11 teams consisting of 33 students. The contest was held during October 16-17th. 7 out of 11 teams solved 1 problem. Performance was not the goal of the contest, this massive participation was done to make students familiar with the difficulty in real life contest and to make them interested to practice for future contests by observing participation and performance of students from other universities.

Student ID Team Name

04101017 BRACU Parhelias Annajiat Alim Rasel
05101021 BRACU Parhelias Md. Intekhabul Hafiz
07141002 BRACU Parhelias Khan Md. Anwarus Salam
07101003 Nazguls K.M Tasbeer Ahsan
07110049 Nazguls Shiblee Imtiaz Hasan
07110050 Nazguls E.M. Yeaseenur Rahman Tahin
07110071 BRACU Quasar Shammur Absar Chowdhury
05101029 BRACU Quasar Nur-Ul-Arafat Shomik
08301014 BRACU Quasar Biplab Kumar Saha
05201002 BRACU NRZee Nabila Naushin
05201006 BRACU NRZee Zaki Mohammad Abdul Kareem
05201007 BRACU NRZee Rasel Chowdhury
04101001 BRACU Strategy Sarjil Mahmud
07311001 BRACU Strategy Mohammad Murtaza Mahmud
07110075 BRACU Strategy Mahbub Morshed
07210044 BRACU Universal Raj Kapur Saha
07310077 BRACU Universal Farzia Hoque Tisha
07210019 BRACU Universal Badruddin Kamal Raad
08101025 BRACU Decoders Md. Imran Hossain
07310001 BRACU Decoders Md. Eftakhairul Islam
07101007 BRACU Decoders S M Shahed

03201047 BRACU JavaBat Hasan Al Khaled
04101021 BRACU JavaBat Khandaker Wasim Reza Tonmoy
08101007 BRACU JavaBat Anupama Das
08310013 BRACU BlackHats Md. Jonayet Hossain
08310022 BRACU BlackHats Md. Mahmudul Hasan Oyon
08310008 BRACU BlackHats Mahmudul Hasan
08101001 BRACU Apache Md. Arafat Azam
08101016 BRACU Apache Abdus Salam Diep
08101014 BRACU Apache Md. Mahbub Hassan
08101008 BRACU NPI Imran Kader Chowdhury
07310039 BRACU NPI Navid bin Sakhawat
06310035 BRACU NPI Kalyan Banik

Programming Training Class

The 2nd class of Fall 2008 was held on October 15th, Wednesday in AH1105. It continued from 2:30pm to 7:30pm.

Participation in Tianjin University Virtual Programming Contest

An online contest was held during October 3 to October 5 for 48 hours. 14 problems were given. Contestants from BRAC University solved 12 of those. Details of the contest can be found at <http://acm.tju.edu.cn/toj/vcontest/contest2358.html>. Out of 114 teams from all around the globe, our ranks were as following:

Sl Rank	User	Solved
1	7 Annajiat Alim Rasel	12
2	16 Khan Md. Anwarus Slam	9
3	24 Shammur Absar Chowdhury	7
4	26 Md. Intekhabul Hafiz	6
5	36 Mahbub Morshed Prottoy	4
6	42 Shiblee Imtiaz Hasan	3
7	91 Imran Kader Chowdhury	1
8	106 Mohammad Murtaza Mahmud	Honorable Mention

Programming Training Starts Again

Training for programming contests started with a test class was arranged on Thursday, September 18 and about 28 students from ranging from 1st year (more accurately, 2nd semester) to 4th year were present. The class started at about 4:30pm and continued till 8:30pm. Attendees were provided with light Iftar. The training was conducted and will continue to be conducted by Mr. Shahriar Rouf Nafi, one of the leading programming contestants and former leading IOI and Math Olympiad contestant of Bangladesh.

Call for Computer Programming Trainee

A month long call for participants for computer programming contests was made starting on September 5. About 35 interested students became interested.

Participation in Prime Bank 1st IUT National ICT Fest 2008

Syed Fahimur Raquib Tamim [08301009] participated and won in the 1st round of Fifa 08 gaming contest. While he was playing games, two teams from BRAC University titled Nazguls and Apache consisting of 6 students participated in the programming contest. The festival was held during August 30-31. Teams with much prior experience could not be sent as most of the BUCC members were busy in organizing and attending the 80 student Cox's Bazar Study Tour, the largest study tour ever held in BRACU, which was being held simultaneously. The team, Nazguls consisted of students from 2007 named Shiblee Imtiaz Hasan, K.M. Tasbeer Ahsan, and Mohammad Murtaza Mahmud. Apache consisted of 2008 consisted of Md. Arafat Azam, Md. Imran Hossain Shaon, Imran Kader Chowdhury. These teams were sent and as many teams as possible will be sent in future contests to bud the news that some BRACU teams will be coming at the end of 2009 who will try to perform better than ever. Seeds to attract a new generation of students (or, programming contestants) were carefully planted many months earlier, in April 2008, please view the following link for further details:

<http://www.bracuniversity.ac.bd/bulletin/display+template.php?file=2008/april>

BUCC Google Group Highlights:

- IEEE Tech-Alert: Hacking an E-Voting Machine in 7 Minutes
- Invitation to visit BRAC University stall in BUET CSE Project Show 2008
- Erasmus Mundus Scholarship for Masters Program in Language & Communication Technologies (LCT)
- Open PhD positions, Univ. of Naples - Federico II, Italy
- Cisco NetSpace Skills Pursuit Competition
- Bangla Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) at ICANN

Some of the advertisements

Workshop / Conferences / Articles/ Seminar:

- 5th International Wireless Communications and Mobile Computing Conference -(IWCMC 2009), iwcmc.com
- March 2009 IEEE POTENTIALS
- Prospects of WiMAX and 3-G in Bangladesh
- UKSim 2009: 11th UKSim International Conference on Computer Modelling and Simulation
- Indian Conference on Microwaves, Antenna, Propagation & Remote Sensing (INCMARS-2008)
- International Simulation & Gaming Association (ISAGA) 40th Annual Conference, Singapore

Online events:

- Sun Web Event: Sun Systems for MySQL - Nov. 5, 2008, sun.com/mysqlsystems
- Free Vendor Certification - Sun Certified Specialist NetBeans IDE (SCSNI)

Jobs / Job Fairs:

- Software Developer, Trinidad, TeleConsultGroup, teleconsultgroup.com
- System Admin, Prolog, Inc, prologinc.net
- Systems Programmer/Analyst II & Systems Administrator, sf.net
- Database Administrator, BanglaCAT
- Rapid Prototyper, Analytics Engineer, Software Engineer & User Interface Engineer, google.com
- Developers for Windows version of VideoLAN
- Perl Programmer, Cache Link, Banani
- Open Source Engineer - Localization
- Job Fair @ BUET CSE Festival 2008
- National Career Fair 2008 @ NSU

Others

- BRACU's Trial access to IEEE/IEL resources
- Australian visa assessment for Bangladeshi students
- Training on Object Oriented Programming (OOP) by BASIS

Special thanks to Dr. Sayeed Salam [BRACU], Syed S. Islam [BRACU], Mahdin Mahboob [Daily Star], Naushad UzZaman [U of Rochester], Imran Ahmed [BRACU] and Abul Hasnat [CRBLP].

Residential Semester (RS) Update

Handball

The inter-dorm handball competition was held between Surjomukhi & Surjoroshmi Dorms On October 10. surjomukhi won by 10-2 goals defeating surjoroshimi. On the otherhand on October 17, Surjoroshimi won by 9-3 goals defeating Surjalok.

Cricket: Boys

The inter-dorm cricket competition was held on October 10, among Nikunjo & Krisnochura dorm. Nikunjo won the toss and decided to bat first. Nikunjo scored 179 runs and won by 91 runs. On the other hand on October 31, second cricket match was held between Nikunjo & maloncho and Nikunjo won by 8 wickets.

Social Lab

First Social-lab Exercise of the Semester was conducted on October 11, 2008. Half of the students of the campus participated in the exercise. In this unique exercise, the students performed the duties of the TARC officials and the staffs starting from the campus super down to cleaners and laundry persons. The exercise created a lot of enthusiasm among the students and the exercise was conducted successfully.

Museum visit

The students of Residential Semester Fall 2008 visited the Muktijoddha Museum on 11.10.2008. The students were divided into 2 groups for in-depth observation of the places. They were guided by the Teachers and House Tutors. Based on the observations, the students gave a presentation and submitted their reports to the concerned Faculty.

CRP Visit

As a part of the community service students of BRACU residential semester have visited Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP), Savar. The students visited various activities and programs of CRP. The students were moved by seeing the plight of the paralyzed people of CRP who are undergoing treatment. In a feedback meeting followed by the visit the students expressed their gratefulness to BRACU and the Bangladesh Studies Program to provide them the opportunity of such visit which raise their awareness about paralyzed citizens of our country and remove the common misconceptions about the physically challenged, and any stigma that they previously associated with being physically disabled. On the observations, the students submitted their reports to the concerned Faculty.

Badminton

The inter-dorm badminton competition was held among the girls' dorms on October 13. Surjomukhi became champion by 1-0 set and Surjalok became runner-up.

Cultural Program

The Savar Campus experienced three beautiful, enjoyable and amusing cultural evening organized and participated by the students on October 08, 15 & 22. The audience enjoyed music, dance, fashion show and drama.

Cfl Activities

A. CfL organized various co-curricular activities during RS

On October 18, 2008, the first CfL weekend activities were held. The CfL faculties led the extracurricular and co-curricular activities for the students at the Savar Residential Campus. In this semester CfL offered a good number of activities. The activities included glass painting, Photo-frame designing, cooking, Funky jewelry box making, fruits and vegetables carving, creative writing, Photography, Debate etc. Besides their academic courses students actively took part in these co-curricular activities.

In addition to all the activities, there were two special workshops, which were especially designed for the students.

B. Seminar on Grooming

Sadra N. Siddiky, a CfL instructor, facilitated the seminar on grooming. The focus was on business etiquette, social awareness, dining etiquette, and personal hygiene. The session was interactive, and the students engaged in brainstorming in groups and then present their ideas. The seminar was designed to help the students to achieve professional excellence as future leaders.

C. Seminar on Nutrition

The seminar was facilitated by Sunida Witayakarn, a CfL instructor from Thailand. She emphasized on the importance of healthy eating and the important sources of nutrition, especially for young adults. It was observed that some students were reluctant to eat vegetables and fruits. Therefore, creating awareness among those students in particular was a key objective of the seminar.

Dewali at TARC

The RS students organized Dewali on 28th October 2008. The program was started at 6:00 pm with candle lit decoration of TARC. In the evening they took part in an exclusive dance by wearing colorful dresses.

