



BRAC University Bulletin

2012/march

Architecture Updates

Teacher-Student Meeting

The teacher-student meeting as a part of ten year celebration of the department of architecture took place on 1st March 2012, where students of architecture department and alumni participated. The event was facilitated by the **Chairperson, Prof. Fuad H. Mallick**. Vice Chancellor, **Professor Ainun Nishat**, **Pro-Vice** Chancellor, **Dr Md Golam Samdani Fakir and Registrar, Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury** were present at the meeting. Some of the major topic of discussion were- various means of developing studio culture and peer-learning, restructuring the syllabus of several courses so that it relates to architecture, not offering design studio in summer semester so that the student's have the option of exploring their field of interest etc. The participants, thus, enthusiastically shared their opinion, experiences, observations and suggestions for the betterment of the learning environment of the Architecture Department.

Prof. Fuad H Mallick made a presentation on "Higher Education in Disaster Management in Bangladesh"

Prof. Fuad H Mallick made a presentation on "Higher Education in Disaster Management in Bangladesh" in meeting with **Ms. Margareta Wahlström**, **Assistant Secretary General** of the United Nation for Disaster Risk Reduction. The event was organized by the Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Center the Alliance Francaise auditorium on 28th March, 2008. The meeting was attended by NGO community representatives in Bangladesh and civil society members.

Prof. Fuad H Mallick attended and presented a one day workshop

Prof. Fuad H Mallick attended and presented BRACU's background and current status on Disaster Management education at a one day workshop on higher education in Disaster Management in Bangladesh. Organized by UNDP the workshop the chief guest and the special guests were **Prof. Jamilur Reza Choudhury** and **Prof. Ainun Nishat**, former and present Vice Chancellors of BRACU.

Lecture on Urban Design Practices

Zafar Hadi, a practicing Architect and Urban Designer shared his practical experiences of Urban Design Projects on 20th March, 2012 as a session of Angan Lecture Series, arranged by Department of Architecture. **Mr. Hadi** got his Bachelor Degree from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology in Architecture and Master Degree from the University of California Los Angeles in Urban Design. He is currently working with Duhlin Group, an architecture and planning practice of 200+ professionals with offices throughout California and the People's Republic of China. He was welcome by an introductory speech, delivered by **Professor Zainab Faruqui Ali** and traditional Angan Shawl. Students and

Faculty members enjoyed his presentation and shared their own experiences with **Mr. Hadi**. The whole program was conducted by **Imon Chowdhoree, Lecturer** of Department of Architecture.

BBS Updates

EMBA Residential Program

The EMBA Program organized the spring 2012 residential program for the students which was held on the 17th and 18th of March, 2012 at BCDM, Savar; the program on 17th started at 11 am after refreshment. **Mr. Shawkat Kamal, Assistant Professor**, BRAC University and the EMBA Coordinator, presented a brief overview of the 2 days program for the students. **Professor Akbar Ali Khan** talked in detail about Ethics and Business. After lunch and Jumma prayer **Mr. Jahangir Kabir, Managing Director** of Insights and Ideas Limited shared his experience of his journey as a marketing professional that spanned over a period of 25 years. The day long program ended with the session of **Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Ex-Governor**, Bangladesh Bank; he talked about the challenges and prospects of Bangladesh banking sector. On the next day **Sanjay Kathuria**, lead Economist of World Bank spoke about the economic challenges facing Bangladesh. Later the director of BRAC Business School **Professor Mamun Rashid** took an interactive session about how to make one's own brand. In the afternoon a cultural program was organized by the students. The overall coordination of the program was done by **Mr. Javed Rassel, DCO**, EMBA.

Master Class | Session III



On 22 March the third session of BRAC Business School Master Class was held at BRAC University's Mohakhali campus. The subject of the proceeding was 'Understanding Macro Indicators'. With the recent economic recession around the world the topic seemed more than apt. The key speakers of the event were two distinguished figures in the arena of economics in Bangladesh. First up was **Dr. M. A. Taslim, professor** at the University

of Dhaka who has an illustrious academic, administrative and research career spreading over three decades. The next speaker was the former financial advisor to the caretaker government of Bangladesh, **Dr. A. B. M. Mirza Azizul Islam**, currently a professor at the BRAC Business School. The session was jointly coordinated by **Ms. Afsana Akhtar, Asst. Prof**, BBS, and **Mr. Saif Hossain, Lecturer II**, BBS in collaboration with International Association of Business Communicators (IABC), BRAC University.



Both speakers commented on how the different macro economic indicators are used to analyze the economic condition of a

country. The main points discussed during the Master Class were how Real Gross Domestic Product (RGDP) of a country, the different types of exchange rate that countries use in modern days, the consumer price index (CPI) and the Balance of Payments of a country are analyzed to better understand the overall condition of an economy. **Dr. Islam** mentioned the importance of a slow rate of inflation for the growth of an economy and that the government should not adhere to contractionary monetary policy at the first sight of inflation. However, he also mentioned that an excessive inflation rate is anti-growth. When explaining about exchange rates, **Dr. Islam** affirmed that the recent depreciation in the value of Bangladeshi Taka against the US Dollar was making our exporters more competitive in the foreign markets.

The students present at the event, hosted by the BRAC Business School, seemed keen on gaining useful knowledge about the macroeconomic indicators that would help them better understand the current economic situation. The BRAC Business School plans to have more of such Master Class events soon.

A session on Leadership with Nokia Country Manager

A session on Leadership with Nokia Country Manager was held on March 29, 2012 for the class of Organization Behavior. The Speaker, **Mr. Abu Daud Khan** has twelve years of leadership experience in leading MNCs (Telecom and FMCG). He started his career in British American Tobacco, Bangladesh, followed by Sony Ericsson and currently he is taking the General Management role of an operation spread in four different countries from Nokia Emerging Asia Limited. **Mr. Khan** in his 1 hour speech has explained the concept of leadership by giving reference of various incidents from different companies. As a whole it was a very enlightening session and the students enjoyed it thoroughly.

Mr. Farhad Mahbub talks about SAP ERP software at BBS

Mr. S.M. Farhad Mahbub Vice President, HR Operations, Human Resources from Robi Axiata appeared as the guest lecturer in Management Information Systems class on 25th March, 2012. **Mr. S.M. Farhad Mahbub** has over a decade of corporate experience at his craft. Currently, he is working as the Vice President, HR Operations Robi AXIATA Ltd. Before joining Robi Axiata, he worked almost 9 years for Grameen Phone (GP) in capacity of Manager HR Operations and also worked as a project manager of Telenor virtual workspace and collaboration project. Students thoroughly enjoyed his session and got the rare opportunity to understand the importance of learning SAP ERP software to leave an indelible mark in the corporate sector.

Bangladeshi Young Entrepreneurs Team flies to Oklahoma City, USA

BRAC Business School's Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) has been acting as in-country partner with Oklahoma University's Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication in order to implement an exchange program for the Bangladeshi young entrepreneurs. This high profile program is running with a US State Department grant and for the last 3 months CED had been closely involved in selecting the appropriate nominees who were to participate in the program. Upon completion of the rigorous recruitment process and a very informative pre-departure orientation session which took place on the 14th of

March 2012, the Bangladeshi Young Entrepreneurs team finally embarked for Oklahoma City, USA on morning of 31st March 2012. The team was being led by **Rahnuma Ahmed** of BBS who works as a lecturer teaching Entrepreneurship course at the school. Ms. Ahmed is also a Research Associate at CED who had been involved from the very beginning with the formative stage of the centre. The 11 member team will serve as interns in various US companies for 4 weeks. The exchange program will conclude with the team visiting the US capital Washington, D.C. where they are scheduled spend a week at the US State Department.

BDI Updates

The Research on "The Social Impact of Microfinance on Gender Norms and Behavior" is Underway

The Social Impact of Microfinance on Gender Norms and Behaviour is a research being conducted in partnership with Institute of Microfinance, The Population Council, New York and BRAC Development Institute (BDI), BRAC University. It is being undertaken in 300 PSUs (Primary Sampling Units) all over Bangladesh including both rural and urban areas. A community survey and mapping was conducted in Phase I of this research.

In Phase II, a household survey is being carried out in these 300 PSUs with 9000 respondents. This survey work is ongoing. At the same time qualitative research is being conducted in six selected PSUs. Components of the qualitative research include social mapping, institutional mapping, key informant interviews and in-depth case studies of selected respondents. In the month of March 2012, the qualitative research team completed their fifth village study in Kuais village, Hat Hazari upazilla, Chittagong district. The decision has been taken to postpone the sixth village study in the next phase as the five village studies have generated a great deal of data that need to be transcribed, translated and organized for analysis.

Workshop on "Road Map for Bangladesh towards Education for Sustainable Development"

BRAC Development Institute (BDI) in collaboration with The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) organized a two day long workshop on "Road Map for Bangladesh towards Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)" at BRAC University on 4 and 5 March 2012. **Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor** of BRAC University presided over the workshop and facilitated the important sessions. **The Director of BDI, Professor Syed M Hashemi**, as well facilitated few of the sessions. The organized workshop was a follow up action of the country assessment "State of Science Education in Bangladesh towards a Regional Collaboration on an Innovative Interdisciplinary Program in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)," carried out by UNESCO. The workshop was attended by experts of various disciplines with multidisciplinary inclination: teachers, education managers, researchers, activists etc. Representative of the UNESCO COMPETENCE project also attended the workshop.

The key goals of the workshop included clarifying the role and strategizing the

practice of higher education in science, technology and engineering in sustainable development of Bangladesh. The workshop also aimed to prepare a concrete action plan to design new post-graduate level courses or incorporate recommendations in existing courses at BRAC University and other public and private universities.

The workshop addressed possible ways and means to create interdisciplinary interactions among the experts in various aspects of sustainable development. The demand side of the problem among the potential students was also discussed. Finally the workshop recommended a detailed outline of an integrated ESD program.

Discussant at the Seminar on "Education at the Primary Level: Insights from Research"

The Economic Research Group (ERG) and International Growth Centre (IGC) jointly organized a seminar program on "Education at the Primary Level: Insights from Research" on March 28th, 2012 at the Ruposhi Bangla Hotel. Original papers, based on primary data, were presented. **The Director of BDI, Professor Syed M Hashemi**, was a designated discussant at this seminar.

Representatives of University of Notre Dame visit BDI

Representatives of the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame, met senior staff of BDI to explore areas of collaboration between the two Institutes. Discussions were held on opportunities for collaborative faculty research on health, education, livelihood development and civic engagement and on the Kellogg Institute's Visiting Fellows Program. **Tony Pohlen, Assistant Director** of the Ford Program at Kellogg Institute and Father Dowd, a Kellogg Institute faculty fellow, were present.

Alliance Forum Foundation (AFF) meets BDI

A team from Alliance Forum Foundation (AFF) visited BRAC Development Institute (BDI) on the 20th of March, 2012 to discuss future editions of the microfinance course titled "Financial Services for the Poor: An Introduction". This is targeted mostly to an international audience with little or no knowledge of microfinance. It is grounded in the experience of Bangladesh and includes extensive field visits.

In collaboration with AFF, BDI has offered this course five times in the past and intends to organize the next two sessions in September and December 2012. Moving ahead, course coordinators from organizations agreed to revamp the course according to a shorter schedule to encourage participation from working professionals and to explore various funding opportunities for students.

CfL Updates

CfL faculty members presented papers at TESOL Conference 2012



Two faculty members of Centre for Languages (CfL) have presented two papers at the TESOL Conference 2012 at Philadelphia. The uniqueness of this opportunity to present at TESOL becomes clear when one considers that TESOL is the largest international organization, and at its annual conference less than 20% papers submitted for participation get accepted. All high level ELT professionals and experts from the world over aspire to come at TESOL conference to share their

highest achievements and thoughts. This year about 7000 experts from more than 100 countries participated to share thoughts on professional development and best practices.

CfL's two lecturers presented papers based on their original work. **Aminul Islam's** (Lecturer) paper was Social capital and the aspects of marginalized female English teacher. Islam looked at the vulnerable female English teachers of rural Bangladesh to interpret their 'social capital' through a measurement of their life skills, social recognition and economic productivity. His study reflected the intertwining impacts of the capacity gained by these female English teachers on their family and community and the place it gave them in the socio political contexts.

The second paper presented jointly by **Mahmuda Yasmin Shaila, (Lecturer)** and **Beth Trudell, an ex-pedagogy expert** at CfL, was titled Transforming struggling students to successful students. It focused on teachers' struggle to motivate students to continue to learn in class. **Shaila & Trudell** described a successful procedure that they had devised to motivate students in their classroom. Their unconventional and challenging procedure had resulted in confident students at the end of the course. Their papers were well attended and commented upon. A few of the key speakers at the 2012 Conference were names like **Alberto M. Carvalho, William Labov, Kurt Kohn and Heidi Byrnes.**

Considering the steep competition for getting accepted at the annual TESOL conference, the uniqueness of the achievement of these two young lecturers of CfL at BRACU must be lauded.

Director of Communication for BRAC and BRAC International at CfL, BRACU

Asif Saleh, Director of Communications for BRAC and BRAC International overviewed the huge operations of BRAC both at home and abroad in an hourly presentation arranged by Centre for Languages (CfL) amid the presence of Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University **Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Director of CfL Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed** and the faculty members of CfL.

Usually, the faculty members of BRAC University encounter many queries about BRAC in home and abroad. That is why, the session aimed to provide them with more information about BRAC so that the queries can be easily answered to. In his speech the focus was- combination of business methods having a particular view of poverty with direct focus on human empowerment is the core essence of BRAC which placed it in a different place in this field.

Furthermore, from the speech it was evident that from the very beginning BRAC has been guided on the mission of "small is beautiful but large is essential". Aiming this, BRAC is merging from local to global contexts, and that ultimately brought more than 120 million people under its service.

During a question-answer session of the presentation **Mr. Asif Saleh** responded to the queries of the audiences and at one stage Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University shared that BRAC is the learning laboratory of BRAC University. The session was really a praiseworthy attempt to represent the huge operations of BRAC within a limited time.

Dr. Dil Afroze Quader conducted a workshop on research

On 1 March 2012, **Dr. Dil Afroze Quader** conducted a workshop on research methodology for the faculty members of CfL. The session was primarily an introduction to the style and steps of research. **Dr. Quader** talked about the different types of research and elaborately discussed the steps of research. This session was the beginning of several to follow over time, aimed mainly to keep the concepts of research methodology updated among the faculty members.

ENH Updates

Study trips of ENH students



Students of ENG 439 and ENG 653 Teaching Practicum visited several schools as a part of their course where they have to observe different techniques of teaching in English

classes. These included a visit to three BRAC schools in Manikganj on 3rd March 2012. The students also visited The City School International and Sea Breeze International School on 5th March 2012 and 15th March 2012 respectively as well. Each of the visits to the schools was followed by an observation report where students had to critically evaluate the teacher's teaching technique and the institution's role in monitoring students' progress.

On March 10, Saturday, the students of ENG331: Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice, visited Bashundhara City to analyze the mall from a cultural studies perspective. During this visit, the students examined the architecture of the mall, the arrangement of shops, the billboards and screens advertising numerous

products and stores, names of the shops, the different purposes the mall serves and the different reasons for which people visit the place. They also looked at the food court as a meeting place for many, which also exemplifies 'globalization' through its blend of cuisines; as well as the 'cinplex', which shows movies from Hollywood and Bangladesh, entertaining people of varied tastes and backgrounds.

ENH Seminar Series

On 15th March 2012, **Assistant Professor Andrew Sartori** delivered his lecture entitled "Intellectual History and the History of Capital in



Colonial Bengal" as a part of the ENH Seminar Series. **Professor Sartori** teaches History at New York University, USA. He is an intellectual historian of modern South Asia, with a special focus on Bengal.

Performance by ENH students



Students of Eng 102: English Composition-I organised a programme inspired by the spirit of International Mother Language Day 21st February. The programme titled Ekush -A tribute to all the languages of the world- had dramatization of two letters from Ekattorer Chithi-A collection of letters written by our Freedom Fighters during 1971 published by Prothom-Alo and GrameenPhone. It also included Chakma songs and recitation of modern Bengali poetry along with two creative writings in English language. Special guest of the event was **Dr. Afsan Chowdhury**, a journalist, researcher and development worker. The performance was directed by the course teacher, **Ms. Sabreena Ahmed**.

Publication by ENH Faculty

Sabreena Ahmed, Lecturer of ENH has translated the Bengali story "Amra Kojona" by **Anwara Syed Huq** into English. The translated story titled "We" has been published in the anthology The Annihilation and the Other Stories edited by the author herself and brought out by Shuddhashar publications, Dhaka.

ESS Updates

International conference attended by ESS faculty



Ms. Seuty Sabur, Assistant professor of Economics was invited to attend the 'International Symposium on the Future of Inter-Asia Cultural Studies' held on March 24-25, 2012 in Hsinchu, Taiwan, organized by the International Institute for Cultural Studies, University System of Taiwan, with the support of Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Society. Steering Committee for the Consortium of Inter-Asia

Cultural Studies Institution and Inter Asia Cultural Studies Society Board Meeting was held in the afternoon on March 23. As a core member of the project, **Dr Sabur** contributed to the planning of IICS's International Program to be formally launched in 2013 Taiwan as well as the ongoing development of the Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Society and its Consortium.

Dr Sabur also presented a paper in a roundtable session on 'Imagining the Future: What Can Be Done' on March 25, 2012. The main agenda was to design intellectual programs for the future of Inter-Asia Cultural Studies. A part of her paper illustrated how department of ESS and ENH of BRAC University can contribute to the growth of IACSS projects (research, journals, conference and summer school of IACSS).

Publications by ESS faculty

Dr Farzana Munshi, Assistant Professor of ESS coauthored paper on "Small and Micro Enterprise (SME) Development in Bangladesh" is published in Sixth Five Year Plan of Bangladesh 2011-2015 Background Papers Volume 4, Chapter 5. Publisher: Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies and Planning Commission of Bangladesh.

Senior Lecturer **Md. Kamrul Hasan's** research article entitled "Quality of primary health care services in rural Bangladesh: Patients' perspectives" has been accepted for publication in OIDA International Journal of Sustainable Development [ISSN: 1923:6654 (print) and ISSN: 1923:6662 (online)]. The Journal is published by Canada-based Ontario International Development Agency (OIDA). The paper will be indexed in SSRN, EBSCO and AMICUS, Library and Archives Canada's database. Citation (APA) of the paper is as follows: **Hasan, Md. K.** (2012). Quality of primary health care services in rural Bangladesh: Patients' perspectives. OIDA International Journal of Sustainable Development, 3(8), 69-78.

Seminar Organized by ESS



On 15th March, 2012, **Dr. Binayak Sen, Research Director**, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), guest lectured at the Department of Economics and Social Sciences. His talk was based on "Poverty and Inequality in Bangladesh: A Survey of Issues and Evidence". The lecture was organized by **Dr Farzana Munshi** for Economic Growth and Development (ECO311) course offered by ESS.



Interview of ESS Faculty

Assistant professor of ESS, Samia Huq's interview was published in the Georgetown University website in late January, 2012 where she broadly reflected her thoughts about gender and Islam in Bangladeshi society. She also talked about her affiliation with BRAC, one of the largest and best-known NGOs in the world in this interview.

IED Updates

Training for the SCOPE teachers

A training was conducted in March for the teachers of Grade VI with the view that these teachers can facilitate the 15 days long foundation course for the students of SCOPE Centre. The foundation course is emphasised on the basic concepts of Bangla, English, Mathematics and Science. The training schedule was prepared accordingly as two days were kept for Bangla and English, another two days for Mathematics and Science and one day was kept on general discussion on administrative issue. A total of 12 SCOPE teachers from Kamrangirchar and Savar were present at the 5 days long training.

Training for the women leaders

A three days training was conducted in 10 different upazila offices for the newly selected women leaders. The training module covered basic concepts of leadership, feature and quality of leadership, importance of women leaders, importance of primary education, gender, how to conduct women leader meeting

etc. The training was facilitated by 9 Community Researchers, and co facilitated by 10 trained women leaders. A total of 271 women leaders were trained in 15 batches.

Short course for the GoB officials



IED has been providing various capacity building programmes to GoB officials under PPT (Public Private Partnership). Under this it has provided a short course (5th batch) on 'Pre Primary Education' for the ADPEOs (Assistant District Primary Education Officer), URC (Upazilla Resource Centre) instructors and PTI (Primary Training Institutes)

instructors and another short course on 'How Head Teachers and AUEOs Can Make Schools Work' for the Head Teachers and AUEOs (Assistnat Upazila Education Officers) in March, 2012. Sixteen and 20 participants participated in these trainings respectively. Another short course has started from the end of March for the AUEOs.

Developing short course on English Language and Bangla

As part of the needs assessment for developing the English language short course, the curriculum group visited Gazipur PTI. They observed a training session and interviewed the trainers and saw how existing training falls far short of preparing English teachers for effective language teaching. They also observed a classroom teaching and found out how a properly trained teacher can successfully conduct an activity-based lesson with low- or no-cost teaching aids. Developing Bangla short course modules is going on simultaneously.

Launching of a short course on Science of Early Childhood Development (SECD)

The launching ceremony of short course on Science of ECD (SECD) was held at BRAC INN auditorium on 18 March 2012. The event was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor of BRAC University. Director, Training, Directorate of Primary Education (DPE), Programme Director, Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), the Course Instructor, Red River College (RRC), Winnipeg, Canada were the distinguished guests among the participants.



The short course of Science of ECD is joint endaveour of IED BRAC U and RRC with a combination of three short modules (Developmental Health and Brain Development, The Ecology of Childhood, Coping & Competence and

Communicating & Learning). This course is adapted for Bangladesh with financial support of AKF. The three modules were being piloted differently in three years and reviewed later. The course is equivalent to a credit course of 9 credits and mostly based on current research around the world and home.

Attending a workshop in Thailand



Eight IED professionals from different groups (Research and Development, Professional Development, Curriculum Research and Development, MEd in Educational Management, Planning and Management and Early Childhood Development and Resource Centre) participated in the Mother Tongue Based Multi-Lingual Education (MTB MLE) workshop organised jointly by Summer Institute of Linguistics and Research Institute of Languages and Cultures of Asia, Mahidul University, Bangkok. Seventy five participants from seventeen countries participated in the workshop. The workshop was part of a series on planning for strong and sustainable mother tongue-based multilingual education (MTB MLE) programmes focusing on language education.

IGS Updates

Inception of 4th Batch of the MA in Governance and Development (MAGD)

On 4 March, the 4th batch of MAGD classes has started at BCDM, Savar. This year altogether a number of twenty four students of which three female and the rest twenty one male belonging to 4 cadre of Bangladesh Civil Service have been enrolled in the class.

CIPS Students left for UK for Level VI Exams

On 18 March, Cohort II of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) left for UK for the completion of CIPS Level VI exams. The duration of the period for the exam is nine weeks.

Bangladesh Youth Survey Conference



IGS in collaboration with Colombo University organised a Joint Regional Conference at Mount Lavinia, Sri Lanka during March 22-24 named "Giving Youth A Voice". This brought together quite a number of core stakeholders who have been engaged in youth policies and youth studies in the region. Speakers from six countries, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Bhutan and Pakistan, as well as Germany were invited. Their presentations covered the fields that are of core interest to youth and youth policies, namely education, employment and vocational training, political participation, family and community, youth and IT, as well as overall topics of youth policies.

The conference was participated by around 40 scholars, who presented 23 papers within 2 and half days. These were followed by lively debates and exchanges of views and assessments. The three core groups were those from Sri Lanka, India and Bangladesh, where youth surveys have been carried out over the past few years. Besides the Colombo University and the IGS team, these included the team from the Centre for Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) in New Delhi, who had conducted the Indian Youth Survey. Policy makers were represented by key persons from the Ministry of Youth and Skill Development (Sri Lanka), as well as for the Dept. of Youth Affairs (Bhutan). From the side of development partners, young professionals from UNDP Pakistan and Bangladesh, and from Unicef Bhutan had joined the conference. Other academics were from Lucknow, Heidelberg, Bath (UK) and Bielefeld University. One core group for debate were Sri Lankan youth from several Youth Federations, as well as from the Sri Lankan Youth Parliament, including the Youth Prime Minister.

From the side of IGS, the participants were **Barrister Manzoor Hasan**, Advisor, **Dr. Elvira Graner** (Co-Organiser and Research Fellow), **Kazi Nur Mohammad Hossainul Haque**, Senior Research Associate, **Salina Aziz**, Senior Research Associate, **Fatema Samina Yasmin**, Research Assistant and **Rigan Chakma**, Research Assistant.

IGS Director delivered lecture in the BPATC

On 28 March **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Director of IGS conducted a class on Public Policy Analysis at BPATC, Savar for the senior government mid officials. The lecture was the part of their Senior Staff Course.

IGS Researcher Contributed in the New Paper

M. Shahidul Islam, Research Coordinator of IGS was interviewed by China Daily

on China-Bangladesh relations. The interview was titled, "Silk Route Builds Bridge" which was published in China Daily on 23 March. Mr. Islam also published an article in the Daily Star named "Of Youth and Indian Elections" in the OPED on 20 March.



FGD's Conducted

On 10 and 29 March two Focused Group Discussions were arranged by **Md. Harun-Or-Rashid**, Research Associate with the public officials and journalists respectively. The purpose of these two programs was to gather information from both parties in order to prepare a policy note on "Role of Media in Engaging Citizen in Public

Procurement in Bangladesh" under PPSC project.

Workshop on Citizen's Guide to Budget by ANSA

Affiliated Network for Social Accountability- South Asian Region (ANSA-SAR) of IGS with the support from the World Bank Institute and Canadian International Development Agency is in the process of developing a Citizen's Guide for Budget in Bangladesh. The first discussion meeting with stakeholders took place on March 8, 2012 at the BRAC Centre Inn. This is one of a set of interlinked activities under the WBI-CIDA Parliamentary and Media Support Project.

Training for International Anti-Corruption Professional Certificate

Nuzhat Jabin, Project Manager of ANSA-SAR project has participated in the training program for International Anti-Corruption Professional Certificate which has taken place from 12-16 March in London at International Centre for Parliamentary Studies.

The certificate is accredited by the Chartered Management Institute, the leading body that awards internationally recognised management and leadership qualifications.

ANSA Launched New Website

On 28 March ANSA-SAR has launched a new website which is more informative, user-friendly and convenient for the various stakeholders, partners and those who are interested in this project.

MNS Updates

International Conference on Physics

Bangladesh Physical Society organized the above-mentioned conference at BUET,

Dhaka. **Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad** chaired a technical session entitled "Nuclear Power Programme in Bangladesh". In this session **Dr. M. Shawkat Akbar** of BAEC presented an invited talk titled "Steps towards implementation of the country's first nuclear power project". A lively discussion followed the presentation. There were seven more contributory papers on relevant topics.

Annual General Meeting of Bangladesh Physical Society & Election

The AGM of Bangladesh Physical Society was held in the evening of March 16, 2012 at the Central Auditorium, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka. **Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad** was elected as the President of Bangladesh Physical Society for 2012-2014.

Round Table Discussion on "Shomudra Shima Joi: Shombhabana O Koronio"

The Bangla daily "Prothom Alo" arranged the above-mentioned round table discussion namely, "Shamudra Shima Joi: Shombhabana O Koronio" in the afternoon of March 18, 2012 at the office of "Prothom Alo" in Kawran Bazar, Dhaka. **Rear Admiral Khorshed Alam**, Additional Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, GOB was the keynote speaker. **Rear Admiral (Retd) M. H. Khan**, Former Chief of Bangladesh Navy, **Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad**, **Professor Anu Mohammed**, **Professor Badrul Imam**, **Mr. Shah Alam**, **Chairman**, Law Commission and **Professor Habibur Rahman** were the discussants. After the presentation of the keynote talk a lively discussion followed. The discussants gave their comments on various relevant issues. A large number of media personnel were present in the Round Table Discussion.

Workshop on National Science and Technology Policy 2011

A one day workshop on National Science and Technology Action Plan organized by the Ministry of Science and Technology, GOB was held at the IFST Auditorium, BCSIR, Dhaka on 22 March 2012. **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury**, Convener of the Committee for Formulation of the NST Policy 2011 and Advisor of the Action Plan Committee participated in the workshop. The vision of the National Science and Technology Policy 2011 is socio-economic development through effective and innovative leadership in the development, promotion and application of science and technology. In the proposed Action Plan, fifteen objectives of the NST Policy 2011 were divided into 11 strategic plans and 245 implementation targets based on short, medium and long term actions. **Professor Choudhury** chaired the session on Strategic Plan-3 consisting of forty action plans covering the areas of research and development in different public and private sectors. All the 245 action plans were presented in the workshop for comments. Vice Chancellors of different universities, heads of the research organizations, distinguished scientists and academicians from different universities and research organizations actively participated in the workshop and made valuable comments on the document. It was decided that the comments received would be incorporated into the Action Plan as far as possible. **Architect Yeafesh Osman**, State Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology, GOB was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Workshop on Road Map for Bangladesh towards ESD, Dhaka, 4-5 March, 2012 **Dr. Aparna Islam** and **Dr Mohammad Rafiqul Islam**, **Assistant Professors** of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences attended the Workshop

"Road Map for Bangladesh Towards Education for Sustainable Development" on March 4-5, 2012. The workshop held at BARCU was jointly organized by BRACU and UNESCO and participated by more than 20 delegates belonging to various public and private universities and institutes. During the two-day long workshop curricula for different types of degrees were discussed. Also seven topics were identified as priority topics to be included in the curricula. A team which includes **Dr. Islam** was constituted to formulate the curricula.

Workshop on Challenges of Young Women Scientists in New and Emerging Sciences



A two day long Workshop on Challenges of Young Women Scientists organized by Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) was held on 24-25 March, 2012 at the NMST Auditorium, Agargaon, Dhaka. The theme of the workshop was

"Challenges of Young Women Scientists in New and Emerging Sciences". Four faculties of the MNS Department, namely, **Dr. Aparna Islam, Ms. Sharmina Hossain, Ms. Amel Chowdhury, Ms. Sadia Sayeed** and one student of MS in Biotechnology Programme **Ms. Rahat Ara Monjil** attended this workshop. **Professor Shamima K Choudhury**, Department of Physics, Dhaka University was the coordinator of the workshop and **Dr. Aparna Islam** was one of the members of the Organizing Committee of this event. In the opening ceremony Architect **Yeafesh Oman, State Minister**, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh presented governments view in promoting science and women empowerment. **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Coordinator**, Biotechnology Programme, MNS department and Secretary, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences welcomed the delegates and explained the background of the workshop. In the two-day event eminent women scientists from Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh shared their experience in developing their science career. **Ms Sharmina Hossain** was one of the selected young scientists to speak on balancing life at home and work. The balance of life in achieving the success not only in the profession but also at home was discussed in detail in the workshop. The need of a mentor-mentee networking was emphasized in the workshop. The workshop highly encouraged the young women participants to pursue scientific dreams follow the path of the successful women scientists at home and abroad to become a scientist, while becoming a successful home maker as well. A number of important recommendations for gender participation in promotion of science and technology came out of the programme. Professor **Shamima Choudhury**, Coordinator of the workshop presented the recommendations of the workshop in the concluding session. **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Secretary** of BAS and Coordinator of Biotechnology Programme at BRACU elaborated the role of BAS in promoting science and technology specially women scientists of Bangladesh along with other programmes and activities of the Academy.

National Congress of Young BB, Shahjalal University of Science & Technology

A group consisting of three faculty members and DCO of the MNS Department along with 13 students from Biotechnology and Microbiology Undergraduate Programs of the department attended the 3rd National Congress of Young BB at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet held on 23rd March, 2012. Young BB stands for "Young Biotechnologists of Bangladesh" which is an organization that includes the undergraduate/graduate students who are studying biotechnology or related subjects in different institutions of Bangladesh or anywhere in the world. The main theme of this congress was "Business Biotechnology and Career Options". It was a wonderful platform that created the opportunity for our students to have interaction with others of the same science stream. Moreover, they came to know about the present status of biotechnology and related subjects in Bangladesh and all over the world. It was an excellent program that has explored the new possibilities of biotechnology and relevant subject area and most importantly, the practical applications of this high tech life science in the industrial sector. Moreover, our students got the opportunity to meet with eminent scientists of this stream of science from both within and outside of Bangladesh. There were several scientific sessions including poster and oral presentation of scientific papers that have been recently published from different renowned life science research labs. All together, the congress gave the opportunity to faculty members and students to interact and learn. The team visited some of the beautiful places at Sylhet like Jaflong, Tamabil, Shahjalal and Shah Poran Mazar. The whole group is wholeheartedly thankful to BRACU authority for their support without which it would not have been possible to arrange the tour with such promptness.

Workshop on Road Map for Bangladesh towards ESD

Dr. Aparna Islam and Dr Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, Assistant Professors of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences attended the Workshop ♦Road Map for Bangladesh Towards Education for Sustainable Development♦ on March 4-5, 2012. The workshop held at BARCU was jointly organized by BRACU and UNESCO and participated by more than 20 delegates belonging to various public and private universities and institutes. During the two-day long workshop curricula for different types of degrees were discussed. Also seven topics were identified as priority topics to be included in the curricula. A team which includes

Dr. Islam was constituted to formulate the curricula.



International Conference, Bangkok, Thailand

Jebunnesa Chowdhury, Lecturer of Biotechnology, Department of

Mathematics and Natural Sciences attended the "2nd Annual International Conference on Advances in Biotechnology (BioTech 2012) organized by Global Science & Technology Forum (GSTF)" held in Bangkok, Thailand on March, 12-13, 2012. The theme of the conference was Bioinformatics and Computational Biology.

There were 30 participants from different countries including Spain, U.A.E., Korea, India, Sweden, Iran, and Malaysia. **Jebunnesa Chowdhury** was the only participant from Bangladesh. The Conference served as a forum for researchers, academics, experienced professionals and business people to present and exchange new ideas in science, technologies and industry initiative. During the scientific sessions the speakers presented the results of their research studies.

Jebunnesa Chowdhury presented a scientific paper entitled "A comparative study on in-vitro regeneration frequency of four locally grown popular tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Miller) varieties of Bangladesh", which has been published in the Proceedings of the Conference. This will be indexed by EBSCO, CrossRef, Proquest and will be submitted by the organizers to Scopus, Science Direct, Cabell's Directory whereas applicable.

School of Law Updates

Seminar on legal education, entitled 'Reviewing Aspects of Legal Education'

The school of Law organised a seminar on legal education, entitled 'Reviewing Aspects of Legal Education', at the BRAC Centre on 09 March 2012. The keynote speaker at the inaugural session was **Dr. Mizanur Rahman, Chairperson** of the National Human Rights Commission and 2010 SAILS Law Teacher of the Year. Other speakers included eminent lawyers, jurists and academics, including Justice **Mirza Hussain Haider** of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, **Murad Reza**, Additional Attorney General and **Dr. Abdullah Al Faruque**, former Chairperson, Department of Law, Chittagong University. Present, in addition, were Professor **Ainun Nishat, the Vice Chancellor** and **Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, the Registrar** of BRAC University. Among the more than 100 participants, were former Law students of BRAC University, who, at the final session were given a slot to speak about their professional experiences after Law School and give suggestions as to how the transition from learning the Law and practicing the Law could be made smoother.



The programme was organised and coordinated by **Dr. Saira Rahman Khan**,

Ms. Mahua Zahur and Ms. Tasliman Yasmin, faculty of the School of Law, with the help of student volunteers. Faculty members **Dr. Shahdeen Malik, Prof. Shamsuddin Mahmood, Dr. Tureen Afroz and Dr. Rizwanul Islam** chaired the sessions.

Legal awareness programme

The School of Law held a legal awareness programme at a local school, the TNT Boys High School, where seven Law students conducted awareness raising sessions with students regarding human rights, child rights, women's rights and basic elements of criminal, civil and family laws. The programme was a 5-day long venture, from 24 - 27 March, coordinated by **Ms. Taslima Yasmin**, faculty member, School of Law, with support from the Rotary Club, Dhaka. The School of Law volunteers received training on how to conduct such programmes from **Taslim Yasmin**, before facing the TNT School students. The sessions at the TNT School were conducted with lectures, role-play, flip charts, class participation and the screening of the cartoon documentary, Meena.

SPH Updates

JPGSPH has moved to new premises at icddr'b

The JPGSPH has moved to its new premises at the 6th floor of ICDDR'B (68 **Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani**, Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212). The School's new PABX and fax numbers are 8825131, 8825141, 8825143, Fax 8831682.

First Staff Meeting at new premises

Dr. Timothy Grant Evans, Dean of JPGSPH held the first staff meeting at the new premises on 5 March, 2012. **Dr. Evans** welcomed all the staff. He asked everyone to introduce themselves. The new premise is much larger in size to the previous one therefore he also asked everyone to explain where they are seated. Some of these descriptions was fun to hear "there is a pink room", a "blue room", "north side", "south side". "south east side", "south west side", "room with a view", "room without a view", etc. He also addressed how important it was to have school activities recognized therefore asked everyone's contribution to the bulletin and other publications whenever the need arose.



For those who hadn't met everyone this was an excellent opportunity to do so especially with the new staff.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Combined course Anthropological Approaches in Public Health & Qualitative Research Methods:



This year at the MPH program, course coordinators **Dr. Nasima Selim, Senior Lecturer and Dr. Alayne Adams, Professor and Senior Scientist** facilitated the courses

on Anthropological Approaches to Public Health and Qualitative Research Methods as a single combined module from February 12th - March 8th, 2012. **Anuradha Hashemi, Researcher** was teaching fellow for the course. The combined course offered students a more integrated experience that allowed them the opportunity to connect theory with practice. The course was supported by guest lecturers and speakers from ICDDR, Jahangirnagar University, BRAC, and BRAC University. Unlike previous years, when students conducted fieldwork in rural areas, this year's course focused on the urban space to reflect the rapid urbanization in Bangladesh and its public health implications. Student fieldwork focused on the experiences of vulnerable groups such as female garment workers, slum residents, street and pavement dwellers, and rickshaw pullers of Dhaka city. The last day of the course was dedicated to student presentations.

EVENTS

Presentation on Global Health Oncology by Dr. Ophira Ginsburg, University of Toronto

Dr. Timothy Grant Evans, Dean of JPGSPH invited staff to attend the informative and thought provoking presentation on Global Health Oncology by **Dr. Ophira Ginsburg**, Adjunct Scientist- Women's College Research Institute, Assistant Professor, Dept Medicine, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, on 7 March 2012 at the conference room of the school.

Field research to demonstrate the cancer control in low-income countries is imperative, and feasible. It was frightening to learn that cancer kills more people than HIV/AIDS, malaria, and TB combined each year. 50-80% of all cancers in low income countries are diagnosed at an advanced stage. It was disheartening to know that only 5% of global cancer funds go to developing countries, where 80% of the case burden exists. "Addressing the global cancer burden is a search & research problem" **Dr Richard Love, founder & Scientific Director IBCRF** (1993). Her presentation focused on Khulna Division which has a population of 15 000 000, which has 2,000 new cases each year, with no cancer centre, no radiation machines, where 80% plus die of their disease, with poor quality, unneeded tests, and treatments which is ineffective, incomplete.

Dr. Ginsburg is associated with Amader Gram "Our Village" Breast Centre which has been set up in Khulna and caters to all regardless of ability to pay. It has centralized and coordinated care. It is funded by **Mr Reza Salim**, and the center is supported by Bangladeshi Friendship Education Society (BFES). Weekly breast cancer "case conference" and is also the country's 1st web-based Electronic medical records (EMR) and has won *National eHealth Award.

Academic Study Group (ASG)

ASG or Academic Study Group is an initiative to develop internal capacity of JPGSPH. The objective of such activity is to keep our junior and mid-level faculties informed and well-aware of what is happening on public health around the globe. It also addresses to scale up the theoretical knowledge of the faculties as well. ASG was initiated in the middle of 2008. During the month of March the following activities took place under ASG.

Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS)

Dr. Valadez and Dr. Astrid Schwarz

spoke on March 8, 2012 to give an overview of LQAS and



how it can be used for managing local health programs as well as for assessing the quality of care provided by health workers. **Dr. Joseph J. Valadez** is a professor of International Health at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. He is currently providing support to the Government of India to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy for the vector borne disease control program in 5 states and developing a rapid assessment systems of Skill Birth Attendants nationally. They are applying the Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) method to support the implementation of the malaria control and treatment program and the Skill Birth Attendants Program. LQAS is a rapid, easy to use, low cost monitoring and evaluation tool, being used by local managers at the sub-district level to assess the progress.

Second Global Symposium on Health Systems Research



"The Second Global Symposium on Health Systems Research (HSR) - Inclusion and Innovation Towards Universal Health Coverage" is going to be held in Beijing, China on October 31 - November 3, 2012. The symposium objectives are to review the status of HSR since the last Symposium in Montreux (November 2010), to share new evidence, identify new opportunities and gaps, build understanding across disciplinary boundaries, and discuss

the way forward to support HSR and the use of evidence in decision-making in low- and middle-income countries. James P Grant School of Public Health held a pre workshop - sensitization meeting on March 13, 2012, Sasakawa auditorium, icddr,b where the Dean of the school, **Dr. Timothy Evans** and **Dr. Kent Ranson** of the World Health Organization talked about the Second Global Symposium.

Coverage on UHC

Dr. Shakil Ahmed is a Health Systems Analyst at the Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne, Australia. He gave a



presentation on 'How institutional arrangements affect universal health coverage- Two Asian country examples' on 25 March at the big MPH classroom. Currently **Dr. Shakil** is a team member of the Health Policy and Health Finance Knowledge Hub, an AusAID initiative. He has been involved in health financing policy research studies in collaboration with Ministries of Health (Cambodia and Lao PDR), donor agencies and other regional research partners.. The session was attended by the staff, students of the 8th batch of MPH students, and chaired by the **Dr. Timothy Grant Evans, Dean of JPGSPH.**

PROJECT UPDATES

GFATM TB

Course on Public Health Management for Tuberculosis Programme Managers

JPGSPH offered a course titled 'Public Health Management for Tuberculosis Programme Managers', in partnership with BRAC Health Programme, BRAC Learning Division and ICDDR,B from 3 March, 2012 to 15 March, 2012. The course was attended by 23 participants from the following 12 districts:

Bandarban, Barguna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka, Khagrachari, Lalmonirhat, Khulna, Jhenaidah, Sherpur, Sirajganj and Sunamganj. They included clinic managers, district managers, medical officers, project coordinators, regional managers, senior district managers, senior medical officers, senior sector



specialists and social mobilization officers from BRAC and 3 partner organizations including Mamata, Ashar Alo Society and LEpra Bangladesh.

The course was inaugurated by **Dr. Timothy G. Evans, Dean, JPGSPH, Dr. Shamima Sultana, Deputy Program Manager**, National Tuberculosis Programme, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), **Dr. Md. Akramul Islam, Associate Director**, BRAC Health Programme, **Dr. Aftab Uddin, Senior Manager**, Technical Training Unit, icddr'b and **Ismat Bhuiya, Director** Programs, JPGSPH, BRAC University. A highly qualified resource pool of 25 resource persons from governmental, non-governmental, national and international organizations was developed. The course provided critical insight into health systems strengthening in light of tuberculosis programmes, covering topics such as health systems requirements, human resource management, health care financing and governance and leadership skills. **Dr. Md. Ashaque Husain, Director** MBDC &

Line Director-TB/Leprosy National Tuberculosis Control Program (NTP), DGHS also visited the participants to talk about the progress made and challenges faced by the NTP throughout the country. **Dr. Kaosar Afsana, Director**, BRAC Health Programme attended the certificate giving ceremony along with representatives from JPGSPH, BRAC and icddr'b.

Course on Monitoring and Evaluation for Tuberculosis Programme Managers

JPGSPH offered a course titled 'Monitoring and Evaluation for Tuberculosis Programme Managers', in partnership with BRAC Health Programme, BRAC Learning Division and icddr'b from 18 March, 2012 to 31 March, 2012. The course was attended by 23 participants from the following 9 districts: Bogra, Chittagong, Dhaka, Jessore, Khulna, Lalmonirhat, Maulvibazar, Rajshahi and Thakurgaon.



Participants included coordinators, medical officers, monitoring and evaluation officers, project managers, regional managers, regional supervisors, senior medical officers, senior MIS officers and senior sector specialists from BRAC and 13 partners organizations including Concerned Women for Family Development (CWFD), Health Education and Economic Development (HEED) Bangladesh, KMSS RCC PA-1 Rajshahi, Light House Bogra, Mamata, Marie Stopes Clinic Society, Paribar Kallayan Samity (PKS), Progoti Samaj Kallyan Protisthan (PSKP), RDRS Bangladesh, SEDAB, Shimantik UPHCP, The Leprosy Mission International Bangladesh, Tilottama Rajshahi.

The course was inaugurated by **Dr. Nuruzzaman Hoque, Programme Manager**, National Tuberculosis Control Program (NTP), DGHS, **Dr. Md. Akramul Islam, Associate Director**, BRAC Health Program, **Dr. Aftab Uddin, Senior Manager**, Technical Training Unit, ICDDR,B and **Ismat Bhuiya, Director Programs**, JPGSPH, BRAC University. A highly qualified resource pool of 8 resource persons from governmental, non-governmental, national and international organizations was developed. The course provided critical insight into monitoring and evaluation (M & E) of health programs, in particular of those related to tuberculosis. It offered practical training in tools, methods and applications of M & E, strengthening program personnel to successfully engage with programmatic M & E. Participants also made field visits to a BRAC field office in Badda and a CWFD field office in Tejgaon for monitoring purposes.



PRA social mapping by the TB research team of JPGSPH

As part of conducting Tuberculosis related research JPGSPH, BRACU organized an orientation of project staff on Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) social mapping and problem ranking matrix as on 27th March, 2012. Renowned PRA mapping expert **Mr. Hasan** facilitated the orientation. The orientation was interactive and participatory through question

answer on the presentation followed by group work on mock PRA mapping by the participants. Followed by the orientation the project staff visited the study site i.e. Sattola slum on the same day to observe the real scenario in the field, divide the study site into several segments and planned for a PRA social mapping.

Then a social PRA mapping was conducted in the Sattola slum on 31st March, 2012 with the active participation of around 15 slum dwellers including young and adult male, female.

Objective of the mapping was to make the list of different types of health service providers including of TB patients such as - spiritual healer, traditional healers (Kabiraj, Ayurved), drug sellers, homeopath, MBBS doctors, health workers, NGO service providers and mapping of household, roads, school, mosque, madrasa, NGO service delivery center, sanitation, water supply and drainage system etc.

Agreement signed for access of FSNSP data with UN REACH (Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger)

An agreement for access of FSNSP data has been signed with UN REACH (Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger), on 4 March 2012. UNREACH is an inter-agency global initiative of the United Nations (FAO, WFP, UNICEF and WHO) created to help find solutions to the nutrition needs of the world's most disadvantaged and vulnerable children and women by improving in-country nutrition governance and management. The FSNSP data will be used by UNREACH to develop a Multi-Sectoral Simulation Tool (MST) with support from the World Bank

Refresher training for Data Collection Officers for 2nd phase of Round 7 The training was held on 31 March'12 at Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Total participants were 90 and the sessions were facilitated by Field Managers, Senior Data Management Officer and Training Officer. Feedback from field observations during phase 1 of Round 7 data collection was shared. The interview questionnaire to be used for data collection was discussed in detail.

MOVE-IT Workshop

Workshop on 'Exploring the Potential of Open MRS and District Health Information System in Bangladesh'



The MIS-Health of DGHS, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GoB with collaboration from James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University organised a two-day workshop on 'Exploring the Potential of Open MRS & District Health Information System in Bangladesh' from 06 to 07 March, 2012 at Video Conference Room, JPG School of Public Health, BRAC University, Mohakhali, Dhaka.

The desired outcome is to understand the potentiality of open MRS system for digital health in Bangladesh to result in a better understanding of the variety of possible futures for digital health over the next decade. This understanding will expectantly lead to better collaboration across ICT sectors and wider engagement of stakeholders in driving towards the opportunities they want to achieve, opposed to one which might be suboptimal.

The workshop was facilitated by **Mr. Christopher Bailey, Scientist**, eHealth and Informatics, WHO, **Mr. Christopher John Seebregts, Executive Director**, Jembi Health Systems, South Africa, **Dr. Knut Staring**, Department of Informatics, University of Oslo, Norway, **Dr. Arunima S. Mukherjee**, Head-Health Systems, HISP India, **Mr. Sundeep Sahay, Professor**, Department of Informatics, University of Oslo, Norway, **Prof. Dr. Abul Kalam Azad**, Additional

Director General (Planning & Development) & Director, MIS, DGHS, **Dr. Timothy G Evans, Dean**, JPG School of Public Health, BRAC University and **Dr. Malabika Sarker, Professor**, JPG School of Public Health, BRAC University.

BRAC Healthcare Innovations Program

B-HIP Design Workshop

BHIP (BRAC Healthcare Innovations Program) is thinking of offering comprehensive health services with financial protection to people in Bangladesh with a particular focus on the poor by providing equitable access to quality health care at an affordable price. BHIP is currently in its Design Phase, and recently a first iteration of the design elements of BHIP was put together for the Design Phase Workshop held in Dhaka, JPGSPH, on the 19th and 20th of March, 2012.



In the workshop, the BHIP team has presented its current thinking to the workshop participants and received valuable inputs on several key components of BHIP (Service Provisioning, Finance, and Operational Issues). The participants came from BRAC, ICDDR,B, Gates Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, R4D, IIX, WHO, Sajida Foundation, INAFI, World Bank, GK, Ad-din and INM and shared their valuable experience and thoughts with the BHIP team, and gave useful feedbacks that BHIP would need to proceed forward. BHIP is thinking of incorporating those feedbacks and suggestions into their design of the program and move forward with a better idea of the possible options.

BANGLADESH HEALTH WATCH

Bangladesh Health Watch Meeting

A Bangladesh Health Watch meeting was held on March 20, 2012 at 4pm in School's premises with the Working Group Members (WGMs).

It was attended by **Dr. Rounaq Jahan** (Convener Working group); **Dr. Abbas Bhuiya** (Coordinator Working group); **Mr. Faruque Ahmed** (WGM); **Dr. Ubaidur Rob** (WGM); **Dr. Khairul Islam** (WGM); **Dr. A M Zakir Hussain** (WGM); and **Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid** (WGM).

The agenda for the meeting were:

- 1- To discuss the theme for next year's report of Bangladesh Health Watch
- 2- Discuss the institutional and governance structure of Bangladesh Health Watch

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Dr. Timothy Grant Evans, Dean of JPGSPH, participated in the 30th INDEPTH Board Meeting in Accra, Ghana from 15-16 March 2012. INDEPTH is a network of demographic surveillance sites of which icddr'b is a member. Together these sites across Asia and Africa constitute one of the best platforms for health research in low income countries.

JPGSPH is the leader of the course on public private partnership in primary health care track, a World Bank Initiative on Asia Network on capacity building for health systems strengthening. Dr. Timothy Grant Evans, Dean of JPGSPH and **Dr. Malabika Sarker**, Professor participated in the course development workshop hosted by The Chinese University of Hong Kong from 8th to 11th March in Hongkong.

Dr. Malabika Sarker, Professor taught and co coordinated Reproductive Health course from 19th March to 31st March in University of Heidelberg, Germany.

MPH Coordinator Professor Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Sameera Hussain, Research Associate, Dr. Ehsamul Azim, Consultant. /Sr. Research Associate, Lynn Freedman, Professor and Director of AMDD, Shanon Mc Nab (AMDD), and Saroj Sedalia (AMDD), in the UNICEF project went on field visits to see several of UNICEF's MNCH sites to observe programmatic innovations in March. Team members visited Banderban: Cox's Bazar; Thakurgaon/Dinajpur/Lalmonirhat/Nilphamari/Rangpur.

Excellent progress has been made on the project in collaboration with the larger consortium of icddr,b and AMDD (Columbia University). Team members are currently developing tools and will be conducting an ethnographic mapping of sites selected for the study throughout April.

Dr. Nasima Selim, Senior Lecturer, Dr. Enam Hasib, Lecturer and Anuradha Hashemi, Researcher facilitated the 7th public health seminar for more than 300 BRACU undergraduate students on March 31, 2012 in Savar. **Dr. Nasima** covered "Mental health and well-being: Brief training on relaxation and meditation techniques". **Dr. Enam Hasib** and **Anuradha Hashemi** covered "Sexual and Reproductive Health" for boys and girls respectively.

Each of these sessions was followed by question-answer sessions. **Dr. Julia Yassin** an intern at the school also accompanied the team. A documentary film on "Generation Waking Up Experience" - advocacy film to promote Environmentally Sustainable, Spiritually Fulfilling and Socially Just Lives was also shown.

Md. Saiful Islam Sarker, Research Associate and **Tapan Biswas, Sr. Program Officer**, IT, JPGSPH participated in a day long training on On-line Facilitation Course using Zing Technologies; facilitated by John Findlay, CEO of Zing Technologies at BRAC Centre on 27 March, 2012.

New Staff

1. **Dr. Kawkab Mahmud**, joined the JPGSPH as Consultant/Sr. Research Associate. She has worked as Medical Officer, Bangladesh Institute of Research and Rehabilitation for Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders (BIRDEM).

BIRDEM is a tertiary hospital and postgraduate and research institute comprising of outdoor and indoor facilities concentrating on the further development of medical research. **Dr. Mahmud** has worked in the department of Endocrinology, Infectious diseases, Emergency health care, Rheumatology and General medicine. She worked as Medical Officer in National Healthcare Network is an enterprise of primary health care service for the diabetic patients all over Bangladesh. She worked as Research Assistant, in Department of Occupational & Environmental Health of National Institute of Preventive & Social Medicine (NIPSOM) has conducted a project on the 'clinical and biochemical evaluation of Arsenicosis in arsenic endemic zone in Bangladesh'. She also worked as field research investigator in Dhaka University, Dept. of Pharmacy, worked as research investigator.

She has an MPH from University of Melbourne, Australia and an MBBS from Sir Salimullah Medical College, Dhaka.

2. **Dr. Ehsamul Azim** joined the JPGSPH as Consultant. /Sr. Research Associate. He works in close collaboration with UNICEF Evaluation and MOVE-IT team for training the research assistants, tool development, field visit and report writing, He has prepared the newsletter for MOVE-IT project UNICEF funded project 'Review of maternal, newborn and child health projects currently implemented by UNICEF to recommend a single optimum MNCH model'. MOVE-IT project. He is also working as Teaching Fellow in "Epidemiology Quantitative Module" and "Reproductive and Child Health Module" for the MPH Students. He is an MBBS (DU), and MPH in Reproductive and Child Health (DU)

3. **Md. Tariq Ul Hasan Khan**, joined the JPGSPH as Research Associate. Currently he is writing his thesis for the masters program in 'Globalization, Environment and Social Change' in Stockholm University, Sweden. He has worked as Associate Coordinator in SUPRO- Campaign for Good Governance, as Communication Officer in NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation, as Research Assistant in BRAC-RED, as Field Researcher in Oxfam GB.

He has done his bachelor and masters in Environmental Sciences from Jahangirnagar University. He did his internship in BRAC-RED during under graduation studies and in WaterAid Bangladesh during post graduations.

SECS Updates

First General Body Meeting of IEE Student Branch

On March 15th, IEEE SB organized its very first meeting with its existing and new members with an aim to discuss the year-long plans and introduce IEEE as an internationally acclaimed organization and present the benefits that it offers. The meeting started off with the former **chairperson Tasnim Rumman Hoque** followed by an ice-breaking session among the students helping them to know each other. Later three didactic and inspirational videos were shown to cover the different activities of the organization globally and also to share the experiences of some delighted members from different parts of the world. In addition students were also informed about the regional branches specially Region 10 and were provided with a detailed description of IEEE Bangladesh and its functions and active contribution to IEEE . Shortly after, **Rumman Huq** talked about his

participation in Region 10 Student Congress in Auckland, Netherlands sharing his very own experiences and also introduced the new executive body to the student members. Finally the new **chairperson Sabbir Ahmed Khan** gave the students an idea of the future benefits of being an IEEE member and talked about accessing the IEEE digital library from the University. He also made an announcement of the upcoming technical tour in Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and discussed about IEEE papers, journals and patent to give the students a basic idea of its significance and standards. Vice-Chair-**Md. Musa Sunny** informed that students from any science backgrounds can join IEEE, categorically mentioning that it is not limited to EEE students but also for students of Physics, Computer Science, Mathematics and so on. Towards the end, the second issue of 2011's newsletter was distributed among the members and finally the meeting was concluded with refreshments for all.

CP (Counseling and Psychosocial) Services Updates

Developing a Peer Support Team

"What do you feel to do when you see your friend being stressed out?
Don't you feel to extend your support him or her?
If you do, you can..."



On the basis of this motto, Counseling Unit took initiative to develop a peer support team to provide motivational service to the students on the right time and to the right person in BRAC University. The Peer Support Team acts as a voluntary unit at the campus. Under the supervision of the Psychosocial Counselors, the team supports the students who need counseling.

The Peer Support Team members are committed to the following principles:

- Provide initial psychological support
- Motivate your friend to receive Psychosocial Counseling Service
- Refer to Psychosocial counseling unit.

17 members obtained 2 trainings from counseling unit to sharpen their skills and it happened on this March 2012.

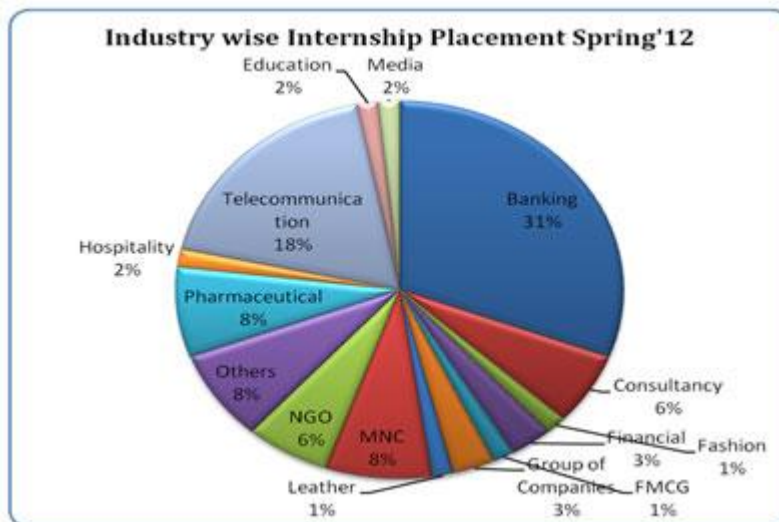
CSO Updates

Internship Placement Spring'12

BRACU-Career Services Office (CSO) has successfully completed the placement of spring'12 internship for all the registered students. 78 students from BBA, 6

students from EEE, 7 from ENH and 25 students from MBA were registered for internship in the semester Spring'12. These students were placed in various prominent organizations. For instance: Aarong, ACI Limited, Aftab Bohumukhi Farms Limited, Airtel Bangladesh Limited, Apex Adelchi Footwear Limited, Banglalink, Bengal Group, BRAC, BRAC Bank Limited, Dhaka Bank Limited, DHLExpress, First Security Islami Bank Limited, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Bangladesh Limited, Grameenphone Limited, Grow n Excel, Head Office Communication, ICDDR, Incepta Pharmaceuticals Limited, Market Access Providers Limited, Mercantile Bank Limited, MGO Pvt. Limited, MICRO Electrical Mechanical Solution Ltd., Mutual Trust Bank Limited, NCC Bank Limited, Newzealand Dairy Products Bangladesh Limited, Novartis (Bangladesh) Limited, One Bank Limited, Peoples Insurance Company Limited, Premier Bank Limited, Prime Bank Limited, Renata Limited, Robi Axiata Limited, Save the Children, Southeast Bank Limited, Spellbound Advertisement Ltd., Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd., SSBCL Group, The City Bank Limited, The UAE-Bangladesh Investment Company Limited, The Westin Dhaka and Trust Bank Limited.

Following chart is shown the percentage of the industry wise internship placement of Spring'12.



It has become very important to constantly develop personnel in organizations, provide career opportunities and training up students, during the present times of constant change. To keep in mind, office practices and technology, changes within organizations, we must pursue our students to get experienced in real life of work. Registration for Internship Summer'12 has already started from March 15, 2012. Our plans for this semester are even more ambitious.

Job Update

We (CSO) have also positioned 14 students in full time and 8 students in part time job.

1. Khaleduzzaman Sowrav | WingGroup
2. Sabbir Ahmed | WingGroup
3. Farzana Bint-E Rafiq | WingGroup

4. Farhana Karim | BRAC
5. Maria Badi | Citibank N.A
6. Syed Mohammad Shihan Sazid | Nestle Bangladesh Ltd.
7. Fahmida Sultana | BRAC Bank Limited
8. Md. Badrul Alam | Grow N Excel
9. Kamrun Nahar | Airtel Bangladesh
10. Ismat Ara Khanam | Incepta Pharmaceuticals
11. Marzana Moslem Mouli | Grameenphone Limited
12. Nusrat Anwar | Spellbound Advertisement Ltd.
13. Sadia Ahmed | Grameenphone Limited
14. Md. Hasan Shahriar | Fin Excel

Student Affairs Updates

Book donation program, organized by BURDC



BRAC University Rural development Club (BURDC) organized a book donation program at a community based area of BRAC in Gazipur on March 10, 2012. Members of BURDC collected books from different departments of BRAC University. This

program was facilitated by the Pro-Vice Chancellor **Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, BRAC University and successfully held by the advisors and members of the club.

In Gazipur, the visitors attended a stage drama named 'Shukh Chai' arranged by the local community which was based on 'Self Migration' in foreign countries. Members of the group and local audience thoroughly enjoyed drama. After the drama BURDC club members arranged a quiz competition where questions were related to the drama. As reinforcement various books were given as prize to the audience. More than hundred of books were also donated to local BRAC primary school.

BURDC expressed thanks to **Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury**, Registrar, BRAC University and **Professor Mamun Rashid**, Director, BRAC Business School for their heartfelt support and also for donating a large number of books.

Top BRACU Programming Contest

BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC) arranges a programming contest topBRACU each semester. Spring 2012 was no different. This semester 43 contestants registered for the challenge to earn the title "topBRACU". The contest

was held on Saturday the 10th of March. Four computer labs on the 11th floor were allocated. Faculty members of the Department of Computer Science & Engineering Sarwar Alam, **Abu Mohammad Hammad Ali** and **Abdur Rahman Adnan** were the problem setters. Six problems were set as usual and three hours were given to solve them. Pen-drives of 32GB, 16GB and 8GB were the prizes for the winners. **Abul Ahsan Mahmud** (10201029), **Anik Momtaz** (08201002) and **Onishim Hasdak** (09201003) stood first, second and third position in the competition respectively. After the programming contest addressing the participants, Chairperson of Department of Computer Science & Engineering **Dr. Mumit Khan** spoke a few words and congratulated the winners. Co-advisor of BUCC Md. **Shamsul Kaonain** and **Abu Mohammad Hammad Ali** passed a busy day supervising the event. They handed over prizes to the winners. The contest executive members did a hard work arranging the and look forward to overcome the troubles faced in the upcoming contests.

Seminar with Mozilla Community Bangladesh

BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC) with the collaboration of Mozilla Community Bangladesh arranged a seminar on "Mozilla Awareness Campaign



in Bangladesh". The seminar took place at GDLN on the 18th floor on the 27th of March. Mozilla Representatives (ReMo) **Mahay Alam Khan** of Ankur ICT Development Foundation, **Mashkawat Ahsab** of Akceycom Limited, **Md. Ashickur Rahman** from AUB were the presenters for the session. Speakers discussed about Mozilla, its history, products and projects, its usefulness. They inspired students to get involved with Mozilla and Open Source Software (OSS). They ended the talk with high hopes of collaborative development on the Web from the audience.

BUCC Member and Advisor join Online Seminar on Rural Community Development

On Wednesday, 21st March 2012 BRAC University participated in an online seminar on Rural Community Development (Enhancing Agricultural Productivity) along with 7 different countries on 10 sites.

The session was hosted by Mr. Philip Karp who works as a Regional Coordinator for East Asia and the Pacific at the World Bank Institute (WBI). Executive member **Amit Kumar Dey** (09101016) along with the Computer Club (BUCC) advisor, Annajiat Alim Rasel, Lecturer from School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) attended the seminar. In the seminar most of the countries shared their thoughts on Enhancing Agricultural productivity. The participated country also keeps a strong stand on the Green Revolution. Countries like Korea and Japan gives an overview of their agricultural development and enhancing productivity. Use of ICT in the process was also discussed. The 8 participated

countries were Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam and World Bank from Washington, USA. The seminar was co-sponsored by The World Bank, KDI School, and TDLC.

Linux Distro Installation at BRAC University



Foundation for Open Source Solutions Bangladesh (FOSSBD) and BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC) had a keen interest in arranging a Linux Installation Fest at BRAC University. BUCC jointly with

FOSSBD arranged a day long Linux Distro Installation Fest, on 25th of March, 2012. A booth was set up on 12th floor lift lobby. In this event, the volunteers of FOSSBD and BUCC executive members assisted students with Linux installation in their laptops and any technical support they needed. Starting from 10 am in the morning, the fest continued up to 5 pm. FOSSBD offered students a DVD collection of Linux operating systems along with other handy open source software. A lot of students were seen at the booth all day. BUCC has always encouraged students to use open source software and to know about new open web technologies. BUCC is looking forward to arrange more awareness campaigns in the coming semesters.

TLC Update

Workshop on "Developing and Sustaining High Performing Team"



TLC organized and facilitated a day long workshop on "Developing and Sustaining High Performing Team" at BRACU auditorium on March 24th. This workshop was designed for the BRACU Administrative and Management staffs from the middle and senior management level. As a first batch, 40 staffs from different departments participated in the workshop. The intention of the workshop was to revisit the existing performance of the teams working in different departments

and explore the proven ways and means through which the performance could be further enhanced and sustained. Some proven interactive experiential learning methods were applied in facilitating the workshop. The participants were involved in analyzing and discussing the key elements of high performing teams including problem solving, decision making, team dysfunctions and the diverse of team success. The methods were used in the workshop were stimulation games, stimulation structural exercises, case analysis, plenary sessions, group exercise and lecture discussion. The workshop facilitation team was **Prof. Md. Golam Samdanin Fakir, Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Chowdhury, Ms. Samina Anzum, Ms. Sumaiya Anwar, Ms. Anjuman Ara Eva and Mr. Shami Suhrid.**

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