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BIGD launches it's annual the State of Governance report

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University has launched one of its annual flagship research report the State of Governance (SoG) in Bangladesh 2014-15 titled Institutions Outcomes Accountability through the Press on 27th of December 2015, at the BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium, Mohakhali, Dhaka in presence of a huge gathering of the reporters and the journalists from Print, Online and Electronic media.



SoG Research Team launching the Report in the Press Launching

BIGD Executive Director Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman and the SoG Team researchers formally launched the report in front of media. Syeda Salina Aziz and Md. Harun-Or-Rashid, Senior Research Associate and Research Associate of BIGD respectively made two presentations on the findings and recommendations of the report. A lively Question-Answer Session followed by the presentations, where the SoG Research team addressed the queries and comments of the media reporters and senior journalists.



Glimpses from the Q/A segment of Press Launching

The Report sheds light on governance-related KPIs, covering electoral process, legislative productivity, media freedom, rule of law, financial institutions, infrastructure and macroeconomic stability, education and health sector

performance. It is intended to contribute to the public debate on governance as an issue of seminal contemporary concern for Bangladesh's political and economic future.

In a departure from past SoGs, the SoG 2014-15 has attempted to cover a relatively wider canvas focusing on such important areas as the state of political, economic and social dimensions of governance in Bangladesh. Rather than focusing on any of these areas in isolation, the SoG sheds light on the performance of these three areas taken together due to their significance for overall governance in Bangladesh.

The 'bottom line' of the current report is that Bangladesh's performance in all the three broad categories, viz, political, economic and social, while being mixed does indicate major vulnerabilities. The report therefore argues that these must be addressed through broader participation of civil society and other stakeholders in a spirit of partnership. Without such an inclusive approach and full freedoms and rights guaranteed under the constitution, the country may suffer serious setbacks in its march towards building strong democratic institutions as the fundamental basis for good governance.

BIGD launches its STATE OF CITIES report: Solid Waste Management in Dhaka City – Towards Decentralised Governance

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University has launched its annual flagship research report State of Cities (SoC) 2015 titled 'Solid Waste Management in Dhaka City--Towards Decentralised Governance', on Sunday, the 29th of November 2015, at the Spectra Convention

Centre, Dhaka. The ceremony also served as a platform for participants to discuss the current scenario of solid waste management in Dhaka city, as a Question & Answer session was followed by the presentation of key findings and discussion on the report.



Guests uncovering the STATE OF CITIES 2015 report

The study has captured constraints in addressing the city's solid waste problem. The City Corporations' budget, for instance, is inadequate. There is a coordination failure between private and public agencies. Across wards there are disparities in terms of infrastructural capacity, tax realisation, timing of

waste collection, payment on door-to-door services, among others. Unless cities do possess modern recycling facilities, it is hard to solve the garbage problem. The existing landfill sites lack sanitary features and might create new problems in a bid to solve old ones.

*Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman**Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman**Dr. ABM Badruzzaman**Mr. S M Gubair Bin Arafat*

The report recommends that decentralization is one of the ways to tackle the localized problem of solid waste management, particularly addressing the heterogeneity that exists at the grassroots level. It is suggested to take the advantages of modern technology in beefing up monitoring and enforcement, particularly to address coordination failure among agencies. It is expected that city corporations and other urban authorities will pay heed to the recommendations of BIGD that has a track-record in studying cities. The study reveals that the city

generates about 6100 tonnes waste per day which is significantly higher than earlier projections. This also indicates that Dhaka's pace of urbanization has been much faster than it has been forecast. The per capita waste generation in the city is 377 gram each day. One of the encouraging findings of the report is that over the years waste collection rate has increased. Unlike previous studies, the study has delved into the key micro issues from the 'governance' perspective with a particular focus on functioning of the various stages of the solid waste management process.

*Mr. Gubair Bin Arafat presenting the research findings at the launching*

The results from the study indicate the need for a reform of the existing systems of Solid Waste Management (SWM) in Dhaka City. At the micro level, from the household survey the waste collection and delivery procedures along with perceptions have been narrated in some details. The KIIs and FGDs (though conducted in a very limited scale) indicate the need to address some of the pertinent problems of various stakeholders. At the macro level, the estimates from the study along with data provided by city corporation reveals the wide variation across wards under both the city corporations. A change in the existing structure and function of governance relating to SWM is upheld as a timely demand.

Among the distinguished guests, Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman, Executive Chairman, Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) and former Advisor to the Caretaker Government was the Chief Guest at the event. The event was chaired by Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director, BIGD while the designated discussant included Dr. ABM Badruzzaman, Professor of Civil Engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). Mr. S M Gubair Bin Arafat, Lead Researcher, SoC 2015 presented the key findings of the report at the ceremony.



Distinguished participants at the Q/A session

Dr. Tariq Bin Yousuf, DNCC; Captain Raquib, BN, Chief Waste Management Officer, DSCC; Professor Abu Ahmed, DU; Dr. M. Mushtuq Husain, IEDCR; Ms. Naoko Anzai, Senior Governance Expert (LGED); Quazi Sarwar Imtiaz Hashmi, Additional Director General (Department of Environment); Md. Zamal Uddin, LGED; Md. Akhtaruzzaman, Country Representative, UN Habitat; Md. Shahjahan Mollah, LGED participated in the question and answer session.

In his comment, Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman, the Chief Guest of the event said, unfortunately Bangladeshi cities are not clean and the country has a process of dirty development. "The issue of SWM is at the heart. It is not a matter of aesthetics but it has a direct consequence for our health cause and overall pollution" he commented.

"We have addressed one issue which is collection but separation and disposal remain as huge challenges," said the former caretaker government adviser. Relating to the decentralisation of governance, he said it is a very good agenda for local government as in future, ward governance system may be introduced for better outcome in terms of citizen service.

He pointed out that the issue of SWM has to be understood in totality of a process, he said adding: without having the whole process in mind you cannot really think of how to address this challenge in a more effective manner. He also added there are governance, capacity, resource and behavioural issues along with the challenge of innovation, however, the steps

towards solution to SWM as well as other challenging issues, should be addressed from low-governance perspective which is the reality of Bangladesh.

In the concluding remarks, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman said rapid growth of population means more and more waste. Active ward commissioners have positive impacts on cleaning the wards. For Bangladesh landfill is going to be a serious problem and there is no clear-cut answer about the location, he added.

'Among various dimensions of urbanisation, BIGD addressed one of the exceedingly challenging issue this year through this study to bridge the existing gaps in past research and in order to throw some light on existing scenario of SWM in Dhaka city. It intends to continue the focus on such problems one way or another to come out with solutions. BIGD hopes, such step will generate more interest, public debate and discussion among the stakeholders and concerned citizens.' He concluded.

Amongst others, Dr. Hasan Mahmud, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society; Alice Sarker, SEHD; Mehnaz Tasnim, The World Bank; Mr. Gonzalo SERRANO, First Secretary, European Union; Koji Mitomori, JICA; Elma Morsheda, ADB; Md. Fokrul Islam, Dhaka WASA; Dr. Syed Abdul Hamid, PPRC; Monju Maria, World Vision; Peter Ravenscroft, Water and Sanitation Specialist; Sandrine Capelle Manuel, UNDP; Rashedul Hasan and Linda Roberts, both from Swiss Contact participated in the question and answer session.

Launching of Human Development in South Asia 2015 Report
Economy is for the people, people is not for
the economy says Dr. Selim Jahan



Farria Naeem, M Syeduzzaman, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman and Dr. Selim Jahan (From left to right)

Economy is for the people, as far as the Human Development perspective is concerned, people is not for the economy. The Human Development in South Asia 2015 also takes this perspective, said Dr. Selim Jahan, Director, Human Development Report Office, UNDP, New York.

He added, “We don’t need jobless, voiceless, ruthless, rootless and futureless economic growth from a human development perspective. Inclusive growth is what we needed for human development. Five criteria fundamental to inclusive growth are, firstly, it should be a growth process where people have the opportunity of participating and contributing. Secondly, People should be equitably rewarded the benefits of economic growth. Third, the rate of growth

of the bottom 20% should be faster than the rate of growth of income of any part of the society. Fourth, inclusive growth ensures avoiding, reducing, limiting, destroying the choices of future generations. Our current living is borrowed from the future generations through natural resources and other means. Inclusive growth must ensure the similar or even better times of choices for the future generations. Also, the issue of gender equality should be in the centre of economic inclusive growth as it is a serious economic and development issue. Finally, there has to be equitable growth in terms of both opportunities and in terms of outcome and equitable distribution. It is not an issue of capitalism; it’s an issue of democracy, so the growth process is equitable in terms of participation as well as in terms of benefits.”

Raising questions on the capabilities of economic growth, Dr. Selim Jahan said, over the last 30 years, the economic growth of south Asian region has gone up more than 300 percent, three times. The rate of human development according to UN Human Development index in this region, it has gone up by 1.5 times which means, the rate of growth of the economy has been twice than the rate of growth of human well being. The fundamental question arises here, that what went wrong? The economic growth has to be translated into the lives of the people. Economic growth is means; it is not an end in itself. The major contribution of economic growth should be basically to enhance the lives of people.



Dr. Selim Jahan was addressing at the Launching of the 18th Human Development Report of South Asia

He concluded by saying, the human development paradigm, the human development framework, the human development reports have taken the less travelled road, we hope, we have been, we are and will be making a difference. The kind of the choices we make today with regard to our economy our society individually and collectively would determine the kind of the world that we would be living tomorrow for the future generations. Because in the ultimate analysis, human destiny is a choice, and not a chance.

Human Development in the introductory speech, Mr. M Syeduzzaman, Member, Board of Advisors, Mahbub ul Haq Centre welcomed the guests and remembered the veteran economist Late Mr. Muhibub Ul Haq, founder and the Chief Architect of UNDP Human Development Report. He added, with a special focus on South Asia, Mahbub ul Haq Centre is a policy research institute and think tank committed to the promotion of the human development paradigm as a powerful tool for advocating people centered development policy nationally and regionally. Believing in the shared history and the shared destination of the people of this region, he was convinced for the need of cooperation among the seven countries in the region, his vision extended to a comparative analysis of the region annually in terms of socio-economic development. He said this year's report addresses the issue of connection between economic growth and people's lives.

The Report critically analyses the record of economic growth and human development in South Asia for the last three decades from 1980 to 2010. Besides providing an overall South Asia profile, the Report presents a detailed record of economic growth and social development in five countries: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. He also thanked BIGD for its advocacy role of the report in Dhaka. Chaired by Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director, BIGD, the report was officially launched

followed by the introductory part. Farria Naeem, IGC Bangladesh Country Economist made a presentation on the key findings and recommendations of the report.

In the concluding remarks, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman said, in today's endangered planet, the biggest contribution of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was that it took the focus away from narrow economic targets and it has brought much wider range of issues and turned the address of the economists towards narrative. Anything less than narrative is just not enough to deal the entire challenge of structural transformation of societies. Also taking away natural resources from future generations through over consuming is one of the biggest challenges for development theories and practices. So to embrace the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and address the huge new dimension created through the activities of arrogance as human beings such as endangering future, we need to focus on much greater public actions which means, both the government and its political machinery, political leaders of the country and the civil society must play active role. Now is the high time than any time in the past that we should collectively address the new dimension with strong policy actions.

Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, former Governor, Bangladesh Bank; Dr. Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, former Secretary; Professor Quazi Faruque Ahmed, Chairman, Initiative for Human Development (IHD), among others participated in the Q/A session.

Distinguished guests, among others, attended included Mr. Pierre MAYAUDON, Ambassador, Head of Delegation, European Union; Mr. Hussein Hyderali, AKDN; Md. Asaduzzaman, Head of DFED; Md. Akhtaruzzaman, Programme Manager, UN Habitat; Ms. Shaila Khan, Assistant Country Director, UNDP.

Seminar

IGC-BIGD Seminar on Development Economics



Prof. Fahad Khalil, University of Washington; Prof. Wahiduddin Mahmud, Member, UN Committee for Development Policy; Honorable Planning Minister A H M Mostafa Kamal; Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director, BIGD at the inaugural session (From left to right)

The International Growth Centre (IGC) and the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University jointly organized a seminar on Development Economics on 13 December, 2015 at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka. Mr. A H M Mustafa Kamal, Honorable Planning Minister inaugurated the seminar as the Chief Guest. Dr. Atiur Rahman, Governor, Bangladesh Bank, attended the first session of the event.

The Development Economics Seminar brings together policy stakeholders and researchers with the aim of showcasing IGC research, and sharing ideas, experiences and best practices for achieving sustainable growth in Bangladesh. The Seminar included sessions on key priority areas of the IGC in Bangladesh, including firm capabilities, state effectiveness, migration, and climate change.



Dr. Wahiduddin Mahmood, Dr. Atiur Rahman, Dr. Ahmed Mushfiq Mubarak, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman and Ms. Parul Agarwal seen at the first session (From left to right)

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Country Director, IGC Bangladesh Programme, and Executive Director, BIGD chaired the inauguration session. The day-long

seminar held, divided into 6 sessions on the six different issues.

In the First session, Dr. Ahmed Mushfiq Mobarak, Professor of Economics, Yale University presented a paper on Routine Disasters: Floods, Human Capital and Adaptation in Bangladesh, and Ms. Parul Agarwal, Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR) presented a paper on Natural Calamities and Innovative Social Safety Programmes.

In the third session followed by the inauguration session, Prof. Dilip Mookherjee from Boston University presented a paper on Do Consumers Benefit from Supply Chain Intermediaries? Evidence from a Policy Experiment in Edible Oils Market in Bangladesh. Professor Christopher Woodruff, University of

Warwick presented a Paper titled Challenges of Change: An Experiment Training Women to Manage in the Bangladeshi Garment Sector in the fourth session of the event.

The Steps has presented a paper titled Innovative Solutions to the SME Financing Challenge at the fifth session of the programme. Two different papers titled No Lean Season-Seasonal Migration to Avert Food Insecurity, and Mobile-izing Savings with Automatic Contributions, were presented by Dr. Karen Levy, Evidence Action and Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Services (RDRS); and Dr. Tarek Ghani, Princeton University, respectively in the sixth session.



Participants at the seminar

The IGC aims to promote sustainable growth in developing countries by providing demand-led policy advice based on frontier research. The IGC directs a global network of world-leading researchers and in-country teams in Africa and South Asia and works closely with partner governments to generate high quality research and policy advice on key growth challenges. Based at LSE and in partnership with the

University of Oxford, the IGC is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). BIGD, BRAC University is the secretariat of IGC in Bangladesh.

The daylong event was participated by academics, researchers, representatives from different associations and civil society. The inaugural session was also attended by the media and senior journalists.

BIGD seminar on migration

BIGD organised a Seminar on Migration at the BIGD conference room on 29th December. Dr. Hasan Mahmud, Assistant Professor at Northwestern University in Qatar presented a paper from one of his recent researches titled *Why Do Migrants Send Remittances? A Sociological Explanation* in the seminar. In his presentation Dr. Mahmud explained

social science discourses on migration and development that emphasise migrants' altruism or self interest as the determinants of their remitting practices, which is countered by alternative explanations focusing on social culture and structure. Recognising current approaches unsatisfactory and inadequate, he showed a critical realist approach.



Participants at the seminar

His study begins with the empirical manifestations of migrants' remitting practices, but looks at deeper levels of social reality (the actual and the real) in identifying the determinants. It investigates remitting practices among Bangladeshi migrants in Tokyo and Los Angeles. While confirming the centrality of migrant family in remitting practices in the New Economics of Labour Migration (NELM) perspective, it goes beyond by including how internal family relations and external social relations collectively

determine migrants' remitting, he shared. Dr. Mahmud also said, the study would advance the existing knowledge of migrants' remitting by incorporating both migrants' agency and social structures embedding remitting practices. The presentation was followed by a question answer session. Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow of BIGD introduced the presenter with participants and Md. Harun Or Rashid, Research Associate and Seminar Coordinator of BIGD, moderated the Seminar.

Lecture

BIGD-DU Lecture by Yale University Prof. Ahmed Mushfiq Mubarak **Effective marketing strategies needed for technology adoption**



Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Prof. Ahmed Mushfiq Mubarak, Prof. Fahad Khalil and Dr. Taiabur Rahman are seen at the lecture (Left to right)

Though many effective and inexpensive technologies can improve human lives in developing countries, lack of proper marketing and reluctance to adopt new things among people, are the main barriers to adopting modern technology. Effective marketing strategies on the basis of rigorous behavioral research

can bring significant development in combating these impediments, says Dr. Ahmed Mushfiq Mubarak, Professor of Economics, Yale School of Management of Yale University, USA, in a lecture in Dhaka titled Technology Adoption in Developing Countries.



Professor Ahmed Mushfiq Mubarak delivering his lecture

"Welfare improving many technologies are not popular in Bangladesh and many developing countries in large due to traditional mindset and unwilling to adopt new technologies. To address such behavior issues, we have to carefully devise various interventions and marketing technologies", Professor Mubarak mentioned at the event, jointly organised by BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University and Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Dhaka (DU), at the Muzaffar Ahmed Choudhury Auditorium of Dhaka University on December 12, 2015.

"Eighty percent of the world's population lives in developing countries. Almost 2.5 billion people live on less than US\$ 2.0 per day, while over one billion remain without access to electricity and more than one billion people still defecate in the open. Some challenges for which seemingly simple solutions are readily available continue to cause great harm: indoor air pollution generated from traditional cook-stoves accounts for 22 per cent of communicable child deaths globally. Poor sanitation is estimated to cause 280,000 deaths annually", he mentioned in the lecture.



Part of the audience in the lecture programme at the Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium at the Dhaka University

He also said, effective and inexpensive technologies with the potential to address many of these problems exist, but are often not adopted or used due to traditional reluctance of the people. Devising more effective marketing strategies for these large and growing populations on the basis of rigorous behavioral research is integral to the mission of government and non-government organisations (NGOs)-based policymakers and academic programmes in developing countries.

Dr. Taiabur Rahman, Professor of Development Studies, DU welcomed the audience.

Professor Mubarak's lecture was based on a portion of his research agenda, which explores different aspects of these low-adoption problems and their development consequences. Professor Mubarak tests the predictions of microeconomic models of technology adoption and behavior change by implementing large-scale field experiments that involve new technologies.

Dr. Mubarak also co-chairs the Urban Services Initiative at the Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) at MIT, and leads the Bangladesh Research Programme for the International Growth Centre (IGC) at LSE and Oxford University. He is a development economist with interests in environmental issues. He conducts field experiments exploring ways to induce people in developing countries to adopt technologies or behaviors that are likely to be welfare improving. His ongoing research projects are in Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, India, Kenya, Nepal and Malawi.

Chaired by Professor Fahad Khalil of IGC Bangladesh and Washington University, Dr Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director, BIGD, BRAC University made the concluding remarks at the lecture and thanked the attendees for their keen interest. Amongst others, academics, researchers, representatives from diplomatic missions, International NGOS, civil society members, students also

Workshops

Workshop on Good Governance of Financial and Office Management

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) organised a workshop on Good Governance of Financial and Office Management on 3 December 2015 at BRAC University. More than 70 Account, Finance and HR staff from different Institutes and Departments of the University participated the workshop and found it very useful. The objectives of the workshop were to equip the BRAC University officials with the necessary skills in the area of office management and financial

management and to focus of good governance. With the collaboration of Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), BRAC University, BIGD organised the workshop.

Dr. Niaz Ahmed Khan and Mohammed Shoheler Rahman Chowdhury, guest faculty of BIGD, had conducted the workshop.

Programme Activities

Review session of the Working Paper on LG Standing Committees held

The Local Governance Programme Sharique, implemented by a consortium of Helvetas Swiss Inter-cooperation and the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University, organised a technical review session on 2 December 2015 at the NILG on a working paper on the Standing Committees of Local Government bodies, produced jointly by National Institute of Local Government (NILG) and Sharique. Dr. Md. Golam Yahya, Joint Secretary and Training Director of NILG, chaired the session. The purpose of the meeting was to ensure that NILG is fully aware and committed to the analysis and recommendations of the paper before

placing it to the Local Government Division.

The faculty of NILG and representatives from Sharique attended the review session. Among others the meeting was also attended by Maheen Sultan, Visiting Fellow, BIGD; Tirtha Sarathi Sikdar, HELVETAS; AKM Fazlur Rahman, Research Specialist, BIGD; Nazneen Ahmed, Programme Officer-II, BIGD; Sheikh Md. Mofijul Islam, Joint Secretary, Programme & Evaluation Director, NILG; Md. Elias, Deputy Secretary, Research & Planning Director, NILG; Bhuiyan Md. Ataur Rahman, Deputy Secretary, Administration & Coordination Director, NILG.

Orientation of NGOs held under PPRP-II

BIGD, BRAC University arranged an orientation session for the partner Non-Government Organisations (NGO) for the Social Accountability Component, under the Public Procurement Reform Project II (Extension Phase) at BIGD office on November 25, 2015. During the orientation, the NGOs were introduced to the project and given an overview of their activities and deliverables. Assistance for Social Organization and Development (ASOD) and Eco-Social Development Organization (ESDO) showed great interest in working with BIGD on this project.

A depth discussion on the selection criteria of the local

stakeholder's committee members and other social accountability component held during the orientation. The session ended with mutual agreement of the NGOs to assist BIGD in forming the Local Stakeholder's committee. Dr. Wahid Abdallah, Associate Professor, BRAC University; Dr. Mirza M. Hassan, Adjunct Fellow; Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow; Mr. Rafiqul Talukdar, Senior Programme Manager; Ms. Salina Aziz, Senior Research Associate, Arafat Markony & Ashikur Rahman, Research Associate; Ms. Kaneta Zillur, Research Assistant of BIGD and NGO representatives attended the programme.

SHARIQUE National Advisory Committee Meeting held

Ms. Maheen Sultan, Visiting Fellow; Md. Rafiqul Islam Talukdar, Senior Programme Manager; Ms. Nazneen Ahmed, Programme Officer of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University attended the National Advisory committee meeting of Sharique-III at LGED Ministry on 3 November, 2015. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss with NILG about the analysis and recommendations of the

working paper on Standing Committees, produced jointly by NILG and Sharique before placing it to the LGD. Among others Ms. Lutfun Nahar, Senior Assistant Secretary, LGED Ministry; Ms. Lilia Tverdun, Director, Local Governance Programme, SHARIQUE; and Mr. Tirtha Sarathi Sikder, National Coordinator, Local Governance Programme, SHARIQUE were also present at the meeting.

Meeting with NGOs on Interventions to Support Women's Participation in UP Elections 2016 held

BIGD, BRAC University arranged the Fourth Coordination Meeting with NGOs on Interventions to Support Women's Participation in UP Elections 2016 on November 12, 2015 at the BIGD Conference Room. In the context of the Women's participation at the next UP elections, which will be held in 2016, the SHARIQUE advocacy team takes an opportunity to increase the number of women contestants for general seats wants to capitalize on this event. At the same time, SHARIQUE recognizes that there are also other NGOs and projects that are working on this same issue. Therefore, with the objective to build alliance with such like-minded partners and approach this issue from a common and broader platform to avoid duplication and better coordination of work, the

Sharique Advocacy team has been holding monthly meetings regularly. The fourth coordination meeting was a follow-up of this.

Maheen Sultan, Visiting Fellow; Ms. Reasat Jahan Nijhum, Programme Associate; and Ms. Nazneen Ahmed, Programme Officer of BIGD attended the coordination meeting. Among others .Mr. Saifuddin Ahmed, Senior Programme Coordinator, The Hunger Project; Ms. Rokeya Zevin Kaisari, Expert, Gender Advocacy and Networking, Prip Trust; Ms. Shefali Begum, Deputy Director, Prip Trust; Mr. Faisal M Rahman, Project Coordinator, Democracy Watch; Ms. Nadira Khanam, Technical Coordinator, CARE Bangladesh were also present at the meeting.

Advisory Group Meeting of PPRP-II held

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University organised the first Advisory Group meeting of Public Procurement Reform Project II (Extension) at BIGD office on October 19, 2015. The meeting was attended by Advisory Group members Nurul Islam Bhuiyan, Chief Engineer of Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board; Md. Abul Kashem Bhuiyan, Assistant Chief Engineer, Planning and Maintenance Wing of the Roads and Highways Department; Dr. Md. Akhteruzzaman, Director of the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Ministry of Planning; A.B.M. Ruhunnabi of the Bangladesh Water Development Board; Ms. Khadija Bilkis, Senior Deputy Director, Bangladesh Center for Communication Programmes; Md. Nasimur Rahman Sharif, Deputy Director of the Central Procurement Technical Unit, IMED, Ministry of Planning; Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Head of Research at BIGD and Team Leader for PPRP-II, and Md. Rafiqul Islam Talukdar, Senior Programme

Manager at BIGD and Program Coordinator for PPRP - II.

In addition to the Advisory Group members, the meeting was also attended by Dr. Mirza Hassan, Adjunct Fellow of BIGD and Dr. Wahid Abdallah, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Social Sciences, BRAC University, both of whom are Consultants for PPRP - II. The other BIGD team members of PPRP - II present at the meeting included Syeda Salina Aziz, Kaneta Zillur and Nadir Shah.

The main agenda for the meeting was to discuss the inception report and have a review of the overall progress of the project. Several suggestions about the piloting strategy were expressed during the meeting and the research team worked on incorporating those suggestions into the baseline study and overall strategy.

Meeting held on Research Progress of Sharique-III

BIGD, BRAC University arranged a Research Progress Meeting of Sharique-III on October 6, 2015 at the BIGD conference room to understand the progress of the four researches works and coordinate the study plan. Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Head of Research, BIGD; Maheen Sultan, Visiting Fellow; Md. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow, Md. Fazlur Rahman, Research

Specialist, Farhana Razzaque, Harun-Or-Rashid, Muhammad Ashikur Rahman, Research Associates and Mohammad Misbah, Research Assistant of BIGD attended the meeting. Md. Rafiqul Islam Talukdar, Senior Programme Manager and Reasat Jahan, Programme Officer of BIGD also attended the meeting.

Meeting on Promotion of Women's Participation in 2016 UP Elections

BIGD, BRAC University arranged a Meeting on "Promotion of Women's Participation in 2016 Union Parishad Elections", under the SHARIQUE Project III on October 25, 2015 at the BIGD conference room. Maheen Sultan, Visiting Fellow and Nazneen Ahmed, Programme Officer of BIGD, BRAC University attended the meeting along with the representatives from PRIP

Trust, The Hunger Project, Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha (BNPS), Democracywatch and Steps Towards Development. The objectives of the meeting were to capitalise the upcoming UP election and take the opportunity to increase the number of women contestants for general seats.

Researchers' Activities

BIGD's Research Fellow attended the Conference on BBIN

Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University attended a Conference titled Advancing the BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal) Agenda: Exploring possibilities in Trade, Transit,

Energy and Water Cooperation, organised by Observer Research Foundation (ORF), India and The Asia Foundation, on 3-4 December 2015 at the Oberoi Grand Hotel, Kolkata, India



Dr. Shanawez Hossain at the conference with the other guests

The first roundtable of the conference explored 'Possibilities of Cooperation at the Sub-regional level in South Asia' and was moderated by Sagar Prasai, Director, The Asia Foundation, India. Panelists at the session included Pinak R Chakravarty, former diplomat & Distinguished Fellow, ORF, Delhi; Naichu Tshering, former Member of Parliament, Bhutan; Bishwambher Pyakuryal, Professor of Economics, Nepal; Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India and Nazneen Ahmed, Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Bangladesh.

'Policy and market signals for strengthening connectivity in BBIN' was the subject of discussion in the second roundtable of the conference. Panelists at the session included Bipul Chatterjee, Executive Director, CUTS International, India; Sujeev Shakya,



Founder & CEO, BEED, Nepal; Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow, BIGD, BRAC University, Bangladesh; Khampa Tshering, Business consultant (Private and government), Bhutan. The session was moderated by Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury, Fellow, ORF-Kolkata, India. The issues deliberated on included the importance of infrastructure and political will at the national level. It was highlighted that a project-based approach could be undertaken in the move towards boosting sub-regionalism and in this regard the

importance of learning from regional formations in the area like the Greater Mekong Sub-region was underscored. The need to understand and utilise the market potential available among the four BBIN countries was also discussed along with the need to strengthen institutional connectivity. Panelists observed that BBIN countries must stand up to their core concerns and interests and revisit the connectivity problem on ground to better understand everyday realities. The necessity of transforming informal trade to a more formalised one by building infrastructure, encouraging exchange, increasing trade and free flow of goods and services as also urged.

The following roundtable focused on the 'Energy-water nexus among BBIN countries' and was moderated by Ashok Dhar, Director, ORF-Kolkata, India. It was discussed that access to life-line energy by the people living in the BBIN region and the three pillars to that could be: availability, affordability and accessibility. Speakers at the session included Mahendra P Lama, Chairman, Centre for South, Central, South East Asian and South West Pacific Studies in Jawaharlal Nehru University, India; Hari Pandit, Professor of Water Resources Engineering, at the Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University, Nepal; Shaheen Afroze, Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies, Bangladesh; Nilanjan Ghosh, Senior Fellow, ORF, Kolkata, India; Madhukar Upadhyay, Former PEI Advisor, National Planning Commission, Nepal and Sonali Mitra, Associate Fellow, ORF-New Delhi, India.

The concluding roundtable at the conference explored 'Trade cooperation among BBIN countries'. Parthapratim Pal, Chairperson PGPEX and Professor, Economics, IIM Kolkata, India; Hiramani Ghimire, Executive Director, South Asia Watch on Trade Economics and Environment, (SAWTEE), Nepal; Fahmida Khatun, Research Director, CPD, Bangladesh and Sonam Jatso, Member, Technical Advisory Committee, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Bhutan spoke as the speakers at the session, which was moderated by Nilanjan Ghosh, Senior Fellow, ORF-Kolkata, India.

BIGD Researcher attended the Review of Draft Dhaka Structure Plan, 2016-2035

Kazi Masel Ullah, Senior Research Associate of BIGD attended the Review programme of the Draft Dhaka Structure Plan 2016-2035, organised by Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) on November 27, 2015. The programme selected some planners to review the plan prepared by RAJUK. Mr. Ullah would lead the review of Governance chapter under the draft structure plan. Professor Golam Rahman, President of BIP, Executive Board Members of BIP, as well as renowned planners of Bangladesh were also attended at the event.

BIGD Staff attended Regional Consultations of ADB

Ms. Maheen Sultan, Visiting Fellow; Ms. Sahida Khondaker, Research Associate; Ms. Sadia Mustafa, Ms. Sufia Khatun, Mr. Zia Us Sabur, Ms. Salma Shafi, Ms. Asma Huque, Ms. Laboni Rahman, Research Assistant of BIGD attended a regional Consultation on “Gender Equality Diagnostic” by Asian Development Bank on 23 November, 2015 at the Rural Development Academy, Bogra. The team also attended another regional consultation on 26 November 2015 at Hotel Lords Inn, Chittagong. In order to prepare for its Country Partnership Strategy for 2016 to 2020, the Bangladesh Resident Mission (BRM) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is carrying out an in-depth exercise on Gender Equality Sectoral Diagnostics. This exercise will serve to review past efforts and experiences with regard to addressing gender equality and equity in sectoral approaches and programming in terms of good practices and missed opportunities, as well as identify future potential and emerging priorities. The product will provide the Government of Bangladesh and ADB with a tool and platform to further advance progress in mainstreaming gender in sector policies, strategies and programmes, in line with the commitments set out in the National Women Development Policy (2011).

The Gender Equality Sectoral Diagnostics (GED) will cover ADB priority sectors identified in the ADB Bangladesh’s Country Partnership and include Vocational Education, Skills and Tertiary Education; Energy, Urban Development and Transport as the four

priority sectors for an in-depth gender analysis. Ms. Maheen Sultan, Visiting Fellow of BIGD nominated as the Urban Development-Team Leader.

The team have undertaken a review of the relevant policy and programme documents of the sector, had interviews with some of the key stakeholders and made a few selected field visits and carried out four sectoral national consultation meetings where a small group of stakeholders reviewed our findings and analysis in order to strengthen our gender equality sectoral diagnostics and recommendations. The team has prepared sectoral draft reports on our findings. Before finalizing the report we had to organize three regional consultations at three regions of the country (Bogra, Chittagong and Khulna) to get more recommendations and suggestions.

The North regional consultation took place on 23 November at Rural Development Academy, Bogra. Local NGOs, Women’s group, Ward commissioner, local Chamber of commerce and Government officials who are working around our respective sector, participated in the meeting.

The South-East Regional meeting was held on 26 November at Hotel Lords Inn, Chittagong. Along with Local NGOs, Women’s group, Ward commissioner, Government official Chittagong Port Authority, Chittagong Railway, CUET and Polytechnic Institute had participated in this meeting.

BIGD Researchers attended the ISI Workshop on Official Statistics & Data Analysis

A team of BIGD researchers attended the Workshop on Official Statistics & Data Analysis, held on November 16-20, 2015, organised by Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata. Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Research Associate; Md Harun-or-Rashid, Research Associate; S M Gubair Bin Arafat, Research Associate; Muhammad

Ashikur Rahman, Research Associate; Gazi Arafat Uz Zaman Markony, Research Associate; Nadir Shah, Research Assistant; Ahmed Asif Enam, Research Assistant; Mushfiqa Khanum, Research Assistant; Nazneen Ahmed, Programme Officer of BIGD, BRAC University attended the workshop.



BIGD participants at the Indian Statistical Institute's workshop

The workshop was arranged to introduce BIGD researchers with basic statistical issues and methods. Total 9 participants from BIGD had 5 days long workshop where there were both theoretical and practical sessions. Participants mainly came to know about major statistical topics including household data

analysis, analysis of official statistics like National Income analysis, analysis of demographic data, analysis of financial data, International official statistics, analysis of economic census data and Overview of regression.

BIGD Researchers Attended the Multilogue on Community Resilience and Disaster Related Displacement in South Asia

BIGD Researchers Mr. Sirajul Islam, Research Associate and Mr. Raihan Ahamad, Research Assistant, attended the Multilogue on Community Resilience and Disaster Related Displacement in South Asia on November 14, 2015 at the Ball Room 1 of Hotel Westin, Dhaka. The programme was organised jointly by ActionAid Bangladesh (AAB) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). Honorable Chief guest Md. Shahidul Haque, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

and Panel members Dr. Saleemul Huq – Director, International Center for Climate Change and Development and Mr. Adam Combs, Head of Asia Section, International Programme Department, NRC discussed about the present condition of the climate change in context of South Asia based on COP 21 (Parris Conference). Among others Government officials, International NGOs, NGOs, civil society members and media attended the event.

BIGD's Executive Director attended the Dissemination workshop on National Governance Assessment Framework

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director of BIGD, BRAC University attended the dissemination workshop on National Governance Assessment Framework (NGAF), held on November 5, 2015, jointly organised by Governance Innovation Unit (GIU) of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and ARENA project of UNDP. The workshop arranged for putting importance in developing governance assessment framework, and report agencies. The workshop aimed to seek feedback from secretaries of relevant ministries on both the NGAF and the newly-formed working group on the development of NGAF.

A wide range of representatives from different ministries and members of the working group attended the programme. PM's International Affairs Adviser Dr. Gowher Rizvi was present as the chief guest at the event while Secretary to Prime Minister's Office Suraya Begum was the chairperson.

The Governance Innovation Unit (GIU) presented the background of forming the working group on development of NGAF; activities carried out so far and its way forward in order to sensitise different government ministries about it and strengthen their buy-in as well as gather input to finalise the future plan.

The working group is led by GIU and consisting of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), Departments of Public Administration and Development Studies of University of Dhaka and UNDP Bangladesh. International Consultant Dr. Shipra Narang Suri of UNDP shared the international experience by providing other countries' model on GAF.

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman also attended another Workshop on Governance Assessment Framework on November 2, 2015 at the Village Well, IDB Bhaban, Dhaka. The workshop was chaired by Ms. Pauline Tamesis, Country Director, UNDP Bangladesh. Dr. Shipra Narang Suri, International Consultant, UNDP made a presentation on "Developing nationally led governance assessment frameworks: International experience and Bangladesh context" at the workshop. Mr. Md. Abdul Halim, Director General, Governance Innovation Unit, Prime Minister's Office, was also present at the workshop.

Meetings

BIGD Researchers attended the Discussion on Evidence based Policymaking & Book Launching

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director, along with Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow and Ms. Nabila Zaman, Research Associate of BIGD, BRAC University attended the launching of a book on managing think tanks by Raymond Struyk, titled "Improving Think Tank Management: Practical Guidance for Think Tanks, Research Advocacy NGOs, and Their Funders", released by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and the Washington DC-based Results for Development Institute (R4D), on 17 November, 2015 at Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi, India.

The book launch event was followed by a Panel

Discussion on "Evidence-based Policymaking: The Role of Think Tanks in South Asia". As the countries of South Asia grapple with multiple and often-conflicting public policy priorities in resource scarce settings, the need for solid evidence and analysis to drive policymaking has never been greater. At their best, think tanks generate evidence based on good data and credible analysis, influence public opinion, and help create the social and political conditions for better policymaking. The discussion tried to answer questions like, Are South Asian think tanks living up to their potential? What are the economic, political, and institutional constraints they face? How best can they be alleviated? How can governments and donors help?

BIGD representatives attended TTI's 5th South Asia Regional Meeting

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director and Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow of BIGD, BRAC University attended the Think Tank Initiative's 5th South Asia Regional Meeting on 18-20 November,

2015 at The Westin Sohna, Haryana, India. The meeting was organised by IDRC and Center for Policy Research (CPR).



Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director, BIGD at the meeting

The purpose of the meeting were to facilitate and share learning about strategies for defining, building, and managing successful, and sustainable Think Tanks with a wide range of policy research organisations and interested stakeholders, to continue the exploration of how the continued support to the South Asian cohort of Think Tanks strengthen their capacities to generate new knowledge, become more effective in policy engagement and become sustainable, thriving institutions within the policy and research

ecosystems. Dr. Shanawez Hossain made two presentations on “State of Governance in Health and Education in Bangladesh” and Partyarchy Democracy in Bangladesh. Among others, the meeting was attended by Mr. Jayant Sinha MP, Minister of State for Finance, India; Dr. Pratap Bhanu Mehta, President and Chief Executive, Centre for Policy Research, India; Dr. Peter Taylor, Programme Manager, TTI-IDRC and Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow, CPD Bangladesh.

BIGD’s Research Fellow attended the meeting on Third Party Monitoring Piloting Strategy for ensuring Social Accountability in Public Procurement

Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow of BIGD, BRAC University attended the Meeting on Third Party Monitoring Piloting Strategy for ensuring Social Accountability in Public Procurement, organised by the World Bank on November 11, 2015 at the World Bank Dhaka office. The purpose of the meeting was to learn and share strategy for ensuring social accountability in public procurement under the

PPRP-II project.

Among others Dr. Zafrul Islam, Lead Procurement Specialist, the World Bank, Dhaka; Mr. Masud Mozammel, Senior Communications Officer, the World Bank, Dhaka; Dr. Mirza Hassan, Adjunct Fellow, BIGD; Dr. Wahid Abdallah, BRAC University attended the meeting.

BIGD Researchers attended the meeting on PPR

Dr. Mirza M. Hassan, Adjunct Fellow and Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow of BIGD attended the meeting on Public Procurement Reform (PPR) in Bangladesh, on November 16, 2015 at the Ministry of Planning. The meeting was held to review the implementation progress of the ongoing Public

Procurement Reform Project (PPRP-II), in particular reference to the capacity development, e-Government Procurement (e-GP), performance monitoring, and social accountability. Among others the meeting was attended by Mr. Md. Shahid Ullah Khandaker, Secretary, IMED and Mr. Faruque Hossain, DG, CPTU.

BIGD Head of Research attended the 1st IZA/DFID GLM-LIC Research Conference

Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Head of Research of BIGD, BRAC University attended the 1st IZA/DFID GLM-LIC Research Conference on New Research on Labour Markets in Low-Income Countries, held on 22-24 October, 2015 at The World Bank Headquarters, Washington DC, USA. The conference was organized by Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), Germany.

Dr. Mahmud along with Krishna Kumar, Shanthi Nataraj, A.V. Chari, Italo Gutierrez, and Farzana Munshi presented about their work, progress and newly gained insights of growth and labour markets of

the project on “Formal-Informal Labor Nexus and Growth: The Case of Bangladesh”.

The Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) and the UK Department for International Development (DFID) have recently launched the IZA/DFID Growth and Labour Markets in Low Income Countries Programme (GLM | LIC). The conference presented new research on labour markets in Low-Income Countries, with a focus on results from projects supported by the IZA/DFID Growth in Labor Markets in Low Income Countries (GLM-LIC) Programme.

BIGD researchers attended the USAID/Washington Resilient Cities Team meeting

Kazi Masel Ullah, Senior Research Associate and Md. Gubair Bin Arafat, Research Associate of BIGD attended the USAID/Washington Resilient Cities Team meeting with Civil Society of Bangladesh on 8 October 2015 at the Embassy of the United States of America, Dhaka. The meeting was organised by USAID Bangladesh as USAID's Urban and Engineering Division Chief Mr. Darren Manning visited Dhaka from October 6-8, 2015 to discuss a global Resilient Cities Project concept that their headquarters was designing, along with some others.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Darren Manning and coordinated by Mr. Shahadat Hossain Shakil,

Environmental Management Coordinator, Economic Growth Office, USAID, Bangladesh. Among others the meeting was attended by Dr. Ishrat Islam, Professor, Dept. of URP, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology; Dr. Tawfik Utpal, Deputy Director, Urban Development Directorate, Ministry of Public Work, Bangladesh; representatives from Centre for Urban Studies (CUS), Bangladesh Urban Forum and World Vision International. The meeting highlighted the issues of the lack of coordination among the authorities working in Dhaka as well as other major cities and its necessity to form Urban Government in the cities.

BIGD Sr. Manager Communications attended a PPRP-II workshop on Social Engagement

BIGD's Senior Manager of Communications Mr. Ekram Hossain attended a two-day workshop on Social Engagement and Messaging organised by Bangladesh Centre for Communication Programmes (BCCP), in partnership with Central Procurement Technical Unit

(CPTU) and The World Bank Dhaka Office, at the Grand Sultan Tea Resort and Golf, in Srimongal, Moulvibazaar, on 20th and 21st November 2015, under the Public Procurement Reform Project (PPRP)-II, of the IME Division, Ministry of Planning.



BIGD representative Ekram Hossain and other participants at the workshop

Mr. Faruk Hossain, Director General of CPTU; Dr. Zafrul Islam, Lead Procurement Specialist at The World Bank Dhaka Office, Ms. Khadiza Bilkis, Deputy Team Leader of BCCP and the workshop Facilitator Ms. Yeasmin Khan spoke in the inaugural session of the workshop attended by some 35 participants from CPTU and other relevant government offices, BCCP, The World Bank, BIGD, BRAC University, Transparency International Bangladesh, 2 reporters

from the media and other organisations. The workshop participants attended a number of group works and plenary sessions on branding electronic-Government Procurement (e-GP), networking, creative brief for TVC/RDC and newspaper advertisements, television talk show, utilisation of social media to disseminate messages, mechanisms to report success stories and few other relevant issues of Social Engagement and Messaging.

BIGD Research Fellow attended a UNDP Roundtable and CPD Dialogue

Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow of BIGD, BRAC University attended the Roundtable on Bangladesh 2015: Challenges of Political Development and Sustainable Growth organised by UNDP, Bangladesh on 4th October, 2015. As a part of commemorating the international day of non-violence, UNDP convened a stakeholder forum to discuss and share the early findings of research commissioned on the impact of political violence. Representatives of national and international organisation attended the event, including the Honorable Prime Minister's Advisor H.T. Imam;

Dr. Saleh Uddin Ahmed, Former Governor of Bangladesh Bank; Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director, TIB and Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman, Executive Director, PPRC.

Dr. Shahnawez also attended a Dialogue on National Level Implementation Challenges of 2030 Agenda on 31 October 2015 which was organized by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in cooperation with Southern Voice on Post-MDG International Development Goals and Friedrich-Elbert-Stiftung (FES), Bangladesh at the BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium.



Guests and participants at the Dialogue on National Level Implementation Challenges of 2030 Agenda

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG, Founder Chairperson of BRAC chaired the event where Mr. AHM Mustafa Kamal, MP, Hon'ble Minister for Planning addressed the dialogue as the Chief Guest. Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs addressed as the Special Guest, Mr. Robert Watkins, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Bangladesh addressed as the Guest

of Honour of the dialogue. The objectives of the dialogue were to discuss contents of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and process of aligning implementation with national planning and policy process, coordination management and leadership for implementation, Financing mechanisms, issues related to data availability, partnership and institutional arrangement.

Academic Updates

MDMP Field Visit to Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh

Masters in Development Management and Practice (MDMP) students of BIGD, BRAC University visited Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Mymensingh on 14 November 2015 as a part of the course curriculum. 19 students of Sustainable Agricultural Practices course have attended the field visit. The objectives of the field visit were to understand the key elements, concept, issues of sustainable agriculture; the issues/problems related to agro-ecological environment, technology adoption,

how human actions affect sustainable agricultural practice; the principles and methods of sustainable agricultural (crops, fish, poultry, livestock and agro-forestry) technologies, practices and processes; analyze agricultural policy and its implications and the role of public and private institutions. The students took the real experience from which they have to prepare a report on the contemporary issues related to the course.



Students with the faculty members at the field visit to BAU

Professor Abutaher M. Ziauddin faculty of Sustainable Agricultural Practices course, Dr. Rashed Uz Zaman, Academic Coordinator, Mr. Tarikul Alam Sharif,

Program Coordination Officer and Mr. Ekram Hossain, Senior Manager- Communications of BIGD were also present at the visit.

CIPS Exam held

CIPS examinations of November 2015 was held in BIGD, BRAC University from 16 to 20 November 2015. Total 53 government officials of Public cohort 5 & 6, sponsored by CPTU, Misnistry of Planning, who are from different public officers, such as Public Works Department (PWD), Department of Public Health Engineering, WASA, Bangladesh Railway, Directorate

of Primary Education, REB, Ministry of Planning, Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU), Ministry of Finance have attended in the exam. In addition to that another 40 participants from private sector have participated in this global exam. As the only exam center of CIPS in Bangladesh, BIGD has organised the exam at BRAC University.

CIPS Activities in October 2015

Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supplying (CIPS), an academic programme of BIGD, BRAC University, arranged two workshops for the students of cohort 5 and 6. To provide revision workshops for the CIPS Level-4 to cohort 6 and to provide delivery support for CIPS Level-6 (Professional Diploma in Procurement and Supply) to cohort 5, and also in order to prepare participants for the upcoming

examination, Mr. Paul Robinson and Mr. Tony Davies of CIPS, UK conducted the workshops. Mr. Tony Davies has conducted the sessions from 8th to 19th October and Mr. Paul Robinson has conducted sessions from 20th to 26th October. Mr. Tony Davies has arranged group sessions and one-to-one sessions for better preparation of the participants.



Participants of the Cohort 5 and 6 at the two workshops with facilitators

MPSM Admission Test held

Admission test of Masters in Procurement and Supply Management (MPSM), spring 2016 semester, was held on 18 December 2015 at BRAC University. 30 applicants applied for this programme. On 20 December, these applicants were called for an

interview at the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD). Among these 30 applicants, finally 25 are selected for admission into the programme. Classes will be started from 14th January 2016.

Malaysia Tour of CIPS Cohort 5

As a part of MCIPS programme, 24 participants from Cohort#5 went to the Malaysia as an exposure visit. They have stayed there from 22nd November to 28th

November and attended exposure programme at CIPS Study Centre in Malaysia.



MCIPS Certificate Award Ceremony at the British High Commission

The Certificate award ceremony of Master of Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supplying (MCIPS) for the participants of Cohort 3 and 4, was held on 30th November 2015 at the British High Commission in Dhaka. A total of 35 participants who have achieved MCIPS degree attended the ceremony at the High Commissioners Residence.

Mr. Andrew Coulcher, FCIPS, Director of Business

Solutions at the CIPS UK delivered the Keynote Speech at the ceremony. While HE Mr. Robert W Gibson CMG, the British High Commissioner in Bangladesh, Mr. Zahid Hussain, the Acting Country Director of the World Bank Dhaka office, Mr. Aziz Taher Khan, Director of Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) also spoke on the occasion. Ms. Paula Steele, Global Public Sector Manager, CIPS UK delivered the welcome speech at the event.



Awardee receiving certificate from the British High Commissioner HE Mr. Robert W Gibson CMG, and other awardees with participants

Dr. Rashed UZ Zaman, Academic Coordinator, Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow, Mr. Ekram Hossain, Senior Communications Manager, Ms.

Tanzina Mizan and Mr. Md. Zahirul Islam of BIGD, BRAC University were also attended the unostentatious programme.

Executive Director's visit to MAGD Programme

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of BIGD, BRAC University visited the Master of Arts in Governance and Development Programme on

December 30, 2015 at the BRAC Centre for Development Management (BCDM) in Savar.



Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman in a discussion meeting with the MAGD-7 students

Dr. Rahman also attended a meeting with the MAGD-7 Batch students. During the visit he interacted with the students and attended a question and answer session

with them. Among others Dr. Rashed Uz Zaman, Academic Coordinator of BIGD was also present in the meeting.

Executive Director's other activities

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of BIGD, held several meetings in the fourth quarter of the year 2015 with number of distinguished personalities such as prominent academics and researchers regarding the research collaboration and other relevant issues. Among others Dr. Rahman had meeting with Honourable Minister, AHM Mustafa Kamal, Ministry of Planning and had a discussion on a joint project of BIGD-IGC. Dr. Rahman also met with the Chairperson of BRAC, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed; Professor Nazmul Hassan of the Institute of Nutrition and Food Science at the University of Dhaka; Mr. Aminur Rahman, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Industries; Mr. Tayabur Rahman of GED, Planning Commission; Mr. Willem van der Geest, Inter-regional Advisor on Macroeconomic Policy in the Development Policy and Analysis Division (DPAD), Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), United Nations; Dr. Mushtaq Khan, Professor of Economics at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London; Prof. Bajlur Khondokar of the University of Dhaka; Ms. Salimah Kassam, CEO, and Mr. Sujeet Sarkar, Aga Khan Foundation; Mr. Tom

Dresdeen, Research Manager, Evidence for Policy Design (EPoD) of The Center for International Development, Harvard University; Ms. Sharmeen Hossain, Senior Assistant Vice President, Private Equity & Structured Finance, BRAC EPL Investments Limited; Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed, Commissioner, Anti-Corruption Commission; Dr. Mushtaq Raza Chowdhury, Vice Chairperson, BRAC; Ms. Sarah Cooke, Country Representative, DFID Bangladesh; Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration (MoPA) regarding Masters of Arts in Governance and Development (MAGD); Ms. Pauline Tamesis, Country Director, UNDP regarding Governance Programme Collaboration; Mr. David Chiel, Director, Bangladesh Special Initiative, of Porticus; and Ms. Pawla Steel, CIPS.

Beside these, Dr. Rahman had attended the 4th Meeting of the Panel of Economists for the Seventh Five Year Plan of Bangladesh, organised by General Economic Division of Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning, held at the NEC Committee Room, Planning Commission campus.

Publications By BIGD Staff

1. The Daily Asian Age: "Prospect of a New Political Order" by Sarwar Jahan Chowdhury on December 22, 2015
2. The Daily Asian Age: "Terrorism and Politics : State of Security in Bangladesh" by Sarwar Jahan Chowdhury on December 10, 2015
3. The Daily Star: Ensure Better Governance for Safe Migration by Research Associate Md. Harun Or Rashid on December 18, 2015
4. The Daily Prothom Alo: রাষ্ট্রীয় নীতি বিশেষণ: জাতীয় সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা কৌশল ও সর্বজনীন নাগরিক পেনশন - পর্ব ১ by Dr. Tofail Ahmed, Honorary Visiting Fellow, BIGD, BRAC University on November 02, 2015
5. The Daily Prothom Alo: রাষ্ট্রীয় নীতি বিশেষণ: জাতীয় সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা কৌশল ও সর্বজনীন নাগরিক পেনশন - পর্ব ২ by Dr. Tofail Ahmed, Honorary Visiting Fellow, BIGD, BRAC University on November 03, 2015
6. The Daily Prothom Alo: জবাবদিহি: দুর্নীতিমুক্ত সরকারি সেবা ও গণশুনানি by Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed, Visiting Fellow, BIGD on October 31, 2015
7. The Daily Prothom Alo: দলভিত্তিক স্থানীয় নির্বাচন: মতামত সরকারের সদিচ্ছার অঙ্গীকার থাকতে হবে by Dr. Tofail Ahmed, Local Government Specialist and Honorary Visiting Fellow, BIGD on October 15, 2015
8. The Daily Star: Partisan Local Government Polls: Partial Reform Will Not Work by Dr. Tofail Ahmed, Honorary Visiting Fellow, BIGD on October 14, 2015
9. The Daily Prothom Alo: স্থানীয় সরকার: দলভিত্তিক নির্বাচনের শর্ত by Dr. Tofail Ahmed, Local Government Specialist and Honorary Visiting Fellow, BIGD on October 12, 2015
10. BIGD WORKING PAPER No. 28: *Sea Level Rise and Coastal flooding in Urban Area: Study on Chittagong City Corporation*, S. M. Gubair Bin Arafat
11. BIGD WORKING PAPER No. 29: *Development and Human Security in Asia: An Analysis from Human Rights and Cultural Relativism Point of View*, Shanawez Hossain
12. BIGD WORKING PAPER No. 30: *Factors Influencing the Performance of a Public Private Partnership in the Digital Services Sector: Evidence from Bangladesh*, Wahid Abdallah, M. Wasiqueur Rahman Khan, Jaideep Prabhu, Professor, Judge Business School, University of Cambridge
13. BIGD WORKING PAPER No. 31: *Towards Sustainable Development Goals: Indexing the performance of Bangladesh (division-wise and district-wise) in achieving the MDGs*, Nabila Zaman

Please visit: <http://bigd.bracu.ac.bd/index.php/resources/sub-menu-item-4/working-paper> for details of the papers.



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