

BRACU e-Bulletin

2013/july

BBS Updates

BRAC Business School arranges "BBS rewind", a chance for the business alumni to "Reunite, Rejuvenate and Rebuild"

On the 26th of July, 2013, BRAC Business School, in the BRAC University Auditorium, held "BBS Rewind"- a discussion session on the formation of an alumni community of the BRAC Business School (BBS). With over two-hundred alumni members having registered, the BRAC University auditorium teemed with ex-students, who were ecstatic to be back to the place where they had spent the four most important years of their life.

Special guests of the university were also present at the event, including, **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, **Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick**, Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, **Air Commodore Retd. Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury**, Registrar of BRAC University, **Professor Golam Mohammad**, Dean of BRAC Business School, **Dr. Riaz Khan**, Dean of Student Affairs, **Mohammad Rezaur Razzak**, Coordinator of MBA Program, BRAC Business School, **Mr. Suntu Kumar Ghosh**, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the BBA Program, BRAC Business School, and faculty members of the BRAC Business School.



The aim of the discussion was to have an interactive dialogue with the alumni, in order to highlight the contemporary difficulties faced by the current students of the BRAC Business School, in terms of internship placements, employment opportunities and career counseling. The alumni were very delighted to meet their batch mates and fellow alumni in the university premise for the first time under the school's event. The presence of many alumni who are working in senior management roles in different reputed organizations added value to the program. They all participated in an interactive discussion session and exchanged ideas on

how to help the current students and the fresh alumni. At the same time, participants shared ideas on how to enhance connectivity for the betterment of both the alumni community and the school. The Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University and the Dean of the school supported the necessity of an alumni network and assured the university's cooperation. They also got engaged in the discussion session with the alumni and shared their expectations from the alumni community. The discussion session was followed by open session of 'Fellowship' where the floor was open to the alumni, coming from eight different batches. The event ended with everyone reuniting and sharing Iftaar at the university cafeteria like good old days. All the alumni were very enthusiastic to be a part of the initiative and were determined to "Reunite, Rejuvenate and Rebuild" a community of BRAC Business School alumni.

With the support of **Mr. Suntu Kumar Ghosh**, Assistant Professor & Coordinator of the BBA Program and BRAC Business School administration, the event was organized by a seven-member team, consisting of **Stawb Peter Halder, Chowdhury Asif Mahmud Bin Harun, Salamah Akhtar, Maliha Ahsan, Rifat Muhammad Asif, Irfanul Haque Khan** and **Mahir Tazwar Mahmud** - all former students of BRAC Business School.

Motivational Session on E2K-2013

BRAC University and DCCI jointly organized a session called "Motivational Session on E2K-2013" which took place inside BRAC University Auditorium on 31st July 2013. The session started at 11:00 am with the welcome speech delivered by **Golam Mohammad Ph.D**, the Dean of BRAC Business School. After the welcome speech, **Mr. Nessar M Khan**, Acting President, DCCI gave an introduction describing what E2K is. Followed by him, **Mr Sukamal Sinha Choudhury**, GM-SME, Bangladesh Bank provided his valuable speech explaining the initiatives of Bangladesh Bank on the practice of motivating the young and women entrepreneurs inside Dhaka and also at a district and village level to start with SME. He also emphasized on explaining how SME can help the entrepreneurs to find their field of interest.

Later, **Mr Sadrul Asrar**, President Young Leader Association delivered the ice breaking session on E2K. He also participated in the session by performing some interactive exercises with the audience that was present. He came up with several motivational quotes by famous leaders of the world and also shared his own thoughts, ideas and experiences. The session was carried forward by **Mr. Sayed Maruf Reza Byron**, Consultant, DBI, and DCCI where he gave motivational speech to encourage the students to be the future entrepreneurs. He explained how DBI helps the entrepreneurs to support their projects and provide them proper guidelines. **Mr. Byron** also conveyed a demonstration for project design and submission. Finally, **Mr. Rezaur Razzak**, Director of CED, BRAC University, gave his vote of thanks to the organizers and the honorable speakers and the session came to an end.

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) conducted a motivational workshop on Entrepreneurship Development under the project of "Entrepreneurship Innovation Expo 2013" on 31 July in the BRAC University Auditorium. This workshop is jointly organized by the BRAC University's Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) and Entrepreneurship Development

Forum (EDF). BRAC Business School Dean **Prof Dr Golam Mohammad**, DCCI acting president **Mr.Nessar M Khan**, General Manager, SME and Special Programmes Department of Bangladesh Bank **Mr.Sukamal Sinha Choudhury**, Director of CED **Mr. Rezaur Razzaak** and **Mr.Sayed Maruf**

Reza,Byron,Consultant,DBI,DCCI were present at the workshop. Senior BBA students attended the workshop and they really enjoyed the session, as it was very informative and enthusiastic.

DCCI is expecting to receive about 40000 ideas/projects from all over the country and out of these, at least 2000 best projects will be selected for demonstration in capital and the owner of the projects will enjoy showcasing themselves in the "Entrepreneur & Innovation Expo 2013", scheduled to be held on November 1-2 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

BDI Updates

Development of website - under CGST project 'The South Asian Secretariat for Women Parliamentarians'

Secretariat has developed its own website and within the BRAC University domain which will be launched in August. The webpage contains information on the objectives of the regional Secretariat and Network, biography of the MP Focal points of the regional Network, activities of the Network. It also includes lists of publications and provides different useful links and resources on women's rights and development issues. The website is linked with different parliaments in the South Asian region and also with IPU and SAARC. The contents can be viewed at <http://www.bracu.ac.bd/secretariat/>

Publication of technical briefs - under CGST project 'The South Asian Secretariat for Women Parliamentarians'

SARSWP published four technical briefs. These have been uploaded on the SARSWP website (<http://www.bracu.ac.bd/secretariat/>). The four thematic topics are as follows:

- a. Women in Politics in South Asia
- b. Women Parliamentary Caucus
- c. Regional Mechanism for Women Political Participation in South Asia: Problem and Prospective
- d. UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and its Implementation

The briefs were prepared for the first regional meeting held in Colombo of the MP focal points of the regional network.

Three-days training on introducing research tools - under CGST project 'Strengthening Women's Collectives in Bangladesh'



CGST/BDI is collaborating with ActionAid Bangladesh in a project on 'Strengthening Women's Collectives in Bangladesh.' BDI is responsible for designing a time use diary, training enumerator and analysis of time use data. ActionAid will collaborate with partner organizations and collect data from women's collectives in two areas of

Gaibandha and Lalmonirhat. This is a multi country project with overall objective to support poor women's social and economic empowerment and right to decent work in Bangladesh. As part of the research work Maheen Sultan, Deputy Coordinator, CGST and Lead Researcher of BDI and **Iqbal Ehsan, Jr.** Research Associate, CGST/BDI conducted a three-days training at Gaibandha from 9-11 July, 2013 to introduce the research tool - time use diary with the project staffs of ActionAid Bangladesh and partner NGOs.

Follow up to the Dhaka Resolution - update on the project

Following the Seventh South Asia Ministerial Conference (2010) a Dhaka Declaration was formulated - where it was agreed that legislative and policy initiatives to attain women's equality need to continue, and these should be implemented and monitored effectively through institutional mechanisms and that it is vital to undertake concrete actions within the upcoming two year period that involve making women agents of change and that are measurable through qualitative and quantitative analyses to be used by policy makers and planners to further inform programmatic action. In particular it was decided to undertake qualitative and quantitative research to identify specifics of the issue(s) to be addressed, generate gender-disaggregated data in the identified initiative, to develop program design and facilitate their use for advocacy, capacity building, programming, policy and decision making in the particular program intervention chosen. The Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs and UN Women chose the program to be studied: "Promotion of Legal and Social Empowerment of Women in Bangladesh (PLSEW)'Phase II to be studied.

The overall objective of the project was to strengthen capacity of national and local institutions at formal and informal levels to deliver improved access to justice for women. The project also focused on delivery of justice to women is improved through capacity building and dialogue. Gender-responsive community-based policing is implemented as a prevention strategy against violence and crime. The study objective is to generate empirical knowledge analysing the existence of VAW and the impact of access to justice among the beneficiaries of Promotion of Legal and Social Empowerment of Women in Bangladesh (PLSEW). This will contribute to strengthen local governance and government services to respond effectively to reduce VAW.

Currently, report based on qualitative data collected by the research team is being written by **Simeen Mahmud**, Lead Researcher and Coordinator, CGST, **Maheen Sultan**, Lead Researcher of BDI and the Deputy Coordinator of CGST and **Lopita Huq**, Research Fellow, BDI. A filmmaker has been contracted to produce a short documentary on the issue of women's access to justice based on

the case studies undertaken by the research team. **Dr. Mirza Hasan**, Lead Researcher, BDI is overseeing this process. Recently, the shooting of the documentary has been completed. Also, the legal review document is done.

BIL Updates

BIL Faculty Members participate in a Two-Day Workshop



The BIL faculty members participated in a two-day workshop, titled Teaching across Proficiency Levels and Assessment, Evaluation, and Testing, conducted by **Dr. Sharmin Khan** on 12 and 13 July, 2013 at the BRAC University Indoor Games Room. The content of the workshops included Macrostrategies for language teaching, proficiency oriented approach to reading, principles for teaching reading skills, creating questions to enhance reading instruction, reading tasks designed for intermediate/ advanced learners, proficiency oriented approach to writing, elements of good academic writing, cycle of assessment and feedback, critiquing and creating rubrics: holistic & analytical, assessing for placement and promotion based on admission tests and finals exams.

It is worth mentioning, **Dr. Sharmin Khan** is currently teaching in the Department of Linguistics & Language Development of San Jose State University. She has obtained her Ph.D. in Language and Literacy from the University of California, Berkeley. She is primarily interested in writing pedagogy, second language acquisition, and language planning in South Asia.

The workshop was rather lively and participatory. The workshop has brought for the some more of the new practices and pedagogies of the English language teaching and will definitely contribute to the further development of BIL.

Reading and Listening Lab Inaugurated



The honourable Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, **Professor Ainun Nishat** has inaugurated BIL Listening and Reading Lab on 7 July, 2013 amid the presence of BIL Director **Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed**, Pro Vice Chancellor **Professor Fuad H Mallick**, Chairperson of English & Humanities Department **Professor Ferdous Azim**, a visiting team from British Council and other university higher officials.

It has been a long cherished desire of BIL Director to create opportunities for the learners to meet up to their language learning curiosities. This lab aims to provide such opportunities. While visiting the lab, anyone can discover a wide range of documentaries and scholarly lectures with abundance of web-based language learning materials of English and other languages, which will also address the needs of different learner levels. Moreover, the collection of novels and fictions in the lab are adequate to attract the book lovers. Most importantly, its unique ambiance of friendly learning environment can easily captivate any learner to spend some quality time in the lab.

CSO Updates

Seminar on "The RMG Sector as a Career Choice: Prospects and Challenges"



CSO, BRAC University and its partnership with Prothom-alojobs organized their second seminar titled "The RMG Sector as a Career Choice: Prospects and Challenges" on July 04 at Prothom Alo Auditorium, Karwan Bazar.

The speakers in the event were **Ms. Rubana Huq**, Managing Director of Mohammadi Group and **Mr. Shawkat Hossain Masum**, Journalist of the Economist column, Prothom Alo, while **MR. Kumar Murshid**, Advisor, CSO moderated the event.

The primary focus of this seminar was to give the students an insight of the career prospects associated with this sector. It is usually seen that mid managerial posts of RMG sectors are occupied by foreigners from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, China etc. The seminar discussed such challenges as well the suitable positions for students of different department in this sector. Also it discusses how several mishaps like the Rana Plaza incident, Tazrin fire incident can be prevailed along with encouraging better working conditions for the workers. Addressing the students, **Ms. Ruabana Huq** stated "This sector needs young professionals especially in fields like industrial engineering. There are plenty of scopes for graduates as well as interns in this sector".

Other members present in the event were **Mr. Kazi Shahnoor Kabir** Executive CSO, **Ms. Shanzida Shanzida Shahab Uddin** Officer CSO, **Ms. Rakshinda Huq** Officer CSO and **Ms. Zinat Fatema** Assistant Officer CSO along with colleagues from Prothom Alo and Prothom-alojobs.

ENH Updates

Attending International Conference

Dr. Firdous Azim, Chairperson, ENH chaired the plenary titled "Chua Beng Huat on Power, Politics and Pop Culture" at the international conference titled Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Society Conference 2013: Beyond the Culture Industry held from 3rd- 5th July 2013 at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, Kent Ridge Campus, Singapore.

Sabreena Ahmed, Lecturer, ENH presented at the same conference. Her paper was titled Redefining Culture: Case studies from Indigenous Chakma Community of Bangladesh.

Participation in Training organised by the British Council

Mahmuda Akhter and **Sabreena Ahmed**, Lecturer, ENH attended the training titled "Training for Trainers of English Teachers" organised by the British Council from 26th July to 1st August 2013. Both the attendees were selected as certified teacher trainer of the British Council.

ENH Workshop on Writing Research Proposals



Fatima Tuz Zahra, Lecturer, ENH conducted a workshop titled "ENH Workshop on Writing Research Proposals" with the MA students of Applied Linguistics and ELT on 20th July 2013. The workshop focused on introducing the students with basics of any research and how to write a good research proposal. Zahra is currently pursuing her PhD in Education at the Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania.

International Publication

Sabreena Ahmed's paper titled The Use of Response Papers in Composition Class was published in the refereed proceedings of Applied Linguistics Association of Australia National Conference 2012 held from 12th to 14th November 2012.

ESS Updates

Workshop on Nationalisms Unbound

The Anthropology Collective at the Department of Economics and Social Sciences organized a one day international workshop on Nationalisms Unbound: Identity, Difference and Citizenship in South Asia on July 19, 2013. The event was co-sponsored by the South Asia Institute at the University of Texas at Austin.

The workshop was convened in light of the violent identity politics and religious nationalisms resurgent across South Asia today. A major goal was to think through contemporary political and cultural impasses in ways that both cut across and connect specific national contexts. Speakers addressed the following questions, among others: In an ostensibly borderless world, what are the circuits

- institutional, cultural and geo-political - through which discourses of difference gain currency and enable violence in the name of community preservation? How do we understand the current quandaries of citizenship and minority rights in postcolonial South Asia? What are the historical reasons for the eclipse of left politics in South Asian polities? What is the place of Left/progressive politics in the current neo-liberal imaginary? Can we work toward producing post/counter-nationalist narratives that move away from the politics of identity to a politics of justice and redistribution without erasing difference?

Among others, **Professors Shapan Adnan** and **Anu Muhammad**, as well as members of the faculty of the Anthropology program at ESS presented papers. Foreign participants included speakers from King's College, London, Rice University, New York University and the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, the University of North Texas and Sri Lanka's Consortium for Humanitarian Agencies.

The Bengal Foundation hosted an Iftar/reception for conference participants at the Bengal Art Lounge. The Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, **Professor Ainun Nishat** and the Director of Bengal Foundation, **Luva Nahid Choudhury**, spoke on the occasion.

Workshop attended

Dr. Dina Siddiqi attended a five days (July 29- Aug 3) workshop in Nepal organized by SANAM, a South Asia research and advocacy network working on links between genders based violence and masculinities. She was also voted in as a member of SANAM's steering committee.

IGS Updates

Roundtable Discussion on Health Sector Governance: Policy, Influence, Ownership



The Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) organised a roundtable discussion titled 'Health Sector Governance: Policy, Influence, Ownership' on July 27, 2013 at BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium, Dhaka. The roundtable was organised as a follow-up event of the research report titled 'The State of Governance in Bangladesh 2010-2011: Policy, Influence, Ownership'.

IGS Director **Dr. Rizwan Khair** opened the roundtable with a welcome speech. The event was moderated by **Dr. Md. Khairul Islam**, Country Representative of WaterAid Bangladesh, while the panel discussants of the roundtable included Former President of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) and President of Bangladesh Health Rights Movement (BHRM) **Dr. Rashid-E-Mahbub** and Director of Research, James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) **Dr. Malabika Sarker**. IGS Consultant **Ms. Nermeen Shams** made the keynote presentation summarising the chapter on health sector governance in the SoG Report which was followed by comments and suggestions from the panel discussants and participants. The meeting was attended by among others, BMA President **Prof. Mahmud Hasan**, Founder of Gonoshasthya Kendra **Dr. Zafrullah Chowdhury**, Chairman of Enam Medical College **Dr. Md. Enamur Rahman**, Registrar of BRAC University **Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury**, General Manager of Medical Services of Apollo Hospitals **Dr. Arif Mahmud**, Director General of BIRDEM General Hospital Professor Nazmun Nahar, Additional Director General of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) **Prof. AK Azad**, Executive Director of Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK) **Dr. Dibalok Singha**, Former Secretary of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, **AMM Nasir Uddin** and **MM Reza**, Special Correspondent of the Daily Prothom Alo Shishir Moral, Project Manager of Naripokkho **Samia Afrin** and **Dr. M. Mushtaq Husain** of IEDCR.

IGS Researchers Attended Seminar on Microcredit Participants in Bangladesh

On 1 July 2013, IGS Research Assistants **Afrina Islam** and **Nabila Zaman** attended a seminar on 'Are Microcredit Participants in Bangladesh Trapped in Poverty and Debt?' at the PKSF Auditorium, Dhaka. The seminar was organised by Institute of Microfinance (InM). **Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad**, Chairman, InM chaired the seminar, while **Dr. Atiur Rahman**, Governor of Bangladesh Bank was present as the Chief Guest of the event. **Dr. Shahidur Rahman Khandaker**, Lead Economist, The World Bank Country Office and Team Leader of 'Long-term Dynamics of Microcredit Programmes in Bangladesh' study, InM spoke as a Keynote Speaker

7th Public-Private Stakeholders Committee Meeting Held



The seventh meeting of the Public-Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC) was held on 03 July, 2013 at the NEC Conference Room of Planning Commission Campus, Sher-e-Bangla Nager, Dhaka. The meeting was organised and facilitated by Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of the Implementation Monitoring & Evaluation Division (IMED) of the Planning Ministry and the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) at the BRAC University respectively.

The meeting was presided over by the Honourable Planning Minister and the Chairperson of PPSC Air vice Marshal (Retd.) **AK Khandakar. Mr. Amulya Kumar Debnath**, Chief of IMED, Director General of CPTU and the Member Secretary of the PPSC, assisted the chair in conducting the meeting. The Minister delivered a welcome speech to the attending PPSC members and the other participants, representing member organisations, of the meeting. As per the agenda, IGS made three presentations at the meeting-the first presentation was on activities accomplished by PPSC Sub-Committee, the second was about learning from piloting of third-party engagement in public procurement, and the third one was on the draft Strategy for Civic Engagement in Public Procurement of Bangladesh.

The Minister also opened the 10th and 11th issues of the PPSC newsletter-Public Procurement Watch, which was then circulated among the members. Research Associate of IGS **Farhana Razzaq** made the presentation on Activities Accomplished by the PPSC Sub-Committee. The second presentation on 'Citizens' Engagement in Implementation Phase of Public Procurement' was made by Md. Sirajul Islam, Research Associate of IGS. The third presentation on 'Strategy for Civic Engagement in Public Procurement' was made by IGS Consultant **AKM Nashirul Huq**. The presentations were followed by open discussions by the participants and the members of the PPSC. IGS Director **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Research Associates **Md. Harun-Or-Rashid, Sultan Muhammad Zakaria** and Project Manager **Ekram Hossain** were also attended the meeting.

IGS Director and Academic Coordinator Presented Paper at ILO Conference in Geneva

IGS Director **Dr. Rizwan Khair** and Academic Coordinator **Dr. Md. Zohurul**

Islam attended the 3rd Conference of Regulating for Decent Work Network (RDW), organised by International Labour Organisation (ILO) in collaboration with The University of Amsterdam's Institute for Advanced Labour Studies, The University of Melbourne's Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law (CELRL), The University of Manchester's Fairness at Work Research Centre (FaWRC) and the University of Duisberg-Essen's Institut Arbeit und Qualifikation (IAQ). The three-day conference was held from 3-5th July in Geneva, Switzerland. The conference focused on the role of labour market regulation when job creation is the paramount objective. The purpose of the conference was themed as 'Regulating for Equitable and Job-Rich Growth'. On 5th July, **Dr. Rizwan Khair** and **Dr. Md. Zohurul Islam** presented a paper titled 'Worker Compliance Practices in DEPZ, Bangladesh' at the conference.

IGS Associate Presented Paper at the European Survey Research Association's Conference in Slovenia



IGS Senior Research Associate **Syeda Salina Aziz** participated in the 5th conference of European Survey Research Association (ESRA) held at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Kardeljeva, Slovenia from 15-19th July 2013. At the conference, **Salina Aziz** presented a paper on Exploring Social Desirability Bias in Bangladeshi Surveys on the thematic session of 'Survey Research in Developing Countries'.

CIPS Examinations held

The July session examination of Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) was held at IGS from 22-24 July, 2013. A total of 17 participants appeared at the examination. At the same time, classes of CIPS private sector for Level-4, 5 and 6 are going on as before.

Workshop on Preparing Terms of Reference



On 24 July 2013, a workshop on Preparing Terms of Reference was held at the BRAC Centre. The workshop was organised by BRAC and facilitated by IGS Training wing. A total of 30 BRAC Professionals attended the workshop.

IGS Official Attended the Launching Ceremony of the Child Focused Budgeting Framework

On 28 July 2013, Senior Programme Manager of IGS **Mohammad Rafiqul Islam Talukdar** attended the launching ceremony of The Child Focused Budgeting Framework at the Hotel Ruposhi Bangla, Dhaka. The ceremony was organised by The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs in collaboration with the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh and the UNICEF. **Honourable Finance Minister Mr. Abul Maal Abdul Muhith** was present at the programme as the Chief Guest, while **Mr. Md. Motahar Hossain**, Honourable State Minister, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education and **Ms. Meher Afroz Chumki**, Honourable State Minister, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, were present as Special Guests.

Publications by IGS Staff:

1. The Statesman, India: Quota versus merit by **M Shahidul Islam**, 16 July 2013.
2. The Daily Star: Quota versus merit by **M Shahidul Islam**, 15 July 2013.
3. The Daily Prothom Alo: City Corporation Election: Ruling party's ill-prepared fight by **Sultan Mohammed Zakaria**, 12 July 2013.
4. The Daily Star: Ill-prepared fight for liberal values by **Sultan Mohammed Zakaria**, 12 July 2013.
5. IGS Working Series No. 12/2013: Who trusts others? Community and Individual Determinants of social capital in Bangladesh, **M. Niaz Asadullah**, July 2013.
6. IGS Working Series No. 13/2013: Decentralized Local Governance Policy Framework for Bangladesh, **Mohammad Rafiqul Islam Talukdar**, July 2013.
7. IGS Working Series No. 14/2013: Inclusive Governance at the Local Level in Bangladesh: Prospects and Challenges, **Akhter Hussain**, Ph.D, **M. Mafizur Rahman & Farhana Razzaque**, July 2013.
8. Policy Brief: Quota versus Merit from Affirmative Action to Meritocracy, **M Shahdul Islam**, Research Fellow, IGS, July 2013.
9. 'Rural Local Government in Bangladesh' by **Mohammad Rafiqul Islam Talukdar**, Osden Publications (Second Edition), July 2013.

MNS Updates

Annual General Meeting (AGM) of National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute (NOAMI), Dhaka, 6 July, 2013

The AGM of NOAMI was held on 6 July, 2013 at 5 pm in the office of NOAMI at 10/8 Eastern Plaza, Dhaka. The AGM was presided over by **Professor A. A. Z Ahmad**, Chairman, NOAMI. After presentation of the Secretary and Treasurers' reports there was a lively discussion on the proposed budget for 2013-2014 and other issues. How NOAMI could be strengthened further was also discussed. Rear Admiral M. H. Khan, Founder-Chairman, NOAMI and also its Chief Adviser addressed the audience. The AGM was followed by a dinner held at a local restaurant.

MS Thesis Presentation, Dhaka, 20 July, 2013

On 20 July 2013, **Ms. Zubaida Marufee Islam** defended her MS thesis entitled "Isolation and Characterization of Diarrheagenic Escherichia coli in Mirpur Patients". In her project study she characterized pathogens through multiplex PCR which helped in identification of the causal agent and also for determining treatment of the disease. Her study also showed the prevalence profile of various pathogenic bacteria causing diarrhea in the population. The work was carried out at ICDDR,B under the joint supervision of **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury** of BRACU and **Professor Ferdousi Qadri** of ICDDR,B. The thesis evaluation exam was chaired by **Professor AA Ziauddin Ahmad**. **Professor Ferdousi Qadri** acted as the External Examiner. **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury** and **Dr. Aparna Islam** were among the other members of the Examination Committee. Some faculty members also attended the viva-voce exams.

Workshop on Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS), Dhaka, 25 July, 2013

Professor A. A. Z Ahmad attended the above-mentioned workshop organized by the Bangladesh University Grants Commission (UGC) at its auditorium in its office at Agargaon, Dhaka on 25 July, 2013. The workshop was attended by the vice-chancellors and registrars of different public and private universities. **MS Kaniz Fatema**, Project Director of HEMIS gave the welcome address. Then there was a powerpoint presentation by the consultants who elucidated the different indicators. **Professor A. K. Azad Chowdhury**, Chairman UGC was the Chief Guest and **Professor Muhibur Rahman**, Member, UGC was the Special Guest at the function presided over by **Professor Akhter Hossain**, Member, UGC. Later, participants in the workshop were divided into five consultation groups. They later presented their comments and views on the draft report.

Iftar Party, MNS Department, Dhaka, 27 July, 2013

An Iftar party was organized on the 27th July, 2013 at the MNS Department. Around 45 members of faculty and staff were present on the occasion.

"New faces in campus" and "Leaving us"

New faces at BRACU

BBS: **Professor Golam Mohammad** joined as a Professor and Dean in BRAC Business School in July 2013. He did his Ph.D from The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. Earlier he did his M.A. in Economics from Dhaka University and M.S. from University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.

BIL: Two new members **Mr. Jerry Cornelious Cardoza** joined as a Lecturer-II and **Mr. Md. Mahbubul Islam** joined as a Lecturer-I in BRAC Institute of Languages in July 2013.

Mr. Cardoza did his Masters in English Language Teaching from Presidency University, Dhaka and EMBA in Business Studies from American International University of Bangladesh (AIUB).

Mr. Islam did his M.A. both in English Language Teaching (ELT) from University of Dhaka and in English Literature from National University. Pharmacy

Pharmacy: **Mr. Jayanta Kishor Chakrabarty** joined as a Lecturer-I in the Department of Pharmacy in July 2013. **Mr. Chakrabarty** did his M.Pharm in Pharmaceutical Technology and B.Pharm in Pharmacy from Dhaka University.

Management & Admin: **Ms. Musharrat Mahera** joined as an Assistant Public Relations Officer (APRO) in Public Relations Office in July 2013. She did both her M.A. and B.A in English from Jahangirnagar University.

Ms. Silvia Hossain joined as a Nurse in the Medical Center of BRACU in July 2013. She did her Diploma in Nursing from Kumodini Nursing Institution.

Left from BRACU

Ms. Taslima Yasmin served as a Senior Lecturer in SoL resigned and left BRACU in July 2013. **Ms. Asma Banu**, served as Senior Assistant Director in the Carrier Service Office resigned in last July 2013. **Ms. Rosy Sharif**, Assistant Director, HRD also resigned in last July 2013 and joined in BRAC. Two faculty members from CSE department **Mr. Rahat Ibn Rafiq** and **Mr. Nagib Meshkat** who were serving as Lecturer also resigned in July 2013. **Ms. Rajia Sulatana**, Lecturer, BIL also left us in July 2013.

RS Updates

Session on 5 Decades of Development

The RS Summer'13 students attended a seminar titled 5 Decades of Development that took place at Markuli Hall on July 20, 2013, as a part of the extended learning activity of Bangladesh Studies Course. The purpose of this session was to inform students about the achievements of Bangladesh, to make them proud

and to inspire them to think for the development of the country. The whole session was facilitated by **Professor Syed M Hashemi**, Director of BRAC Development Institute and Chairperson of ESS department, BRAC University. The eminent speaker also focused on MDGs and the glossary of GDP and GNP rate of Bangladesh which is a very important indicator to measure the development of a country. The lecture ended with a question-answer session where the students participated spontaneously.

Meet the Employers

The seminar titled Meet the Employers was held on 27 July, 2013 at the BRACU residential campus, Savar. The guest speakers in the program included employer representatives from BRAC, two BRAC University alumni and the CEO of G&R Technologies, which is one of the leading tech startups of the country. The guests shared their ideas about the current job market and gave necessary suggestions to the students. This sharing was followed by a question answer session.

Report on Public Health

A seminar on Public Health was held on 19 July, 2013 at the BRACU residential campus, Savar. The program is designed to familiarize students with the benefits of health and well-being as well as some basic concepts about sexual and reproductive health.

Assistant Campus Superintendent inaugurated the session followed by **Mr. Khule**, who conducted a combined session on 'Health and well being' during the first half of the session. This session included various important factors such as basic hygiene, adverse affect of junk food, smoking and drug abuse.

The second part of the session focused on equipping students with the knowledge of a healthy reproductive life. The session was divided into two parts. The female students took part in the first part, which was conducted by Professor Sabina & **Professor Malabika Sarker**. The male students watched a documentary in different class rooms in the mean time. In the second part, the activities were reversed for the groups. The session for the male students was conducted by **Professor Malabika Sarker**.

SPH Updates



MPH students undertakes BRAC Exposure Field Visit

Under BRAC Exposure Programme, a joint collaboration initiative of BRAC and James P Grant School of Public Health, the MPH students of JPGSPH undertakes an exposure field visit from July 06- 11, 2013 to enhance their exposure to BRAC as the development success story.

The broader objective of this initiative was to orient

MPH students with the different programmes of BRAC as well as to encourage students to gather applied knowledge from the field. The fields included different programme sites of BRAC that included Sreemongol, Sylhet, Mymensingh and Rangpur. During this visit students looked at Health, Nutrition and Population (HNPP), Education, Microfinance, Community Empowerment Programme, Human Rights and Legal Aid Service, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Programme etc. During the field students had a closer look at different components of the programmes with special consideration to the socio-economic context, need, target population, the linkages between the programmes and lesson learnt. It is worth mentioning that students were oriented by **Dr. Ahmed Raza Mastaqur Chowdhury**, Vice Chair Person, BRAC and **Dr. Kaosar Afsana**, Director, HNPP, BRAC.

Prof. Syed Masud Ahmed joins CoE-UHC as Coordinator



Prof. Syed Masud Ahmed has joined as the Coordinator of the Centre of Excellence for Universal Health Coverage (www.coe-uhc.org), a joint venture of Centre of Equity and Health System, ICDDR,B and James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. He is also a Professor at the School since 2011.

Before joining current position in July, 2013, he was the Senior Research Coordinator at the Research and Evaluation Division of BRAC in Bangladesh.

Seminar on SRHR for undergrad students

JPGSPH organized a seminar on Mental Health, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights on July 19th for BRAC University undergrad students at Savar campus. The main objective of this seminar was to create awareness among new undergrad students about mental and sexual and reproductive health issues.

Prof. Sabina F. Rashid, Dean of JPGSPH and **Prof. Malabika Sarker** facilitated the sessions.

Jhpiego Director of Global Learning visits JPGSPH to support Midwifery programme



Peter Johnson, PhD, the Jhpiego Director of Global Learning, a midwife and educational psychologist, visited the James P. Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), BRAC University from 10 June to 19 June 2013 to support the

Community-based Midwifery Diploma Programme (CMDP) team in its review of the second semester Diploma in Midwifery modules in line with global competencies. Dr. Johnson dedicated his time facilitating the BRAC University CMDP members in review, reorganization and strengthening of the second semester modules as well as the development of the learning resource packages.

He also visited the Garo-Baptist Convention- Christian Health Project (GBC-CHP), one of the Implementing Partner Organizations (IPOs) of the CMDP in Haluaghat, Mymensingh to assess the specific need for comprehensive Jhpiego technical support to the programme.

JPGSPH organises short course on Quality Health Management System

A six-day Quality Management in Health Systems short course was held from 29 June to 04 July, 2013 to strengthen the health system through enhanced quality of services and their effective and efficient management. The overarching goal of the Quality Management in Health Systems course was to provide health professionals with the knowledge, tools and skills in improving and sustaining quality in healthcare services and systems. Total 31 health professionals from public and private institutions attended the course.



Mr. Kai Stietenroth, GIZ Health Programme Manager, **Yemen** and **Sylvia Sax**, Public Health Scientist and Consultant, Lecturer, University of Heidelberg, Medical School with **Professor Malabika Sarker** and **Dr. Tajul Islam**, Consultant JICA, facilitated the sessions.

Training of Trainers for Health System Strengthening

The course followed by a two-day (8-9 July, 2013) Training of Trainers for Health System Strengthening with the same participants from the course with some additional JPGSPH staff. A total 17 participants attended the ToT.

Short course on Health Information System



James P. Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) organised a short course on Health Information System from 01 July to 04 July, 2013 with support from GIZ. GIZ conducted the training in collaboration with JPGSPH to build up local capacity with the ultimate aim of having JPGSPH run this course independently in the future. The HIS course was facilitated by **Dr Sundeep Sahay** and **Johan Saebo**, who are researchers under the Health Information Systems Programme, within the Department of Informatics, University of Oslo. The course was supported by a grant of GIZ to cover travel and expenses of both researchers. A total 26 participants attended the course.

FSNSP provides basic training on data collection

Food Security Nutritional Surveillance Project (FSNSP) of the James P Grant School of Public Health in association with Helen Keller International has begun a nine day (July 24 - August 3, 2013) basic training on data collection. Total 16, including 13 from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and three newly recruited data collection officers of FSNSP, participated in the training on food security and nutrition surveillance. The purpose of the training was to make the participants able to collect the data properly and achieve accurate procedure of Anthropometric Measurement. Meanwhile, FSNSP has just completed the first phase of round eleven of data collection.

FSNSP bulletin of round 9 reveals reduction in food insecurity

FSNSP has published its latest bulletin on the findings of round 9. The bulletin reveals that food insecurity as measured by Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS) and food deficit as measured by Food Deficit Scale (FDS) was lower during Round 9 than at any point in the prior year (52% and 15%, respectively), though this level was only marginally lower than the period June to August 2012 (Round 8). Between the Post Aus harvest season of 2011 and that of 2012, there was a large and statistically significant reduction in the proportion of households that are food insecure, both indicators fell by around 30%. In contrast, the proportion of households with inadequate dietary diversity (consisting of households with poor, borderline, and acceptable low FCS values) increased significantly in Round 9 (34%) compared to Round 8 (23%) and reached the maximum level as it was one year earlier in Round 6 (34%).

The bulletin is available at <http://sph.bracu.ac.bd>

TLC Updates

9th TLC Follow-Up Workshop



The 9th TLC follow up workshop was held on 4th July in VC's conference room. This follow up workshop was designed for the faculty members who participated

in the 10th TLC workshop on TLT: Preparing well-grounded Educators, held during May 6-11, 2013. The total number of participants in this follow-up workshop was 11. The entire workshop was facilitated and coordinated by TLC team. The major focus of this workshop was to visit the application of learning from 10th TLC workshop. The workshop started with the session on 'Discussions on Class observation: A Tool for Professional Development' which was facilitated by Sheikh Mohammad Ali, senior lecturer, TLC. In this session, there was a presentation on class observation and the participants discussed how peer observation can help the new faculty members to develop their capacity. The next session was on 'Sharing the perception of teaching Competencies: An overview' facilitated by Sabrina Syed, Lecturer, TLC. In this session, there was a graphical presentation showing the comparison of 10th TLC workshop participants' perception about their teaching aptitudes before and after attending the workshop. The last session was on sharing classroom teaching experiences after attending the 10th TLC workshop which was facilitated by **Samina Anzum Chowdhury**. In this session, the participants reflected their learning in the 10th TLC workshop and discussed more consciously about their real teaching-learning challenges faced in the classrooms.

Prof. Ainun Nishat, Vice chancellor of BRACU attended the workshop and gave informative speech where he put emphasis on the need for class observation for professional development of faculty members. **Prof. Riaz Partha Khan**, Dean of Students' Affairs was also present in the workshop and gave guidelines for the new faculty members on effective teaching practices. Their presence added extra values to the workshop.

Series of TLC short sessions with Pharmacy department

TLC has been conducting series of short sessions on teaching-learning topics during the last two semesters for the students of Pharmacy department of BRACU.

A session was organized on 'Research Tools' on 4th July, 2013. In this session different kinds of research



tools were discussed so that the students can have basic idea of using tools for data collection. The session was conducted by **Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali**, Senior Lecturer, TLC and **Mr. Imon Rahman**, Lecturer, Pharmacy department. The next session was held on 11th July. The topic of that session was 'How we learn?' which was conducted by **Ms. Sabrina Syed**, Lecturer, TLC. The objective of the session was that the learners would be able to realize the effective learning processes. 'Motivation for Learning: Are we self-motivated?' was another session which was facilitated by **Muhammad Foysal Mubarak**, Lecturer, TLC on 25th July. The session was designed with an object to enabling the students to find out some ways to be self-motivated so that they can increase their academic engagement. These series of sessions were participatory which were followed by several activities like power point presentation, mind engaging tasks, games, role play, group discussions etc. Each session's duration was 1 hour.

TLC Faculty attended training session

Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali, Senior Lecturer, TLC, attended a training session organized by British Council, Dhaka, on 26th July, 2013. The title of the training session was 'Professional development through peer feedback'. Three trainers from British Council, Iran, **Ms. Behnush**, **Ms. Zohare** and **Mr. Zaffar** conducted the sessions on what makes good and useful feedback, how to give good feedback and how to receive it.

TLC Faculty is in Australia to pursue MA

Samina Anzum Chowdhury, Lecturer, TLC has taken study leave and gone to Flinders University, Australia to pursue Masters on 'Cognitive Psychology & Educational Practice' which is going to be her second Masters in Education. This is a two years program, especially designed for tertiary level learners and teacher-trainers.