



## BRAC University Bulletin

2013/may

### Vice Chancellor visited Harvard University, USA

Vice Chancellor **Professor Ainun Nishat** visited Harvard University last month. While visiting there he was invited to participate in a workshop titled, "Charting the Water Future of South Asia" from 28 April to 3 May 2013. The objective of the workshop was to identify and assess a common framework and opportunities to enhance regional cooperation and collaboration that will shape the future water landscape of South Asia. It was organized to encourage informal and constructive dialogue among national security professionals with the goal of generating ideas and suggestions for cooperative problem solving.

The workshop was organized as part of the U.S. - South Asia Leader Engagement Program. It was jointly organized by U.S. Government and Department of Defense and sponsored by the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University (HKS), the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS), and the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESA).

### Vice Chancellor participated on constituting policy and code of conduct for South Asian University

Vice Chancellor **Professor Ainun Nishat** visited South Asian University (SAU), New Delhi last month from 15 May to 17 May 2013. There Prof. Nishat participated in the committee constituted for preparing the assessment and promotion policy and code of conduct for teaching and non-teaching staff. The committee sat on 16-17 May 2013. SAU started its operations from the academic year 2010. SAU is an international university established by the eight member nations of South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) viz. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

### 49th Meeting of the Academic Council held on 26 May 2013

The 49th meeting of the Academic Council held in the GDLN Conference Room of BRAC University on 26 May 2013 at 7:00 PM. The meeting was chaired by **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University. Pro-VC, Registrar, and Head of all Departments/Schools/Institutes were present as members of the Council. The Council discussed different academic problems, review of the course curriculum, and update of the academic activities in that meeting. Academic professionals from different academia were also present in the meeting as members.

### Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir left BRAC University to join as Vice Chancellor of Green University, Bangladesh

**Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, the former Pro-Vice Chancellor left BRAC

University to join Green University, Bangladesh as Vice Chancellor last month. **Professor Samdani** joined BRAC University as Pro-Vice Chancellor on October 2009. After completing his tenure as Pro VC from March 2013, he served as the Director of the Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) of BRAC University. BRAC University appreciates his excellent service as Pro-VC and wishes him best in the future.

## Architecture Updates

**Professor Fuad H Mallick** attended the 2013 Humanitarian Policy Forum for Asia and the Pacific

**Professor Fuad H Mallick**, Pro Vc and Chairperson of the Department of Architecture attended the 2013 Humanitarian Policy Forum for Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok, Thailand on 27 and 28 May 2013. The event was organized by the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Various stakeholders from Asia and the Pacific also attended the forum which discussed the future of humanitarian responses in the likelihood of disasters and conflicts.

## Knowledge sharing workshop with community people in Cox's Bazar



A three day long workshop was held in Cox's Bazar from 11 to 13 May, 2013. This knowledge sharing workshop was done as a part of "Climate Resilient Homestead and Settlement for Communities in

Ecological Critical Areas of Teknaf Peninsula & Sonadia Island" under Community Based Adaptation in the Ecologically Critical Areas through Biodiversity Conservation and Social Protection Project, a research for IUCN . Among the participants there were house owners, local builders, carpenters, craftsmen and female members of households to share their opinions and skills. This workshop encouraged horizontal learning from each other. Information on different techniques of building stronger disaster resilient houses was shared amongst them. They were asked to draw their dream house considering their individual locality, environment and how to strengthen a house in lower cost. In later phase, they made house models to express their ideas. Officials from Department of Environment, Bangladesh Government and NACOM (Nature Conservation Management) were present in the workshop.



This workshop was conducted by **Khondaker Hasibul Kabir**, **Yasmin Ara**, **Tahmina Rahman** and **Suhailey Farzana** from Department of Architecture.

### Faculty attended a Workshop of Community Architects Network (CAN) in the Philippines



**Khondaker Hasibul Kabir**, senior lecturer, **Mahmuda Alam**, a student and **Risal Ahmed** former student of the Department of Architecture, BRAC University participated in the 2nd Regional Meeting and Workshop of Community Architects Network (CAN) in the Philippines from 19 May to 29 May 2013. In the meeting they shared the community-led housing activities in Bangladesh done by BRAC University. Around 80 community architects from different countries shared their experiences. As part of the workshop the participants were divided into seven different groups and stayed in seven different urban-poor communities for three days and helped to do community mapping with the people to identify weaknesses, strengths and possible solutions. At the end of the workshop people

of the community presented the solutions to city authority who took the responsibility to solve the problems with community. The main philosophy of this process is, "Let people be the solution".

### Faculty visited Shillong, India

Some faculty of the Department of Architecture visited Shillong, the capital city of Meghalaya from 01 to 05 May, 2013. Its natural beauty and hilly topography gives a different experience. Shillong shows how the development of a city responds to its location and topography. Faculty also visited Mawlynnong village, known as the cleanest village of Asia. The collective effort of the community of the village gives a unique character and makes it a very attractive tourist spot of India. That village can be an inspiration for every nation in the world.

## BBS Updates

### MBA Orientation program-Summer at BRAC Center



MBA Orientation Program is a unique event organized jointly by MBA Program and MBA Forum in every semester. It is a great platform for the students to get familiarize with the campus life, study mode, rules and regulations they have to face. Also, it works for both the betterment of the student and the authority by developing a good interaction and connection among themselves.

The MBA Orientation program-Summer-2013 was held at BRAC Inn Auditorium, BRAC Center, Dhaka, Bangladesh in 16th May, 2013. The program started from 7 PM and ended at 9 PM. The program was very interactive and was anchored by **Mr Md Jabir Al Mursalin**, Senior Lecturer of BRAC University. He welcomed the entire fresher's and two beautiful ladies from BRACU MBA Forum gave flowers to the entire fresher's as a token of appreciation. After that, **Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury**, Registrar, BRAC University delivered his speech towards the audience which was full of information. Then **Mr. Rashedul Alam Sarker**, President BRACU MBA Forum delivered his exciting speech along with showing a Power Point presentation about MBA Forum. This grabbed a lot of attention of the audience and was appreciated by all. After that, **Mr. Mahmudul Haq**, Assistant Professor, BRAC Business School delivered his speech. Then, our chief guest of the program **Professor Fuad H. Mallick**, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Chairperson, Department of Architecture, BRAC University conveyed his speech to the



audience. After that, the special guest **Mr. Kazi Monirul Islam**, Country Consultant (Bangladesh) at Google shared his wonderful experience towards the audience and the audience was very much enchanted to hear the words from the speaker. Finally **Mr. Rezaur Razzak**, Assistant Professor and Acting Director, BRAC Business School delivered his wonderful speech which was very inspiring and worthy of hearing. Also, he thanked **Mr. Satyajit Kumar Modak**, DCO, MBA Program, **Mr. Mosharef Hossain Mamun** and all the members of BRACU MBA Forum to make this event successful and highly appreciated their effort. At the end, the fresher's were provided with snacks.

### BRAC University's Executive MBA Summer 2013 Orientation



On the 23rd of May, BRAC Business School held its Summer Executive MBA Orientation Session at BRAC Center Inn at 6.00 p.m. in the evening. The Honorable Vice Chancellor was the Chief Guest of the session accompanied by other distinguished guests and faculty members of BRAC University. The program began with a welcome introduction from the newly enrolled Summer Executive MBA students. This was followed by welcome notes from the panel guests, namely, **Mr. Rezaur Razzak**, the Director in Charge of BRAC Business School, **Lt. Gen. Abdul Wadud**, **Professor Akbar Ali Khan**, a presentation by **Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury**, the Registrar, and the final closing speech by the Honorable Vice Chancellor **Dr. Ainun Nishat**.

It was a very enjoyable evening. And in this Summer semester some 55 new students are joining the Executive MBA Program with a total of 300 students currently enrolled, as part of the program's continuing success and advancement for the future.

### Research Work of BBS Faculty Members

**Dr. Mohammed Tareque Aziz** and **Dr. Noor Azila** (2013) "Evaluating the effect of cost related factors on relationship quality: An investigation of retailer-supplier relationship in Bangladesh" has been published in International Journal of Retail and Distribution Management (IJRDM), Issue 7, Volume 41.

**Dr. Md. Fazley Elahi Chowdhury** and **Saif Hossain** (2013) "A Theory-Based Model For Explaining Consumer Shopping Acceptance of the E-Stores In

Bangladesh" has been published in the International Journal of Economics and Social Science, Volume 1, an official publication from Mustang Journals, Inc, University of Central, Oklahoma.

## BDI Updates

### MLARR Team at an International Conference in India



The MLARR (Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation) team of BDI attended the conference 'Resettlement and Rehabilitation and Benefit Sharing in Infrastructure Development,' which took place at Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad from May 20-21, 2013. The conference was supported by World Bank and AusAID. 84 participants from 20 various countries representing government agencies, practitioners, universities and development partners attended the conference. From the MLARR team of BDI, **Dr. Ferdous Jahan**, Academic Coordinator, **Dr. Rashed-Uz-Zaman**, faculty member, **Mamunur Rashid**, Senior Research Associate and **Md. Saidur Rahman**, Research Associate took part in the conference.



The conference was followed by a workshop on May 24, 2013.

Representatives from various MLARR centers across different regions including Latin America, Africa and South Asia

attended the workshop. The representatives talked about the internal cooperation among the centers for more efficient knowledge sharing. At the workshop, the contribution and support of BRAC Development Institute to the resettlement sector and to different MLARR centers have been recognized and appreciated by the participants. Academic information sharing was addressed prominently for strengthening the collaboration. BDI was selected to take the initial step to set up the communication mechanism in this regard. The workshop was chaired by **Cyprian F. Fisiy**, Sector Director (Social Development) at the World Bank and moderated by Elena Correa, Consultant and Resettlement Specialist.

### A Two-day Training Course on Resettlement Data Management at BDI



BDI offered a two day long workshop on Resettlement Data Management from May 29-30, 2013 at BRAC University. The course was offered for the field level researchers with an aim to enhance their knowledge through conceptual clarity, different project experiences and actual data requirement by agencies. Data Management trainers of BDI along with few experts from outside carried out the workshop. 15 Participants from prominent resettlement agencies including Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB), Polli Unnayan Andolon (RDM), Rural Management Consultants Ltd. (RMC), Knowledge Management Consultants Ltd. (KMC), Development Organization of the Rural Poor (DORP) and BRAC Development Institute (BDI) participated in the workshop. At the end of the two days workshop, a certificate giving ceremony was organized in the presence of **Sabah Moyeen**, Social Development Specialist, Bangladesh Country Office, World Bank and **Alamgir Kabir**, Deputy Academic Coordinator, BDI and **Saidur Rahman Sagor**, the Course Coordinator, BDI along with the MLARR team.

### Follow up to the Dhaka Resolution

"Follow up to the Dhaka Resolution" is a UN Women funded research on the impact on access to justice among the beneficiaries of Promotion of Legal and Social Empowerment of Women intervention (PLSEW, Phase II) undertaken by German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) between 2008-2011. This intervention was selected at the Seventh South Asian Regional Ministerial Conference Commemorating Beijing held in 2010 as an exemplary collaborative initiative between development agencies, program implementers and policymakers with the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs taking a leading role. This initiative also involved Ministry of Home, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, the Bangladesh Police and the Department of Women's Affairs. As per the Dhaka Resolution made at the conference, this research will assess the impact of the PLSEW to contribute to strengthening local governance and government services to respond effectively to reduce violence against women.

BDI has completed carrying out the qualitative research in its four selected intervention areas ((Bogora, Netrokona, Satkhira and Madaripur) to conduct a legal review of laws relevant to gender equality, rights and gender violence. The process of analysis has already begun. Also, a short documentary on issues of accessing justice in rural Bangladesh is being planned and will soon be finalized.

### CSO Updates



## Press Conference on the BRAC University- Prothom-alojobs Career Fair to be Held On 26/27 October' 13 @ the Westin



CSO, BRAC University and Prothom-alojobs officially launched their partnership with the signing of a MOU at the press conference held on 13 May 2013 at JATRI. The main issue of discussion was "tackling graduate unemployment" and the proposal to have a Career Fair on October 26th and October 27th at The Westin Hotel, Dhaka.

The press conference began with an introduction by **Mr. Kumar Murshid**, Advisor CSO followed by the signing ceremony. Speeches in the occasion were given by the chief guests **Professor Ainun Nishat**, the Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, **Air Cdre(Retd) Ishfaq Ilahi Chowdhury**, Register BRAC University, **Mr Mahfuz Anam**, Editor Daily Star and **Mr. Matiur Rahman** Editor, Prothom Alo. A presentation describing all details of the Career Fair was given **Humaira Sharmeen**, Head of Operations, Prothom-alojobs.

### First Lead-In Event to the Career Fair 2013



The first event of the partnership between CSO and Prothom-alojobs began with a workshop on 22 May 2013 at Indoor Auditorium, BRAC University.

The title of the workshop was "Branding, Packaging and Selling yourself to the potential stakeholders" which gave the students an overview on CV writing and interview skills. The session concluded with a demo interview session to present an idea of the real interview experience.

The resource person in the event was **Mohammad Nazrul Islam**, Deputy General Manager- Human Resource Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited. Mr.



Kumar Murshid, Advisor CSO, **Mr Kazi Shahnoor Kabir**, executive CSO, **Ms. Rakshinda Huq**, Officer CSO and **Ms. Zinat Fatema**, Intern CSO were also present in the event along with members from Prothom-alojobs.

### Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) Mock Interview Session - Spring 2013

Career Services Office (CSO) organizes "Mock Interview Session" every semester as a modular component of Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) aiming to provide the



prospective graduates experience of facing actual interview boards. "Mock Interview Session" for Spring 2013 students took place on 18th May, 2013.

Twenty renowned organizations have participated namely: Liz Fashion, Airtel Bangladesh Limited, BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited, Unilever Bangladesh Limited, Mutual Trust Bank, Aarong, Square Group, BRAC Bank Limited, Data Edge, Beximco Limited (Textiles & Apparel Division) Data Edge, ACI Limited, EZZY GROUP, Bdjobs.com Ltd, LM Ericsson Bangladesh Limited, Grameenphone, Mercantile Bank Limited, STANDARD CHARTERED BANK, Avery Dennison, Yellow and Quader Chambers (Law Firm).

A total of 188 students have participated in this event for interview assessment and a total of 20 interview boards were set up. Detailed feedback has been received on every interviewed candidate, indicating strengths and areas of development. **Ms. Asma Banu**, Senior Assistant Director of Career Services Office of BRAC University inaugurated the event. **Mr. Kumar Murshid**, Advisor CSO was the key speaker of the session. **Kazi Shahnoor Kabir**, Career Services Executive, explained the interview process for conducting the Mock Interview Session.. **Ms. Zinat Fatema**, Intern CSO and other team members of CSO helped and coordinated in order to make the session a successful one. With the help of student volunteers the event concluded.

### C3ER Updates

**Focus Group Discussion with Community People and Government Officials in Satkhira District for the project on "Role of Governance against Climate Change Induced Migration"**



Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER), organized a series of focus group discussion with Community people and Government Officials in Gabura and Munshiganj Unions of Shyamnagar Upazilla of Satkhira District from 2 May 2013 through 8 May 2013 to collect ground level information and data for the project entitled "Role of Governance against Climate Change Induced Migration". **Mr. Nandan Mukherjee**, Program Manager (C3ER), along with staff of C3ER, took part in the information gathering process.

During the field visit, data were collected on out-migration that was taking place from the Aila-affected areas of Satkhira. However, it was evident that such human movements were not essentially the sole outcome from climatic stressors like storm surge. Rather, slow onset climatic events (such as sea level rise) coupled with rapid onset events (such as storm surge) and anthropogenic responses (such as reduction of freshwater flow from upstream, shrimp cultivation, etc.) have been putting life and livelihood at risk, leading to short term as well as permanent migration from the locality.

#### **C3ER faculty attends ninth training course on 'Oceanography: Principles and Application' organized by NOAMI, Dhaka**

**Dr. Sajidur Rahman**, Senior Lecturer, C3ER participated in the short training course on Oceanography entitled "Oceanography :Principles and Applications " from February 9th to May 11th 2013 , at Atomic Energy Centre, Ramna, Dhaka organized by National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute. Trainees from different organizations and institutions both in the public and private sectors participated in the training course. Thirty resources persons participated from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), University of Dhaka, Chittagong University, Jahangir Nagar University, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, Department of Environment, BIWTA, SPARRSO, Bangladesh Meteorological Department etc. delivers the lectures. The main focus of this training session was to share advance knowledge on the marine science and oceanographic observation. This training also act as a expert building tool for the new generation climate change specialists and government officials.

Certificate awarded ceremony was chaired by Architect **Mr. Yeafesh Osman**, Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of the Peoples republic of Bangladesh was present on the certificate awarded ceremony.

#### **Local Policy Dialogue held on Pabna for project on "Strengthening Governance in Wetland Management Policies"**

**Md.Tahmid Haq Easher**, Research Associate of C3ER participated and partly

facilitated a day long local policy dialogue on "Strengthening Governance in Wetland Management Policies" organized by IGS May 11th , 2013 in Pabna. The workshop was chaired by ADC of Pabna District and Several government officials of related departments (Land, Water, Fish, Youth, Agriculture etc.), NGOs working in wetland issues and WBRP (CNRS, GOPA, DSK), representatives from fishermen communities and BMO members participate in the workshop. Moderator of IGS presented five major challenges about the Wetland Management Policies and a group discussion was facilitated to find potential solution to address the challenges. After through discussion a draft policy note on the workshop findings was agreed to prepare then it would be reviewed by IGS and C3ER and presented in the National Policy Dialogue in Dhaka.

**Program Manager of Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER) attended Conference on Global Platform for DRR Geneva, Switzerland**



**Mr. Nandan Mukherjee,** Program Manager of Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER), BRAC University, attended The Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction at Geneva, Switzerland from May 19th through May 23rd, 2013. The Fourth Session will be one of the largest

forums on disaster risk reduction held in recent memory. The 2013 Global Platform gave special emphasis on three critical areas. The first is private sector investment in disaster risk management, the second is the work of local communities, networks, and supporting policies in building resilience and the third is local and national governments, and their take on implementation of the HFA as well as on an action agenda for building disaster resilience in a post 2015 successor framework.

For C3ER, the conference served as a forum to exchange experiences on successful practices and innovative approaches in implementing HFA's five priorities for action at the national and local levels.

## **ENH Updates**

### **Poetry at Play**





The Department of English and Humanities (ENH) of BRAC University organised a unique event titled "Poetry and Play" on 27th May 2013 in BRAC University Auditorium. The event featured poetry recitation from eminent poets **Asad Chowdhury, Asad Mannan, Tokan Thakur, Shamim Reza, Afroza Shoma, Kamal Chowdhury** and **Kaiser Haq**. **Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam** presided over the program.

**William Hanna**, Ambassador, and Head of Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh was present at the event and recited from the poetry of Irish poets such as **William Butler Yeats** and **Seamus Heaney**.

Students' recited Bengali poems and rendition of their translations was a special feature of this event. **Anika Rahman, Anika Tasnim,, Farah Jafry, Ishrat Jahan Prioti, Nur Nigar Sultan, Rafsana Mustary Raisa** recited these poems. **Sabrina Mahjabin** danced to the beat of Tagore song "Krishnokoli Ami Tare Boli".

**Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice-Chancellor and **Isfaq Ilahi Chowdhury**, Registrar of BRAC University were present at this occasion. The event ended with vote of thanks from **Ms. Rukhsana Rahim Chowdhury** who is a Senior Lecturer at ENH and also the main coordinator of the event.

All the poets on stage Students and faculty members with the invited poets

### Rejoining of Faculty

**Mohammad Mahmudul Haque**, Lecturer at ENH has rejoined the department on 20th May 2013. He completed his second Masters in TESOL from American University Washington DC on Fulbright Scholarship 2011-2013, funded by the US Department of State.

## ESS Updates

### Workshop organized by ESS

ESS organized a five-day workshop in Econometrics using STATA. Twelve advanced level Economics students participated in the workshop. The workshop was organized by Dr Farzana Munshi. Dr Minhaj Mahmud from Bangladesh Institute of Development studies conducted the workshop.

## ESS Seminar

ESS organized a seminar on 30th May. The seminar, entitled, "Welfare Impacts of Bangladesh-India Bilateral Trade Reforms: Results from CGE Analysis" was presented by Dr Shamim Shakur, visiting Professor at ESS.

## Publication

### Dr Shamim Shakur:

Paper published:

**Shamim Shakur & Allan N Rae** "Impact of Doha Round and India's Trade Reforms on Bangladesh" Journal of Society, Economy and Development, Vol 1, No. 1 p. 16-39.

2. Presented a seminar on 30th May at UB10503 (VC's conference room). The seminar, entitled, "Welfare Impacts of Bangladesh-India Bilateral Trade Reforms: Results from CGE Analysis." By using a computable general equilibrium (CGE) model to quantify the impacts of plausible trade liberalization scenarios, his research shows that Bangladesh is one of the few countries that would lose from the current WTO multilateral trade initiative. To the contrary, Bangladesh has a lot to gain from regional trade liberalization, especially from India. India's expected boom in the coming years offer enormous potential trading opportunities for Bangladesh. At the same a large country like India can gain most by accelerating its unilateral tariff reduction plans.

A visiting Professor at ESS, Dr Shakur comes from Massey University in New Zealand where he is a faculty member in the School of Economics and Finance.

### Dr Seuty Sabur:

Assistant Professor **Seuty Sabur's** article 'Post card from Shahabag' was published in International Sociological Association's e-symposium (Sage Publications) in march 7, 2013 issue for this quarter. She was also involved in Rana Plaza rescue operation and working on Archive as a part of the social scientist collective 'April 24'. She has been writing her social commentary on current issues on blog

(<http://alalodulal.org/author/seutysabur>). One of her essay was later reprinted as op-ed in Dhaka Tribune on may 19th

(<http://www.dhakatribune.com/op-ed/2013/may/19/it-state-who-needs-holy-trinity-nation-nationality-nationalism-and-common-enemy>).

## IED Updates

### Counselling to Savar victims

In the month of May, the Psychosocial Counselling Team of IED provided counselling support for the victims who were injured when the 9-storey building, Rana Plaza collapsed in Savar. The team started counselling from 27th April and went to Dhaka Medical Hospital and Pongu Hospital, continuing until the end of May. A total of 119 patients in Pongu Hospital and 37 patients in Dhaka Medical Hospital were provided with counselling support. While doing the counselling, the team came up with new thoughts to address trauma. The team is trying to address trauma through the victims' experiences during and after the incident. The documentation is under process where traumatic experiences, post-traumatic stress and disorder are highlighted.

### Ongoing Research Activities

The research team is currently doing research on classroom culture particularly from a gender perspective following ethnographic research approaches. We want to see how male and female student interact in the classroom, how they perceive the gender role in their everyday lives and to find out the gender gaps between students. Our research is about explaining the world around the student and trying to understand how life operates for a person passing through their life as 'student'. It is about finding out what problems are faced, how to resolve them and to identify the reasons for them as future initiative. We look for answers to specific questions that help students, teachers, parents and the community. The purpose of the research is to applying the findings to real situations to establish the relationships between male and female students, teachers and students, parents and students and the community and students through a gender perspective.

### Roundtable Discussion on 'Managing Large System in Education'

A Roundtable discussion on 'Managing Large System in Education' was held on Monday, May 20th, 2013. **Dr.**

**Manzoor Ahmed**, Senior Advisor, IED, BRAC U facilitated the discussion. Faculty

members and students of MEd in Educational Leadership, Planning and Management (evening second batch) took part in the discussion. The discussion was held for three hours.



The objectives of the roundtable discussion were to share knowledge and ideas about large education systems in Bangladesh, leading and managing people in educational organisations, performance management of staff, resource management, transparency and accountability for organisational development and system management. **Dr. Manzoor Ahmed** and faculty members discussed different aspects of the topic and the Senior Advisor also answered the questions of the participants.

### IGS Updates



## Roundtable Discussion on The Political Economy of Urban Space in Dhaka City



The Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) organised a roundtable discussion on "The Political Economy of Urban Space in Dhaka City" on May 25, 2013 at the BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium, Dhaka. The discussion was based on a working paper titled "The Political Economy of Urban Space: Land and Real Estate in Dhaka City" authored by **Kazi Nur Mohammed Hossainul Haque**, Senior Research Associate, IGS.

IGS Director **Dr Rizwan Khair** opened the roundtable with a welcome speech. The session was moderated by **Professor Nazrul Islam**, Chairman of Centre for Urban Studies, while the panel discussants of the roundtable included **Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick**, Pro-Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, and **Dr A T M Nurul Amin** from North South University. The author **Kazi Hossainul Haque** made the keynote presentation summarising his Working Paper that was followed by comments and suggestions from the participants and panel discussants. The discussion was participated by, among others, **Dr Roxana Hafiz**, Director, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, BUET, **Dr Ishrat Islam**, Department of Architecture, BUET, **Engr. Mohammad Abdul Awal**, Managing Director of Structural Engineers Ltd, Architect **Mr. Sail Ul Haque**, Advocate Manzill Murshid, **Mr. Sirajul Islam**, Town Planner of Dhaka City Corporation, **Mr. Taibur Rahman**, Ministry of Planning, and **Engr Syed Azizul Haque** from PWD, Dhaka.

## IGS Researcher Attended a Review Meeting on RTI Implementation Assessment



**Mohammad Sirajul Islam**, Research Associate of IGS, attended a review meeting on Right to Information (RTI) implementation assessment, held on 19th

and 20th May 2013 in Atlanta GA, USA. In the meeting, he presented country report on RTI implementation assessment in Bangladesh. IGS, in a grant agreement with The Carter Center, carried out Pilot Phase II of The Center's Access to Information Legislation Implementation Assessment Tool (IAT) in Bangladesh from March - May 2013. IAT has been applied in six Ministries/Divisions, namely: Ministry of Education, Ministry Agriculture, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, National Board of Revenue, Law & Justice Division and Finance Division. The meeting was inaugurated by Phil Wise, Vice President, The Carter Center and moderated by **Laura Neuman**, Manager, Global Access to Information Initiative, The Carter Center. IGS was also involved in Pilot Phase I in 2011 under a grant agreement with The Carter Center which was carried out in Bangladesh, South Africa and Mexico.

### **IGS Organised Policy Dialogue on Strengthening Governance in Wetland and Water Bodies Management Policies**



IGS organised a day long policy dialogue titled "Strengthening Governance in Wetland and Water Bodies Management Policies" on 11th May 2013, at the Conference Hall of Pabna DC Office. The dialogue was organised with the technical cooperation of Wetland Biodiversity Rehabilitation Project (WBRP) partners GOPA and Centre for Natural Resources Studies (CNRS). More than 31 participants from different GO/NGO stakeholders, fishermen cooperatives, fish traders and media personnel participated in this dialogue. The district level policy dialogue included brainstorming and group discussion sessions which were based on issues raised regarding wetland management from the field studies. **Mr. S M Gubair bin Arafat**, Research Associate moderated the programme and **Mr. Ashfaq Ahmed**, Research Assistant, supported the dialogue on behalf of IGS.



### **IGS Organised Training Programme on Income Tax and VAT**

IGS organised a two-day training programme on Income Tax and VAT for Accounts, Finance and Admin professionals from IGS and BRAC

University from 1st -2nd May, 2013. The training was held at the IGS conference room. The training programme was focused on capacity building and creating awareness about the Income Tax and VAT regulations. The programme concluded on 2nd May, 2013 with awarding certificates to the participants by Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmad, Former Chairman of NBR.

### Training Programme on Procurement Principles and Management

A training programme, titled Procurement Principles and Management (3rd Batch) was organised by IGS, BRAC University, at IGS Conference Room on 3rd and 4th May, 2013. As part of core activities of



IGS, this training course was offered to enhance the capacity on Procurement Principle and Management. The training was attended by 14 participants for each batch from different organizations such as BRAC International and BRAC Centre, Water Resources Planning Organisation, Friendship, Swisscontact, Islami Bank Bangladesh etc. **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Director of IGS, awarded certificates among the participants on 4th May, 2013 through an unostentatious ceremony. The course was conducted by the training wing of IGS.

### Orientation Programme for MPSM Students Held

On 9th May 2013, IGS, BRAC University organised an orientation programme for Masters in Procurement and Supply Management (MPSM) Summer Semester 2013 students. The programme was held at IGS Conference Room. Total 23 students from different organisations were selected for the programme through an admission test held in April, 2013 at BRAC University.

### IGS Organised Training Programme on Strategic Procurement



On 17th and 18th May 2013, IGS organised a training programme on Strategic Procurement, held at IGS Conference Room, BRAC University. Total 15

participants from different organizations namely Concern Worldwide, Computer Source Ltd, Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd, BRAC Heidelberg Cement Bangladesh Ltd. participated in this training programme. On 18th May, 2013, IGS Director, **Dr. Rizwan Khair** awarded the certificate to the participants.

### CIPS Examination Held



The May series examination of Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) was held at IGS from 20-24th May, 2013. A total of 27 candidates from different organisations appeared at the examination. At the same time, classes of CIPS private sector for Level-4, 5 and 6 are going on as before.

### Commencement of the 5th Batch of MAGD Programme



The 5th Batch of the MA in Governance and Development programme started on 5th May at BCDM, Savar with 25 different public sector officials. Out of these 25 students, 14 are from BCS Administration Cadre, 5 are from Information Cadre, another 4 students are from Education, Family Planning, Police and Roads & Highways Cadres and 2 students are from Securities and Exchange Commission and Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla who are attending this MAGD Programme for one year. The first semester has commenced from May 2013.

### IGS Researcher Participated in a Workshop on Environmental Conditions of Bangladesh



On 4th May, 2013, **Mr. S M Gubair Bin Arafat**, Research Associate, IGS, participated a workshop on "Exploring Environment of BD: Towards Effective Actions" as a speaker, organised by BRAC University Earth & Environment Forum held at the Indoors Games Room, BRAC University. The main purpose of this workshop was to explore the environmental

conditions of Bangladesh which included an open discussion session by the speakers and certificate awarding ceremony by the organisers.

## **IGS Director's Activities**

On 2nd May 2013, **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Director of IGS met with the Korean Ambassador in Bangladesh **H.E. Lee Yun Young** in Dhaka to discuss collaboration with KDI School of Public Policy and Management.

On 11th May 2013, Director, IGS attended the National Consultations on Budget Booklet arranged by Strengthening Public Expenditure Management Program (SPEMP), a project of Ministry of Finance.

On 15th May 2013, **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, and **Naimur Rahman**, Chief Operations Officer (COO) of ANSA- SAR attended a meeting with the World Bank in its Dhaka office on in connection with Open Finance Data.

## **USAID Governance Adviser's Visit to IGS**

On 27th May 2013, **Ms. Sherina Tabassum**, Governance Advisor, USAID visited IGS office and met the IGS Director and COO of ANSA-SAR to discuss issues of mutual interest and future collaboration.

## **Affiliated Network for Social Accountability - ANSA-SAR**

### **Ongoing ICT Based Citizens' Monitoring Evaluation**

Affiliated Network for Social Accountability-South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR) in partnership with PRIP Trust has been working for increasing participation of citizens in public service monitoring in Rajshahi District through a project called "Improvement of Quality and Delivery Mechanism of Public Services through ICT based Citizens' Monitoring Initiatives". The project has been launched for enhancing capacity of citizens' groups in ICT- based public service monitoring, increasing use of ICT-based technology in public service monitoring and strengthening collective efforts for improved and quality public services, provisions through policy advocacy.

As a part of the project activities on 16-27 April, 2013 ANSA-SAR & PRIP Trust organized Mobile Phone based Skill Training in Urban and Rural Level for the citizens who are getting public services. In the trainings they were taught on how to evaluate the services of public services through mobile software. Each of the training sessions had 50 participants. The first four training was held in Rajshahi city for Ward 12 and remaining three training were held in Dhamkura Union of Rajshahi. The group members were very keen and eager to learn the monitoring and evaluation process for the service quality. After the trainings the members went to the citizens of Rajshahi City Corporation and Dhankura Union, Paba Upazila, Rajshahi District to collect feedback regarding the public services in their areas. The data collections are being done in May, 2013 and a total of three rounds of data have been collected so far with another one in the process. These data will be complied and evaluated to measure how well the public services are being provided in Rajshahi.

### **COO of ANSA-SAR Attended a Seminar on Public Service Delivery**

ANSA-SAR in collaboration with Partnership for Transparency Fund (PTF) has published a brand new book by Pierre Landell-Mills titled "Citizens against Corruption - Report from the Front Line". This book brings out the fact that when citizens engage with service providers they can achieve remarkable results. Drawing on this book, a seminar was held on 5th May, 2013 in Delhi, India on "How Civil Society Empowerment Improves Governance and Development Results of Public Service Delivery". The seminar featured presentations of experiences, lessons and outcomes of Civil Society Organisations (CSO).

This was followed by a discussion of what works and why - on how CSO's have energised local citizens to demand better services from their public providers. It highlighted some key messages for the development aid agencies to radically rethink their approach to assisting CSOs. **Vinay Bhargava**, Chief Technical Adviser & Member of the Board, Partnership for Transparency Fund, **Naimur Rahman**, Chief Operating Officer, Affiliated Network for Social Accountability - South Asia & Global, **Gopakumar Krishnan Thampi**, Fellow, Institute of Governance Studies, BRAC University, Bangladesh and **WooChong Um**, Deputy Director General, Regional and Sustainable Development Department, Asian Development Bank were among the panel of speakers.

Publications by IGS Staff:

1. The Dhaka Tribune: Are we sheep? by **Barrister Manzoor Hasan**, Institutional Adviser, IGS, 10 May 2013.
2. Research Report: Exploring State of Governance at Union-Level and Its Relevance for Wider Influencing, May 2013, by **Dr. Akhter Hussain** in collaboration with CARE and IGS, BRAC University. Editorial team consisted of Munir Uddin Shamim, Senior Programme Manager, IGS, **Rubayet Hamid** and **Kazi Niaz Ahmed**, Research Assistant, IGS.

Link: <http://www.igs-bracu.ac.bd/research/other-publications-by-staff>

## **MNS Updates**

**Freshers' Reception Summer 2013 & Certificate Awarding Ceremony,  
MNS Department**





The Freshers' Reception for Summer 2013 and the Certificate Awarding Ceremony for the students in the VC's list and Dean's list were held on 25 May, 2013 at the BRAC University Auditorium and Cafeteria. The event was organized by the Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) Department and BRAC University Natural Science Club. **Professor Ainun Nishat**, the Vice chancellor, **Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury**, the Registrar, **Professor A A Ziauddin Ahmad**, Chairperson of the MNS Department, **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury** and **Professor Mofizuddin Ahmed** spoke on the occasion. There was a video presentation for the freshers depicting the colourful university life at BRAC University offered to its students. In the video presentation, there was an introduction to the department with its activities, its lab facilities and faculty. In the second part of the event, there was an interactive session among faculty members, students which included both the fresher and the older students and their parents. A lunch was arranged for the participants in the function. The last part of the event was a colourful cultural program in which both faculty members and students performed.

### **International Seminar on Nuclear Power: A Chance of Successful Economic and Socio-Political Development**

**Professor Naiyyum Choudhury** participated in a two-day seminar entitled "International Seminar on Nuclear Power: A Chance of Successful Economic and Socio-Political Development" jointly organized by the Ministry of Science and Technology, GoB and the State Atomic Energy Corporation of the Russian Federation and held at the Rupashi Bangla Hotel, Dhaka on 29-30 May 2013. **Sheikh Hasina**, Honourable Prime Minister of the Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, was the Chief Guest and HE **Mr. Alexander A Nikolaev**, Ambassador of Russian Federation was the Special Guest at the Inaugural Ceremony. Architect **Yeafesh Osman**, Honourable State Minister for Science & Technology, GoB presided. In the technical sessions a number of papers covering the socio-economic aspects of nuclear power, environment protection and safety aspects of nuclear power plants, public perception, nuclear

power infrastructure and human resource development were presented by the Russian experts. **Professor Choudhury** along with the scientists and engineers from Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) and eminent experts in nuclear power, safety aspects etc, **Dr. MA Matin, Dr. Jasimuddin Ahmed** and **Mr. M. A. Quaiyyum** took active part in the discussion. A large number of scientists and engineers from different academic and R&D organizations in the public and private sectors, policy makers and representatives of the electronic and print media also participated.

### Seminar on Medical Biotechnology, MNS Department

On 30 May 2013, a seminar titled 'Medical Biotechnology: Through the Lens of Genomics' was held in Room (UB21511) of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS). The speaker of the session was **Mr. Aubhishek Zaman**, a lecturer at the Department of MNS Department. The seminar focused on applications of genomics in diverse fields ranging from obesity, type-2 diabetes, neuroscience, developmental biology, metagenomics etc. **Mr. Zaman** also spoke about his study titled- 'Kaposi's sarcoma: a computational approach through protein-protein interaction and gene regulatory networks analysis' that was presented in the Annual Human Genome Meeting held in Singapore during 13-18 April, 2013. The seminar was attended by faculty members and students of the MNS Department.

### "New faces in campus" and "Leaving us"

#### New faces at BRACU

**ARC: Dr. Nandini Awal** joined as an Assistant Professor in the Architecture Department in May 2013. **Dr. Awal** did her Ph.D in Living Environment of Slum Dwellers from Tokyo University. She also obtained a Masters Degree in Low Cost Housing from the same University. Prior to this she completed her Bachelor in Architecture from BUET.

**C3ER:** A new member **Ms. Tanzila Afrin** joined as a Lecturer in the Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research in last May 2013. She did her M.Sc in Public Health from ASA University Bangladesh. Earlier she completed B.Sc in Pharmacy from East West University.

**BIL: Ms Shammee Akter** started serving as a Lecturer in BRAC Institute of Languages in May 2013. She did her both M.A. and B.A. (hons) in English Literature from Stamford University and National University respectively.

**Counseling Unit:** Two new members, **Ms. Safina Binte Enayet** and **Ms. Tasnuva Huque** joined as a Lecturer in the Counseling Unit under BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) in May 2013. Both of them completed their M.S. in Counseling Psychology and B.S. (Hon's) in Psychology from University of Dhaka.

**CSE:** Department of Computer Science and Engineering extended their team with six new members.

**Ms. Lubaba Nuzhat Tasneem, Ms. Tahrima Hashem, Ms. Tahsina Hashem,**

**Ms. Suraiya Tairin, Mr. Dipan Lal Shaw** and **Mr. Md. Khaledur Rahman**, all of them joined as a Lecturer in CSE Department in last May 2013.

**Ms. Lubaba Nuzhat Tasneem, Ms. Suraiya Tairin, Mr. Dipan Lal Shaw** and **Mr. Md. Khaledur Rahman** completed their B.Sc in Computer Science and Engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

**Ms. Tahrima** did her B.Sc in Computer Science and Engineering from University of Dhaka.

**Ms. Tahsina** did her B.Sc in Computer Science and Engineering from Jahangirnagar University.

*EEE :* **Mr. Atanu Kumar Saha** joined as a Lecturer in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering in May 2013. Mr. Saha completed his B.Sc in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

*Management & Admin:* **Mr. Md. Shahjada Masud Anowarul Haque** joined as an Assistant Librarian in the Ayesha Abed Library in May 2013. **Mr. Haque** did his both M.S.S. and B.S.S in Information Science and Library Management from Rajshahi University.

### Left from BRACU

**Prof. Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Director, TLC resigned in May 2013 and joined as Vice Chancellor of Green University, Bangladesh.

**Ms. Kahinur Akter** who was serving as a Senior Lecturer in BRAC Business School left us in last May 2013.

**Mr. Tahmid Huq Easher**, served as a Researcher, also resigned in May 2013.

## RS Updates

### Parents' Day

The Savar residential campus Parents' Day for the Summer 2013 semester was held/observed on 25 May, 2013. **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University and **Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury**, Registrar, BRAC University attended the session. All the staff and faculty members of the Savar campus, along with a group of BIL faculty members from the Mohakhali campus, also attended the session. They exchanged greetings and shared views with the parents about BRAC University and the objective and discipline of the Savar campus. The session successfully achieved its objective of allowing the students to share their initial experiences with their parents and of familiarizing the parents to the residential semester.

### Session on 'Grooming and Etiquette'



The 'Grooming & Etiquette' session for the Summer 2013 semester was facilitated by **Ms. Farrah Jabeen**, along with **Ms. Mitali**, on 25 May, 2013 at the Markuli Hall, Savar residential campus. The session included simple etiquette concepts that people tend to overlook in daily life, wardrobe basics, proper attire in a social environment, as well as workplace etiquette and so on.

### Seminar Drug Abuse



A workshop on drug abuse was held on 30 May, 2013 at Markuli hall, Savar residential campus, focusing the effects of drug use and rehabilitation mechanism. Brother Ronald Drahozal CSC, Executive Director, APON, conducted the session. During the session, three recovering addicts, two children and one adult, who were helped by APON, shared their experiences. The workshop

included students' participation in various activities and ended with a question and answer session.

### Meeting of the English Committee Volunteers



The English committee volunteers and the respective faculty members of the



Savar campus, BRAC University, had a meeting with **Mr. Kumar Morshed**, Advisor CSO, about the promotion of English speaking in the campus. As a part of the promotion it has been decided in the meeting that the volunteers will take major responsibilities and speak in English all the time, while the others must maintain the practice from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm, along with the dining hours. The committee also decided to show BBC news and screen movies on Thursdays/Fridays, which will be followed by a post discussion session to ensure the participation of all students.

### RS Orientation for Summer 2013

A daylong orientation program for 33rd RS batch was held at Markuli Hall on May 18, 2013. The session was facilitated by **Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury**, Campus Superintendent of Savar Campus, **Ms. Farrah Jabeen**, Sr. Lecturer, BIL and **Mr. Rehan Ahmed**, Assistant Campus Superintendent.



The session focused on initiating the students into the residential semester, introducing them to the teachers and the staff members as well as to the objective, the courses, the co-curricular activities, the facilities and the discipline of the campus.

### English Course for BRACU Service Staff

On May 25, 2013, BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL), BRAC University has initiated a specially designed English language course for the service staff in the Savar residential campus. The course is designed to develop the English language skills of the service staff, which includes the room service attendants (RSA), the dining assistants, the cooks, the laundry persons, the cleaners and the gardeners. Notably, the facilitators for the course are a group of 16 students from the 33rd batch (Summer 2013) of the Savar Residential Semester (RS).

The course has been designed by a team of BIL faculty members, who also provided a day-long training at the Dev-Pro Centre on May 13, 2013 to the students, who are selected to tutor the service staff. This team of BIL faculty members will also monitor and supervise the course throughout the 12 weeks of the course duration.

It is to be mentioned that **Ms. Samina Nasrin Chowdhury**, Senior Lecturer, BIL, is the resource person responsible for designing the course. **Ms. Roxana Chowdhury** is the coordinator of the course along with **Mr. Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury**, the campus superintendent and the campus management staff.

### ToT for the 'English Course for BRACU Service Staff'



A day-long Training of Trainers (ToT) for the tutors of 'English for BRACU Service Staff' course was organized at the Dev-Pro Centre by BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) on May 13, 2013. **Ms. Roxana Chowdhury, Mr. Debashismoy Dutta** and **Mr. Mohammad Golam Mohiuddin** facilitated the sessions. The purpose of the TOT was to orient the tutors to the materials designed for the course.

The participants for the ToT included groups of undergraduate students from BRACU Residential Semester of Summer 2013, from Jahangirnagar University and from City University. A selected group from the ToT was assigned to tutor the service staff at the Savar Residential Campus of BRAC University. The objective of the course is to enable the service staff to communicate with their daily correspondents, the teachers and the students, in English.

To ensure a maximum effect, a needs assessment was conducted by a team of four faculty members from BIL: **Debashismoy Dutta, Prabal Das Gupta, Ashek Amin Miraj** and **Farhana Shawkat**. This assessment helped to design the course and materials.

### SECS Updates

#### CARG Updates

##### CARG Solar power system Component test facility:

Furthering the research on test procedures for solar powered system components, CARG has extended its test facility by developing procedures for testing quality of energy tracker (a.k.a inverter). A sample energy tracker was brought to CARG by Solar Intercontinental LTD. Following a successful test and collaboration between CARG and Solar Intercontinental LTD, the client submitted samples of solar LED lamps for quality tests.

Samples of PV modules were submitted to CARG for testing by a recently launched company Japan Solartech (Bangladesh) LTD, who is a member of the Bangladesh Solar & Renewable Energy Association (BSREA).

A number of other companies are further contacting CARG for testing the components/equipments used in solar powered systems acknowledging the

quality of the service provided by CARG. The test facility was launched as a part of research on solar home systems components test procedures on which several publications have already been made and further research to improve the procedures are already on going.

### **Seminar on Integrated Optical and Radio Access Network by Dr. Mohammed Zamshed Ali**



A talk was given on the month of May, in a seminar organized by the Control & Applications Research Group (CARG), by **Dr. Mohammed Zamshed Ali** on Integrated Optical and Radio Access Network for the to-be thesis students of the Electrical and Communication Engineering Department. **Dr. Mohammed Zamshed Ali** is an active researcher and contributor in the field of Electrical Engineering and

Telecommunications. He is simultaneously involved with telecom industry R&D, implementation (for 18+ years) and academic teaching (for 6+ years) activities with a focus on current market trends and upcoming human demands for new technologies. **Dr. Ali** is also an adjunct faculty (part time teacher) at the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Texas at Dallas.

**Dr. Ali**, in his talk, focused on the research scopes on modern telecom that focuses on the best possible solution with integrated Optical and Wireless Radio Access Networks to fulfill consumers continuously increasing demand on bandwidth and mobility. The optical and wireless integration increases the capacity of wireless



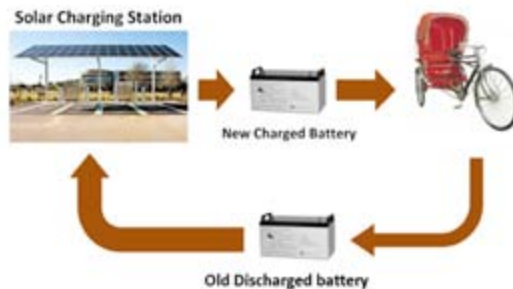
networks, promotes mobility in access networks, and decreases access point complexity through centralized management of network nodes. However, this integration is not yet seamless. There are many interesting areas in optical and wireless integrated environment that need to be worked on (optimized) to get the full benefit of the convergence. The optimization of this converged network offers great opportunities to research for academic students, teachers, and industry researchers.

**Dr. Ali** has been recently approved by the School of Engineering and Computer Science to supervise thesis research of the students of Electrical and Communication Engineering Department. He would be supervising them from

University of Texas.



### **CARG project in collaboration with BEEVATECH LTD.**



Following the signing of the MOU in February between CARG and BEEVATECH LTD the Solar Battery Charging Station (SBCS) is approved by BRAC University and fund has been granted by the university. The

project is designed in collaboration with the pioneers of the electrically assisted power rickshaws, BEEVATECH LTD where CARG will design and implement a solar powered battery charging station for the electrically assisted power rickshaws launched by BEEVATECH LTD.

The designed SBCS would be completely independent of the national grid. The pilot project, planned for 6 months, features implementing a 1kW solar powered station. The project not only takes a significant load of the national grid but opens up a way for CARG to build an industrial link with BEEVATECH LTD. The pilot project would lead to implementation of the main Solar Battery Charging Station project in real life scale to remote places in Bangladesh that would boost socio-economic condition in the region by providing cheap electricity.

Several publications have already been made on the research done for this project. Reports of this pilot project will be presented to the Ministry of Industries in an effort to gain the approval for launching the rickshaws throughout the whole country.

### **Publication of first CARG Annual Report**



The first annual report of CARG has been published in the month of May 2013. The report contains all the up-to-date information on the projects, events, publications and collaborations undertaken by CARG since its inauguration till date.

### **Conference and Journal Publications.**



Several publications, both conference and journal, have been made by CARG in the month of May.

Journal publication include "Social Impact of Solar Home System in rural Bangladesh: A Case Study of Rural Zone" in the IAFOR (The International Academic Forum) Journal of Sustainability, Energy and the Environment, vol. 1, issue 1, 2013 by **Dr. AKM Azad** and Research Assistant **Sabbir Ahmed Khan**. The International Academic Forum is a confederation of leaders and opinion formers around the globe who have one thing in common: a desire to make a difference. IAFOR is committed to ensuring that Asian leaders and opinion formers in both the public and private sectors, in education, the media, and business, have the chance to meet their colleagues from other continents, and discuss issues of national and international relevance and importance.

Conference publications include papers submitted to IEEE TENCON Spring 2013 conference in Sydney, Australia and IEEE GHTC (GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE) 2013 in Silicon Valley, California. The papers include "Low Cost Cylindrical Lumen Testing Procedure in Bangladesh Perspective" and "Hybridization of Solar Energy with National Grid to Power Classroom DC Loads" for GHTC and "Effect of Components on Solar Home System Output Power in Bangladesh Perspective" and "Implementation of Hardware and Software of Solar Panel Testing Parameters" for TENCON. Both GHTC and TENCON are prestigious conferences organised by IEEE.

## SPH Upates

### Course on Monitoring and Evaluation for TB Programme Managers



JPGSPH offered a short course titled 'Monitoring and Evaluation for Tuberculosis Programme Managers', in partnership with the BRAC Health, Nutrition and Population Programme, BRAC Learning Division and icddr,b from 11 May, 2013 to 22 May, 2013. 24 Senior Managers in total (4 Women and 20 Men) attended the course from the following 17 districts: Dhaka, Sylhet, Barisal, Cox's Bazar, Bogra, Patuakhali, Chandpur, Sirajgonj, Chittagong, Mymensingh, Comilla, Joypurhat, Khulna, Manikgonj, Rajshahi, Dinajpur and Narayangonj.



Participants included Area Regional Managers, Senior District Managers, Senior Sector Specialists, Project Directors, Sector Specialists, Project Coordinators, District Managers and Program Officers from the BRAC Health, Nutrition and Population Programme and

the following four partner organizations- DAMIEN Foundation, LEPRABangladesh, HASAB and NATAB. The course was inaugurated on Saturday, 11 May, 2013 and started with a pre-course evaluation.

A highly qualified resource pool of 9 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 programmes, in particular of those related to tuberculosis. The course has offered practical training in tools, methods and applications of M&E, strengthening programme personnel to successfully engage with programmatic M & E.

The course ended on Wednesday, 22 May, 2013 with a certificate giving ceremony. Participants shared their acquired knowledge from the course. **Ms. Ismat Bhuiya**, Director Programs, JPGSPH, BRAC University, **Mr. K. M. Zahiduzzaman**, Program Coordination Manager, JPGSPH, BRAC University and other personnel of JPGSPH attended the certificate giving ceremony.



### Roundtable on LGBT movement

The Centre for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, JPGSPH and Boys of Bangladesh (BoB) jointly organized a roundtable discussion on 'UPR 2013 and Beyond: Way forward for LGBT movement in Bangladesh' on May 28, 2013 at the School. The key objective of the session was to share highlights from the Universal Periodic Review meeting held in Geneva between 22 April and 3 May, 2013 and to discuss how to move forward with the LGBT rights issues in the country. About fifteen people from research, activist and donor organizations actively participated in the discussion.

### Fifth Tanahashi round focuses on PPP for effective coverage of tuberculosis



The fifth meeting of the Tanahashi Rounds, a joint initiative by the James P Grant School of Public Health at BRAC University and UNICEF under the facilitating support of Center of Excellence for Universal Health Coverage (CoE-UHC) project at icddr,b and JPGSPH was held on May 28 at the JPGSPH.

The objective of the Tanahashi Rounds is to share new knowledge on the cross-sector application of the Tanahashi model in the context of Bangladesh. Assessing supply and demand bottlenecks that constrain effective and equitable coverage of essential services and practices is of critical importance to claim holders and duty bearers alike. The 5th round focused on the Public Private Partnerships for Effective Coverage of Tuberculosis. Two presenters **Dr. Mirza Nizam Uddin**, Deputy Program Manager, National TB Control Program, DGHS and **Md. Akramul Islam**, Associate Director, Health Nutrition and Population Program, BRAC introduced the topic for discussion. The discussion was moderated by Professor Dr. Timothy G. Evans, Dean of the JPGSPH and **Dr. Pascal Villeneuve**, UNICEF Representative.

## Student Affairs Updates

### Organizer of Joyodhoni-2 : Football Club of BRAC University



It's been known that University is the institution to get the highest of education and knowledge. However a University is just not the place for bookish

knowledge. One can gain knowledge and experience from other activities. University is the place where one can find their true potential. It can be with their education or activities. An university is the place where one can truly follow their passion. To help the students to enrich their passion and potential BRAC University had created several clubs of different genre. In total there are 38 clubs in BRAC University which works with 38 different aspects. To introduce these clubs to the new students who are called 'fresher', the university organizes club fair in the beginning of every semester. And this time in the semester of Summer 2013 'Football Club BRAC University' had been given the opportunity to arrange the club fair which been called 'Joyodhoni-2'.

Joyodhoni-2 had been held on 30th may in the BRAC University indoor games room and the cafeteria of BRACU. As organizer every member of Football Club BRAC University (FCBU) had worked with their heart and soul to make this event a successful one. FCBU in past organized a club fair named Joyodhoni and so, this time's name is Joyodhoni-2. The preparation of this event started from the beginning of summer 2013 semester. Moreover in the previous day of fair the members of FCBU worked all day to prepare the cafeteria and the indoor games room. The club members planned carefully so that every club should get their own place in the fair. The event place was decorated with colored lights and replica of birds to symbolize 'Joyodhoni'. The place looked exceptionally beautiful when all the work had done. At early dawn all the representatives of the clubs reached the venue to decorate their stalls with the theme of their own club. The event started from 10 a.m. and ended at 2 a.m.

'Joyodhoni 2' started when honorable Vice Chancellor **Professor Ainun Nishat** reached the event. He was acquainted by the Registrar Air Commodore (retired) **Mr Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury**, **Professor A. A. Ziauddin Ahmad**: Chairperson, Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS), **Mr Hafizul Hasan**, Assistant Director Student Affairs Office, and faculty of department of Computer Science and Engineering Shamsul Kaonain. They visited all the club stalls and asked them individually the purpose of their clubs. After they left the premises, the fair been opened for the general students. The minute the fair started it turned into a festival. The students went to the clubs they preferred and signed up. Nestea was the beverage partner and Vita 500 was the energy partner of this event. At 2 p.m. the fair ended with the announcements of the organizers. After the fair, a cultural program was organized by BRAC University Cultural Club and BRAC University Drama and Theatre Forum. On 2nd June a movie show was organized by BRAC University Film Club.



## TLC Updates

### 10th TLC Workshop on 'Teaching and Learning for Teachers (TLT): Preparing well Grounded Educators'



The 10th TLT workshop was scheduled during May 06 - 09, 2013 at BRAC University. But due to political instability, some changes in workshop schedule and venue was made. The workshop was held at BRACU Mohakhali campus entirely. It was started on May 6th at BRACU Auditorium with 26 participants who are involved in teaching and/or research at BRAC University though 24 participants could complete the workshop successfully. Due to hartals on May 8th & 9th, the workshop was rescheduled on May 10th and May 11th at Mohakhali campus. The workshop was headed by **Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Director of TLC. The entire workshop was facilitated and coordinated by TLC team. A number of guest speakers and facilitators from different departments of BRACU and BRAC also conducted sessions on different topics.

The Major focus of this workshop was to strengthening the art of effective teaching through, creating effective learning environment in the classroom. This four-day workshop was opened through a welcoming speech by **Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, on May 6th. The interactive visit and informative speech by **Prof. Ainun Nishat**, Vice chancellor of BRACU on day three, added extra values to the workshop.

The workshop focused on different relevant issues both academic or pedagogical perspective as well as on BRACU rules, code of conducts, HR and accounts policies, library and ICT information and support at BRACU etc. These important sessions were conducted by the respective people including - **Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhry**, Registrar, BRACU, **Ms. Rosy Sharif**, **Mr. Monojit Kumar Ojha**, **Ms. Hasina Afroz** and **Ms. Fahima Khanam**. Discussions on BRAC as a learning laboratory of BRACU by **Mr. Asef Saleh**, Sr. Director, Strategy, Communication & Capacity, BRAC and BRACU residential Semester by **Mr. Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury** gave a wider picture of BRAC's programs and flagship of BRACU to the participants.

The session on preparing "Social Capitals" on the first day set the tone of the workshop. The session on "Plagiarism" by **Dr. Saira R. Khan** was to prepare the

instructors for taking appropriate measures in preventing plagiarism by the students and also providing the students a clear perception of what constitutes plagiarism. The Counseling Unit led an interactive session providing insights on students' learning behavior based on transactional analysis followed by another relevant area of Managing Students disruptive behavior by **Ms. Samina Anzum**. The sessions on Critical Thinking in Teaching by **Mr. Shakil Ahmed** and Art of Questioning by **Mr. Ashik Sarwar** and **Ms. Sabrina Syed** helped the instructors to think critically and focus on four questioning level of thinking hierarchy. The session on Facilitation Skills: the Direct and Indirect Instructional Strategies by **Mr. Khan A. N. Murshid**, Consultant, CSO was designed to support the instructors in establishing a positive learning environment. The session on Preparing Course Syllabus and Lesson Plan by **Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali** helped the instructors to have better understanding about the ways and means of preparing quality course syllabus and lesson plan. Again, the session on Formative and Summative Evaluation of students' academic performance by **Prof. Fuad Hasan Mollick**, Pro-VC, BRACU made the new instructors feel comfortable in grading the students' assignment fairly. Moreover, the sessions on -"How to start the first session" by **Mohammad Ali And Sabrina Syed**, PowerPoint & Beyond PowerPoint by **Samina Anzum** and "Micro-teaching sessions" by the participants gave the participants reflect more consciously their teaching-learning challenges at BRACU. The last session of the workshop was Cob-web method, where each one had the chance to share personal reflection about the whole workshop and wishing for the peer colleagues. The four day workshop was wrapped-up by giving certificates to the participants.

#### TLC short session with Pharmacy department



TLC has been conducting series of short sessions on teaching-learning topics for the students of Pharmacy department of BRACU. The second short session on Moving beyond the PowerPoint: How to present PPT effectively was held on May 22nd at UB# 30803. The session was designed such a way that the students would

be able to demonstrate the basic skills of Presentation & PowerPoint Presentation as well as will be able to avoid the common mistakes while presenting any presentation/PPT presentation. The session was started with a critical brainstorming on the importance of using PPT and its effectiveness. Later a PowerPoint presentation was given by the faculty followed by a group work where each of the groups were given a topic to prepare and present a five minute presentations using both PowerPoint and without PowerPoint. Fifteen students of Pharmacy department participated in the session. The session was conducted by **Ms. Samina Anzum Chowdhury**, Lecturer of TLC.

### TLC members attended an informal training program at British Council, Dhaka

British Council, Dhaka, organized an informal training program on 31st May 2013. They organized this program to disseminate the ideas got from the 47th IATEFL Conference held in Liverpool, UK during 8th April and 12th April 2013. The participants who went to this conference from Bangladesh



this year, presented short sessions on English Language Teaching (ELT) issues based on their experience in Liverpool. Near about 150 teachers from different schools, colleges and universities participated in this training program. **Sheikh Mohammad Ali**, Senior Lecturer, TLC, facilitated a session on 'CPD: An integrated Approach'. **Ms. Samina Anzum Chowdhury**, Lecturer, **Ms. Sabrina Sayed**, Lecturer and Mr. **Muhammad Foysal Mubarak**, Lecturer, attended several sessions in this training program.