

**Institute of Governance Studies
BRAC University
Quarterly Newsletter, January-March 2014**

Public Lectures/Seminars/Roundtables

**IGC and IGS Organised Public Lecture
by Prof. Wahiduddin Mahmud on Education**



Prof. Wahiduddin Mahmud, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman and Prof. Ainun Nishat at the Public Lecture on Education

A Public Lecture titled ‘*Beyond Education for All: Meeting Human Resource Needs of Economic Development*’ was held at the BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka on 23 February, 2014. The International Growth Centre (IGC) and the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University jointly organised the programme.

Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, a member to the UN Committee for Development Policy and former Advisor to the Caretaker Government, delivered the lecture. Director of IGC Bangladesh Research Programme and IGS-BDI Executive Director Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman chaired the programme, while BRAC University Vice Chancellor Professor Ainun Nishat attended the Lecture as the Chief Guest.

Among others, former Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Salehuddin Ahmed, former Vice Chancellor of North South University Hafiz G A Siddiqui, The Daily Star Managing Editor Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, AmCham President A Gafur, Dhaka University Professor Barkat E Khuda, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Research Director Dr. Fahmida Khatun, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) Researcher Anwara Begum, Education Expert at Australian High Commission James Jennings, Care Bangladesh representatives Tracy Evans and Jamie Charlibois took part in the discussion following the lecture. Academics, researchers, experts,

politicians, representatives from think tanks and donor organisations, civil society members and students from different universities also attended the programme.

IGS Seminar on The Politics of Foreign Policy Making in India



Dr. Upendra Chowdhury addressing the seminar as the keynote speaker at the VC's conference room, BRAC University

Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University organised a seminar titled the *Politics of Foreign Policy Making in India: Importance and Implications of Constituent Diplomacy* on 5 February at the Vice Chancellor's conference room of BRAC University. Aligarh Muslim University Academic Dr. Upendra Choudhury addressed as the keynote speaker and IGS-BDI Executive Director Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman chaired the seminar. The seminar was attended by among others, Dr. Rizwan Khair, Director of Academics, IGS, Mirza M Hassan, Lead Researcher, BDI; M. Shahidul Islam, Research Fellow of IGS; Mohammad Rasheduzzaman, Sohela Naznin, and Lailufar Yasmin from Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka and some other researchers and staff from IGS.

Roundtable on Urban Governance in Chittagong held



Participants at the Roundtable on 'Urban Governance in Chittagong: Problems and Prospects' at CCCI Conference Hall

The Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) in collaboration with Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCCI) organised a roundtable discussion titled *Urban Governance in Chittagong: Problems and Prospects* on 26th February 2014 at CCCI Conference Hall, Chittagong. The discussion was organised with regards to the upcoming IGS State of Cities report, which will be based on Chittagong city. IGS Research Fellow M. Shahidul Islam made a keynote presentation on governance issues concerning the geography of Chittagong, the city's development constraints and possible urban operating model, focusing on how Chittagong city can be made livable and economically potential for the growth of Bangladesh. The event was chaired by Mr. Mahbubul Alam, President, CCCI.

The participants at the roundtable included members of CCCI, service providers of Chittagong city, academics, professionals, politicians, representatives from consumers association, journalists, students and team of researchers from IGS including Mohammad Sirajul Islam and Nabila Zaman. The discussion session brought forward governance aspects of Chittagong city from where a key observation included lack of coordination among the city governing bodies, notably, Chittagong Development Association (CDA) and Chittagong City Corporation. Concerns were also raised by majority participants on lack of proper public service provisions (gas, water, sewerage, communication). The event was widely covered by the print media in Chittagong and Dhaka.

IGS-BDI & IGC Co-organised a Dissemination Seminar on Religion, Minority and Trust



Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman of CPD speaking as the Chief Guest at the Dissemination Seminar on Religion, Minority and Trust

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* in Dhaka.

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.

IGC Phase II Launch Lecture



Professor Robin Burgess, IGC Executive Director speaking at the IGC, Phase-II, Launch Lecture at BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium in Dhaka.

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 in Dhaka. Dr. Jonathan Leape, Associate Professor and IGC Executive Director, Professor Robin Burgess, IGC Director both from London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) delivered the lectures on *IGC Second Phase: Future Direction and Ideas for Bangladesh* and *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 & BDI organised a Talk on Understanding India's General Elections



Former Indian CEC Dr. S. Y. Quraishi speaking at the Talk on Understanding Indian's General Election

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 relating election with the audience.

Among others, Brig. Gen. (Retd) M Sakhawat Hossain, 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.

Professionals and representatives from various academic and research institutions, government, NGOs, international organisations; civil society members, journalists, organisations involved in election observation, representatives from governance, human rights and other organisations attended the Talk.

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



IGS Research Fellow Mr. M. Shahidul Islam delivering the keynote speech at the Chittagong Seminar

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, State Minister for 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 the Guests of Honour at the seminar.

Chaired by CCCI President Mr. Mahbubul Alam, the seminar was addressed among others by, 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. Mahbubul Haque

Chowdhury, Mohammad Amjad Hossain Chowdhury, Directors Chittagong Chamber; reputed businessmen, senior civil society members attended the seminar.

IGS Organised Curriculum Design Workshop on Organisational Development

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) in Savar, Dhaka. The 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), 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.

Workshops//Trainings/Meetings

A Workshop to Finalise the Framework for Citizens’ Engagement in Public Procurement Held



Participants along with the Special Guests Ms. Christine E. Kimes, Acting Director of the World Bank and Mohammad Mejbahuddin, Secretary, IMED, Planning Ministry at the National Workshop

A national workshop for the finalisation 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 organised and facilitated by Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of the Implementation Monitoring & Evaluation Division (IMED) of the Planning Ministry and the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), 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 also attended the workshop.

**Training on Evaluation of Goods and Non-consulting Services,
Contract Management and Supplier Relationship Management held**



*Participants along with the faculties Mr. Rashed Morshed and
Md. Zikrul Islam at the training programme*

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 the workshop. IGS faculties Mr. Rashed Morshed and Md. Zikrul Islam conducted the training

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



IGS-BDI Executive Director Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman along with other IGS and BDI senior officials at the Brainstorming Session

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 attended the session.

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



Participants and the facilitator at the workshop on Impact Evaluation in Education at BRAC Centre Inn

The International Growth Centre (IGC), Institute of Governance Studies and BRAC Development Institute (BDI), 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. The 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, Executive Director of BRAC, Mr. Andrew Jenkins, Head of BRAC Research and Evaluation Division and Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Head of Research, Institute of Governance Studies and BRAC Development Institute, 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, randomisation 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.

Research Activities

IGS-BDI Researchers Attended a Workshop on Generic Curriculum Development



IGS-BDI Researchers with Dr. Wim Kouwenhoven at the workshop on Generic Curriculum Development

A Generic Curriculum Development Training-Workshop under the NUFFIC Project was held at the BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka from 12-16 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-BDI 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.

IGS Researchers Attended Workshop Under NUFFIC Project

A workshop on *Conflict Management and Negotiation skills* was held as part of the Capacity Building for Promoting Governance project under the NUFFIC Programme from 2-5 February 2014 at BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka. The workshop was organised by IGS, BRAC University with a view to train participants on how to manage conflicts, improve negotiation skills. Around 15 participants from IGS, BDI and BPATC attended the workshop. Mr. Martien van Asseldonk from MDF Asia facilitated the programme.

A second Training of Trainers (ToT) on e-Governance was held from 22-25 February, 2014 at the BPATC, Savar. The workshop was organised by IGS as part of the Capacity Building for Promoting Governance project under the NUFFIC Programme. The purpose of the training was to capacitate a pool of designated BPATC and IGS lecturers to jointly deliver a well-structured, gender-sensitive introductory course on e-Governance in Bangladesh to a diverse body of students drawn from ICT professionals in the public, private and NGO sectors. Around 12 participants from IGS and BPATC attended the workshop. Dr. Bas van Gool, CIS-VU University of Amsterdam facilitated the training.

IGS Adviser Presented Paper on Governance at BEI-Canadian High Commission Seminar



IGS Adviser Barrister Manzoor Hasan presenting paper at the BEI-Canadian High Commission Seminar

IGS Institutional Adviser Barrister Manzoor Hasan presented a paper on ‘Good Governance in Bangladesh: Problems and Prospects’ at a seminar organised by Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) in association with the High Commission of Canada in Bangladesh. The seminar titled ‘Good Governance in Bangladesh: An Agenda for the Future’ was held on 16th February 2014 at the BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka. Dr. Gowher Rizvi, Adviser to the Honorable Prime Minister on International Affairs, was the Chief Guest at the seminar. Ambassador Farooq Sobhan, President BEI acted as the chair of the event. Among others, H.E. Ms. Heather Cruden, High Commissioner of Canada to Bangladesh, Dr. Nazneen Ahmed, Senior Research Fellow of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Professor Dr. Abdur Rob Khan of North South University and Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Md. Shafiq-ul Islam, Executive Director of Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) also made presentation at the seminar.

IGS Researchers Attended International Researchers' Link Workshop



IGS researchers along with other participants at the International Researchers' Link Workshop

An International Researchers' Link Workshop titled 'Building Sustainable and Peaceful Cities: Bangladesh in Comparable Global Perspective' was held at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 4-6 March 2014. The workshop was organised in collaboration with the Institute of Policy Research, University of Bath, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and British Council Bangladesh. The purpose of the 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 Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Research Associate and participants from the UK, India, Sri Lanka, BIDS, Govt. of Bangladesh, Save the Children, and other public institutions attended the event.

IGS Researcher Presented Paper at an International Conference at Rajshahi University



IGS Researcher SMGB Arafat presenting his paper at the International Conference at Rajshahi University

IGS Research Associate S M Gubair Bin Arafat participated in an International Conference on *Environment and Development* held at Rajshahi University from 6-9th March, 2014. He presented a paper on 'The State of Access to Environmental Justice: A case study on wetland resource governance in Bangladesh'. The paper was prepared based on the recent experience from the IGS Wetland Biodiversity Rehabilitation Project 2012-13 implemented in collaboration with GIZ and Department of Fisheries, Government of Bangladesh.

The conference was jointly organised by Regional and Rural Development Planning, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand and Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Rajshahi. Prof. Dr. Nasreen Ahmad, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic) of Dhaka University and Md. Korban Ali, AIF Coordinator and Joint Secretary were the Special Guests and Professor Dr. Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University was the Chief Guest at the conference.

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

IGS Research Fellow M. Shahidul Islam presented a paper titled *Bangladesh-China Investment Outlook* at the seminar on Bangladesh-China Business Outlook, organised by HSBC and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh, on 14 March 2014 at Radisson Hotel, Dhaka. 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 were the speakers of the seminar.

BIGD Research Head Attended South Asian Growth Conference 2014

The 3rd Annual South Asian Growth Conference was held in Lahore, Pakistan from 17-19, March 2014. The Conference was organised by International Growth Centre (IGC) Pakistan. Dr. Naved Hamid, Resident Director, IGC Pakistan, moderated the policy session on, *Priorities for Country Research in Energy*, which focused on the research priorities for South Asian countries in energy outages. Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Head of Research at the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), presented the Bangladesh energy case and the government challenges in providing affordable energy for almost half of the population. Dr. Mahmud also discussed alternative strategies explored by the Government of Bangladesh in improving energy access, such as a better involvement of private capital through public private partnership.

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

Eminence and Partners for World Health 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 the event. The conference aimed to create a 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.

Academic Programmes

Admission Test Held for Masters in Procurement and Supply Management

The admission test for Masters in Procurement and Supply Management (MPSM), spring 2014 (Batch-5), was held 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 at the BRAC University for spring 2014 semester.

**“Strategic Management” course
offered to MAGD students**



MAGD Batch -5 Students with the Module tutors and the IGS Director Dr. Rizwan Khair at BRAC-CDM, Savar

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.

The final examination for this module was held on 13 February 2014. Apart from the academic sessions, individual sessions on Research and SPSS were conducted by IGS Director Dr. Rizwan Khair and MAGD Academic Coordinator Dr. Md. Zohurul Islam. Students are also concentrating on their Masters thesis under the supervisions of their respective supervisor.

During March, MAGD programme ran with solely dissertation write up, research field survey and meeting with respective thesis supervisors. In this month students attended tutorial classes with Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). IGS Academic Coordinator Dr. Md. Zohurul Islam offered tutorial classes for SPSS. Students were also given a practical orientation with their respective data entry and analysis and so on.

Revision Programme on Level-5 Diploma in Procurement and Supply



Participants from Cohort 3 & 4 at the revision programme along with the trainers

A revision programme was held for the CIPS Level-5 Advanced Diploma in Procurement and Supply from 23 to 27 February 2014 at IGS, BRAC University. About 47 participants from Cohort 3 and Cohort 4 attended this programme. The purposes of this programme were to provide the revision of the contents of Level 5 course and to prepare the participants for the examinations by discussing unit contents, past questions and examination techniques. This programme was conducted by Dr. Tony Davis and Mr. Paul Robinson from The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS), UK.

Training Programme Held for Level-6 Diploma in Procurement and Supply



Participants at the ToT programme for CIPS Level-6 at BRAC University

The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS), UK conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) programme for Level-6 at IGS, BRAC University. The purpose of this training was to provide an opportunity for new and existing tutors to be introduced to the structure and delivery and assessment requirements of new CIPS qualification - the Professional Diploma in Procurement and Supply. The training was held from 28 February to 9 March 2014. 23 participants from National Procurement Trainers of Bangladesh and BRAC University have participated in the programme. Mr. Paul Robinson, from CIPS, UK, facilitated the 10-day training programme.

Trainings/Workshops/Conferences Attended by IGS Staff

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

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 of BRAC University. The 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.

IGS Staff Attended a Training Workshop on Social Impact Evaluation

IGS Senior Programme Manager Md. Rafiqul Islam Talukder and Research Associate Mohammad Sirajul Islam attended a two-day Training Workshop titled *Social Impact Evaluation* 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 the programme. The purpose of the training was to building capacity 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.

IGS Staff Participated in BRAC Global Model United Nations Conference



IGS Communications Assistant Sameeah Zahangir along with some of the fellow delegates at BUGMUN Conference 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 from Bangladesh, as well as other countries, such as 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, BRAC University and H.E. Lee Yun-Young, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Bangladesh were the Special Guests at the opening ceremony.

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; and 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*.

IGS-BDI Executive Director Attended PPRC Annual Report Launching

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of IGS-BDI attended the launching of *Bangladesh 2013: Governance Trends and Perceptions*, a research report on country's governance published by Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC). The report was launched on 15 February 2014 at the BILIA auditorium in Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

The report has been prepared on the basis of departmental data on police and judiciary and a household survey conducted in the Dhaka city. Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue, was the Chief Guest of the ceremony. M. Hafizuddin Khan, former Advisor to the Caretaker Government, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Advocate Rizwana Hasan, Director BELA and Farah Kabir, Country Director, ActionAid Bangladesh was the designated discussants. Dr. Akbar Ali Khan, former Advisor to the Caretaker Government and Resource Person, PPRC Governance Study presided over the ceremony.

IGS Staff Participated in Inception Study Mission of Food Security

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. BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) was appointed as the local partner of *MDF*, an international training and consultancy agency, which was 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).

IGS Staff attended Workshop in Nepal on Policy Engagement and Communications

Mr. Ekram Hossain, Project Manager (Communications); Ms. Nuzhat Jabin, Programme Manager, Affiliated Network for Social Accountability-South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR); and Mr. Kazi Niaz Ahmed, Research Assistant attended a two-day workshop on *Policy Engagement and Communication (PEC)* held at the Park Village Hotel and Resort in Kathmandu, Nepal on 11 and 12 February 2014. Dr. Faruk-Ul Islam from Practical Action, Bangladesh acted as the local

facilitator for the IGS team. A total of 16 participants from 5 Think Tanks from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh attended the workshop. Initiated by the Think Tank Initiative (TTI) led by IDRC, and jointly organised by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), UK and Practical Action Consulting, South Asia Office, Nepal, the workshop focused on developing a communications strategy and plan for each of the participant Think Tanks. Sessions on the strategic planning process, organisational capacity assessment, situational analysis, identifying audiences and appropriate communications pathways etc. were held. Facilitators from IDS conducted the various sessions of the workshop.

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



Meeting in progress: National Working Group on Wetland Policy met for the first time

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 recommendations 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. Shamsheer Ali from ActionAid Bangladesh, Mr. Mokhelesur 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 of USAID, Mr. A.B.M. Kamal Uddin and Ms. Shahzia Mohsin Khan of Winrock International and Dr. G. M. Mustafa from World Fish Centre. IGS Research Associate S. M. Gubair Bin Arafat also participated in the meeting on behalf of BRAC University.

Executive Director's Activities

Executive Director Met Sir Fazle Hasan Abed and Others

In January, Executive Director of IGS-BDI, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman held several meetings with some distinguished personalities, 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 Commission, Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed; Dr. Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury, Vice Chairperson of BRAC; Prof. M. A. Taslim, Chairman, 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 as well as Oxford University, UK.

In February, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman held meetings with Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, KCMG; Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith; and Dr. Hassan Zaman, Chief Economist of Bangladesh Bank. He also held meetings with Prof. Selim Raihan of Dhaka University; Dr. Rizwanul Islam, former ILO Director; Dr. Shamsul Alam from General Economic Division of the Planning Commission; Dr. Sadia Afroze Chowdhury, Executive Director, BRAC Institute of Global Health; Dr. Farashuddin, Vice Chancellor of East West University; Prof. Christopher Woodruff, Economist, University of Warwick; and Syed Akter Mahmud from IFC, The World Bank.

In March, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman held meetings with some distinguished personalities such as Ministers, Advisers to the Prime Minister and relevant others. Among others, Dr. Sultan Hafeez had meeting with Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG, along with IGC Executive Director and LSE Associate Professor Dr. Jonathan Leape and IGC Director Professor Robin Burgess; Dr. Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury; Education Minister Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid; Agricultural Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury; 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; and Prof. Shamsul Alam, Member of General Economic Division, Planning Ministry.

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

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of IGS-BDI, attended the International Conference on the Status and Role of Social Science Research in Asian countries held on 13-15th March 2014 in New Delhi, India, organised by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) in collaboration with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

The main objectives of the conference were 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.

Executive Director Delivered Lecture at DU

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

Miscellaneous

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



Dr. Ken Afful from IDRC in his individual meeting the Executive Director, IGS & BDI and IGS Communications Team

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, BRAC 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 Mueyed 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.

Newspapers Article/Op-ed by IGS Staff in January-March

1. The Daily Star: [Is China the answer to bridging infrastructure gap?](#) by M. Shahidul Islam, 19 February, 2014
2. The Daily Star: [How healthy is the market for healthcare?](#) by Nabila Zaman, 11 March, 2014
3. The Daily Star: [Accessing China's trillion dollar market](#) by M. Shahidul Islam, 15 March, 2014
4. The Daily Star: [On identity and trust](#) by Minhaj Mahmud, 23 March, 2014