

**JANUARY 2014**



## **First Year Advising Program (FYAP): Briefing Session for Advisers**

Tag: [Teaching and Learning Centre](#)

Year: January 31, 2014 - 17:15



Teaching & Learning Centre (TLC) is supporting FYAP to a large extent. Ms. Sabrina Syed, Lecturer of TLC has given a presentation on 31st January, 2014 to brief FYAP advisers about the supportive materials for advising prepared by TLC & Student Affairs collaboratively.

## **ESS Updates, January 2014**

Tag: [Department of Economics and Social Sciences](#)

Year: January 30, 2014 - 12:30

### **Training Program**

**Professor Hashemi**, Chairperson, ESS, launched the three month training program for BRAC International Young Professionals. The training includes a Development Studies track and a Management track. The management track is being implemented by the Centre for Entrepreneurship at the BRAC Business School. 17 participants from Sub-Saharan Africa and from Pakistan are attending.

## Faculty Publication

Senior Lecturer of ESS, **Lutfun Nahar Lata's** paper on 'Cultural Capital and Higher Education in Bangladesh' got published recently in the Journal of International Review of Modern Sociology, Vol. 39, No. 2, 2013.

## Conference Attendance

**Dr Samia Huq**, Associate Professor of ESS attended a meeting on faith and development organized by the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, Georgetown University. The meeting was held in London, UK on January 26th and 27th.

## Faculty Presentation

**Professor Sajjad Zohir**, currently a visiting professor of Economics at ESS presented at a workshop organized by the Planning Commission on 3rd February "Women Labor Force Participation in Bangladesh to Harness Demographic Dividend". The paper was prepared with active involvement of three students in Economics at ESS - **Anika Anjum, Nabilah Nawar and Raafi Zakaria**. It is expected that the students will make their presentation at the department immediately after their Spring midterm exams are over.

## Live Interview

**Dr Seuty Sabur** was invited to BBC dialogue on January 18, along with **Honorable minister Motia Chowdhury**, Senior BNP leader **General Mahbub** to analyze post election political situation and people's participation. Whole programme was broadcasted in BBC Bangla on 19th and televised in Channel I on 20th of January.

## Workshop on STATA

ESS organized a five-day workshop in Econometrics using STATA during January 28-February 1. Fifteen advanced level Economics students participated in the workshop. The workshop was conducted by **Dr Minhaj Mahmud** from Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

## Other Activities

**Dr Wahid Abdallah**, Assistant Professor of ESS received a research grant from International Growth Center (IGC), located at LSE and funded by DFID, for the research "Effect of E-Procurement System: Evidence from Bangladesh".

# Computer Club Members Meet to Sketch the Year

Tag: [Student Affairs](#)

Year: January 30, 2014 - 11:45

On 30th of January 2014, Computer Club (BUCC) members have met to envision how to effectively outperform its own performance in last year. They have focused on individual performance as well as team capacity building to improve group work. Both short term and long term plans were sketched. It includes a set of varying programs including skill building of general members, upto national level ambitious programs. Some of the programs include inviting industry to hold seminars, capacity building workshops, preparing the next level of students for Microsoft Student Partnership, competitions to attract school and college students in addition to university level students etc.

## MCC Ltd offers BUCC Members internships

Tag: [Student Affairs](#)

Year: January 30, 2014 - 11:45

In January 2014, several of them were offered 6 months long internship opportunities as Android Application Developer at MCC Ltd. This is a result of the outstanding participation and performance of many Computer Club (BUCC) members at different national level training events. This is outcome of just the first part of the trainings. Since its inception, BUCC members have always been an attraction to the industry and they are determined to keep on doing so. MCC (mcc.com.bd) is an award-winning ICT company, developing customized and integrated print and audio-visual tools, Mobile and Web Apps to help social development. It is one of the organization responsible for implementing "National Mobile Application Awareness & Capacity Building Program", a project under Ministry of ICT.

## BUCC Members Serving as Ambassador of HubDhaka

Tag: [Student Affairs](#)

Year: January 30, 2014 - 11:45

On 31st of January 2014, the HubDhaka Ambassador introductory meeting took place. It is a startup campus geared towards Tech Entrepreneurship, Tech Events, Coworking and Networking. CoWorking is the social gathering of a group of people who are still working

independently, but who share value, and who are interested in the synergy that can happen from working with the like-minded talented people in the same space. HubDhaka is founded by **Sajid Islam**, CEO of Shetu and Global Support Product Manager for Hewlett-Packard.

**Md. Asif Ibtehas Shawon** and **S.M. Rakibul Hasan** of have been selected as Ambassadors of HubDhaka. With the quote, "The world is not lacking in great ideas, but it is lacking the collaborative and supportive structures to help make them happen. That's where we come in.", HubDhaka will be officially launched on March 1, 2014 with its first event to be held on March 13th. Further details can be found from [hubdhaka.com](http://hubdhaka.com).

## IGS-BDI Executive Director Held Meeting With Sir Fazle Hasan Abed and Others

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Governance and Development](#)

Year: January 30, 2014

In January, Executive Director of IGS-BDI **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman** held several meetings with some distinguished personalities and prominent academics and researchers of Bangladesh regarding the research collaboration, capacity building and other relevant issues of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD). Among others **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman** had meeting with Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG, Founder and Chairperson of BRAC, and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of BRAC University on 30 January 2014. He also held meetings with the Foreign Secretary **Md. Shahidul Haque** and **M. Riaz Hamidullah**, Director General of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh Bank Governor **Dr. Atiur Rahman**, Japanese Ambassador **H.E. Shiro Sadoshima**, Commissioner Anti-Corruption, **Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed**, **Dr. Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury**, Vice Chairperson of BRAC, **Prof. M. A. Taslim**, Chairman of Department of Economics, Dhaka University, **Dr. S. R. Osmani**, Professor of Economics, University of Ulster, Northern Ireland and **Dr. Mohammad Yunus**, Senior Research fellow of BIDS. **Dr. Sultan Hafeez** also had a video conference with representatives from London School of Economics and Political Science and Oxford University, UK.

## Story of BRAC

Tag: [Residential Campus](#)

Year: January 30, 2014 - 11:30

A seminar titled 'Story of [BRAC](#)' was held on January 30, 2014 at Markuli Hall, conducted by **Mr. Abdur Rahman**, an eminent NGO activist. He shared the success story of BRAC showing a number of video clips. He motivated students to become functional elite, which, he reminded them is the core objective of BRAC University.

Notably, the purpose of the session was to inform students about BRAC before they begin their visits to the BRAC programs. The session was very participatory and informative and ended with a question-answer segment.

## **MOU Signed Between EATL & BRAC University**

Year: January 30, 2014 - 11:30



Ethics Advanced Technology Limited (EATL) has signed an agreement with BRAC University to utilize ICT and to do its development collaborate recently. It was signed by Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University and Mr. M A Mubin Khan, Chairman & Managing Director of EATL. Dr. Nizam Uddin Ahmed, CEO of EATL, Mr. Khan Ahmed Murshid, Jt. Registrar of BRAC University, Professor Mohammad Zahidur Rahman, Chairperson of Department of Computer Science & Engineering (CSE) and Md. Zahangir Alom, Lecturer of Department of Computer Science & Engineering (CSE) were also present on this occasion. This is an excellent collaboration between academia and ICT industry for the engagement of students and teachers in training, mobile apps development, Research & Development activities. EATL and BRAC University will work together for utilization of knowledge and skills in socio-economic development and to support the business sector as well.

# IGS Staff Participated in Inception Study Mission of Food Security

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Governance and Development](#)

Year: January 30, 2014 - 11:15

IGS Senior Programme Manager **Mohammad Rafiqul Islam Talukdar** took part in a Food Security Study Mission held from 25-30 January 2014 in Dhaka, Jessore and Khulna. The newly formed BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) was appointed as the local partner of MDF, who is contracted by the Policy & Programmes Evaluation Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands for a Baseline and Evaluation study on two projects in Bangladesh: Blue Gold and Safal of the Dutch Food Security Programme. An inception phase mission team was formed to conduct this study. Mission Members are Mr. Jan Joost Kessler, Aidenvironment (Team Leader), **Mr. Philip de Jong**, APE (Expert in Econometrics and Surveys), **Mr. Ferencz Bodnar**, Representative, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Food Security Expert), **Mr. Rob Kuijpers**, Representative, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Statistical Expert), **Mr. Geert Geut**, Representative, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Water Expert), **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman**, BIGD (Evaluation and Policy Specialist), **Dr. Ferdous Jahan**, BIGD (Food Security Specialist and Research Coordinator) and **Mohammad Rafiqul Islam Talukdar**, BIGD (Survey and Programme Evaluation Expert, Policy Analyst and Study Organiser).

## MAGD News: Courses in January 2014

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Governance and Development](#)

Year: January 30, 2014 - 10:30

In January, 2014, Master in Governance and Development (MAGD) programme offered the module titled 'Strategic Management' for the students. This course was conducted on a block teaching method by **Dr. Quamrul Alam**, an Associate Professor of the Department of Public Policy and Management, Monash University in Australia. **Dr. Quamrul** conducted a total 8 days of full time sessions, group works, individual assignment, and group works presentation. In the meantime, MAGD students are concentrating on their research work for dissertation.

# Professional Skills and Development Program (PSDP) Orientation Spring 14

## Orientation

Tag: [Office of Career Services and Alumni Relations](#)

Year: January 30, 2014 - 10:15

The orientation session for PSDP Spring' 14 was held on 30th of January 2014 at the Indoor Auditorium of BRACU. Out of 215 registered students, almost all of the students were present at this program.

**Ms. Rakshinda Huq**, Officer and **Ms. Zinat Fatema** opened the session by welcoming the students, later **Mr. Kazi Shahnoor Kabir**, Executive took over the event and described the components of the PSDP. The PSDP program is designed to prepare the graduating class to pursue post-graduate employment and academic opportunities. The program had two central objectives. First, it provides extensive information on postgraduate academic opportunities and job market conditions and prospects. Secondly, the program seeks to equip all graduating students with the necessary skills for job search, individual portfolio development and interview preparation.

A speech was given by **Mr. Kumar Murshid**, Joint Registrar and Director, CSO who first congratulated the students for reaching their final year and attending the PSDP. With his motivating words he encouraged the students to mentally prepare themselves for the world of work. He further stated the importance of English Language at the workplace and especially during interviews; therefore he inspired the students to go beyond their inhibitions and practice speaking in English Language as much as possible. Further speeches were given by **Lady Sarwat Abed**, Director, BIL who was also present in the event. She said that after spending the glorious years in BRACU, the students just require a little bit of polishing through PSDP in order to excel in their professional world. "Students have already learnt to be independent in the Residential Campus, now it's the time to be independent", she added.

**Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick**, Pro Vice Chancellor of BRACU also graced this occasion with his presence. He focused on the importance of having a good CV and how essential it is to make the first impression to the employers. He concluded his speech by giving best wishes to the event.

The event concluded with testimonies of current PSDP students who have been working with CSO since their first semester as volunteers. They spoke about their experiences and suggested the students to make the best use of the PSDP and CSO in general.

Other members present in the event were **Ms. Shanzida Shahab Uddin**, Executive **Mr. Jovy Sargeant**, Consultant and **Ms. Rachel Jeana Gomes**, Intern.

# Consultation on effectiveness of safe childbirth checklist

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Global Health](#)

Year: January 30, 2014 - 09:45

A team of young researchers from James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC Institute of Global Health, BRAC University led by **Dr. Shabnam Mostari**, **Dr. Rubana Islam** and **Dr. Herfina Nababan** has received an innovative research grants from Maternal Health Task Force at the Harvard School of Public Health. The title of their study is "Making WHO safe childbirth checklist work in Bangladesh - a study to identify ways for uptake and sustained use". With this project they would like to see the effectiveness of safe childbirth checklist (SCC) established by World Health Organization (WHO) in Bangladeshi context.



An expert consultation meeting was held on 29 January 2014 at BIGH conference room. Different obstetricians, neonatologists and public health expert were present at the meeting. The main objective of the meeting was to get expert opinion on whether the Checklist would be applicable in Bangladeshi context, and in what aspect the Checklist would need to be changed and/or improved.

**Dr. Shabnam Mostari**, Principal Investigator of this study from James P. Grant School of Public Health presented the overall project status. **Dr. Rubana Islam**, Co-PI from icddr, b presented the checklist to get expert opinion and Prof. Malabika Sarker, the adviser of this project facilitated the sessions. WHO SCC team is currently working to incorporate the feedback from the stakeholders and make the necessary changes in preparation of the study.



# REACHOUT team completes CTC context analysis

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Global Health](#)

Year: January 30, 2014

The REACHOUT Bangladesh team has successfully completed the first draft of the Context Analysis of Close-to-Community (CTC) Provider report. This report includes qualitative and quantitative research findings along with a desk review of CTC providers in Bangladesh. The report also highlights the factors which hinders the performance of such providers in rural and urban slum community settings. This would be addressed in the Quality Improvement Cycle (QIC) of the project. The report has already been shared with Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), the coordinating partner of the REACHOUT consortium. The QIC process would begin from July, while the report would give the team additional support in developing the CTC framework for the intervention design factors and M&E tools to gain insight on the perspectives and interactions of the CTC providers and that of the community. Furthermore, REACHOUT Bangladesh team has finalized the South-South Technical Assistance Grid, which is a Milestone (MS11) to be achieved for the project in January 2014. The document will be shared and uploaded at the EC portal by the end of the month. The process of grid formation included a brainstorming session in the second REACHOUT consortium meeting at Amsterdam, The Netherlands, earlier in November 2013. The relevant partners have formed a grid placing the information on "what we can offer" as an institution and "what we need" from the REACHOUT partner countries. The document has placed out this information and the possible date for the first South-South Technical Assistance would be from March 31 2014, at the third REACHOUT consortium meeting in Mozambique.

# FSNSP and BBS staffs receive basic training

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Global Health](#)

Year: January 30th, 2014



The Food Security Nutritional Surveillance Project (FSNSP) organized nine-day basic training during 21-30 January, 2014 for its newly recruited data collection officers (DCOs) and Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) staffs. This training mainly focused on the interview techniques on the data collection. Training on interview techniques, anthropometric measurements, use of PDAs and questionnaires was given. Training was facilitated by the

Project Coordinator, Field Managers, Senior Monitoring Officers, Quality Control Officers and Training Officer.

A total of 11 participants attended the training. BBS staffs have been jointly working with BRAC Institute of Global Health of BRAC University in this project. After completion of training, staffs have moved to the field for data collection of the first phase of round 13. The phase will be started form 06 February, 2014 which will continue till 01 March, 2014.

## CEP organises short course on mainstreaming nutrition

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Global Health](#)

Year: January 30, 2014

Continuing Education Program (CEP) of James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) under BRAC Institute of Global Health (BIGH) organised a 4 days training course on "Mainstreaming Nutrition in Public Health and Relevant Sectors" for the District Nutrition Support Officers' (DNSO) and Zonal Nutrition Officers' (ZNO) supported by UNICEF at the Asia Pacific Hotel from 23-26 January 2014. The objective of the course was to build capacity of DNSOs and ZNOs in order to mainstream nutrition interventions through local level government agencies and other NGOs. Nine DNSOs and 6 ZNOs were participated in the course. Welcoming the participants at the inaugural session **Dr Sabina Faiz Rasheed**, Dean of James P Grants School of Public Health also mentioned to offer such courses in the coming days.



Diverse contents were used in the course starting from current nutrition situation, existing policies, principles of mainstreaming, problem solving cycle and bottleneck analysis, communication, mentoring and on the job training (OJT), basics of managing, monitoring and reporting, understanding the data, analyze and interpretation of those for decision making to coordination roles between inter-governmental agencies and so forth. Role play, group discussion, presentation and sharing real life experiences were the main methods of learning in these sessions. A pool of experienced facilitators was involved from different ministries of GoB including UNICEF, ICDDR'B, HKI and JPGSPH.

**Dr. Hedayetul Islam**, Director, IPHN, MoHFW and Line Director NNS along with **Dr. Sadia Afroze Chowdhury**, Executive Director of BIGH, distributed certificates among the participants. Representatives from USAID, EU, CIDA along with other development partners were also present at the closing ceremony of the course.

## RS Activity Orientation

Tag: [Residential Campus](#)

Year: January 30, 2014



The orientation programme for the RS activities was held on January 30, 2014. The session was conducted by **Mr. Sayeedul Islam Khan** at the Markuli Hall. **Mr. Aminul Islam**, Senior Campus Management officer was also facilitated the session successfully. The 13 activities that will be offered for them during the Spring 2014 semester were introduced by the faculty members concerned for the respective activity.

The core team of RS activities was present for the event along with the Assistant Campus Superintendent, **Mr. Rehan Ahmed**. Overall, the students displayed much enthusiasm and eagerness towards the activities.

## BRAC University Adventure Club: In Bandarban

Tag: [Co-curricular Activities](#)

Year: January 28, 2014

On January 20th 2014, BUAC organized a 5 day long tour in Bandarban. From Bandarban town the team went to Milonchori Hill Resort (4.2km) and then Ruma Bazaar (45km) travelling by Chader Gari for 1.5hrs. From Ruma Bazaar there was hike to Boga Lake for 3-4hrs. Next day the destination was Pukurpara. This was by far the most adventurous day of all since so far not many people travelled from Boga Lake to Pukurpara in a day especially with such a huge group of

twenty seven people along with two guides. Most of the day was spent hiking up and down through inclined planes. On day 3 the team went to Raikkhang Jhorna. Everyone trekked from Pukurpara to Raikkhang Jhorna and back to Pukurpara spending a rather relaxing day, only hiking for 1.5 hours (3 hours up-down).

On day 4 the destination was Keokradong. The team hiked all the way from Pukurpara to Keokradong which took about 13hrs. It was a route none has ever taken before that too in a day with such a huge group. Activities included trekking, hiking, night hiking which was a new experience for many. Kekradong was summited at around 8pm of 23rd January. Later there was the usual camp fire and adda session after dinner. On day 5, the team returned to Dhaka.

## RS Orientation Programme, Spring '14

Tag: [Residential Campus](#)

Year: January 27, 2014



The orientation program for the 35th batch of the Residential Semester (RS) took place on January 25, 2014. The programme was conducted by **Rehan Ahmed**, Assistant Campus Superintendent and **Ms. Farrah Jabeen**, Senior Lecturer, BIL in the Markuli Hall of the Savar Campus, BRACU. **Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick**, Pro Vice-Chancellor, BRACU, the RS faculty members, **Jovy Sarjeant**, Consultant, BIL and CSO and the management staff of BLC were present during the daylong session. **Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick**, Pro Vice-Chancellor, BRACU addressed the audience focusing on the rationale and objectives of the RS.

The session aimed at welcoming the students to RS, introducing them to the faculty members and the staff members and most importantly familiarizing them with the social capital, especially emphasizing on the objectives of RS. **Aminul Islam**, Sr. Campus Management Officer, introduced students to the campus facilities (their function and location) and its disciplinary code. The programme was concluded by **Mr. Rehan Ahmed**.

# Sessions for Medha Bikash students

Tag: [Counseling Unit](#)

Year: January 27, 2014



Counseling Unit of BRAC University has been visiting the Medha Bikash, a program run by BEP (BRAC Education Program), to conduct a motivational session for the underprivileged students coming from rural and at the same time very successful academic background for last four years. The session generally is divided into two segments. In the first segment, the expert Counselor provides a lecture at a class room setting where particular psychosocial issues are discussed. In this segment, different psychological issue like: Self confidence, acceptance, goal setting, developing positive attitude and motivation are covered. The second segment covers mainly the individual or group counseling sessions for the students who express their need for individual session.

The latest visit for Medha Bikash group was held on 22, 26 of January, and 2014. This time 52 students have participated in different session, in which 33 female and 19 male students. These sessions were conducted by **Anjuman Ara Eva**. The session could inspire them to realize the broader picture of what they are up to, motivated towards goal wise life setting. After the class, group counseling sessions were done with the students needed that.

# Admission Test Held for Masters in Procurement and Supply Management

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Governance and Development](#)

Year: January 26, 2014

The admission test for Masters in Procurement and Supply Management (MPSM), Spring 2014 (Batch-5) was held respectively on 27 December 2013 and 25 January 2014. 19 participants from different public and private sector organisations participated in the admission test. A total of 14 participants were selected for the Masters Programme. Also, Classes of MPSM Batch 3 with 17 students have started from 24 January 2014 for Spring 2014 semester at BRAC University.

# Workshop on Assessment and Rubric

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Languages](#)

Year: January 25th, 2014



The BIL faculty members participated in a series of workshops on Assessment and Rubric conducted by **Dr. Sharmin Khan**. The aim of the workshop was to work on further developing and upgrading the existing rubric and assessment criteria to ensure a standardized level of assessment and testing.

It is noteworthy that **Dr. Sharmin Khan** teaches at 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.

# 12th TLC Faculty Orientation Workshop

Tag: [Student Affairs](#)

Year: January 25th, 2014



Teaching & Learning Centre (TLC) has successfully completed its 12th Faculty Orientation Workshop: Steps to Success at BRAC University during January 22-23, 2014 at BRACU auditorium. This 2 day long workshop was attended by 28 newly recruited faculty members of different departments which included Lecturers to Assistant Professors to emphasize variant interaction. With the interactive teaching learning perspective in view and with the dedication to promote excellence in teaching, Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) has been organizing faculty orientation workshops at BRACU on a regular basis and this time the session design was

slightly changed to accentuate in-depth discussion.

The workshop was commenced by the session on introduction to BRACU rules and regulation facilitated by our Pro-VC Prof. **Fuad H. Mallick** and by Jt. Registrar **Khan Ahmed Murshid** later in another session to emphasize the regulation of the code of conduct of BRACU that governs the faculty and staff. This session was followed by a discussion on the synergy between BRACU and BRAC and the ambience was further uplifted by beautiful visuals of BRAC's contribution to the society which was facilitated by **Ms. Snigdha Ali**, Programme Head, Communication & Advocacy for Social Change, BRAC. The presence of Prof. Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor added extra value to the workshop. He discussed about classroom leadership and provided guidelines for the participants to be successful in BRACU and shared his experiences as a senior academic. First day of the workshop was concluded by sessions conducted by **Prof. Fuad H. Mallick**, Pro-VC of BRACU, and **Mr. Mohammad Rezaur Razzak**, Associate Professor of BBS highlighting the culture and curriculum of teaching at BRACU, designing course syllabus, teaching methods, preparing for first session, knowing students for maximizing their learning.

The second day of the workshop started off with interesting group work and interactive sessions conducted by **Farrah Jabeen**, Sr. Lecturer and **Jimalee Sowell**, English Language Fellow, from BIL. TLC team also organized an active fun group work for the participants and which was then followed by a Panel Discussion in VC's Conference room which was facilitated by few distinguished senior faculty members from different departments-Prof. **Md. Sayeed Salam**, Chairperson, EEE dept, **Prof. Naiyyum Choudhury**, Coordinator, Biotechnology and Microbiology dept, **Mr. Mohammad Rezaur Razzak**, Associate Professor, BBS, **Mr. Matin Saad Abdullah**, Assistant Professor, CSE dept. The 2 day workshop was wrapped up by a cultural program organized and performed by the participants themselves and with a special dinner at BRAC INN Shuruchi Restaurant to end the event on a social note.

## Ninth MPH Graduate Forum marks celebration

The ninth Graduate Forum ceremony of the James P.

**Tag:** [BRAC Institute of Global Health](#)

Year: January 25th, 2014

The ninth Graduate Forum ceremony of the James P. Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) at the BRAC Institute of Global Health, BRAC University, was held on January 23, 2014 at Sasakawa Auditorium, icddr,b, Dhaka on the occasion of the successful completion of the ninth MPH Programme.



The Graduate Forum marks the end of our year-long master of public health programme which began in January of last year. It is a day of celebration for the students, the faculty and the school. **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University was present on the occasion as the Chief Guest with **Dr. Sadia Afroze Chowdhury**, Executive Director of the BRAC Institute of Global Health (BIGH) as the chair. **Dr. John Clemens**, Executive Director of icddr,b and **Yvette N. Malciolo**, Family Welfare Team Leader of USAID/ Bangladesh were also present as Special guests. **Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid**, Professor and Dean, JPGSPH spoke on MPH programme. In this forum, five graduating students made presentations based on their dissertations and students with outstanding performance received awards.

Awards for the students were:

1. **Allan Rosenfield** Award for Best Overall Performance: **Md. Zabir Hasan**
2. **Sir Fazle Hasan Abed** Award for Leadership: **Tapas Mazumder**
3. **W.B. Greenough III** Award for Best Dissertation: **Megan Lee Mueller**
4. **Richard Cash** Award for Best Poster: **Bivek Adhikari**
5. **Richard Cash** Award for Best Poster: **Pradeep Kumar Shrestha**
6. **Richard Cash** Award for Best Poster: **Md. Noor-E-Alam**

Awards for Faculties and Teaching Fellows:

1. **Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain** Teaching Excellence Award: **Dr. Stephen P Luby**
2. **Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain** Teaching Fellow Award: **Herfina Nababan**

Total 54 students have passed this year among which 24 were international and 30 were national students.

Vice Chancellor **Professor Ainun Nishat** congratulated the MPH graduates saying that the MPH degree is not the end of their study, rather it is the beginning. He suggested that everyone should be well-aware of the current global health debates to meet the post-MDG challenges. He hoped that the graduates would apply their knowledge and contribute in the development of their respective countries.

In the evening, the graduating students took part in a musical programme at BIGH cafeteria.





## Faculty rejoining

Tag: [Department of Architecture](#)

Year: January 23rd, 2014

**Nesfun Nahar** rejoined the Department of Architecture as a full time faculty on 22 January 2014. **Ms. Nahar** graduated from Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (BUET) in 2001 and had been awarded Shamsunnahar Khanam Memorial Gold Medal for securing the highest CGPA in B. Arch Examination. She started her teaching career at the same department in June 2001. Just after working for fifteen months **Ms. Nahar** left BUET to pursue her postgraduate studies under the Commonwealth Scholarship & Fellowship plan (CSFP 2002). She completed her Master of Arts in Housing & Urbanism from Architectural Association School of Architecture, London, UK and joined BRAC University as a lecturer on her return in January 2004. After working for 4 years she took leave from full-time teaching and concentrated on professional practice but continued teaching as a part-time faculty member. Contemporary architectural design, history and theory are her field of interests.

# IGS Staff Participated in BRAC Global Model United Nations Conference

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Governance and Development](#)

Year: January 23rd, 2014



IGS Communications Assistant **Sameeah Zahangir** participated in the BRAC University Global Model United Nations (BUGMUN) 2014, held from 17th to 21st January, 2014 at the BRAC Savar Residential Campus. Attended by over 410 students and young professionals as delegates and Executive board members from Bangladesh as well as other countries like Costa Rica, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Indonesia and India, BUGMUN 2014 was a vibrant conference with the theme "POST 2015: Envisioning a better future for the world."

The opening ceremony of the event took place at Army Golf Garden, Dhaka on the morning of 17th January. The Chief Guest **Sir Fazle Hasan Abed**, KCMG, Founder and Chairperson of BRAC, and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of BRAC University, inaugurated BUGMUN 2014. **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor and H.E. **Lee Yun-Young**, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea BRAC University were also present at the opening ceremony as Special Guests.

This year's BUGMUN had 12 committees: Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs Committee (SOCHUM); Security Council; African Union; European Union; Human Rights Council; The Group of 20; World Trade Organisation; World Health Organisation; Arab League; United Nations Environmental Programme; The Economic and Financial Affairs Council; FIFA-UEFA. Each of the committees was headed by a Dais, consisting of Chair and Co-chair, or President and Vice President. Prior to the event, each delegate was assigned a committee and country. Agendas were also given to the delegates alongside study guides, so that the delegates would be able to actively participate in the Model UN, and come up with feasible solutions for the discussed agendas. BUGMUN had a Youth Speakers session on 20th January, where the guest speakers were **Maimuna Ahmed**, CEO of Teach for Bangladesh, and **Korvi Rakshand**, Founder of JAAGO Foundation.

# Training on Evaluation of Goods and Non-consulting Services Contract Management and Supplier Relationship Management

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Governance and Development](#)

Year: January 23rd, 2014



A training programme on Evaluation of Goods and Non-consulting Services Contract Management and Supplier Relationship Management was held at BRAC Centre Inn on 21-22 January 2014. The training was organised by IGS and facilitated by its Training wing. A total of 31 participants from different departments of BRAC, participated in this workshop. IGS faculties **Mr. Rashed Morshed** and **Md. Zikrul Islam** conducted this training.

## CSO Organizes their First Team Session

Tag: [Office of Career Services and Alumni Relations](#)

Year: January 23rd, 2014

For the first time Career Services Office (CSO) organized their first team building session at BRAC Centre for Development & Management, Savar on January 21st 2014. The Counseling department facilitated the daylong program.\

The Counseling Team started the program with an interesting game of role playing with assigned pair. After that, **Ms. Sumaiya Anwar** Psycho Social counselor presented some important guidelines for communicating assertively and effectively in the professional sphere. The primary focus of this session was to give us an idea about "Knowing thyself". This was a very interactive session which gave the CSO members a chance to explore and express their hidden creativity and communication skills. The Counseling Team concluded the event with feedback from the CSO members which led to a better understanding among the team members.

All the CSO members attended the session namely **Mr. Khan Ahmed Murshid** Director, **Mr. Kazi Shahnoor Kabir** Executive, **Ms. Shanzida Shahab Uddin** Executive, **Ms. Rakshinda Huq** Officer, and **Ms. Zinat Fatema** Asst. Officer and **Ms. Reachel Jeana Gomes** Intern.

Other members from the Counseling Team were **Mr. Shami Surhid** Psycho Social Counselor, **Ms. Sumaiya Anwar** Psycho Social Counselor, **Ms. Safina Binte Enayet** Psycho Social Counselor, **Ms. Tasnuva Huque** Psycho Social Counselor who were also facilitator of the session.

## IGS Staff Attended a Training Workshop on Social Impact Evaluation

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Governance and Development](#)

Year: January 22nd, 2014

IGS Senior Programme Manager **Md. Rafiqul Islam Talukder** and Research Associate **Mohammad Sirajul Islam** attended a two-day Training Workshop titled 'Social Impact Evaluation Training' on 20- 21 January 2014. The training was organised by Social Impact Inc., Arlington, Virginia, USA at the Social Impact Bangladesh Country Office at Gulshan 2, Dhaka. Representatives from different USAID and Social Impact partner organisations participated in this programme. The purpose of the training was the capacity building of different research and programme related officials about Programme/Project Evaluations. **Ms. Melissa Chiappetta**, Deputy Director of Performance Evaluation Department, Social Impact Inc. at Arlington, Virginia and **Ms. Katherine Bashour**, Programme Assistant jointly conducted the training.

## Team Building Workshop

Tag: [Counseling Unit](#)

Year: January 22nd, 2014



Team performance depends on relations among the team members, and relations between the team and the rest of the organization. Based on this assumption, Counseling Unit conducted a workshop on Team Building with the members of CSO at Savar CDM on January 21, 2014. The objectives of the program are to:

- enable the participants to have insight into their personality
- understand how individual relate his/herself to others in his/her teams and organization in particular and society in general
- learn technique for behavioral change leading to effective interpersonal relationships

The workshop focused on understanding self/others, communication style, understanding the ways and how to change the way we communicate to enhance the effectiveness of team work. Different types of method were used like - group work, pair work, sharing, relaxation, question answer throughout the workshop with active participation from each participants. In another segment of the session participants reflected their thoughts and shared some of their relevant personal experiences. Overall, it was an introductory session to make team more effective, further sessions on more advanced topics will be conducted.

## IGS Researchers Attended a Workshop on Generic Curriculum Development

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Governance and Development](#)

Year: January 20th, 2014



A Generic Curriculum Development Training-Workshop under the NUFFIC Project was held at the BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka from 12 January-16 January 2014. A total of 18 participants from BPATC, IGS and BRAC Development Institute (BDI) attended the workshop. The lead facilitator of the workshop was **Dr. Wim Kouwenhoven**, Senior Adviser at the Education and Development Centre for International Cooperation, VU University, Amsterdam. The purpose of the workshop was to capacitate a group of curriculum designers at BPATC and IGS that could be instrumental in advising on and guiding the design and development of new courses that contribute to the success of academic and trainings programmes in the area of governance.

IGS researchers **Syeda Salina Aziz**, **Mohammad Sirajul Islam**, **Kazi Nurmohammad Hossainul Haque**, **Md. Harun-Or-Rashid**, **Farhana Razzaque**, **SM Arafat Gubair** and Academic Coordinator **Dr. Zohurul Islam** participated in the workshop. BDI participants at the workshop were **Dr. Rashed-uz-Zaman**, **Md. Alamgir Kabir**, **Ms. Anindita Hridita** and **Mr. Ripon Chakraborty**.

# English Language Promotion

**Tag:** [BRAC Institute of Languages](#)

Year: January 17th, 2014

BIL, in collaboration with CSO, has initiated a rigorous English Language campaign with the aim of enhancing the practice of spoken English throughout BRAC University campus, both at Mohakhali and at Savar. **Jovy Sarjeant**, a consultant for CSO and BIL, is working as a point person in the promotion of spoken English in both campuses. He, along with BIL faculty members, has commenced a number of both short and long-term projects, in this regard, which include the delivering the English Campaign, coordinating with the English Committee and facilitating an English ELA activity at Savar.

# Winter Cloth Donation Programme

**Tag:** [BRAC Institute of Languages](#)

Year: January 16th, 2014



On January 15, 2014, the BRAC University Community Service Club (BUCSC), accompanied by their advisors, **Ashik Sarwar** and **Md. Akteruzzaman**, Lecturers, BIL, handed a collection of warm clothes to BRAC at BRAC Centre to be distributed among the poor and needy.

BUCSC members had placed boxes all over the university for collecting donations and contributed as well. It is worth mentioning that the donation contained more than thirty new blankets and four large cartons of used clothes.

It is to be noted that the BUCSC is a student club in collaboration with BIL. It aims at contributing to the social development.

# IGS-BDI Senior Officials Attended a Brainstorming Session on TTI Grant Proposal Writing

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Governance and Development](#)

Year: January 15th, 2014



An informal brainstorming session consisting of some senior officials from IGS and BDI took place at the IGS Conference Room on 13th January 2014. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss ideas about writing a TTI grant proposal. IGS-BDI Executive Director **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman** was present at the session. Among others, **Simeen Mahmud**, **Lopita Huq**, **Maheen Sultan**, **Dr. Ferdous Jahan**, **Mirza Hassan** and **Alamgir Kabir** from BDI and IGS Director of Academics **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Senior Manager **Salahuddin Mahmud**, Programme Manager **Nuzhat Jabin** and Research Fellow **M. Shahidul Islam** were present at the session.

# A Workshop to Finalize the Framework for Citizens' Engagement in Public Procurement Held

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Governance and Development](#)

Year: January 15th, 2014



A national workshop for the finalization of the framework for citizens' engagement in public procurement under Public-Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC) of Public Procurement Reform Project (PPRP) II was held on 12th January 2014 at the NEC Conference Room at the Planning Commission Campus, Dhaka. The workshop was organized 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), BRAC University.

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss and finalise the draft framework which has been devised through a number of consultation workshops, interviews, focus group discussions, literature review, and meetings with key stakeholders at various levels. The first draft of the framework was presented on the 7th and 8th PPSC Meeting held on 3rd July and 11th September 2013 respectively. Rigorous discussions on the draft were held and the stakeholders provided their written feedback on the framework.

**Mohammad Mejbahuddin**, Secretary, IME Division and **Christine E. Kimes**, the Acting Country Director, the World Bank Dhaka Office, attended the workshop as the Special Guests. CPTU DG **Amulya Kumar Debnath** chaired the workshop. IGS consultant **A K M Nashirul Haq** presented some of the key proposals of the framework. PPSC members, representatives of the member organisations, NGOs, international NGOs, think tanks, procurement experts working in different organisations attended the workshop. **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman**, Executive Director, IGS-BDI and **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Director of IGS, BRAC University was also present at the workshop.



# Thesis and Internship Report Presentations

Tag: [Department of English and Humanities](#)

Year: January 15th, 2014

A number of undergraduate and graduate students of the department presented their final theses and internship reports from December 27, 2013 to January 10, 2014 for Fall 2013. The list of topics is given below:

## Applied Linguistics and ELT

1. **Farhana Mahzabeen** Definition of a Teacher: A guide, A counselor, An instructor or A parent?
2. **Sharjah Ibrahim** Children Using Gestures and Its Integration with Speech for Communication: A Comparative Study Between Two Age Groups
3. **Nayma Afreen** Factors of Language Shift from Chakma to Bengali: A Study on the Chakma-speaking people
4. **Shanta Rakshit Tanchangya**  
A Comparative Study of Vowels in Chakma and English

## Literature

1. **Tasnim Shahid** Exploring the Concept of Cross-Dressing in Shakespeare's Plays: Uncovering the SHE
2. **Rezwana Aftab** Exploring the Involvement of the Characters with regards to : the Pre-revolutionary Atmosphere, during and after the French Revolution in Dickens' a Tale of Two Cities, Hugo's Les Miserables and Baudelaire's Selective Poems
3. **Umme Hanee Sharif Suraiya** Futile Epiphany: James Joyce's Dubliners Trapper in Routine

## Media and Cultural Studies

1. **Raisa Khadija** My Internship Experience at Boishakhi Television
2. **Nusrat Zaman** Making News at the Sports Bit
3. **Maisha Samiha** Client Servicing at Paper Rhyme Advertising Limited
4. **Sabrina Afroz** Experience on Editing & Reporting Broadcast News At Boishakhi Television
5. **Md.Riyad-Ul-Islam** Sports Journalism: In and Out At New Age

## 6. **Sabiha Akond Rupa**

An Internship Experience At Dhaka Tribune

The following graduate students successfully submitted and presented their MA theses at the end of Fall 2013:

### **Applied Linguistics and ELT**

1. **Farah Naj Mehreen** Teacher's Preferences and Challenges on Providing Feedback in the Language Class: A Comparative Case-Study of Bangla Medium and English Medium School
2. **Rabeya Zinat** The Influence of Social Class in the Variety of Usage of Language in Society : A Study
3. **Afroza Sultana** A Study: Effective Teaching for ESL Learners Followed by the Teachers of English Medium Schools in Bangladesh
4. **Jesmin Hossain Soniya** Language Differences between the children who are brought up by mothers and those by caretakers in Dhaka City
5. **Methela Rahman** Using Authentic Materials in the Writing Classes: A Tertiary Level Scenario
6. **Shahria Shuchi** The Effect of Bangla dialects on English Language Teaching: Teacher's Perspectives and Attitudes

### **Literature**

1. **Najifa Nawar Comtemporary** Women's writing in English in India and Bangladesh: A feminist Perspective
2. **Anika Mahin** Nationalist Identity in Postcolonial Bengali Literature (1850s-Early 1900s)

# English Language fellow has joined BIL

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Languages](#)

Year: January 14th, 2014



**Jimalee Sowell**, an English Language Fellow, has joined BIL in January. During her tenure in BIL, she will teach classes, work with the Writing Centre and conduct teacher training workshops.

**Ms. Sowell** has been teaching ESL since 1999. She has a Master's degree in TESOL from the School for International Training. Ms. Sowell taught in South Korea for ten years where she also worked in publishing and broadcasting. After her time in Korea, Ms. Sowell worked as a volunteer instructor in Cambodia, Uganda, and Ecuador.

## IGS Staff Attended a Workshop on Ethics & Standards in News Reporting and Newsroom Management

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Governance and Development](#)

Year: January 13th, 2014

IGS Communications Associate **Shakil Md. Faisal** attended a day-long workshop on Ethics & Standards in News Reporting and Newsroom Management. The workshop was held on 11 January 2014 at the GDLN Centre at BRAC University. This workshop was organised by the Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI), BRAC University with a view to increase/enhance newsroom management skills and a clear understanding of ethics and standards in news reporting among the participants. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Ed Kelley, Former Editor of the Washington Times and **Ms. Elanie Steyn**, an Associate Professor in the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Oklahoma, USA. Around 40 participants from the field of journalism and media houses such as JATRI, The Daily Prothom Alo, The Daily Star, Ntv, Rtv, Independent Television, Boishakhi Television, ATN Bangla, ATN News attended the workshop.

# Pro-VC attended at the South Asian Cities Conference

Tag: [Central Desk](#)

Year: January 12th, 2014

**Professor Fuad H Mallick** Pro Vice Chancellor and Chairperson Department of Architecture attended and spoke at the South Asian Cities Conference held in Karachi from 9-12 January 2014. **Professor Mallick**, spoke about the situation of Dhaka as a south asian city, its history, current situation, problems and possible solution. The three day conference had thousands of attendees and speakers included experts in the field of urban issues.

# The Guardian picks CGST/BDI book from Zed Books as books to look out for in 2014

Tag: [BRAC Development Institute](#)

Year: January 9th, 2014

A book jointly edited by **Dr. Sohela Nazneen** and **Maheen Sultan** of Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST) of BDI has been picked up by The Guardian, UK as one of the top development books to look for in 2014. Link to the news: <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2014/jan/08/sachs-best-development-books-2014>



The book 'Voicing Demands: Feminist Activism in Transitional Contexts', edited by **Dr. Sohela Nazneen** and **Maheen Sultan**, is on voice and constituency building, specifically exploring feminist activism in transitional contexts. The book is published by Zed Books, London. The book has Bangladesh, Pakistan, Egypt, Palestine, Morocco, South Africa, and Brazil as case study countries (written by scholars based in those countries). It is a part of Feminism and Development series published by Zed Books. It has received excellent reviews from **Maxine Molyneux**, **Anne Marie Goetz** and **Maitryaee Mukhapadyaha**. Link to the book: <http://zedbooks.co.uk/node/13240>