

MARCH 2014



IDRC's Independent Evaluator Dr. Ken Afful's visit to IGS

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

Year: Monday, March 31, 2014 - 17:00



Dr. Ken Afful, Independent Evaluator, commissioned by International Development Research Centre (IDRC), visited the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University on 31st March, 2014. **Dr. Afful** spent a hectic day in the Institute, University and BRAC and had series of meetings with the top management, researchers and other officials to assess and evaluate how effectively the TTI grantee (IGS) used their grants in the Phase I and to evaluate of Phase II application, submitted by BIGD. The Institute received Think Tank Initiative (TTI) grants for last 4 years.

IGS-BDI Executive Director **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman** welcomed **Dr. Afful** to IGS in the morning and discussed vision, mission, objectives, targeted outputs, utilisation of funds in Phase

I. He also expressed sincere appreciation to IDRC for the grant under the TTI provided to IGS over last four years which has enabled so many of the accomplishments including two annual flagship publications of IGS to be sustained by the IDRC grant. **Dr. Hafeez** wished that with the autonomy already provided by BRAC University's Board of Trustees to BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), it will have much more to show for the IDRC grant this year, and hoped very much that IDRC will continue to support BIGD at this crucial time to transition and for the long haul –TTI Phase II.

Later, BIGD Institutional Advisor and former IGS Director (during Phase I application) **Barrister Manzoor Hasan** had a meeting with **Dr. Afful**, where he presented the genesis, evolution and context of IGS and BIGD's establishment, progress to date, the ongoing merger, and future structural direction of BIGD. He also expressed confidence that if the Phase II grant materialises, BIGD may be expected to emerge as a top rated centre of excellence in Bangladesh and the wider region around it.

In the afternoon, **Dr. Afful** joined a Lunch meeting with **Mr. Abdul Mueeed Chowdhury**, Chairperson, BRACNet Limited, the faculties and staff members of IGS-BDI. After lunch, **Dr. Afful** met **Mr. Ahmed Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury**, Vice-Chair and Interim Executive Director of BRAC.

Later, **Dr. Afful** participated in a number of meetings with Research team comprising Research fellows, Senior Researchers, Faculty members' and others led by **Dr. Minhaj Mahmud**, Head of Research, BIGD; Communications team led by **Mr. Ekram Hossain**, Project Manager (Communications), IGS and Finance, Administration, IT & HR team led by **Mr. Alamgir Kabir**, Head of Operations (Admin, Finance, HR & IT), BIGD. Different teams made separate presentations on the responsibilities, activities, the ways of works, achievements, and the targets/plans of each team to be achieved in 2014 and further on.

Workshop Participation

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

Year: March 31st, 2014

Rubana Ahmed, Assistant Professor of ESS attended the second Multi-Stakeholder Forum on March 5th, 2014. The event was designed to enhance implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles (GP) and how the guidelines can help protect human rights as well as contribute to the social sustainability of Bangladesh's Ready-Made Garments (RMG) sector. The program was jointly organized by the CSR Centre Bangladesh, Social Accountability International (SAI) and the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR).

Assistant Professor of ESS, **Wahid Abdallah** participated at Frugal Innovation Forum at Savar BCDM organized by BRAC Social Innovation Lab. Development practitioners from around six continents gathered to discuss about innovative development ideas, especially related to mobile

money and role of data in development. The event took place between March 28 and March 30, 2014.

ESS Faculty Achievements

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

Year: March 31st, 2014

Adnan M. S. Fakir, Lecturer, ESS, has been selected as a Global Sharper for the World Economic Forum (WEF). The Global Shapers Community of WEF is a network of Hubs developed and led by young people who are exceptional in their potential, their achievement and their drive to make a contribution to their communities.

A.S.M. Shakil Haider, Lecturer III, ESS, received Grant of BDT 325,000 for an independent research on “Intellectual Capital Disclosure (ICD) from the perspective of Corporate in Bangladesh” in August, 2013 from North South University. It is an ongoing research where the final report will be submitted on August, 2014 (Expected).

Residential Semester Updates, March 2014

Tag: [Residential Campus](#)

Year: March 30th, 2014

Meet the Employers



Delivered to more than 450 students of the 35th batch of the Residential Semester, Spring 2014, the ‘Meet the Employers’ event took place on Saturday, March 22, 2014 in Markuli Hall, Savar Campus.

The event began with an introduction from CSO representatives, **Mr. Jovy Sarjeant** (Consultant), **Ms. Rakshinda Huq** (Officer) and **Ms. Zinat Fatema** (Assistant Officer) that focused on the positive relationship between early engagement with the CSO and improved career prospects.

The key speakers on the occasion were **Ms. Sarah Ali**, Managing Director, Bitopi, **Mr. Stawb Peter Halder**, Total Remuneration Advisor, Chevron Bangladesh and Mr. Syed Ahmed Shawki, Writer & Director, Film noir Productions. Each speaker talked about the significant prerequisites of success in careers, also highlighting on the qualities their companies most seek in prospective employees. The event was concluded with a Q/A session between the key speakers and the students.

Field Quiz -2



The second Field Quiz was held on March 24, 2014, particularly commemorating the Independence Day. The themes for the occasion were Independence Day, Painting and Music, Ancient Civilization, Abbreviations and Naming titles. The session was conducted by Ms. Natasha Israt Kabir, assisted by the concerned faculties and dorm supervisors. Also present on the occasion was the Savar campus ACS, **Mr. Rehan Ahmed**. It is to be noted that this quiz is organized to promote the practice of team work and the necessity of being updated about the world affairs.

Independence Day



The 44th Independence and National Day was celebrated at BRACU Savar campus on March 26, 2014 with a day long program. The day started with the students and management staff jointly placing flower wreaths at the Martyr's monument. This was followed by a series of activities, like a session on sketching on country, culture and liberation war; an event of singing patriotic songs; and a gathering of storytelling, where the students shared stories they have heard from their elderly family members about the liberation war. The afternoon segment consisted of a poetry recitation event and the screening of the movie " Aguner Poroshmoni".

Session with Anisul Haque



As a part of Experiential Learning Activities (ELA) of the Bangladesh Studies course, a seminar on Liberation War was organized on March 1, 2014. The session was conducted by Mr. Anisul Haque, and it particularly focused on his novel 'Maa', which is a story about the liberation war of Bangladesh. The students were assigned to read the novel prior to the session so that it may help them gather some more knowledge about the liberation war.

It is to be noted that **Mr. Anisul Haque** is a prominent writer and the associate editor of The Daily Prothom Alo.

Student Drama



A drama on 'History of Bangladesh' was staged on March 29, 2014 by the students of 35th batch of RS at Savar Campus in the presence of all the RS faculty members and the management staff members.

The drama consisted of 16 episodes, each performed by the 16 sections of the Bangladesh Studies course and was based on the first half of the course. The drama reflected the learning on the History of Bangladesh since the ancient period till the liberation of Bangladesh in 1971. All 16 episodes of the drama ended with the Bangladeshi national anthem sung by everyone present on the occasion.

Presentation on Case Study Method of Teaching

Tag: [BRAC Business School](#)

Year: March 30th, 2014

Case method of teaching is considered very effective for teaching courses involving problem solving and decision making. BU attaches great importance on case method of teaching. Ms. Nathalie Laidler, Research Associate, Harvard Business School is currently writing a case on BRAC. She was invited to conduct a presentation/discussion session on "What is a Case and How to Write Cases" in BU on March 5, 2003. BU faculty members from Departments of Management & Business, Economics & Social Sciences and Computer Science & Engineering attended the presentation and participated in the discussion.

Parent-Teacher Meeting and Brown Bag Seminar at ESS

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

Year: March 30th, 2014

The Department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS) held a Parent-Teacher Meeting on Saturday, March 29, 2014. ESS conducts such meetings every semester to hear about parent concerns and to let them know about our vision and how we try to ensure that students receive a quality education. About thirty parents participated in the two-hour long discussions followed by individual meetings with teachers.

On March 13, 2014 ESS arranged a seminar titled “The Economics of System Loss: Evidence from India” where Wahid Abdallah, Assistant Professor of ESS made a discussion on the problem of electricity theft.

On March 20, 2014, 3 students of ESS, Anika Anjum, Nabilah Nawar and Raafi Zakaria presented at the Brown Bag seminar organized by ESS on “Women Labor Force Participation and Demographic Dividend” where the paper aims to give an overview of the demographic transition that Bangladesh is likely to experience in the next forty years. It provides a reflection on women's contribution to the labor force, briefly discusses the potential prospects for Bangladesh and the scope for further utilizing the women population in order to harness the demographic dividend.

Anthropology collective's 4th brown bag seminar was held on March 24, 2014 at the ESS Student and Teacher's room. Dr. Seuty Sabur moderated the Seminar titled "Visual and Media Culture in Bangladesh". **Dr. Lotte Hoek** and **Jannatul Mawa** shared their research experiences and findings. **Dr Lotte Hoek** is a media anthropologist who has been doing long-term ethnographic fieldwork on visual and media culture in Bangladesh. Her research ranges from investigations of photographic activism to a long-term study of cinematic pornography. The central question that animates her research is: how do the ways in which we see relate to the social and cultural structures by which we live. She is currently working on an ESRC funded research project on film appreciation in Bangladesh. Her book *Cut-Pieces: Celluloid Obscenity and Popular Cinema in Bangladesh* (2013) is published with Columbia University Press. She is Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology at the University of Edinburgh. Jannatul Mawa, a documentary photographer and social activist in Bangladesh, striving to establish the rights of under privileged and marginalized in the country. Her work is based on women empowerment in the society. Her works on women's rights been showcased around the world: 'Power of woman' exhibited at Emory University, USA; 'Women' at Drik Gallery, Bangladesh; 'Close Distance' in Dhaka Art Summit 2012 and Asian Women Photographers Showcase in Thailand; Obscure Photo Festival 2013 in Penang and Delhi Photo Festival 2013. Mawa's work 'Finding Neverland' published in the book 'Under the Banyan Tree' by Pathshala and 'Close Distance' published by 'Le Monde' and 'CNN' Buzz feed etc.

Workshop on Building Career in Banks and Financial Institute

Tag: [Centre for Entrepreneurship Development](#)

Year: March 30th, 2014



Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) has jointly organized a workshop on Building Career in Banks and Financial Institute with The Experience Academy for University students. It was a whole day program attended by 24 University students. The training was held on 28 March 2014. The workshop was conducted by **T.T. Shagufta Hussein**, Ex Head In-Charge bank Asia Training Institute, **Perveen S Huda**, Managing Director, Renaissance Consultants Ltd, and **Imran Rabbani**, Head of Compensation and Benefit, The City Bank Ltd.

Professor Hashemi advises UNHCR in Costa Rica and Ecuador on Livelihoods

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

Year: March 30th, 2014

Professor Syed M Hashemi spent time in Costa Rica and in Ecuador advising the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on developing appropriate livelihood programs for refugees. Ecuador has had a massive influx of refugees from Colombia, fleeing the drug related violence and the conflict with FARC and state security forces. In Costa Rica refugees come from Colombia as well as El Salvador and Guatemala threatened by the gang violence there.

Special Events: Poetry Recitation and Interpretation

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

Year: March 27th, 2014

The Department of English and Humanities is always pleased to arrange events for the students and by the students. On March 27, ENH arranged a poetry event as a part of the university-wide English Campaign, which aims at improving English proficiency of the learners. In this event, students picked pieces of paper with excerpts of English poems. Then, they recited and explained the excerpts extempore. **Shenin Ziauddin**, Senior Lecturer of ENH, and **Nawshaba Ahmed**, Lecturer of ENH, jointly judged the performance of the students. Finally, the evening was rounded off awarding prizes to the three best performers of the event.

BRAC Conducts Young Professional Programme (YPP)

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

Year: March 27th, 2014

BRAC in cooperation with the CSO organized a seminar on BRAC's Young Professionals Programme (YPP) in BRAC University Indoor Auditorium on 25th March 2014 at the Indoor Auditorium, BRAC University (BRACU). The event began with a speech by **Mr. Khan A. N. Murshid**, Director, the CSO and Joint Registrar, BRACU.

The purpose of this seminar was to get qualified candidates for their current opening on Management Trainee Officer. **Ms. Syeda Tahya Hossain**, Director, HRD, BRAC with other members from BRAC HR.

Through their speeches they talked about the concept of YPP and BRAC's overall recruitment process. They further talked about their O-T-J (On the Job training) process after prospective candidates are selected. The Young Professional Programme has been preparing and delivering leaders since 2008, and BRAC University was the first University that they came and conducted a seminar for YPP. The session ended with a question-answer session.

All the team members of CSO were also present at the seminar

Professor Hashemi Trains Regulators from the Central Bank of Nigeria

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

Year: March 27th, 2014

Professor Syed M Hashemi conducted a three day microfinance training program for regulators at the Central Bank of Nigeria in Kano, Nigeria, from March 24-26. The event was organized by BRAC and was attended by 60 participants. Topics covered included an understanding of the financial lives of the poor, product development, financial analysis, social performance, financial education, consumer protection and agricultural credit.

IGS-BDI Executive Director Attended IDRC-ICSSR International Conference in New Delhi

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

Year: March 27th, 2014

The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) in collaboration with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) organised an International Conference on the Status and Role of Social Science Research in Asian countries from 13-15th March 2014 in New Delhi, India. The main objective of the conference is to bring together the Social Science Research Councils of various Asian countries and institutions and the think tanks in the region, along with multiple stakeholders to discuss the status of social science research, with particular reference to the status of supply and demand of research, adequacy and effectiveness of research infrastructure and the extent to which it helps in developing an understanding of the societal issues and the research gaps. IGS-BDI Executive Director Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman attended this conference as an invited guest.

BRAC DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

UPDATES, March 2014

Tag: [BRAC Development Institute](#)

Year: March 27th, 2014

Book Chapters of CGST members published in Feminisms, Empowerment, Development by ZED Books

Recently several book chapters of Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST) members were published in A. Cornwall and J Edwards edited Feminisms, Empowerment, Development by ZED Books, London. They are:

- a. **Nazneen, S and Sultan, M.** (2014), 'Reciprocity, Distancing and Opportunistic Overtures: Women's organizations negotiating legitimacy and space'
- b. **Priyadarshini, A and Rahim, S.** (2014). Women Watching Television: Surfing between Fantasy and Reality'
- c. **Kabeer, N and Huq, L.** (2014), 'Power of Relationships: Money, Love and Solidarity in a Landless women's organization'.

Details about the book can be found here: <http://zedbooks.co.uk/paperback/feminisms-empowerment-and-development>

Roundtable on “Women’s Leadership: Parliament and National Politics in Bangladesh”

A roundtable on “Women’s Leadership: Parliament and National Politics in Bangladesh” was organized by the Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST), BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University on Wednesday, 19th March, 2014 at the Red Shift Café, Bay Galleria. The roundtable was organized to mark the closing of the South Asian Regional Secretariat of Women in Parliament (SARSWP), based at BRAC University under Promoting Democratic Institutions and Practices (PRODIP) program implemented by The Asia

Foundation and sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



The main objective of the roundtable was to review the opportunities and constraints for women's leadership in national parliament and in national politics. On behalf of CGST, Simeen Mahmud and Maheen Sultan welcomed the participants and introduced the workshop objectives. **Dr. Sohela Nazneen**, Professor, Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka, set the agenda for discussion by pointing out that the current debate on women's representation in politics has to move towards: a) exploring women's various pathways into politics, and b) on creating effective networks both inside and outside the national parliament that lead to the development of a constituency demanding gender equity in politics. **Marufa Akter**, Programme officer of the Secretariat presented the current status of women's representation within different political parties.

The speakers identified the following as obstacles to women's leadership such as the lack of inter-party consensus to promote women candidacy; influence of muscle, men and money in politics; lack of bargaining skills among women MPs; absence of financial support and limited representation within political parties.

Among the participants, **Professor Firdous Azim**, **Dr. Samia Huq**, **Dr. Seuty Sabur** from BRAC University and representatives from Oxfam-GB; Manusher Jonno Foundation, Naripokkhkho, Khan Foundation, Democracy Watch, IDP program of UNDP were also present.

IGS and CCCI Coorganised Seminar on Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor in Chittagong

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

Year: March 26th, 2014

The Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University and Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) jointly organised a seminar on Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor in Hotel Agrabad, Chittagong on 25th March, 2014.



Mr. Md. Shahriar Alam MP, Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs was the Chief Guest. **H.E. Mr. Li Jun**, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh and **Mr. Sandeep Chakrabarty**, Deputy High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh were present as the Guests of Honour at the seminar.

Chaired by CCCI President **Mr. Mahbul Alam**, the seminar was addressed by among others, **Mr. Nurun Newaz Selim**, Senior Vice President and **Syed Jamal Ahmed**, Vice President of the CCCI. **Mr. Somnath Halder**, Assistant High Commissioner of India in Chittagong; **Mr. Liu Jinxin**, Researcher, China Kunming Opening - Asia Transportation Logistics Research Institute; **Syed Mahmudul Huq**, Chairman, Bangladesh-Myanmar Business Promotion Council; **Dr. Moinul Islam Mahmud**, former director of CCCI and **Mr. Lei Zhuning**, Deputy Director of the China Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences in the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies addressed the seminar as panel discussants while the key-note paper was presented by **Mr. M Shahidul Islam**, Research Fellow, IGS, BRAC University.

Mr. Majharul Islam Chowdhury, Director General of Foreign Affairs; **Mr. Zahirul Islam Chowdhury**, **Mr. Kamal Mostafa Chowdhury**, **Md Ohid Seraj Chowdhury**, **Mr. Mahbul Haque Chowdhury**, **Mohammad Amjad Hossain Chowdhury**, Directors Chittagong Chamber; reputed businessmen, senior civil society members attended the seminar.

IGS Researchers Attended International Researchers' Link Workshop

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

Year: March 25th, 2014



An International Researchers' Link Workshop titled 'Building Sustainable and Peaceful Cities: Bangladesh in Comparable Global Perspective' was held at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel, Dhaka, Bangladesh from 4-6 March 2014. This workshop was organised in collaboration of the Institute of Policy Research, University of Bath, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and British Council Bangladesh. The purpose of this workshop was to share research and to build networks across continents on urban governance. Around 25 participants from different research institutions and think tanks attended this workshop.

Among others, IGS researchers **Kazi Niaz Ahmed**, Research Assistant, **Kazi Nurmohammad Hossainul Haque**, Senior Research Associate and **Md. Sirajul Islam**, Research Associate and participants were from the UK, India, Sri Lanka, BIDS, Govt. of Bangladesh, Save the Children, and other public institutions attended the event.

IGS & BDI organised a Talk on Understanding India's General Elections

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

Year: March 25th, 2014

IGS & BDI, BRAC University organised a Talk on Understanding India's General Elections – 2014 by **Dr. S. Y. Quraishi**, former Chief Election Commissioner of India on Monday, March 24, 2014 at the Daily Star Centre in Dhaka.



Dr. A T M Shamsul Huda, former Chief Election Commissioner of Bangladesh also spoke at the programme as the Special Guest, **Barrister Manzoor Hasan**, Institutional Adviser of BIGD chaired the event. In the Talk, **Dr. Quraishi** described the whole system of general election of India and mentioned the roles of different parts of the system at the time of the election. Remembering from his tenure as CEC in India, he shared his vast experience with the audience.

Among others, Brig. Gen. (Retd.) **M Sakhawat Ali**, former Election Commissioner; **Mr. Ali Imam Mazumder**, former Cabinet Secretary; **Dr. Badiul Alam Mazumder**, Secretary, Citizens for Good Governance; **M Hafizuddin Khan**, former adviser to the Caretaker Government; **Syeda Rizwana Hasan**, Director, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA); **Mr. Enam Ahmed Chowdhury**, Member of Advisory Council, Chairperson, BNP also spoke at the programme.

IGS-BDI, IGC & BRAC Co-organised Workshop on Impact Evaluation in Education

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

Year: March 25th, 2014



The International Growth Centre (IGC), Institute of Governance Studies and BRAC Development Institute, BRAC University and BRAC Research Evaluation Division (RED) jointly organised a workshop in cooperation of Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) on 23-24 March, 2014 at the BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka. This two day long workshop was titled “Impact Evaluation in Education: Focusing on Managing Rigorous Evaluation”. The aim of the workshop was to give an introduction to NGOs, research organisations, policymakers and other stakeholders on how to design an evaluation, how to manage it and what output to expect.

Academics and Experts from BRAC, IPA, University of Dhaka and other international research organisations conducted different sessions of the workshop on designing, managing and presenting impact evaluation in the education sector.

Dr. Mahabub Hossain, BRAC Research Executive Director; **Mr. Andrew Jenkins**, Head of BRAC Research and Evaluation Division and **Dr. Minhaj Mahmud**, Head of Research of BRAC Development Institute and Institute of Governance Studies conducted different sessions of the first day on importance of evidence based policies and development programmes and the need to diffuse rigorous evaluation methodologies; RCT: selection bias, power calculation, randomization units and Programme Management focusing Data and Team management and an introduction to Questionnaire writing and coding.

The second day of the workshop centred on the impact analysis of Rigorous Evaluation and RCTs. **Prof. Atonu Rabbani** and **Prof. Ummul Ruthbah** of Dhaka University, presented the 4th and 5th session respectively on RCTs’ Impact Analysis and Non-experimental analysis. Finally, the workshop concluded with a panel discussion with all the speakers on evidence based

policies and rigorous evaluation. The workshop was well attended by an attentive and diverse audience of policy makers, NGO workers and local researchers who had little or no previous experience of working in RCTs.

IGS Staff Attended First General Meeting of National Working Group on Wetland Policy

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

Year: March 24th, 2014

The first general meeting of the ‘National Working Group on Wetland Policy’ was held on 23rd March 2014 at the GIZ Head Office at Gulshan, Dhaka. The meeting was based on the policy recommendation developed in the project titled, “Strengthening Governance in Wetlands and Water Bodies Management Policies in Bangladesh” in 2013-14. This group was formed to prepare a working paper and then to advocate the policy to make a reform. The participants of the meeting included **Mr. Shamsher Ali** from ActionAid, **Mr. Mokhlesur Rahman** and **Mr. Masood Siddique** from CNRS, **Dr. Paul Thompson** from FHRC, **Ms. Otilie Mooshofer**, **Dr. Verena Sommer**, **Dr. Syed Ali Azher**, **Mr. Tarique Hassan**, **Ms. Anne Glaeser** and **Mr. Zinnur Zoha Rajib** from GIZ, **Mr. Alamgir Hossain** from UNDP, **Mr. Greg Booth**, USAID, **Mr. A.B.M. Kamal Uddin** and **Ms. Shahzia Mohsin Khan**, Winrock International and **Dr. G.M. Mustafa** from World Fish Centre. IGS Research Associate **S. M. Gubair Bin Arafat** also participated in this meeting on behalf of BRAC University.

C3ER UPDATES, MARCH 2014

Tag: [Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research](#)

Year: March 24th, 2014

Field Visit of C3ER Team in Coastal Regions to Identify the Source and Quality of Water

C3ER organized couple of field visits for the project titled “Access to Safe Drinking Water in Coastal Areas of Bangladesh” at different villages of Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Barguna, Pirojpur and Patuakhali district from February - March, 2014. The C3ER research team for this project consisted of **Nandan Mukherjee**, **Dr. Sajidur Rahman**, **A S Moniruzzaman Khan**, **Roufa Khanum**, **Sharmin Nahar Nipa**, **Asif Rahman**, **Imon Rahman**, **Jayanta Kishor Chakrabarti**, **Minhaz Ahmed**, **Reaz Uddin Khan**, **Nusrat Tania**, **Nushrat Jahan**, **Taslina Akter**, **Farzana Rahman** and **Hafizul Hossain**. The objectives of the this visit was to identify the source of water supply in the selected districts representing the coastal areas of the country, assess the pattern of water use from different sources, and identify the impacts of anthropogenic

actions on water quality. To satisfy the objectives, the field visit was designed for detail water point and household survey to identify different sources of drinking water. To carry out the project activities the team was divided in three separate groups. A group visited the districts to conduct household census, water census and questionnaire survey. Another group visited the villages to identify different sociological issues linked with drinking water, to conduct focus group discussion among the target group and prepared a resource and water source mapping. The other group collected sample from the entire study area to test quality of water.

C3ER Visits Satkhira for “Climate Smart BRAC” Project

C3ER organized a field at Satkhira for the project “Moving towards Climate Smart BRAC” from March 14 to March 17 of 2014. The C3ER team consisted of **Nandan Mukherjee, Dr. Sajidur Rahman, A S Moniruzzaman Khan, Roufa Khanum, Sharmin Nahar Nipa, Asif Rahman, Nusrat Jahan Tania, Azmeary Ferdoush, Nushrat Jahan, Taslima Akter** and **Farzana Rahman**. The field visit covers many sessions including interview of BRAC clients, focus group discussion with staffs and clients of different BRAC programmes at Shyamnagar Upazila on March 16, 2014. The focus group discussion was moderated by **A S Moniruzzaman Khan**. The objective of the discussion was to find out the major disaster of the programme area, the way the clients and the programmes are being affected by disasters and the features or facilities BRAC can take into account to make their programme more climate resilient.

New Project on C3ER Desk



A contract has been signed between C3ER and Islamic Relief Bangladesh for the project titled “Roadmap for Setting up the Policy, Legal and Institutional Framework in Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation on the National Planning Trajectory” on March 20, 2014. Professor Ainun Nishat, honorable Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, and Chairperson, C3ER, signed the contract. The project is funded by six NGOs, namely Concern Universal, Concern Worldwide, Islamic Relief, Practical Action, Save the Children and Christian Aid. The main objective of this research is to prepare a national roadmap for framing up ‘appropriate’ legal, policy and institutional arrangement to mainstream climate change in the national development process. In the process comprises of preparing the transformative inclusions in the key sectoral policies (eight key sectors, including agriculture, environment, health, industry, coastal zone, land use, disaster management etc.) for mainstreaming climate change adaptation. Afterward, to identify

the overall role and specific directives of the national legislations for implementing the climate change adaptation at national level. Finally, the institutional mechanism for coordinating and implementing individual and cross-sectoral adaptation initiatives will be prepared. After completing the project, C3ER will conduct a workshop at the national level with government and civil society to promote ownership of the important stakeholders.

News Articles/OpEds by IGS Staff

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

Year: March 24th, 2014

1. The Daily Star: [How healthy is the market for healthcare?](#) by **Nabila Zaman**, 11 March, 2014
2. The Daily Star: [Accessing China's trillion dollar market](#) by **M Shahidul Islam**, 15 March, 2014
3. The Daily Star: [On identity and trust](#) by **Minhaj Mahmud**, 23 March, 2014

Meet The Employers Session at the Residential Semester

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

Year: March 23rd, 2014

The CSO conducted “Meet the Employer” on March 22nd, 2014 at the Savar campus. Like the name suggests, the session intended to bring together successful corporate personnel, alumni and entrepreneurs from different sectors to give the freshmen students an idea of how they should design their under graduation years in order to achieve their desired job / career after that. The primary objective of the program was to give them a vision of the real world of work that they would encounter right after they are done with their bachelors degree.

The speakers in the event were **Ms. Sarah Ali** Managing Director Bitopi, **Mr. Stawb Peter Halder** Total Remuneration Advisor Chevron and **Mr. Syed Ahmed Shawki**, Writer & Director, Filmnoir Productions. Through their speeches and presentations they focused on a number of topics; they presented knowledge of the job market, ideas on how to prepare for professional life, tips on interview skills and shared stories based on their individual experiences.

The event ended with an open floor for questions where the students actively participated. The program began with a short overview of the CSO presented by **Mr. Jovy Sarjeant** Advisor the CSO and BIL. Other members from the CSO present were **Ms. Rakshinda Huq** Officer and **Ms. Zinat Fatema** Assistant Officer.

IGC Phase II Launch Lecture

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

Year: March 23rd, 2014



International Growth Centre (IGC), the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) and BRAC Development Institute (BDI) of BRAC University jointly organised the IGC, Phase II, Launch Lecture on 22nd March, 2014 at the BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium, Dhaka. **Dr. Jonathan Leape**, Associate Professor and IGC Executive Director, IGC Director **Professor Robin Burgess**, both from London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) delivered the lectures on IGC Second Phase: Future Direction and Ideas for Bangladesh, Expansion of Economic Opportunity: Evidence from South Asia.

Prof. Wahiduddin Mahmud, Member, UN Committee for Development Policy and former Advisor to the Caretaker Government and **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman**, Executive Director, IGS & BDI and former Director General, South Asia, Asian Development Bank, co-chaired the event.

Among others, eminent professionals and representatives from various academic and research institutions, government, NGOs, donor agencies, international organisations; civil society members, politicians, senior journalists and students from different universities attended the programme.

IGS Researcher Presented a Paper at Global Conference on Community Health 2014

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

Year: March 23rd, 2014

Eminence and Partners for World Health are jointly organised the 2nd Global Conference on Community Health with the focus on “*Sustaining Changes in Community Health*” on 20th March, 2014 at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, University of Dhaka. World Health Organisation (WHO), UNAIDS, UNFPA, UICC, IDF and WHF were the technical sponsors of the conference. Partners in Population and Development (PPD) and Obstetrical & Gynecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB) were the co-organisers of this event. The conference aimed to create a great platform to share experience for recommendations on sustainable community based health services and play role for monitoring Post MDGs agenda in health sectors at national, regional and global level. IGS Senior Research Associate **Syeda Salina Aziz** presented a paper on ‘*Governance in Health Sector: Issues and Debates*’ at the ‘Governance and Public Private Partnership (GPPP)’ session of the conference.

BIL Faculty members attended National ELT Conference

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Languages](#)

Year: March 22nd, 2014



Mohammad Aminul Islam and **Kazi Mafizur Rahaman**, faculty members of BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) of BRAC University attended the National ELT Conference 2014 at Dhaka University on March 21, 2014. They presented a paper titled, “Teaching English through Media: Pedagogy and Practices in Bangladesh”. In their presentation, they emphasized on how initiatives are being taken to use media in ELT practices and what pedagogy lies behind these initiatives for teaching English in Bangladesh.

Notably, the conference, titled “ELT Programmes, Pedagogy and Research: Issues and Challenges” was organized jointly by the Institute of Education and Research (IER), Dhaka University, the Open University, UK and English in Action. The programme was inaugurated by **Professor A. A. M. S. Arefin**, Vice Chancellor, Dhaka University at the **Nabab Nawab Ali Senate Hall**, Dhaka University.

It is worth mentioning that Mr. Islam and Mr. Rahaman also chaired in two different sessions of the conference

BRACU English Campaign Launch: The CSO-Daily Star Initiative

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

Year: March 20th, 2014



As part of the BRAC University (BRACU) initiative to launch an English Campaign aimed at empowering students to compete globally by excelling in English, Career Services Office (CSO) in collaboration with The Daily Star, held a seminar, titled “The Daily Star: A Top Quality Career Choice” on March 19, 2014 at the Indoor Auditorium.

The seminar was intended to explore the career prospects available at The Daily Star for BRACU students. The event was moderated by Joint Registrar and Director of CSO, **Mr. Khan A. N. Murshid**, **Mr. Syed Shanoor Wahid**, Special Supplements Editor and **Mr. Shahriar Shahid**, Manager Business Development of The Daily Star were present as speakers.

In the opening speech, **Khan A. N. Murshid**, Director CSO and Joint Registrar BRACU talked about the need for English at BRACU and across the board in the country. Syed Shanoor Wahid said “The Daily Star provides opportunities to the young generation to expose their creativity and talent through their writing, for which they need outstanding command over English”.

All members of the CSO were present in the event namely **Mr. Kazi Shahnoor Kabir** Executive, **Ms. Shanzida Shahab Uddin**, **Ms. Rakshinda Huq** Officer, **Ms. Zinat Fatema** Assistant Officer along with the assistance of student volunteers.

Towards Ubiquitous Healthcare in the World: e-Health Perspective

Tag: [Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering](#)

Year: March 20th, 2014

This 20th March, 2014, was marked by the promotional seminar of the English Campaign, “Towards Ubiquitous Healthcare in the World: e-Health Perspective”, arranged by IEEE, BRAC University Student Branch in collaboration with BRAC University Electrical & Electronics Club (BUEEC), for the Electrical & Electronics Engineering (EEE) Department. The seminar took place at the GDLN teleconference room and was conducted by Professor Pradeep Ray from University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, who is also a distinguished lecturer at IEEE, director at WHO Collaborating Centre on e-Health, founder at Asia-Pacific ubiquitous Healthcare research Centre (APuHC). The ongoing English Campaign at BRAC University aims to promote the use and practice of English among the students and faculty members at a greater degree, and with that in mind, an English speaking guest was invited to conduct the seminar.



As the title suggests, Professor Pradeep Ray talked about e-health, which is a relatively recent term for healthcare practice supported by electronic processes and communication. The concept strives for basically one motto – “healthcare anywhere any time”, with the help of internet and other advanced electronic equipments. Although practical impediments, such as long geographical distances, lack of infrastructure and unavailability of trained professionals in remote areas, especially in developing countries are slowing down the implementation of e-health where it is needed most, many organizations are currently working with full-force to resolve the issues by developing new technical applications and strategies. One of the factors blocking the use of e-Health tools from widespread acceptance is the concern about privacy issues regarding patient records, a problem which according to the Professor, is yet to be solved. Nevertheless, he stressed on the importance and benefits of e-health over this issue and encouraged the practicing of ubiquitous healthcare using the internet and other hi-tech means. He also talked about the applications of m-health, which includes the use of mobile devices in collecting community and clinical health data, delivery of healthcare information to practitioners, researchers, and patients, real-time monitoring of patient vital signs, and direct provision of care (via mobile telemedicine). This sector has already helped communities with health-care and disaster management, mainly in India, and is, thus, currently being extensively researched for further development. On par with this, e-health has higher and more aggressive potentials to solve health-care situations – a potential recognized by organizations like WHO, APuHC, etc., as a result of which the e-health sector is currently being widely explored for possible improvements. Aided by the advancement in technology, e-health is hoped to be effective in most parts of the world.

Study Trips and Picnics

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

Year: March 19th, 2014

On March 6, students of Eng 439: Teaching Practicum and Eng 653: Teaching Practicum were taken to Manikganj to observe an English Language classroom of class 5. They observed a class of 40 minutes, filled out a checklist, and wrote a report after their return. The visit was supervised by the Course Instructor **Mohammad Mahmudul Haque**, Senior Lecturer, ENH.



On March 17, the students of ENH went on a picnic to Savar. They met on BRAC University premises early in the morning. Some of them were entrusted with various types of picnic-related tasks. After that, they boarded 3 buses by 9 am and reached the picnic spot at 11 am. Everyone was given a numbered slip to be used for a lottery which took place later in the afternoon. They went to see a pond close to the picnic spot. When they came back to the spot around 1 pm, food was ready. After lunch, students and teachers came together in front of a pre-installed stage. They enjoyed a lot of fun-filled activities and games including dance, music, pillow-passing etc. The accompanying faculty members were **S.M. Mohibul Hasan, Roohi Huda, Mushira Habib** and **Nawshaba Ahmed**.

Degree Application Form Submission

Tag: [Announcement](#)

Year: March 18th, 2014

Students (Undergraduates/Postgraduates) who have completed all courses Internship/Thesis in **Spring 2014** and are likely to finish their degree by **Summer 2014** Semester are requested to submit their Degree Application Forms by **31 March 2014** for further processing of degree and attending the **9th Convocation**.

You are required to do the following:

1. Collect the form from the DCO of the respective department.
2. Fill up the form
3. Get clearance from the Library
4. Pay a Degree Processing Fee of Tk. 5000 to the Bank and get the accounts clearance
5. Attach two recent coloured passport size photographs
6. Attach photocopies of previous Academic Certificates

Your prompt response will be highly appreciated.

Ms. Nazmus Sabeka
Senior Assistant Registrar
Exam and Transcript Unit
Building#6, 4th Floor

N.S: Students who have completed their degree requirements before Spring 2014 but not applied yet are also requested to submit Degree Application forms.

Round-table Discussion Report

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Languages](#)

Year: March 16th, 2014



On March 14, 2014, BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) held a round-table discussion, titled, “Necessity of Learning English: Home and Abroad” in the Vice Chancellor’s Conference Room. In attendance were thirty-three BRAC University faculty members, students, and staff. The discussion was lead by **Ms. Farrah Jabeen**, Senior Lecturer, BIL and **Ms. Jimalee Sowell** English Language Fellow and Instructor, BIL.

To begin the discussion, special guest **Bilal Faruqi**, Cultural Affairs Officer from the American Center branch of the US Embassy, gave a brief talk about the importance of learning English and the opportunities available to Bangladeshi students. An open discussion ensued. It is worth mentioning that the purpose of the discussion was to share ideas about learning English and to highlight the problems and difficulties students face in learning English and how they might be solved.

IGS Research Fellow Presented Paper at Seminar on Bangladesh-China Business Outlook

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

Year: March 16th, 2014



IGS Research Fellow **M Shahidul Islam** presented a paper on China-Bangladesh Investment Outlook at the seminar on Bangladesh-China Business Outlook, organised by *HSBC* and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh, at Radisson Hotel, Dhaka on 14 March 2014. **H.E. Li Jun**, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh, **Andrew Tilke**, Chief Executive Officer of HSBC Bangladesh, **Li Zhen**, Head of China Outbound of HSBC China, **Bai Junkun**, Chairman, China Chamber of Commerce and **Shahidul Islam**, Research Fellow at the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University, were the speakers of the session.

Speaking Club

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Languages](#)

Year: March 12th, 2014

In order to fulfill the need of creating a time and space where students can practice speaking English in a low-pressure and enjoyable environment, the Speaking Club has been created and its first session was held on March 11, 2014. Speaking Club activities include, but are not limited to, general conversation practice, group and whole-class discussions, presentations, debates, and games. The facilitator **Jimalee Sowell**, English Language Fellow and instructor in BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL), prepares materials and guides students for speaking practice. However, Speaking Club members also make decisions regarding the kinds of activities and projects they are interested in.



Notably, the Speaking Club is open to all students of BRAC University. Also, the Speaking Club sessions are held on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:30 – 5:00 in UB21202.

IGS-IGC Organised a Dissemination Seminar on Religion, Minority and Trust

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

Year: March 11th, 2014



The Institute of Governance Studies and BRAC Development Institute, BRAC University in collaboration with the International Growth Centre (IGC) organised a dissemination seminar on Religion, Minority and Trust: Evidence from a field Experiment in Bangladesh and India on 9 March, 2014. The seminar took place at the Daily Star Centre of the capital.

Professor Rehman Sobhan, noted Economist and Chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue was the Chief Guest of the event and eminent Economist and BIDS Research Director, **Dr. Binayak Sen** attended the event as a discussant.

Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Head of Research, IGS & BDI, BRAC University delivered the keynote speech in the seminar. IGS & BDI Executive Director **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman** chaired the event.

Trustee of the Liberation War Museum **Mr. Zia Uddin Tarique Ali**, **Prof Ajoy Roy** of Dhaka University, BIDS Researcher **Anwara Begum**, **Dr. Faustina Pereira**, Director, Human Rights and Legal Aid Division, BRAC also spoke at the seminar. Academics, Researchers, Experts, Politicians, Representatives from Think Tanks and Donor organisations, civil society members and journalists also attended the programme.

Hult Prize, 2014

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Languages](#)

Year: March 10th, 2014



Ashik Sarwar, Lecturer, BIL, accompanied the BRAC University Hult Prize team to the 5th annual Hult Prize that was held in Shanghai, China. The event ranged from March 7-9, 2014.

Workshop on Human Resource Management

Tag: [Centre for Entrepreneurship Development](#)

Year: March 9th, 2014



Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) organized a workshop on Human Resource Management for BRAC University students aiming to enhance the capacity building of the students. This workshop was a whole day program attended by 18 BRAC University students. The workshop was held on 7th March 2014 and was jointly organized with The Experience Academy. This workshop has conducted by **Perveen S Huda**, Managing Director, Renaissance Consultants Ltd.

Executive Director Delivered Lecture at DU Met Ministers, Advisers and Others

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

Year: March 9th, 2014

IGS-BDI Executive Director **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman** delivered a lecture on ‘Unveiling the Bangladesh Paradox: Some Alternative Perspectives’ at the Department of Development Studies of University of Dhaka on 8th March 2014.

In March, **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman** held several meetings with some distinguished personalities such as Ministers, Advisers and prominent academics and researchers 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 along with IGC Executive Director and LSE Associate Professor **Dr. Jonathan Leape** and IGC Director Professor **Robin Burgess**, **Dr. Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury**, Vice Chairperson of BRAC, Honorable Education Minister **Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid**, Honorable Agricultural Minister **Begum Matia Chowdhury**, Honorable Planning Minister **Mr. AHM Mustafa Kamal**, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Economic Affairs **Dr. Mashiur Rahman**, Adviser on Energy and Mineral Resources **Dr. Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury**, **Mr. Felix Bachmann**, Country Director, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation, **Prof. Sharmistha Banerjee** of Calcutta University, **Prof. Shamsul Alam**, Member of General Economic Division, Planning Ministry.

TLC Updates, March 2014

Tag: [Teaching and Learning Centre](#)

Year: March 9th, 2014



A day long follow-up workshop was organized for the 12th TLC workshop participants on 6th of March 2014 in the Savar campus of BRACU, commonly known as RS campus. A total of 16 participants took part in this workshop. The entire program was facilitated by TLC faculty members and **Mr. Rehan Ahmed**, Asst Campus Superintendent, BRACU Savar Campus.

The program commenced by an interesting presentation by **Mr. Rehan Ahmed**. The focal point of the presentation was to illustrate BRAC and BRACU especially highlighting the dynamics of

Residential semester (RS) in Savar campus. The presentation indicated the hard work put into it as it encompassed the entire history of **Sir Abed's** journey and the formation of BRAC in an informative yet concise manner, how BRACU came into being eventually and the philosophy behind bringing students from their comfort zone of home to spend an entire semester in Savar. The presentation affair ended with a question-answer session by the participants.

The second session was facilitated by the TLC members focusing 'Teaching Methods'. The session was designed in an interactive mode based on discussion, group work and then presentations were done by the participants themselves. After that the participants were taken for campus observation where different facilities, services, accommodation etc were introduced even an interaction took place with the residing students. A flavorsome insight of the RS campus was part of the purpose of this workshop and after the successful completion of the daylong event TLC & the participants headed off for Mohakhali campus on a happy note.

IGS Organised Curriculum Design Workshop on Organisational Development

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

Year: March 6th, 2014

IGS, BRAC University organised a 4-day Curriculum Design workshop on 'Organisational Development' from 1 – 4th March 2014 at Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC), Savar, Dhaka. This workshop was held as part of the NUFFIC funded project of Capacity Building for Promoting Governance with a view to develop capacity of BIGD and BPATC faculty members to design curriculum for short courses. **Dr. Joop de Wit**, Senior Lecturer, Public Policy and Management, Institute of Social Studies (ISS), the Netherlands conducted the training. The participants of this workshop included Academic Coordinator **Dr. Md. Zohurul Islam** and two Research Associates Mohammad Sirajul Islam and Farhana Razzaque of IGS and participants from BPATC.

Conference Presentations Participation in the 19th NELTA International Conference

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

Year: March 3rd, 2014

Mahmuda Akhter, lecturer of ENH, participated in the 19th NELTA International Conference on Authentic Assessment: A Paradigm Shift from Traditional to Alternative Evaluation. The event took place from the 27th of February to the 1st of March, 2014 in Kathmandu. She presented a paper on how ELT practitioners can exploit JiTT (Just in Time Teaching) and FC

(Flipped Classroom) concepts to blend high-tech and no-tech resources to cover more topics in a relatively short time while enhancing students' interaction and participation.