

2010/may

Rikkyo University team visited BRACU



A three-member delegation of Rikkyo University, Japan called on BRAC University Vice Chancellor Professor Ainun Nishat on 02 May 2010.

The delegation, led by Dr. Kiyoshi Kasahara, discussed about introduction of a joint programme on "Tourism and Hospitality" at BRAC University. Dr. Kiyoshi Kasahara informed that the 135 years old Rikkyo University is now offering undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD degrees on Tourism and Hospitality, a programme with great potential and high demand.

Dr. Ainun Nishat expressed his eagerness to introduce a programme on Tourism and Hospitality at BRAC University. He said Bangladesh could become an important tourist destination as it is blessed with ample natural, historical and archeological sites, which easily attract visitors.

BRAC University Pro-vice Chancellor Professor Golam Samdani Fakir, Registrar Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Professor Yokio Toyoda and Professor Naseer Uddin Jamadar of Rikkyo University, among others, were present at the meeting.

US Professor calls on BRACU VC



Professor Stanley O. Foster of Emory University, USA called on BRAC University Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Ainun Nishat on 18 May, 2010.

During the meeting, they discussed about bilateral education and research programs. Professor Stanley enquired about academic and research activities of BRAC University. The VC appraised him the overall activities of the BRAC University with particular emphasis on the value-driven education that the university wishes to impart. Professor Stanley proposed introduction of a joint program between the Rollings School of Public Health, Emory University and James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. The VC also expressed his eagerness and assured him for possible cooperation

in this regard.

BRAC University Pro-VC Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Director of Public Health Professor Anwar Islam, Cfl Director Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed and Registrar Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury were present during the discussion.

Freshers' orientation



Freshers' orientation program for the newly

enrolled undergraduate students who got admitted into the summer 2010 Semester at BRACU was held on 12 May 2010 at the BRAC Centre Inn. Total 405 (293 undergraduate and 112 postgraduate) students enrolled in summer 2010 semester in different programs.

Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro Vice Chancellor, addressed the function as Chief Guest. Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Registrar, Professor Mumit Khan, Chairperson, CSE also spoke on the occasion.

Welcoming the newly enrolled students at BRACU, Pro-VC said the goal of the university is to provide an excellent broad-based education with a focus on professional development for students, in order to equip them with the knowledge and skill necessary for leading the country in its quest for development.

He asked the newly enrolled students to give their utmost attention and efforts to acquire knowledge to face the challenges of the 21st century. Punctuality, regularity in study and discipline are prerequisites for being a good student, he added.

The Registrar gave a brief outline about rules and regulations as well as the code of conduct to be practiced at BRACU.

The newly enrolled students, their guardians, faculty members and other officials of the university were present.

Architecture (ARC) Update

PPDM graduate conquers the Everest as first ever Bangladeshi



Musa Ibrahim, a graduate from the Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management (PPDM) of BRAC University, has scaled Mount Everest as the first Bangladeshi. He reached the summit at 6:00am Bangladesh time on 23 of May 2010. Musa used the North Alpine route on the Tibetan side to conquer the top of the world. Musa, founder of the North Alpine Club in Bangladesh, left Dhaka for Nepal on April 8 and returned on June 1 this year. Along with a group of young mountaineers, he had been preparing for years to summit the highest peak on earth. (Source: The Daily Star)

ANGAN Lecture

Ar. Mark Rana Rozario, is a practicing architect in ZGF Architects, LLP, Washington DC, USA. He came for a short visit to Dhaka and attended ANGAN, the forum for co curricular activities. He

discussed his job experience and variety of the projects; he is currently involved in, along with their interesting features. The lecture was held on 17 May 2010. He focused on the necessity of details and shop drawings and coordination among the parties involved during architectural construction.

On the following week, on 25 May 2010, there was an Angan movie show in the department. It was "Coming to the City". The movie was about four individuals who were new comers to a city and how they adopted themselves there.

BRAC Development Institute (BDI) Update

Pathways of Women's Empowerment Programme

Methodology Retreat

The Pathways Programme at BDI organized a Methodology Retreat on 26-27 May 2010 at Jamuna Resort for researchers to reflect and assess the tools that have been used for their inquiries. The retreat provided the space and time way to critically reflect on the implications of researching women's empowerment and the lessons learnt from the past four years of the Pathways experience. Prior to the retreat, all researchers submitted individual write-ups of personal reflections and feedback on the methods used in research and on questions of quality, rigour and the production of knowledge.

Research Findings Seminar "Community Health Workers as Agents of Change"

A seminar based on the Pathways Programme Research findings on "Community Health Workers as Agents of Change" was jointly organised by BRAC Development Institute (BDI) and ICDDR,B on 25 May, 2010, at Sasakawa Auditorium at ICDDR,B. This research was conducted by under the Empowering Work theme of the Pathways Programme.

Lead Researchers, Simeen Mahmud and Maheen Sultan, presented the findings of the research on women community health workers, which explore how women health workers have been instrumental in bringing social change in their communities. It compared Government women health workers with non-government women health workers of pioneering programmes in three locations: ICDDR,B; Ganoshathya Kendro and BRAC. The seminar included a panel discussion where four invited panellists from the four institutions studied gave their feedback on their study.

The event received coverage in various local newspapers: The Daily Star, The Daily Independent, Daily News Today, The Bangladesh Observer and Prothom Alo. Coverage of the event can be read at: <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=140120>

CHT Media cultural production research

The Cultural Production through Minority Media Research being conducted by Aanmona Priyadarshi has been completed. This research explored how minority communities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts projects identity, culture and change in the cultural productions of the Hill region and how Hill women interpret, negotiate and attach meaning to these narratives. A research report for the project has been submitted and draft policy brief has been submitted for review.

"Mapping Women's Empowerment" book out

The BDI/UPL publication "Mapping Women's Empowerment: Experiences from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan" is finally out in print! The volume contains the papers presented at the Scoping Workshop of the Pathways Programme held in August 2006 and has contributions from 11 authors across the region. This collection of original articles on the enabling factors and barriers to women's voice, work and bodily integrity is edited by Professor Firdous Azim and Maheen Sultan. The book launch is scheduled for 8th July 2010 from 2-5 pm at CIRDAP Auditorium.

Writing of Cultural History of Muslim Women Research

The Cultural History of Bengali Muslim Women Research team of the Pathways Programme is currently writing up the first portion of this research. The Lead Researchers, Dr. Firdous Azim, Professor of the English and Humanities Department at BRAC University, and Dr. Perween Hasan, Professor of Islamic History, are looking into the early twentieth century and anti-colonial nationalist movements, and its address for women. Their writings are based on an extensive literature review and on the field data

collected from the journals, magazines and newspapers found at the libraries of Dhaka University and Bangla Academy as well as the National Archives.

Field Work in Chandina

The Work team of the Pathways Programme carried out a fieldwork in Chandina, Comilla in May 2010. Fifteen women categorised in different economic activities were engaged in in-depth interviews to examine the meanings and impacts of paid work in their lives. The remaining fieldwork in other districts will be carried out in June. This qualitative research work is a follow-up of a survey conducted in eight districts in 2007.

BDI Researchers leaving on Fulbright Scholarships

Researchers Aanmona Priyadarshini and Nabil Ahmed have received Fulbright Scholarships and will be off this Fall to pursue graduate studies in USA. Ms. Priyadarshini will be attending Loyola University in Chicago to pursue a Masters in Gender Studies and Mr. Ahmed will be attending Northern Arizona University to pursue a Masters in Anthropology. We wish them all the best!

Deepening Democracy, Building Citizenship And Promoting Participation Programme

BDI Research Brief

'Deepening democracy, building citizenship and promoting participation' research project published the third issue of the BDI Research Brief. Third in the "Seeing Like a Citizen" series, "Voice of the people" attempts to understand how citizens, specifically the poor and women, make themselves heard. This brief indicates that, people are raising their voices to ensure the protection of their rights. They are doing so by participating in local committees and arbitration processes, by strengthening engagement with the local government and elected representative and by mobilizing protests. What becomes evident is that when spaces are opened up, marginalized women and men take the opportunity to speak out, paving the way for deepening democracy.

Qualitative Data Analysis

The qualitative data analysis for the 'Brief study on the responsiveness of local government institution towards NGO and NGO-led citizen demands' is ongoing.

Draft Research Paper

A first draft of the paper on "Knowledge and Influence: Citizenship Research in Bangladesh, has been completed for presentation at the 'Seeing like a citizen: Reflections on Transnational Research for Innovation and Inclusive Action'.

Process Documentation

The process documentation of the Nagorik Adhikar Mela has been started. The document will aid in the organizing and management of future fairs.

Revisiting Devaluation of daughters in Bangladesh: Continuity or Change? Programme, BDI

70 in-depth interview conducted in the last two months are being transcribed and translated.

Centre for Languages (CfL) Update

1st countrywide EIA MYTEC Cluster Meetings

Faculty members of CfL took part in the 1st countrywide cluster meeting organized by English in Action (EIA). They attended the meetings in their role as tutors of the MYTEC Course, which is accredited by the Open University, UK. They traveled to different parts of the country to join the cluster meetings of secondary school teachers to conduct sessions on reflective teaching. The upzillas where the meetings were held are Rangamati, Kapasia, Gopalganj, Burichong, Bianibazar, Bhandaria, Chowgacha, Dumuria, Laxmipur, Lalmonirhat, Mohonordi, Nalchity, Paba and Tungipara. The faculty members' will be guiding and assessing their respective teacher groups throughout the course over the duration of a year.

CfL Faculty Member's Publication



Tahreen Ahmed, Lecturer at the Center for Languages, has had her paper entitled "Language Learning Motivation: What's on a Student's Mind When Learning English Language?" published in the BRAC University Journal (Volume 6, Number 2, 2009).

This paper was based on the research findings of a survey administered on 124 BRACU students in Summer 2009. Their reasons for learning English language, the motivating factors to attend classes and other factors, which demotivated them when learning English language, were identified. Also, suggestions were put forward on how the course syllabus could be improved so that students at BRAC University feel intrinsically

motivated to learn English language for its own sake, rather than for external rewards such as grades and a good career.

Workshop conducted at CfL

A workshop on "The Correlation between Designing Classroom Tasks and Assessing Language Learners" was conducted by Sanjoy Banerjee (Senior Lecturer, CfL), on the 22nd of May 2010 at BRAC University. 16 faculty members from CfL attended the workshop.

There was a discussion on formative and summative assessments and how instructors design assessment, which would reflect classroom tasks. Faculty members shared their understanding about the effectiveness of using formative assessment over summative assessment. There was also interaction on the problems and probable solutions of designing tasks suitable for formative evaluation.

New CfL Members attend Faculty Orientation at Savar



From May 8-10 the new faculties of CfL and the faculty of other departments of BRAC University attended a workshop at Savar BRACU campus on the issue of 'Teaching and Learning'. The workshop was solely devised for the new faculty to make them acquainted with all the tools, techniques and skills required to be an efficient as well as effective performer in the classroom. The workshop was facilitated by Md. Golam Samdani Fakir (Pro-VC, BRACU), Mahfuzul Bari Choudhuri (Campus Super, BRACU Savar campus), Farida Akhter (psychologist), and Samina Chowdhuri (Jr. Lecturer, TLC, BRACU).

English and Humanities (ENH) Update

ENH bids farewell to Visiting Fulbright Scholar Dr. Kris Peleg

ENH organized a farewell party for visiting Fulbright scholar Kris Peleg on 20th May 2010. Her contributions to the department have been significant. She has added a new dimension in teaching courses like ENG 201 and ENG301 and students have really benefited from her teaching. She proposed the idea of organizing a Children's literature Conference which was a great success with her keynote speech and other papers that were presented at the conference. She has also donated books to the department.

ENH Student Video Production

ENH production produced a video based on the dramatic presentations by students of ENG114 held on April 2010. The video was slightly edited and showcased the students' talents at producing fine videos. This was

ENH production's first effort at producing videos. The upcoming production will be on the play Macbeth.

Faculty Publication

An article titled "The Prometheus Myth in the Novels of William Golding" by Sohana Manzoor, Senior Lecturer, ENH, (on study leave) has been included in an anthology titled 'The Trickster,' published by Chelsea House (New York) as part of the Bloom's Literary Themes series, with general editor Harold Bloom. The article had been previously published in the BRAC University Journal (2007).

Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) Update

IGS signed a contract on 23 May 2010 with Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS), UK to offer international procurement courses in Bangladesh. Initially IGS will offer courses for Level 4 and Level 5 Foundation Diploma in Purchasing and Supply. CIPS will also assist IGS to develop a Masters Programme in Procurement, which will be first of its kind in Bangladesh.

Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) of IGS organized a workshop on Training Need Assessment on 23 May 2010. The objective of the workshop was to find out training needs from the female journalists, and design training for them accordingly. Twelve female journalists currently working with leading dailies and broadcast media participated in the training need assessment workshop. Some of the issues identified were, different training for print and electronic media, more practical sessions in the training, training for a total media house/news house, broadcast reporting, writing script, time bound reporting etc.

JATRI training team organized a refreshers course on Interviewing and Source Development Techniques on 25 May 2010, for the aspiring journalists, who are studying Journalism in different private and public universities. The same group (of 17) received a three days residential training from JATRI on the same topic last year from 16-18 October. Julfikar Ali Manik, chief reporter, the Daily Star and PROGATI Media component manager Zahid Hossain conducted the refreshers course.

Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) facilitated a workshop on "Democratic Governance and Human Rights: Achievements towards the Millennium Declaration" on May 31st, 2010 at the Bangladesh Institute for Administration and Management (BIAM). The workshop was co-hosted by the UNDP and the Ministry of Establishment. Participants from the Ministry of Establishment, the Planning Commission and the National Human Rights Commission among others were present, along with donors and members from the civil society. The workshop produced a concrete set of recommendations on how to advance democratic governance in the following areas: Public Administration Reform and Local Government, Justice and Human Security, Human Rights, and Election and Parliament.

Students and faculty members of the McIntire School of Commerce, University of Virginia, USA came to Bangladesh on a study tour in May. IGS offered assistance to the University of Virginia to organize this tour. Arranging such study tours in future between the two academic institutions has been discussed.

Residential Semester (RS) Update

Semester Orientation

May 14, 2010 was the day when the new RS students came face to face with real life of TARC in an impressive number of 164 boys and 170 girls. On May 15 an orientation was held at Markuli Hall. The session was facilitated by prof. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-VC of BRACU and Mr. Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury, CS of Savar campus, where all the staff and teachers of Savar Campus introduced themselves to the students. In the second session, discussed the hybrid of education and fun at TARC. The base of the program included the introduction of teachers of three compulsory courses of RS (Bangladesh studies, Ethics and culture, English) and short briefings about courses. The program was received with massive enthusiasm and teamwork as students were divided into groups to introduce new campus norms, which they would follow in the on-going semester, which entertained the audience with new ideas and dramas. And thus the program ended with experiences at TARC shared by two students of previous RS semester.

Seminar on Drug Abuse

A seminar on drug abuse was held on May 22, 2009. It was moderated by Brother Ronald Drahozal, CSC

and director of APON (Ashokti Punarbashan Nibash). He explained how APON is working to provide treatment to the drug addicts and rehabilitation services. He also mentioned about the availability and accessibility of those services for the drug addicts. One of those persons who got recovery from addiction with the help of APON was present in the seminar to share his experience. All of the students of RS as well as some of the staff and teachers were present in the seminar. The audience got a real picture of the practices of drug abuse in Bangladesh.

Chinese Language Class

Chinese language classes have started on May 25, 2010 at Savar Campus. It is moderated by Mr. Rahim, and Qilong, Chinese language faculty of CfL. These two faculties are taking the classes in alternative days. The numbers of students are 46. Students are very interested to learn Chinese.

Movie Show

Three movies, "Shakha-Proshakha" by HUM, "Nawab Shirajudd-ola" by DEV and "Matir Moina" by HUM were shown from 6.00-8.30 P.M. at Markuli Hall on May, 16, 19, and 31, 2010 respectively.

Creating Residential Semester Blog

A session on blogging was held at Markuli Hall from 3.00-5.30 P.M. on May 20, 2010 where the usage of blog was discussed in details. The session was conducted by Mr. Asif Kamal. Later on a Blog for Savar Residential Semester was created and opened it for the students to use.

Social Lab

Social lab was held on May 29, 2010. All the students were divided into three groups. One group involved in "role playing to manage and maintain the campus", one group went to the war museum and the other group went for visiting village to know about the lifestyle of villagers. All the students reported at 6.00 A.M in the morning being well prepared. After the lunch break, they again reported and joined in a reflection session. They shared their feeling and experience. It was a very lively session.

Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) Update

New Programs and appointment

Microbiology Programme

A new programme, BS in Microbiology, has started under the MNS Department. Faculty members have been appointed to work alongside the existing members. The new lecturers in this programme are Zeenat Jahan, Farhana Musarrat and Mahbubul Hasan Siddiquee. The first two joined on the 2nd of May 2010 while the third joined on the 18th of May 2010.

Biotechnology Programme

BS in Biotechnology, has also started under the MNS Department. Faculty members newly appointed to teach the courses under this programme are Jebunnesa Chowdhury, Farzana Ahmed and Md. Riajul Hossain. They joined on the 2nd of May 2010 as lecturers of Bio-technology.

Pharmacy Programme

Md. Mokarram Hossain, Mahmud Tareq Ibn Morhsed and S. M. Raquibul Hasan joined the Pharmacy Department as lecturers. The classes in Pharmacy would start on the 1st of June 2010.

Appointment of Assistant Professor

Dr. Abu M. Khan joined the department as an Assistant Professor in Physics on the 16th of May 2010. Dr. Khan did his Ph.D. from the University of Florida, USA.

New Teaching Assistants

Nakib Haider Protik and Mohammad Murtaza Mahmud, both alumni of BRAC University, joined the MNS Department as Teaching Assistants in Physics. Nakib Haider Protik joined the department on the 19th of May, 2010 while Mohammad Murtaza Mahmud joined on the 23rd of May, 2010.

FINAS Foundation Lecture 2010 at the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh



Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed, Department Mathematics and Natural Sciences delivered the FINAS Foundation Lecture titled "Plasma Fusion and Space Science" at the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh on 8 May 2010. Professor Ajoy Roy chaired the session and Professor Ahmed A. Jamal, Convener of the Trust Management Committee coordinated the programme. Members of the Foundation, scientists, academics, journalists attended the lecture. The talk was mostly confined to discuss plasma as the fourth state of matter, fusion ♦the promising and easily available nuclear energy and the space science related to plasma physics. Scientists now believe that 99% of matter in the universe is in plasma state. All the stars, intergalactic spaces, interplanetary spaces are plasma. In the nucleus of all

stars a process is happening- called nuclear fusion. In this process light nuclei of hydrogen atoms are fused together to create a heavier nucleus of helium atom. In this nuclear reaction some mass is lost which converts to energy as per Einstein's formula $E=mc^2$. Scientists for the last few decades are trying to control this reaction so that they can release energy from the reaction in a steady way to rotate turbine to generate electricity. This will solve the energy crisis of human beings for hundreds of years as the fuel of this reaction is heavy water which is available in the sea water. On the other hand plasma is the most abundant state of matter in the universe. Pulsars, quasars, black holes all are immersed in matter of plasma state. Therefore, modern astrophysics is plasma astrophysics. These and other topics related to fusion reactors are discussed in this lecture with wide participation of the audience by questioning and getting the answers.

Admission Exams

Admission exams were held for Bachelor programmes in Pharmacy, Microbiology and Biotechnology on 14-15 May 2010. This included a written exam and an interview. About 30 people appeared for the first ever examination for these three programs at BRAC University and among them seven were selected for enrollment in Microbiology, six in Pharmacy and three in Biotechnology.

Departmental Meeting

A departmental meeting, presided over by Professor A. A. Ziauddin Ahmad, was held to start off the semester on the 16th of May, 2010. New disciplines, namely Microbiology and Bio-technology, have come under the wing of the MNS Department and with this, came new faculty members to the MNS family. They were wholeheartedly welcomed by Professor A. A. Ziauddin Ahmad and other faculty members at the meeting. Also present were the new faculty in the Pharmacy Department and new Teaching Assistants in Physics who were simultaneously welcomed by the whole department.

The Daily Star Roundtable Conference (RTC) on Scientific Innovations in Bangladesh: Developing Rapport Between Scientists, Industries and the Media

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury was invited by the Daily Star on May 24, 2010 to participate in the above mentioned RTC to discuss the ways and means to develop & strengthen rapport between scientists and the users of their research products in business and industry, increase the level of interaction among the scientists and between the scientists and the industry and to make the public and the policy makers aware of the innovations being made by the scientists in different fields. Twenty participants were invited which included chairmen of research organizations, senior professors of different universities, some young researchers and two entrepreneurs. Professor Imamul Haque, Chairman, BCSIR in his keynote paper highlighted the achievements of the BCSIR and Chairman, BAEC presented the present status of the government initiatives on nuclear power. Focussing on the main theme of the conference, Professor Naiyyum Choudhury emphasized the need for proper interaction between the research organizations and the entrepreneurs. If a process, product or service is suitable and profitable, the industry will be automatically encouraged to commercialize it. At present there is a lack of communication between these two groups and scientists seem to be happier with their publications which help in their promotion. On the other hand, the industries feel neglected by the scientific community. The controlling ministries also do not encourage close interaction. As such the problems of the industries are not made known to the scientists and there is lack of interest about end users' need-based research. The research organizations should be given full freedom to interact with the industries directly and undertake research based on their needs. The R&D organizations should be encouraged to undertake income generating projects in an attempt to attain self-reliance and sustainability. Research organizations should be given full autonomy to deal with such

generated income and give adequate incentives to the scientists and scientific staff for their contribution.

School of Law (SoL) Update

Dr. Saira Rahman Khan and Dr. Tureen Afroz, Assistant Professors of the School of Law, attended the seventh Asian Law Institute Conference hosted by the Anwar Ibrahim Kulliyah of Laws, International Islamic University of Malaysia from 24 ♦ 25 May 2010. They presented papers on The Family Law Courts in Bangladesh and the issue of Polygamy respectively. Dr. Tureen Afroz also chaired a session on family laws on the 24th. Approximately 200 papers were presented at the conference in parallel sessions.

Dr. Shahdeen Malik, Director of the School of Law has been made acting Executive Director of the Bangladesh Institute for Legal and International Affairs (BILIA).

School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) Update

Paper accepted in ICNIT 2010

Afroza Sultana and Ishrat Sultana, "E-School: A Web-Service Oriented Resource Based E-learning System", Accepted in 2010 International Conference on Networking and Information Technology (ICNIT 2010) to be held on June 11-13, 2010, Manila, Philippines.

Faculty Update

Ms. Bushra Tawfiq Chowdhury, Senior Lecturer had left the department of CSE for higher studies in May 2010. She will be joining her husband who is currently doing PhD in University of Chicago.

School of Public Health (SPH) Update

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

MPH PROGRAM

Courses

The MPH course Biostatistics (MPH 521-2) was taught by Dr. Monirul Islam, Dr. Loretta DiPietro and Dr. Sangeeta Mookherji; and Md. Tanvir Hasan, Research Associate, JPGSPH, was the Teaching Assistant.

The MPH course Epidemiology (MPH 522) was taught by Sham El Arifeen, Steve Luby, and Kazi Mizanur Ragman, all from ICDDR,B. Enamul Hasib, Research Associate, JPGSPH, was the Teaching Assistant.

FIELD VISITS

As part of the MPH 521-2 course, the students visited the following field sites Gonoshastha Nagar Hospital, Savar & Dhamrai Upazilla Health Complex, Dhamrai, Savar.

CENTRES AND RESEARCH INITIATIVES

GFATM PROJECT - 913

Establishment of District AIDS Committee (DAC)

(JPGSPH) provided technical support to PIACT Bangladesh, one of the partners of JPGSPH in establishing District AIDS Committee (DAC). The Program Implementation Specialist and Field Research Officers of JPGSPH attended the DAC formation meetings and orientation on TOR and basics of HIV and AIDS. They provided technical support in facilitating the orientation and clarified the questions raised by the participants. A total of three DACs have been established in Chandpur, Jessore and Meherpur district in May 2010. With these three, a total of nine DACs have been established. There were no such committees to coordinate and monitor the HIV prevention activities in the districts earlier.

The DAC consists of 32 members including government officials, GFATM supported NGO representatives, other NGO representatives, social workers, teachers, members of law enforcing agency, journalists, Mayor of City Corporation and Municipality of the respective district. The formation of DAC and capacity-strengthening of the DAC members are activities supported by the Global Fund as part of their building and strengthening the technical and institutional capacities of government, NGOs and implementing partners'. It

is a collaborative project between National AIDS/STD Programme (NASP), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Save the Children USA and JPGSPH, BRAC University consortium.

ACADEMIC STUDY GROUPS (ASG)

Film Screening: Amaka Bolte Dao

On May 11, 2010 as part of the ASG activity, a film screening of "Amake Bolte Dao(Let me speak)" was organized at the School. The film was directed by Fauzia Matin, and produced by Steps towards Development. The movie showcased the lives of Bangladeshi adolescents.

Capacity Strengthening on "Using Atlas.ti Software for Qualitative Data Analysis"

On May 31, 2010 as part of the ASG activity and sponsored by Realising Rights and the Centre for Gender, Sexuality & HIV/AIDS, a one-day training was organised on using atlas.ti for qualitative data analysis. Sadia Chowdhury, Senior Research Officer, ICDDR,B facilitated the training.

FACULTY NEWS

Sabina F Rashid, Associate Professor & MPH Coordinator, attended a Realizing Rights Project Consortium (RPC) dissemination meeting in London during May 16-19, 2010.

Sabina F Rashid, Associate Professor & MPH Coordinator, taught the Ethics and Conceptualizing QRM Research Proposals courses as part of ICDDR,B's Qualitative Research Methodology workshop in May 3-4, 2010.

Sabina F Rashid, Associate Professor & MPH Coordinator, and Nasima Selim, Lecturer II, conducted a training session on qualitative research methods for research assistants working for the "Violence against marginalized women in Bangladesh" project at JPGSPH in May 24-25, 2010.

Nasima Selim, Lecturer II, conducted a session on "Critical review of qualitative research articles" at the 3rd Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods, a short course organized by the Training & Education Division, ICDDR,B on May 12, 2010.

Teaching Learning Centre (TLC) Update

Faculty Training at TARC



The Teaching Learning Centre (TLC) at BRAC University organized the semester-wise training from 8-10th May, 2010 for all new faculty members who joined BRACU in the last few months. Members of BRACU Counseling team as well as the Head of The BRACU Writing Centre also participated in the workshop. This time there was a total of 28 participants; the facilitators were Prof. Md. Samdani Fakir, Pro Vice Chancellor, Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury, CS, Savar, Psychologist, Farida Akhtar and Miss Samina Anzum Chowdhury, Jr. Lecturer, TLC.

The workshop started on Saturday, 8th May with a session by Prof. Samdani where he introduced the workshop, talked about the objectives, mission and also talked about the synergy between BRAC and BRACU and how it can be maximized by the participants; The registrar of BRACU, Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury

gave some professional guidelines for BRACU instructors, followed by the VC, Dr Ainun Nishat who shared his own experiences of the practicalities of teaching with the participants.

Farida Akhter talked about behavioural attitudes of students and about creativity in teaching. Finally, on the 10th of May, Prof. Mumit Khan, Chairperson of EEE, BRACU shared the system of Student Grading at BRACU which was a reflective and informative lecture. The 3-day workshop was not only a learning experience for all participants but it also created a network which was later enhanced by a group email initiated by Prof. Golam Samdani Fakir. All participants of the workshop share their classroom experiences, learning's, methodological concerns as well as quotes with others in this group email.

The Writing Centre at Savar

The Writing Centre was inaugurated at Savar on 24th May 2010 by The Head of Writing Centre, Syeda Samara Mortada. Currently there are three student mentors who are resident students at Savar and the sessions are conducted in the library, which is supervised by Assistant Librarian, Halal Rabbani. The Writing Centre at Savar campus is for the benefit of all TARC students so that they can get help with all their written assignments and so that they can improve their general English writing skills. So far it has had a positive response and we encourage all to make more use of it.

Career Services Office (CSO) Update

Internship Presentation, Spring 2010

Internship Presentation, Spring 2010 has been organized by CSO and Mr. Suntu Kumar Ghosh, Internship Coordinator, BBS on May 05, 2009. A number of 27 enrolled students have been scheduled for BUS400, internship presentation with respective pre-assigned academic supervisor. During the presentation a second supervisor also remains present to assign the final grade.

Applied Microsoft Excel Training AMET Orientation Summer 2010

Applied Microsoft Excel Training (AMET) Orientation, Summer 2010 was held on May 18, 2010. A number of 50 students from various departments were present at the session and showed interest to avail the training. The session has given a full overview of the training also covered importance of the applied side of MS Excel. Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, In-Charge, CSO has briefed about the complete AMET completion process along with the Dos & Don'ts during the training period. Dr. Khalilur Rahman, Assistant Professor, School of Computer Science and Engineering introduced MS Excel with the students and gave a brief demonstration on MS Excel. End of the program there was a question answer session where all the students asked their queries regarding AMET.

Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) Orientation Summer 2010



The Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) orientation took place on May 19, 2010 at UB223 with the presence of 110 final year students enrolled for PSDP, Summer 2010. The program started with the welcome note from Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, In-Charge, Career Services Office. Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-Vice Chancellor gave valuable speech to the students at the same time-sharing his views and thoughts with our upcoming graduates. Afterwards more details of successful completion procedure of the training were briefed by Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah and the session ended by a question and answer round.

Workshop for Admin and Management Personnel of BRACU (Batch-1)



Teaching Learning Center (TLC) and Career Services Office (CSO) jointly organized a daylong workshop for BRACU staff members on May 29, 2010. A number of 23 participants took part at the workshop. Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-Vice Chancellor was the lead facilitator of the workshop and conducted the training in a very interactive and enjoyable way. Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Registrar gave an insightful presentation on Code of Conduct of BRACU. Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, In-Charge, CSO and Ms. Samina Anzum Chowdhury, Jr. Lecturer, TLC were also in the facilitator team. The main focus of the workshop was, what are the 7Habits of Highly Effective People and how can it be practiced in BRACU admin & management staffs effectively Training certificates were given to each of the participant in the end of the workshop. The workshop concluded with lot of motivation and positive feedback from the participants end. The next training will be taking place on June 12, 2010 for the second group of staff members.

Job updates for April and May 2010:

Abdullah Tanzim | National Bank Ltd.
 Joy Dip Sinha Roy | Summit Power Ltd. | Marketing Manager
 Noor Ahmed Navid | BRAC Enterprise | Young Professionals
 Jannatul Rafia | HSBC
 Fuad Quader | Concord Group
 Samara Sadrin | Therap |Technical Writer
 Quazi Atiqul Alam | Unilever Bangladesh Ltd. | Territory Manager TM
 Khondokar Mamnun Ahmed | Unilever Bangladesh Ltd. | Territory Manager
 Sajia Afreen | Prime Bank Ltd. | Management Trainee
 Ajjamin Ahasan Hema | Prime Bank Ltd. | Management Trainee
 Mohammad Saif Uddin | Prime Bank Ltd. | Management Trainee
 Md. Zahidul Islam | Prime Bank Ltd. | Management Trainee