

Newsletter

Quarterly

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BIGD and City Corporation Workshop in Sylhet

Clean, healthy, livable city is impossible unless we think it as our own



It is impossible to make the city clean, healthy and livable unless we consider it as our own city and patriotic spirit awakened, said city corporation mayor Ariful Haque Choudhury in a workshop titled 'Medical Waste Management and Vocational Training Centre in Sylhet: Needs and Gaps in Service Delivery' during his speech as the chief guest. BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University and Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) jointly organized the workshop at a city hotel on 9 May 2018.

sympathetic on work of City Corporation despite differences of political ideology. Everybody comes forward and helps to make initiative successful said the mayor but urged more support from the administration. He also requested all to rise above vengeance and consternation and act in a spirit of patriotism for the betterment of the country.

Mr. Ajay Suri, Asian Regional Advisor, Cities Alliance; Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow, BIGD; Professor Rezaul Karim, Sylhet Women's Medical College; Dr.

- Among the 88 Healthcare Establishments (HCEs) in Sylhet, the total volume of medical waste generated is approximately 9,127 kg/day.
- Most of the HCEs do not have the required facilities for waste segregation and disposal.
- The medical waste of diagnostic centres and dental clinics is disposed in dustbins provided by SCC for solid waste collection.
- Moreover, there are no medical waste treatment facilities in Lalmatia, which is the only dumping site for waste in SCC.
- There is weak monitoring and enforcement mechanisms for Medical Waste Management as neither HCEs nor SCC effectively enforce the practice of waste segregation.

Mr. Choudhury, elected Mayor as an opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) candidate said, in Sylhet the leaders of political parties are very cooperative and

Narayanchandra Saha, Assistant Director, Department of Health; Mr. Ruhul Alam, Engineer; Joydeb Biswas, Assistant Engineer of SCC and others delivered their

speeches while AZM Nurul Haque, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SCC presided over the workshop.

While presenting the findings of the Local Assessment Report at the inaugural session, BIGD's researcher S. M. Gubair Bin Arafat mentioned that around 9,000 kilograms medical wastages are being produced every day from 88 public and private-run hospitals and clinics in the city. But, no one is following scientific system to collect, separate and dumping theses wastages in the city. He strongly suggested using of different dustbins for different types of medical wastages, training up workers for waste management, using covered van for shifting and to demolish fully some medical wastage.

In his presentation, Mr. Arafat highlighted on the current situation of vocational training in Sylhet and its future probabilities.

To avoid health hazard and to ensure a livable healthy life in the city, discussants of a cross section of people put importance in active collaboration between all public and private organizations during panel discussion. Discussants also put emphasized on following the existing laws and regulations and evaluating environmental impact before implementation of all projects. Divisional Coordinator of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association Advocate

Shah Saheda Aktar; Acting Chief Engineer of City Corporation Mr. Nur Azijur Rahman; Ms. Tamanna Ahmmmed from Idea Sylhet; Former President of Sylhet Chamber, Farukh Mahmud Chowdhury; Deputy Director of Park View Medical College Hospital, Dr. Tonmoy Bhattacharjee; Bangladesh Environmental Movement-Sylhet General Secretary, Abdul Karim Kim and others participated in the discussion.

Dr. Shanawez Hossain requested active cooperation from all to implement the proposed plans and said that citizen are the main strength in implementing any plan and therefore, they have to come forward for waste management and to execute all other development works.

Mr. Nurul Haque said the city corporation would consider participant's opinions and suggestions. Everybody will be cooperative to build a healthy, developed, unemployment-free and livable city, he expected.

The workshop was arranged to share the needs and gaps with the citizens to implement this two initiatives by the city corporation. The goals of this project are to promote equitable access to public goods and services in context of cities' specific needs and support growth trajectories increasingly characterized by equity, inclusion and environmental sustainability.

BIGD & NCC Workshop in Narayanganj

Women's Complex and Digital Centres will help in building empowered and informed society



A multipurpose women complex that would be facilitated with business and other facilities for women costing taka 35 crore and a city digital center in each of the ward costing taka 10 lakh have been proposed to help building an economically enriched, empowered and informed society in Narayanganj. These were proposed by BIGD at a workshop organized on May 14, 2018 at a city community centre in Narayanganj under Equitable Economic Growth project.

Mr. A. F. M. Ehteshamul Haque, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Narayanganj City Corporation was the chief guest which was chaired by Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow of BIGD. Cities Alliances Asian Regional Advisor Mr. Dhiraj Ajay Suri and Consultant Dr. K. Rajivan described the objectives of the workshop. BIGD's Senior Researcher Mohammad Sirajul Islam presented the findings of the

local assessment report at the workshop. Mr. Moinul Islam, City Planner, NCC; Ms. Kamiza Yasmin, District Woman Officer; Mr. Asit Baran Biswas, Councilor; Citizen's Committee President Mr. Rafiur Rabbi; Advocate A B Siddique, President, Mr. Rafiur Rabbi, Vice President of Narayanganj Citizen's Committee; Environmentalist Mr. Abdur Rahman; Women activist Ms. Miriam Kalpana Rahman; Information Technology Entrepreneur Mr. Hadiuzaman Galib, Panchayat Committee Head Mr. Kafiluddin; Councilor Ms. Parvin Akhter and others participated in the discussion.

The report proposed to build a multipurpose women's complex to ensure women's skill and empowerment through creating a business hub for women, providing facilities to marketing the product produced by women, organizing fair for them, establishing business communication and consultation service centre, social and cultural centre, arranging facilities to provide flexible loan, organizing different training programmes on development of communications and other skills, and establishing gymnasium, medical centre, art gallery, day care

Participants of the workshop, which includes elected officials, women rights worker, members of professional and citizens bodies unanimously supported the BIGD's proposals to build a multipurpose women complex that would be facilitated with business and other facilities for women costing taka 35 crore and urged the City Corporation to implement these with a short span of time. In reply of the proposal Narayanganj City Corporation representative told that with full cooperation of the Narayanganj's citizen, they want to implement these ideas.

centre, women's rights centre etc. The report also proposed to provide different services of City Corporation through establishing city digital centre in every ward.

Participants of the workshop, which includes elected officials, women rights worker, members of Professional and Citizens bodies unanimously supported the proposals and urged the City Corporation to implement these with a short span of time. These initiatives may put a positive impact to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of United Nations and Nation's overall development of the country said CEO. Narayanganj can be an economically advanced, healthy, livable city with the active support of its citizens. Planner Moinul Islam said, with full cooperation of the Narayanganj's citizen, we want to implement these ideas.

Concerned Citizen's President Mr. Rafiur Rabbi said, there is no alternative than empowering women through increasing facilities to keep up the growth of the country. Environment worker Mr. Abdur Rahman hoped the central government will come forward to implement every initiative taken by the City Corporation.

The workshop was arranged to share the needs and gaps with the citizens to implement this two initiatives by the city corporation. The goals of the Equitable Economic Growth project are to promote equitable access to public goods and services in context of cities' specific needs and support growth trajectories increasingly characterized by equity, inclusion and environmental sustainability.

BIGD co-organised Conference on Public Policy and Governance in South Asia: Towards Justice and Prosperity



The second International Conference on Public Policy and Governance in South Asia: Towards Justice and Prosperity' was jointly organised by BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), Nepal Administrative Staff College, Niti Foundation, Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET) Nepal, South Asia Institute of Advanced Studies, Institute of Public Enterprises (IPE) India, Think Tank Initiative/IDRC and North South University (NSU), Bangladesh at Nepal Administrative Staff College, Kathmandu, Nepal on 28-29 June, 2018. In early 2017, these institutions together envisioned an annual gathering of interested scholars, academics and practitioners in the field of public policy and governance in South Asia to meet, deliberate and provide a platform to communicate new studies, exchange issues, ideas and experiences, and explore collaboration opportunities.

BIGD's researchers presented three papers in the conference. The papers included 'Social accountability in public sector management: an analysis of citizens' involvement in public procurement in Bangladesh' by Dr. Md. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow; 'Dhaka's middle income renters-an estimation of hedonic price and marginal willingness to pay' by Syeda Salina Aziz, Senior Research Associate; and 'Annual performance agreement (APA) in Bangladesh public administration: an independent assessment' by Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Senior Research Associate.

Dr. Shanawez while presenting his paper told, In many developing countries the procurement of public projects which comprise lion's share of public spending, have been identified with manifold problems such as cost overrun, lower quality, schedule failure, lower level of efficiency etc. In this regard, to establish transparency and accountability of implementing bodies and responsible authorities, along with ensuring high quality of public service delivery, 'Third Party Monitoring (TPM)' through citizen's involvement has come forward as a more competent way to bring true value to society from public initiatives.

Representing BIGD at the conference Dr. Shanawez thanked all the participants for attending the conference and hoped that it will continue in future by the active participation of more researchers, policy makers and people from the region. He also emphasized for enhancing regional collaboration for ensuring prosperity and justice in South Asia.

Reliable evidence against target achievement, digitalization of communication and records, independent evaluation, collaboration for setting interdependent targets, peer learning and capacity enhancement of APA team members and ministries will help the APA emerge as an objective, fair and quantifiable tool to evaluate overall performance of the public sector, said Sirajul while presenting his paper.

Politicians, elected representatives, civil servants, NGO representatives, and researchers from Nepal, India and Bangladesh participated in the two-day long conference. The conference consisted of 1 keynote address, 6 technical sessions, 4 policy dialogues and 1 plenary.

After the inauguration of the conference, Former Prime Minister of Nepal Dr. Baburam Bhattarai and Former Adviser to Caretaker Government of Bangladesh Ms. Rasheda K. Choudhury presented keynotes on 'Towards Justice and Prosperity'. Dr. Baburam outlined Nepal's initiatives and key issues to achieve prosperity and happiness for Nepalese and Ms. Choudhury highlighted the protection of women and joint working of men and women to achieve a just, equitable society in the region. Research papers presented in technical sessions covered public sector governance, public service delivery, issues and practices of public

policy, organization and management, emerging issues in governance, and democratic practices and governance with reference to Nepal, India and Bangladesh. There were lively debates and discussions in the policy dialogues on social justice and inclusion, federalism and intergovernmental relationship, innovative approaches to poverty alleviation, and deepening democracy. Researchers and discussants emphasised people's involvement throughout the public policy process and assessment of policy impacts on people's life. The concluding plenary session focused on 'Towards prosperity - South Asia together', which was chaired by Mr. Pradeep Gyawali, Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nepal. Speakers at that session said, South Asia achieved progress so far amidst the least regional collaboration compared to East Asia and Europe. In this reality they called for revival of SAARC for prosperity of the region.

BIGD's Researchers Attended an Author Workshop Series

Ms. Rafiqua Ferdousi, Research Associate of BIGD attended an Author Workshop Series titled Following the research workflow using Elsevier's Tools: Scopus & Mendeley, held on May 24, 2018 at BRAC University. The workshop covered basic features and functionalities of Scopus and Mendeley. Scopus is the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature: scientific journals, books and conference proceedings from over 5000 publishers and includes over 22,000 journals. Delivering a comprehensive overview of the world's research output in the fields of science, technology, medicine, social sciences, and arts and humanities, Scopus features smart tools to track, analyze and visualize research.



Mendeley is a reference manager and academic social network that helps in organizing research and discover the latest research. With Mendeley one can: generate bibliographies, Collaborate with other researchers online, import papers from other research software, Find relevant papers and Access papers online.



On May 17, 2018 BIGD, BRACU announced that it has joined an international collaboration of economics and fiscal policy researchers focused on tobacco control policies in Bangladesh. Research teams working on the economics of tobacco taxes in 15 other countries are also currently part of the same collaboration, led by economists from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).

"Tobacco consumption is a serious health hazard around the world and the health of middle-income and the poor in Bangladesh is particularly affected by it. The studies funded by UIC in Bangladesh through this collaboration will play a critical role in influencing policies to control tobacco use," according to Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of BIGD.

According to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) (2009), In Bangladesh, 41.3 million adults use tobacco in some form; and 44.7% men and 1.5% women smoke tobacco. The project will focus on building country-level economic evidence to inform policy makers on efforts to reduce tobacco consumption, generate new revenues that can be used for health and development efforts and save lives using fiscal policies.

BIGD Joins International Research Partnership on Tobacco Tax Policies

Led by a team of economists from UIC, Institute for Health Research and Policy, the collaboration focuses on the economics of tobacco and functions through a web-based platform called "Tobacconomics". Frank Chaloupka, Ph.D., of UIC heads the global team of economists.

The Bloomberg Philanthropies initiative's main goals are to raise awareness of the harm caused by tobacco and assist low and middle-income countries to implement strong tobacco control policies and practices. UIC is a core partner of the Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use.

The current group of UIC's international partners are: the PRAKARSA and the Tax Centre at the University of Indonesia in Indonesia; Institute of Public Policy and Management (IPPM) at the National Economics University (NEU) and the Development and Policies Research Center in Vietnam; South American Network on Applied Economics/Red Sur (La Red Sudamericana de Economia Aplicada/Red Sur) working in Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador and Peru; the Institute of Economic Sciences working in Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia; and Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) and Social Policy and Development Centre (SPDC) in Pakistan. The UIC-based Tobacconomics research team will provide technical assistance to the international partners.

Hands on Training of Experimental Research Design in Bhola

On May 9-12, 2018 Training on data collection methods, experimental research design and piloting of research project using Survey CTO held at Bhola Sadar, Uttar Digholdi and Bapta. Ms. Serena Coccio, IIIES, Stockholm University facilitated the training. Mr. Ahmed Asif Enam, Ms. Sumaiya Kabir Talukdar, Ms. Mishkat Jahan, Ms. Rafiqua Ferdousi and Mr. Zia Mohammad Research Associates of BIGD also attended the training.





Workshop on the Women's Movement in Bangladesh held

"Gender Equality, in present day scenario, has become a technical issue. This has limited the scope of political feminism. Creation of ideological bridges is a necessity, in order to understand each others' viewpoints and work collaboratively."

- Tina Blohm

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University, in collaboration with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) arranged a reflection workshop on the Women's Movement in Bangladesh, on April 3, 2018 at a city hotel. FES started a project titled "Political Feminism" in countries across Asia, which aims to create a platform that accommodates more inclusive and future-oriented feminist movements. Accordingly, it facilitates in creating a bridge to connect the ideologies of different feminist activists who relate to the women's movement. A series of country studies has been conducted under this project and as a part of this series, a case study entitled "Women's Movement in Bangladesh: A Short History and Current Debates" has been prepared by Dr Sohela Nazneen. This piece of work was discussed in detail in the workshop in order to obtain the reflection of different women's activists on the issues that has been discussed on the paper.

The session started with opening remarks by Ms. Tina Blohm, Resident Representative, FES Bangladesh. The introductory session was carried forward by Ms. Maheen Sultan, Visiting Fellow BIGD. Followed by that a brief Presentation of the History of the Women's Movement was delivered by Professor Firdous Azim, Chair, Department of English and Humanities at BRAC University.

Dr. Sohela Nazneen, Research Fellow, IDS, University of Sussex then presented a case study of the Women's Movement in Bangladesh and discussed the present day challenges. In reference to her paper's findings, open discussions took place among participants in groups, as the main activity of the workshop. The moderators presented the summaries of these discussions at the plenary session.

Tina Blohm said "Gender Equality", in present day scenario, has become a technical issue. This has limited the scope of political feminism. Therefore, merging different schools of thoughts remains a crucial aspect to carry forth present day women's movements. She ended stating that the creation of ideological bridges is a necessity, in order to understand each others' viewpoints and work collaboratively.

Maheen Sultan focused on the necessity of working collaboratively. She stated that it is crucial to maintain solidarity amongst different feminist organizations, as well as create a mutual level of understanding. Only then movements can have greater impact and sustainable outcome.

Professor Firdous Azim discussed on the dilemma of rights versus freedom. She claimed that we talk about rights extensively, but freedom gets less focus. Therefore, integration of both these components is essential to derive sustainable solutions through movements.

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of Ms. Simeen Mahmud, Head of Gender Studies Cluster and coordinator of the Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST), BIGD. The workshop brought together different women's rights activists and organizations that adhere to the notion of gender equality and inclusive development.



BIGD and BKMEA Meeting held

A meeting was held between BIGD and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BKMEA) regarding mutual cooperation of these two organizations. Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow led the BIGD team along with Mr. Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Sr. Research Associate and Ms. Jannatun Naim, Sr. Training Officer where Mr. Fazlee Shamim Ehsan, Vice President led the BKMEA team along with Mr. Sheikh H. M. Mustafiz, Director and Mr. Md. Moazzem Hossain, Sr. Joint Secretary. The meeting held on 26 April, 2018 primarily focused on a project titled Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP). Dr. Shanawez provided a brief of the project and seeks cooperation from BKMEA to make the project successful. He also discussed about the BIGD's Post Graduate Diploma on Knitwear Industry Management (PGD-KIM) under SEIP and offered BKMEA to send applicants for course. BKMEA representative committed that they will provide full support to the course and BIGD. Considering SEIP as an important project they hoped that mutual understanding between BIGD and BKMEA will be increased and BKMEA can also contribute in this project.

Research, Policy and Good Governance Training held

A training session on Research, Policy and Good Governance was held on April 22, 2018 at BIGD conference room. The training covered both theoretical and applied components which includes: Experimental research methods, Policy evaluation and RCT design; and Behavioral topics in the context of development/social sciences.

The training was conducted by Ms. Serena Cocciole from Institute for International Economic Studies (IIIES), Stockholm University. Researchers of BIGD attended the training. The purpose of this training was to provide an outline of 'research steps' and give an idea of the content to be covered in future workshops for the month of May, under the Research, Policy and Good Governance (RPG) program.

Contract Signing Ceremony of CPTU-BIGD held

BIGD, BRAC University and the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) under the Implementation Monitoring & Evaluation Division (IMED) of the Ministry of Planning (MoP), came together at a ceremony on June 24, 2018, to officially sign the contract for the Digitizing Implementation Monitoring and Public Procurement Project (DIMAPPP), under which BIGD will act as Consultant under the component 3 of the project. On behalf of BIGD, Mr. Shib Narayan Kairy, Treasurer, BRAC University signed the contract where Md. Faruque Hossain, Director General of CPTU signed for CPTU, IMED. The ceremony held at the CPTU office at Planning Ministry, Sher-e Bangla Nagar.



Congratulating everyone related to the project Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director of BIGD told that Public Procurement Reform Project (PPRP) was a great initiative from the government to improve the procurement practice of the country. E-GP project is a high priority project of the Bangladesh government and peoples from other countries are also following the project keenly. Citizen's engagement was also an integral part of the PPRP project which was piloted successfully by BIGD. He said that, from the last experience, BIGD could learn a lot which can be used in the DIMAPPP project implementation. BIGD will do its best to implement the current project successfully and hope that they will get full cooperation from CPTU.

Md. Faruque Hossain, Director General of CPTU, in his speech told that corruption in public procurement has shifted from processing part to implementation part. Morality and awareness building can exterminate this from the society. This is

why the government and the CPTU thought about engaging citizens for monitoring in public procurement. This time the government is planning to scale up the project and is going to implement citizen engagement activities in 48 upazilas of the country.

He added that, citizen engagement is very sensitive area of work. BIGD have to work with two dilemmas, one group will support to implement the project where another won't. He said it is important that we prepare ourselves to accept the failure as well. He expressed optimism that BIGD will be able to navigate successfully through this process and will scale it up successfully.

S. N. Kairy, Treasurer BRAC University congratulated both the team on the signing of the contract and assured that BRAC University will extend its full support to implement the project successfully.

Mirza M Hassan, Adjunct Fellow of BIGD told this time BIGD and government are going to be involved in a more complex project. It will be implemented not only in more areas but also will engage more agencies. Cooperation from the government and government agencies is crucial to implement the project successfully, he added.

Mosta Gausul Hoque, Consultant of the DIMAPP project informed the audiences that latest technology will be used to monitor the project. He urged both parties to work collectively for making the project successful.

Shish Haider Chowdhury, Director of CPTU stated that their main target is to involve more and more stakeholders in public procurement. He also told that CPTU has good faith on BIGD and hope they will prove it through the success of the project.

With support from World Bank, the CPTU will implement the project having four components for five years (July 2017 to June 2022). The main objective of the project is to improve overall public procurement management in the country. The project consists of four components i.e. Restructuring CPTU and Institutionalizing e-GP, Enhancing Digitization of Public Procurement, Professionalization of Procurement and Citizen Engagement (CE), and Digitizing Project Implementation Monitoring.



BIGD's ED Attended at a Book Launch Ceremony as Panelist

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director of BIGD spoke in the Book Launching Ceremony of 'Institutions for Development: Urbanization and Land Issues in Bangladesh' held on May 9, 2018 in Dhaka. As a panel discussant, by referring to the findings of the book, Dr. Rahman categorized urbanization and land issues as major policy challenges for Bangladesh in terms of growth, investment, equity, equality, service delivery and quality of life or livability. He said, 'Democratic governance and the rule of law lie at the heart of resolving urbanization and land issues.' He emphasized reforms and institutional changes in legal, judicial, economic, civil service and political aspects. In this context, the findings, analyses and recommendations of this volume would be critically relevant to manage the urbanization and land market in Bangladesh, observed Dr. Rahman.

Honorable State Minister for Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Planning Mr. M. A. Mannan MP was the Chief Guest in the Book Launching Ceremony. Dr. Qazi Khaliquzzaman Ahmad, Chairman of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) made the keynote presentation on urbanization challenges in Bangladesh with particular reference to Dhaka. Other discussants were Dr. Atiur Rahman, Former Governor of Bangladesh Bank, Dr. Sadiq Ahmed, and Vice-Chairman of Policy Research Institute. The event was presided over by Dr. Mohiuddin Alamgir, Former Director of IFAD and Dr. Mustafa K Mujeri made the welcome address.

This book is a collection of papers presented at the Third Bangladesh Economists' Forum (BEF) Conference held in Dhaka in December 2016. The volume shows how chaotic and unplanned urbanisation has led to poor quality of cities and also digs down deeper on the political economy aspects of urban governance issue drawing from the experiences of Dhaka and Chittagong. As an inter-related issue, the book takes a holistic look at various aspects of land management as it relates to Bangladesh's development and the underlying political economy.

PGD-KIM Intake 1 Admission Test Held

BIGD, BRAC University has been implementing the Executive Development Programme under Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP) of Finance Division, Ministry of Finance of the Government of Bangladesh. The university developed an Executive Development Centre (EDC) for implementing the Executive Development Programme (EDP) by conducting Post Graduate Diploma in Knitwear Industry Management (PGD-KIM) training programme for Knitwear subsector. The objective of SEIP



is to qualitatively and quantitatively expand the skilling capacity of identified public and private training providers by establishing and operationalizing a market responsive skill ecosystem and delivery mechanisms.

The admission test of the first intake of PGD-KIM held on May 18, 2017 at BRAC University. About 150 candidates attended the written test from where selected candidates were called for viva. Finally 68 students have been selected for the course. PGD-KIM has been developed based on a training need analysis survey and FGD with industry owners and top level management of the knitwear subsector of the readymade garments sector. This curriculum is a nine month training programme which is tailored and up to date, especially for the knitwear mid and higher level managers for transforming them to world class business executive to meet the existing gap found from the market research. Under this program BIGD will train around 450 young professionals and graduates with required skills of generic and sector specific courses.

Training on Experimental and Behavioural Methods

On 6-8 May, 2018 BIGD organized Training on Experimental Economics at its Conference Room. Serena Cocciole, University of Stockholm facilitated the training session. Researchers from BIGD attended the training while the training was conducted on basic economics and use of survey tools.

Planning Workshop of the Academy of Work (AoW) held

BIGD and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) jointly organised a Planning workshop of the Academy of Work (AoW) on June 1, 2018 at BRAC CDM, Savar. The workshop was held to review the curriculum and session planning for the second cohort of AoW. Participants gathered there to share ideas and suggestions for ensuring an effective execution of the training programme for trade unionists.

BIGD's Visiting Fellow Ms. Maheen Sultan; Research Fellow Dr. Shanawez Hossain; Senior Research Associate, Mr. Sirajul Islam; Research Associate Mr. S. M. Arifat, Ms. Maria Matin, Ms. Rafiqua Ferdousi and Programme Coordinator Mr. Iqbal Hossain attended the workshop. Ms. Tina Blohm, Resident Representative of FES welcomed the participants at the workshop. Ms. Afsana Tazreen, Programme Coordinator of FES and Mr. Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, Executive Director of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS) also participated in the workshop.



The Academy of Work is a unique trainee programme for trade unionists in Bangladesh. Trade union members who work in middle management undergo three-month training courses. The long-term goals of the academy are to

contribute to a stronger social dialogue between trade unions and employer associations, and to strengthen trade unions as a whole.

Researcher's Other Activities

- Ms. Maheen Sultan, Visiting Fellow; Ms. Kabita Chowdhury and Ms. Sahida Khandakar, Research Associate of BIGD attended a seminar titled Implication of the Guideline on Sexual Harassment at Education and Workplace organized by ActionAid Bangladesh, held on May 07, 2018 at the city.

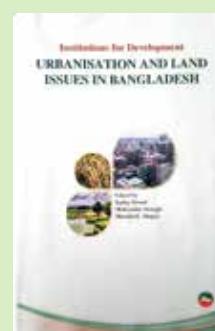
- Ms. Rafiqua Ferdousi, Research Associate attended the report launching event of the Justice needs and satisfaction survey 2018 in Bangladesh, organized by Hague Institute for Innovation of Law and BRAC HRLS on May 9, 2018

Op-ED

Bonik Barta: খ্রীকৃষ্ণ মিচুই এন্টে আইচেবি টক্স? by Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Senior Research Associate, BIGD, BRAC University on June 25, 2018.

Prothomalo: মাইকেল বি. কে. লি. এন্টে টক্স? by Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Senior Research Associate, BIGD, BRAC University on May 10, 2018.

Publications



Rahman, S.H. and Islam, M.S. (2018) 'Institutions of urban governance in Dhaka and Chittagong: Issues and challenges', in Ahmed, S. and Alamgir, M. and Mujeri M.K (ed.) Institutions for Development: Urbanization and Land Issues in Bangladesh. Bangladesh Economists' Forum.

Executive Director's Activities

BIGD's ED Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman had several meetings in the second quarter of 2018 with a number of distinguished personalities such as prominent academics, policy makers and researchers regarding the research collaborations and other relevant issues of BIGD.

Dr. Rahman had meetings with Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Chairperson, BRAC; Mr. Md. Mosta Gausul Hoque, Principal Project Management Consultant at World Bank; Mr. Mohammad Muslim Chowdhury, Secretary, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Dr. Nasir Uddin Ahmed, Commissioner, Anti Corruption Commission (ACC); Prof. Dr. Jaap M. de Heer, Team Leader, Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 Formulation Project; Mr. Wasel bin Shadat, Lecturer in Econometrics, The University of Manchester; Dr. Jahangir, Former Member, National Board of Revenue (NBR); Dr. Farzana Munshi, Associate Professor of Economics at the Department of Economics and Social Sciences of BRAC University; Dr Md. Abdul Mannan, Director (Enabling Environment), A2i; Professor Dr. Syed Saad Andaleeb, Vice Chancellor, BRAC

University; Mr. Hasanuzzaman, Outreach Manager, Copenhagen Consensus Center; Professor Mushtaq Khan, SOAS University of London; Mr. Zafrul Islam, Lead Procurement Specialist and Task Team Leader, Digitizing Implementation Monitoring and Public Procurement Project (DIMAPP), World Bank; Mr. Masud Mozammel, Sr. Communications Officer; Ms. Mehrin A. Mahbub, Communications, World Bank; Mr. Simon Stevens, IGC Bangladesh Team; Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC); Md. Mizanur Rahman, Member, Power & Natural Gas, Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC); Mr. Sujit Sarker, Aga Khan Foundation Bangladesh; Dr. Imran Matin, Chief Research and Policy Officer, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA); Ms. Tina Blohm, Resident Representative, FES Bangladesh Office; Md. Faruque Hossain, Director General, Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU); Dr. Adnan Khan, Research Programme Director, IGC; Mr. Daniel Honig, Assistant Professor, International Development, Johns Hopkins University; Ms. Farhana Ahmad, PhD student, City and Regional Planning Cornell University; Ms. Eille Valentine, Chief of Party Promoting Advocacy & Rights

Bangladesh; Sally Cawood, Research Fellow, Leeds University, United Kingdom; Mr. N M Zeaul Alam, Secretary, Cabinet Division; AMM Nasir Uddin, Former Energy Secretary.

Dr. Rahman also moderated a daylong training session under PRG Workshop on Behavioral and Experimental Social Sciences Research Methods. He also attended the BRAC Advisory meeting; fourth meeting of the Bangladesh Economists' Network organized by International Monetary Fund Resident Representative office; Porticus Bangladesh Partnership meeting; lunch meeting with MAGD Students and several Skype meetings with Ms. Emily Balskus, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Harvard University; Dr. Sandip Mitra, Assistant Professor, Sampling & Official Statistics Unit of India Statistical Institute (ISI); Mr. Peiter Snereels, Associate Professor and Reader in Economics at the University of East Anglia and Mr. Martijn Kind, Junior Quantitative Justice Data Analyst, Hague Institute for Innovation in Law (HIIL). He also attended a public lecture on Rohingya Refugee Crisis by Honourable Bob Rae, Canada's Prime Minister Special Envoy to Myanmar.

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