

2008/may

Pro-VC attends Chinese Language Program

Our Pro-Vice Chancellor has attended a 4-Week "Beginners' Chinese Language Teachers' Training" from April 15 to May 16, 2008. This program was organized and sponsored by the Confucius Institute at the North South University. There were 16 teachers/trainers in the program. All the participants were on full scholarship by the Confucius Institute.

A Chinese Language Professor from Yunnan University, China, Professor Jiang, taught the group for the first three weeks in Dhaka and then the group was taken to Yunnan University, Kunming, China for one week's training. 4 Yunnan University teachers taught during that one week. The students were also exposed to the other University programs and activities and a Middle school of the Yunnan University. Certificates were awarded to the participants by the Vice President of the Yunnan University, Dr. Xiao, at a simple ceremony in the University Campus.

After completion of the program, our Pro-VC mentions, "It was a very good program. In four weeks we learned the basics of Chinese Language, e.g., initials, vowels, pronunciations, tones, simple conversations, 75 Chinese characters etc. While in China we could practice our Chinese with the Chinese people on the street, in schools, at shops, banks, transports etc. It was a wonderful opportunity. All we need now is to practice and practice."

BRAC University Students Negotiated in Model WTO 2008: St. Gallen & Geneva, Switzerland

After evaluation of their essays on "Intellectual Property (IP) Rights Enforcement Regulations for Poor Countries" and "Special & Differential Treatment (SDT) for Sustainable Development", Md. Rizwan Shamim (ESS Dept) and Iftekhar Ul Karim (BRAC Business School) was selected from numerous applicants to take part in the Model WTO 2008 (Trade & Sustainability) from May 4 to 9 in St. Gallen and Geneva, Switzerland. During the Model WTO 2008, they met with other students from all over the world as well as with distinguished academics, politics and business leaders. These experts shared their unique insights and experiences in a series of plenary sessions. Furthermore, they also took part in the negotiations on the most pressing issues the world trading system is facing today. After simulating the regular WTO minister conferences, they ended up with the Altstatten Declaration that was put forth to the WTO experts in World Trade Organization, Geneva.

Institute of Educational Development (IED)

Master in Education (M.Ed): Leadership, Planning and Management

IED has recently received approval of the University Grants Commission for offering a Post-Graduate Diploma and M.Ed. program in educational leadership, planning and management.

M.Ed is a 39-credit program. It will require 27 credits of course work followed by 12 credits of thesis work. The program will take two years to complete.

Post-Graduate Diploma will require 27 credits and students will normally exit without the dissertation. The program will take one and a half year to complete.

The same course units will be taught in both programs except that the Masters students will complete a second research methodology course unit and a dissertation.

Participants from a variety of backgrounds, such as professionals working in educational institutions and organizations who have leadership responsibilities, those who are responsible for the administration and supervision of educational systems (e.g. Head Teachers, Principals, Vice Principals, Heads of Departments, School Inspectors, and Administrators), and teachers who have an interest in and/ or wish to prepare themselves for higher leadership positions are expected to benefit from the program.

BRACU Faculty Orientation, May 6-8, 2008

The two-day faculty orientation at Savar residential campus began with introductions and a welcome speech by the Pro-VC, Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed. Dr. Ahmed's session touched on the issues such as the history of BRACU, its teaching philosophy, nature and backgrounds of the students who attend the university etc. On day-2, professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice-Chancellor of BRACU, took a session on the multiplicity of roles faculty members and their performance evaluations. Other sessions during the orientation covered a range of subjects, from more practical topics such as the academic system, student assessment and student advising, to more pedagogical issues such as 'good' teaching, learning and learning styles, different theories of learning, multiple intelligences and encouraging student participation.

Participants enthusiastically took part in the sessions. New faculty displayed their ability to engage students by micro-teaching challenging topics, and also engaged in a heated debate on the use of powerpoint in the classroom. Everyone enjoyed two overnight stays at the delightful Savar campus where they could stroll around, engage in different activities in the evening and fill up on good food throughout the day. The orientation ended with remarks from the Pro-Vice Chancellor, who congratulated the new faculty and handed out certificates.

The orientation was collaboratively designed and facilitated by the following staff members of BRACU: Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Sadra Siddiky, Hammad Ali, Elizabeth Wickwire, Dr. Monica Gomes and Ali Md. Shahiduzzaman.

53rd Annual Convention of International Reading Association (IRA)

Shukla Sikder, a Young Professional from the Institute of Educational Development-BRACU has attended International Reading Association's 53rd annual convention which was held on May 4-8, 2008 in Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, USA .The theme set for the convention was Engaging Learners in Literacy .The strands of the conference focused on preparing activities at preschool levels through adult learners to become capable, confident readers and writers. More than 18,000 educators representing 50 countries were invited for the convention. Teachers, linguists, reading specialists, administrators, teacher educators, librarians and psychologists have taken part in different sessions, workshops, symposia, and other activities during this annual meeting. Shukla's program also included visits and interactions with elementary and middle schools in the Washington DC.

Non-Formal Education/ Life long learning

The feedback workshops on handbooks entitled "Literacy and NFE Capacity Building on Monitoring" and "Research Findings Utilization in NFE/ Literacy" were organized on May 26 and 28 respectively. The purposes of the workshops were to get feedback from the training participants representing senior officials from BNFE and NGOs (DAM, FIVDB, RDRS, CODEC and Muslim Aid).

These handbooks are the outcome of a series of workshops on the similar topic which started in 2007. Mr. Tapan Kumar Das of CAMPE and Prof. Nazmul Haq of IER (Dhaka University) were the resource persons who had contributed to the development of these handbooks.

Regional Forum on Making the Case for Early Childhood in South Asia

Ms. Mahmuda Akhter, Head of ECDRC, participated in the Regional Forum on Making the Case for Early Childhood in South Asia held in Bangkok on 28 and 29 April, 2008. The forum was organized by UNICEF and Save the Children. The two-day forum has been designed into several sessions. Ms. Mahmuda Akhter chaired the session "The research evidence in support of investing in early childhood". There were sessions on sharing country policies on ECD, developing policies for a holistic approach to ECD, good practices on holistic approach to promoting access, equity and quality in ECD, ensuring child and school readiness for smooth transition, ensuring equity through good governance, better coordination and child-friendly finance, quality and standards in ECCE and finally way forward.

Postgraduate Certificate Program on ECD

The third course of the Postgraduate Certificate Program of ECD "Play and Creativity" (ECD523) has commenced from May 11, 2008. Prof. Dr. Steffen Saifer (Portland State University, USA) is working as the International Faculty of the course. Prof. Dr. Cassie Landers (Columbia University, USA) is also partially facilitating the course. Among the national resource persons- Prof. Nazmul Haq, (IER, Dhaka University), Dr. Fahmida Tofail (Child Development Specialist, ICDDR,B) and Ms. Farida Akhter (Child Psychologist, Inner Force) are facilitating the course.

Workshop on Science of ECD

ECDRC has organized a workshop on the Science of Early Childhood Development on 29th May, 2008. Prof. Dr. Janet Jemieson (Red Rivers College, Canada) presented her five modular courses in the workshop. The science of ECD has been designed and developed by Prof. Jemieson and is being used in various countries of the world in the field of Early Childhood Development. The Aga Khan Foundation Canada is providing the technical and financial support to adapt the course in the context of Bangladesh as the part of the agreement of a newly signed project between ECDRC of BRACU and Aga Khan Foundation Canada.

Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS)

Lecture at National Defence College, Mirpur Cantonment

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Coordinator, Biotechnology was invited by the National Defence College, Mirpur Cantonment to deliver a lecture on Biotechnology- Present Status and Future Prospects in Bangladesh. Professor Choudhury delivered the lecture on 6 May 2008.

A roundtable discussion on "Future implementation and sustainability of biosafety systems in Bangladesh"

Dr. Aparna Islam, Assistant Professor of Biotechnology Program, MNS Dept participated in the roundtable discussion on "Future implementation and sustainability of biosafety systems in Bangladesh" held in Dhaka on 10 May 2008. The meeting was organized by the Development of National Biosafety Framework (NBF) Project of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of Bangladesh. The National Biosafety Framework has been recently developed by GoB with a view to establishing a legislation regime. The roundtable discussion was participated by selected members of the NBF project personnel and other relevant stakeholders from the government, non-government, research and academic institutions and organizations. In the meeting, inter alia, recommendation were made for forming active networks to exchange programmes among the concerned institutions for generating and disseminating knowledge on biotechnology and biosafety both within and outside the country. On this occasion a number of biosafety educational materials published under the NBF project was also launched by the Secretary, MoEF, GoB.

INASP CC Meeting, Oxford, UK

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the Meeting of the Country Coordinators of International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP), held at Oxford, UK on 13-15 May 2008 at the invitation of the INASP. Professor Choudhury is Member-Secretary of the Bangladesh-INASP Consortium Advisory Committee. BRAC University is a member of the Consortium. At this meeting discussions were held about activities and future programmes of the INASP for 2008-2010. Professor Choudhury presented the INASP activities in Bangladesh.

10th Pacific Regional Conference Organization, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Moushumi Zahur, Lecturer of Geography at the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences participated in the 10th Pacific Regional Conference Organization, held in Dhaka, on 15-16 May 2008. She presented a paper entitled "Gap between expectation and reality: A study on housing affordability by middle-income group of Dhaka". She was also an invited discussant of the two papers entitled "Estimation of house price in Brahmanbaria municipality using hedonic regression analysis" and "Bowen basin regional housing model: lessons for developing countries".

New Faculty Members joining the MNS Department

Ms. Sanjida Aktar and Mr. Al Amin Kabir joined the Department as Lecturers in Physics and Ms. Lopamudra Chakravarty joined as a Lecturer in Mathematics.

English and Humanities (ENH)

Undergraduate Thesis Presentation

As a requirement of the ENG 466: Thesis course, the graduating students (Spring 2008) of the Department of English and Humanities gave their thesis presentations on 4th May 2008. The following is a list of thesis presentations given by the graduating batch:

Tawheed Shams Chowdhury: "Thomas Hardy and Romantic Tradition"
Amina Habib Cynthia: "Students' Interaction in ESL Classes"

Samdina Jamil Rasha: "Approaches and Methods Implemented in Teaching English in an English Medium School"

Eurida Khisa: "Teachers' Feedback and Error Correction in ESL Classroom"

Shayera Moula: "Women in Nation-making: A domesticated reconstruction of their voices, bodies and selves"

Mehjabeen Razzaque: "An Evaluation of a Language Textbook at Elementary Level"

Nadia Saleh: "Different Aspects of Print Media: The Daily Star, A Case Study"

Chairperson gives keynote lecture at Dorris Lessing Conference

Prof. Firdous Azim, Chairperson, ENH, was the keynote speaker at the "Dorris Lessing: Many Voices" conference hosted by the Department of English, University of Dhaka, on 16th April. Her lecture was titled "The Golden Notebook: A Feminist Manifesto." Zahirul Islam, a student in the MA program in English, also attended the conference and presented a paper titled "Madness and Women in The Bell Jar and The Grass is Singing."

Institute of Governance Studies (IGS)

The Institute launched The State of Governance in Bangladesh 2007: Expectations, Challenges, Commitments report on 31st May 2008 at BRAC Centre, Dhaka. The programme was Chaired by the VC of BRAC University, Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury with Professor Rehman Sobhan as the Chief Guest. The Institute invited academics, members of the civil society, representatives from donor agencies and resident missions, practitioners in the field of governance and development, and friends of the Institute.

Dr Shahnaz Karim, Team Leader and Assistant Director, provided a presentation on the key findings of the report, which was followed by a short question and answer session. The report was officially launched by the Chair and the Chief Guest alongside the Pro-VC of BRAC University, Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, and Director of IGS, Mr Manzoor Hasan. Please visit Research on www.igs-bracu.ac.bd for a full copy of the report.

The 'National Integrity Strategy for Bangladesh' project continued fieldwork across Bangladesh including Dhaka, Rangamati, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna. The report will be submitted to the Government of Bangladesh in September this year. Mr Manzoor Hasan presented a paper, 'Public-Private partnership in rebuilding accountability: the missing link', at the Bangladesh Heritage Foundation. This was jointly authored by Niloy Ranjan Biswas, Asif Mohammad Shahan and Manzoor Hasan.

The Institute and the BRAC Development Institute (BDI) hosted Professor Margaret Levi, International Studies at the Department of Political Science, University of Washington presented a paper, 'How corruption undermines compliance: official honesty, government performance and economic growth', at the IGS Seminar Series. The Institute also hosted Dr Taejong Kim, Associate Professor from the Korea Development Institute.

Economics and Social Sciences (ESS)

ESS introduced Documentary Film Series

The Department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS) has taken an initiative to show documentary films to introduce the students with the recent economic and social issues in Bangladesh and around the world. On May 22, 2008 a documentary named 'The Happiest People in the World', directed by Shaheen Dill-Reaz was screened at ESS conference room. It was followed by a discussion by students and faculties.

Faculties attend Environmental Economics Course

Mr. Tanzir Ahmed Chowdhury, Senior Lecturer, ESS and Mr. Navil Mansur Chowdhury, Lecturer, ESS went to Bangkok, Thailand to attend a course on 'Resource and Environmental Economics'. The course was designed for academicians, researchers and development practitioners who are interested in environmental economics. Mr. Tanzir Chowdhury was a resource person in that course and Mr. Navil Chowdhury presented a research proposal on climate change at that conference. The course was organized by South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE) from May 05 to May 22, 2008.

Seminar Participation by ESS Faculty:

Dr. Manjur Karim, Associate Professor, ESS was a speaker in a Pre-Budget Seminar and a seminar on 'Internal Debt Cancellation' organized by the NGO Shushashoner Jonno Procharavijan (Campaign for Good Governance) on April, 2008 at CIRDAP Auditorium. On May 08, 2008 Dr. Karim chaired a seminar titled 'Karl Marx in our time' and gave a talk in another seminar on Aime Cesires on May 31, 2008. Both of these

seminars were organized by Jana Shangskriti Mancha and held at RC Majumder Hall, University of Dhaka.

Lecture on Bangla Music

Dr. Mridul Kanti Chokroborti, Professor, Department of Music and Theater, University of Dhaka gave a talk on the 'Evolutionary Development of Bangla Music over Thousand Years' to the students of Bangladesh Studies (DEV 101) at TARC, Savar. He along with his co artists also performed some classical and modern Bangla songs for the students. The residential campus superintendent and the faculty members of Bangladesh studies were also present in the lecture and musical program. The whole event was organized by the Department of Economics and Social Sciences of BRAC University.

Village Visit by the Students of Bangladesh Studies

To make the students familiar with the village life of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Studies (DEV 101) arranged a village visit for 150 students of Bangladesh Studies on 10th April, 2008. The students were divided into eight groups and went to two villages named Kakabo and Shamar near Savar. The faculty members of Bangladesh Studies accompanied the students. The students collected information on the basis of a questionnaire designed by the course coordinator. Students also submitted a report to their course teachers on the basis of their visit.

Ora Egaro Jon

On May 22, 2008 Bangladesh Studies (DEV 101) in collaboration with BRAC University Film Club organized a film show. Students very much enjoyed 'Ora Egaro Jon- the first movie released on the independence war of Bangladesh. This movie show was a part of the academic exercise of the course and students submitted assignments on the movie to their course teachers.

Student Affairs

oikos Dhaka

The Responsible Tourism Campaign, Cox's Bazar 14th to 17th May 2008

The responsible tourism campaign was designed to create awareness and eco tourism in the most popular tourist destination of our country, Cox's Bazar, to create awareness and promote eco tourism. The trip started on the 14th of May and ended on the 17th. Leaflets were distributed to promote awareness on eco tourism and how to be a responsible tourist and the team got a very positive response from the tourists and the local people. Besides a voting campaign to vote Cox's Bazar as one of the seven wonders, was also launched by oikos members at several hotels.

Workshop on AIDS/HIV May 24

In collaboration with oikos Dhaka, Trust for Social Development organized a workshop on HIV/AIDS on May 24, 2008, Saturday which was sponsored by Standard Chartered Bank. The five hour long interactive session from 9:00am to 2:00pm commenced with the registration process and handing over the registration packages. The speakers made the students participate in the discussion. They talked about AIDS, how it spreads, how it can be prevented and about the different contraceptive methods available for prevention. There were discussions on how to behave with people who are affected by the disease including counseling. The workshop ended by giving certificates for their active participation.

Club Fair- Organized by oikos dhaka titled 'Protivash'

Oikos dhaka is organizing the BRAC University Club fair titled 'Protivash'. The fair was inaugurated by the Pro VC on the 29th of May and the day long event comprised of several events including presentations by all clubs at the indoor games room. Besides, there was a cultural show that was conducted by BUCuC, followed by a rock concert. On day two, the 1st of June, there will be film shows conducted by BUFC.

Career Services Office (CSO)

Internship Placement Status

41 out of 50 registered BBA interns have been placed within the 1st two weeks of summer 2008. Congratulations to them for their hard work and wish them successful completion of their internship.

Sl	Name	Organization	Placed By
1	Tahsin Rahman	Ascent Group	CSO
2	Rupam Deb	Ascent Group	CSO
3	Faria Afsana	The Bata Shoe Company Bangladesh Ltd.	CSO
4	Md. Shahodot Hossain	BRAC Bank Ltd.	Self
5	Md. Golam Mostofa	BRAC Bank Ltd.	Self
6	Mohammad Khorshed Alam	BRAC NGO	CSO
7	Muhammad Abdul Hakim Shaon	British American Tobacco, Bangladesh	CSO
8	Sajid Rahman	British American Tobacco, Bangladesh	CSO
9	Nafisa Rezwan	British American Tobacco, Bangladesh	CSO
10	Farhana Janefar	British American Tobacco, Bangladesh	CSO
11	Md. Rahedul Alam Rabin	British American Tobacco, Bangladesh	Job
12	Shamir Hashem	British American Tobacco, Bangladesh	CSO
13	Chowdhury Md. Galib Sadley	Citibank N.A.	Self
14	Md. Shamiul Islam	Concord Group	CSO
15	MD. Asif Habib	Dhaka Bank Ltd.	Self
16	MD. Jakir Hossain	Dhaka Bank Ltd.	Self
17	Kazi Fayzur Rahman	Euro Printers	CSO
18	Md. Zubaur Islam	EXIM Bank Ltd.	Self
19	Tasmia Haque Chowdhury	GlaxoSmithKilne	Self
20	MD. Showkat Ali	Grameenphone	Self
21	Md. Shorab Hossain	Grameenphone	CSO
22	Md. Kamruzzaman	Grameenphone	CSO
23	Farzana Forhad	Grameenphone	CSO
24	Israt Jahan Evana	HSBC	CSO
25	Dil Afroz Khandaker Deeba	HSBC	CSO
26	Faria Rafiq	HSBC	CSO
27	Najmun Nahar	HSBC	CSO
28	Ridwana-E-Rejina	HSBC	CSO
29	A.H.M. Emdadul Islam	HSBC	CSO
30	Shumaisa Tasneem	HSBC	CSO
31	MD. Ishrat Jamil Majumder	HSBC	Self
32	Samsun Naher Bithy	King Kong Leather Ware Ltd., HongKong	Self
33	Tanvir Hasan Khan	Mercantile Bank Ltd.	Self
34	Rajib Kumar Chanda	One Bank Ltd.	Self
35	MD. Muntakim Bin Sayef	Prime Bank Ltd.	CSO
36	MD. Anamul Hasan	Prime Bank Ltd.	CSO
37	Lubna Jahan	Mercantile Bank Ltd.	Self
38	Shifate Zaman	Texolline	Self
39	Rubama Ahmed Niru	The State Bank of India	Self
40	Shafeen Shareef	Trust Bank Ltd.	Self
41	Md. Imran Khan	Zuellig Pharma	CSO

Updates on Job Placement

Sl	Name	Joined Organization
1	Md. Mahbubur Rahaman	Ascent Group
2	Walid Ahmed	Ascent Group
3	Tanvir Rahman Dhaly	British American Tobacco, Bangladesh
4	MD. Asif Habib	Dhaka Bank Ltd.
5	MD. Jakir Hossain	Dhaka Bank Ltd.
6	Maruf Shahjahan	Eastern Bank Ltd.
7	MD. Ali Azam Bhuiyan	Europrinters Ltd
8	Sadia Sabrin Shampa	Standared Chartered Bank Ltd.

Orientation at Savar

An orientation program in the beginning of a semester is generally designed to provide the students an insight and deeper understanding about the semester. As such, a two-day orientation program was arranged by BRAC University before the Residential Semester Summer 2008 starts at savar campus.

On the first day, 18th May, 2008, the Pro-VC Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, the Campus Superintendent M Bari Chowdhury, Faculty Members, all House Tutors and Teaching Assistants were present. A total of 257 students were also present in the session. The session facilitated by the Pro VC along with the CS. It started with brief introduction of knowing each other followed by the objectives and structure of the orientation program.

The first half of the orientation on 18th May was focused on the objectives of the Residential Semester. Then the students did group work on the norms and rules of the residential campus in Savar. The second half was on presentation of group work. This presentation, done by 8 different groups, concentrated on the area of the various norms that the campus can abide by as far as both academic and non-academic matters were concerned. The presentations were well appreciated by the Pro-VC as well as by the other students. It was an interesting part of the orientation with a mixture of display of versatility and innovativeness of the students.

The second day of the orientation on 19th May, started at 9 am once again with the Pro-VC interacting with the students and reflecting on the previous day's session. Two senior students, who had previously attended the RS semester, shared their experience with the students, which was not only an enlightening session but also quite light-hearted. Then individual Chairpersons from various Departments provided presentations on the courses they would be conducting at Savar. Interestingly, the Social Lab conducted by the CS was the part that fascinated the students the most.

From 11:00 to 1:00, the Pro-VC had an interactive session with the parents who had arrived by then to see their children. After lunch, a unique session was witnessed by all the students during the concluding part of the orientation session. Till 3 to 5 pm, Brother Ronald Drhozal and his team from the drug rehabilitation centre APON shared their experiences and treatment techniques with the students. It was a very motivating session with a very enthusiastic response from the students. The two-day introduction session on the RS Summer 2008 ended with some very serious discussion on youth and drugs, but was a brave effort by both APON and BRAC University to instill the essence of individualism and self-dependence inside the heart and soul of the students.

School of Public Health (SPH)

MPH Programme

The MPH students completed their Health Systems Management Course this month. The course was taught by Dr. Anwar Islam and Dr. Tanvir Ahmed served as a teaching assistant for the course. The students commenced their course on Health Economics and Health Care Financing this month which began on 25th May and will continue till 5th June. The course is being coordinated by Kent Ranson, and Damian Walker.

Shafiun Nahin is the teaching assistant in the course.

Other Courses and Training

Workshop on Quality Management in Health

James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University with Technical support from the University of Heidelberg, Germany organized a two- day workshop on Quality Management in Health, at BRAC Centre, Mohakhali, Dhaka on the 3rd and 4th May ,2009. GTZ Bangladesh sponsored the workshop. Apart from BRAC, representatives from DGHS, NIPORT, Dhaka Medical College and Hospital, ICDDR,B, Pathfinder International, Engender Health ,CRP, Marie Stopes Clinic and few other International Organizations were present at the workshop . The two day workshop was followed by a three day curriculum development meeting .The ultimate goal of the workshop was to introduce capacity development training module.

Training on Evaluation of Development Programme

As a part of the evaluation capacity development effort , James P. Grant School of Public Health organized a training on Evaluation of Development Programme at BRAC Centre from 18-22nd May,2008 .The aim of the week long training was to provide the key concepts and skills needed to develop, manage, and carry out evaluations, and specific topics included: the major stages of evaluation, evaluation questions and indicators, major evaluation designs, major and alternative data collection methods, and ways to disseminate and use evaluation results. As a means to practice and apply these generic concepts, participants developed monitoring and evaluation plans for existing BRAC projects. About 20 participants from BRAC attended the training. Participants were from Social Development Programme ,BRAC Education Programme, BRAC Development Programme, Wash Programme , BRAC Health , Monitoring Division ,BRAC donor Liason office , Research and Evaluation Division, Development Studies Programme , BRAC School of Public Health.

Training on Engendering the Health System In Bangladesh

A short training on Engendering the Health System in Bangladesh started from 25th May and will continue till 5th June. There were about twenty participants. Nominations were sought from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Directorate of Health Services, Directorate of Family Planning, National Nutrition Programme, Health Economics Unit and from Gender, NGO and stakeholder participation unit. They were bearing the status of senior assistant secretary / deputy secretary.

MOU Signed Between BSPH and Nagasaki University, Japan

The James P. Grant School of Public Health and Nagasaki University, Japan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 30th May, 2008 to promote research, education, and capacity building especially in the area of health development between the two institutions. This agreement was signed by Professor Hiroshi Saito,President of Nagasaki University and Professor A Mushtaque R. Chowdhury , Dean ,BRAC School of Public Health.

Faculty News

Dr. Kausar Iqbal, Research Associate at the school, attended a workshop on 'Evaluation of development programme' from 18th to 22nd May, 2008 at BRAC centre, Mohakhali, Dhaka.

Robin Heffernan, coordinator of the EU-Asia Link Project, attended Training on Project Cycle Management/Economic and Financial Analysis in Dhaka from 11-15 May 2008, which was funded and hosted by the European Commission.

New Staff

Mrityunjay Das joined as the Academic and Administrative Officer in May. Mr. Joy completed Honors and Masters in International Relations from University of Dhaka. He worked as Executive in Public Relations and Administration Department in Chinese Company at Beijing, China. He also worked as Senior Officer in NMCI (Bangladesh) Ltd., which is a subsidiary of National marine Consultants Inc., USA.

Shafiun Nahin Shimul joined the school as a lecturer on 15th of May,2008 He completed his B.S.S. Honours

in 2004 and Masters in Economics 2005. He also completed his M.S.S. in Health Economics in 2007 from Dhaka University. Before joining BSPH, he worked as a lecturer in the Department of Economics, Stamford University, Bangladesh. His areas of interest are cost-effectiveness of different health programmes and Health Care Financing.

Eram .Y.Cooper joined the school as a Project Support Staff on the 18th of May. She completed her Bachelor of Communication (Honors) from Monash University, Malaysia Campus. She also completed her Post-graduation in International Relations from the same University in 2006. Her dissertation was based on "Social mobilization and the issue of Urban Working Children in Bangladesh". She has previously worked as a Research Assistant at the School of Arts in Monash University, Malaysia.

Architecture

His Royal Highness, Prince Richard, The Duke of Gloucester visits the Department of Architecture

His Royal Highness, Prince Richard, The Duke of Gloucester visited the Department of Architecture of BRAC University on 7 May 2008. The Duke along with the British High Commissioner was received by Prof. Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor of the university and Prof. Fuad H Mallick, Chairperson Department of Architecture & Director Post Graduate Programs in Disaster Management. He was then introduced to the mission and goals of the university by the Vice Chancellor. The Duke visited the design studios and talked students about their class projects on display. This was followed by a discussion on human settlements and related architectural issues in Bangladesh and also an overview of the teaching and works of the Department of Architecture. The discussion ended with issues relating to disaster management, and the role of the Department of the Post Graduate Programs in Disaster Management and the Department of Architecture in the preparedness and rehabilitation works. The Duke, British High Commissioner, Dean BRAC Business School, Chairperson ESS, Registrar, along with the teachers of the Department of Architecture participated in the discussions.

Students visit garments factory

Ready made garments are a prime export oriented product in our country, and efficient building design for garment industry is very important to compete in the world market. Considering these issues, the 5th year students of the Department of Architecture were given a project to design a factory building for garments at Savar.

For a thorough understanding of the process which begins from fabric and ends up with a finished garment like trousers, t-shirts etc. On 20 May students along with their course teachers made a study tour of Maxcom International BD Ltd., located in Savar. The visit was successful in terms of the information and experience gathered on the process of manufacturing, work environment, physical facilities, program and management of a large and busy garments factory.

Students visit Shahid Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium

Third year students and teachers visited Shahid Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium at Mirpur on 27 May, 2008, This was considered as a case study for their design assignment, an indoor stadium. The main objective was to gain knowledge on designing an indoor stadium considering its function, structure and form. Shahid Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium of is one of the best examples of its kind in the country.

Prof. Fuad H. Mallick attends Asia NGO Consultative Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction

Prof. Fuad Mallick, Director Post Graduate Program in Disaster Management attended the Asia NGO Consultative Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Bangkok on 27 and 28 May 08.

The consultations brought together development, civil society and non-governmental organizations from Asia to examine challenges to disaster risk reduction and potential for collaboration among regional stakeholders. The meeting covered four main themes: 1) Emerging disaster issues in Asia; 2). Urban risks in Asia; 3). Climate Change, extreme events, conflict and migration (with a special focus on environmental migration in Asia); 4). Cross cutting solutions - Training and learning concepts on DRR.

Faculty receives Institute of Architects Bangladesh Award

Khondaker Hasibul Kabir, lecturer II, Department of Architecture, received the third prize [jointly] in the design competition, "Design of Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) Centre". He was part of a design

team with architects Tamanna Sayeed, Faysal Kabir and Nuruzzaman. The prize was awarded on 22 May, 2008 by the honorable advisor Ministry of Housing and Public Works and the president of IAB.

Abul Quasem Md. Abdullah, former Lecturer and Mohammed Emran Hossain, former Teaching Assistant, Department of Architecture, received juror's special mention award in the design competition.

Sayem Khan, joins as a new lecturer

Sayem Khan has joined the department as a lecturer in May 2008. He is a graduate of Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts, US. His Masters thesis focused on a search for a new urban boundary for the Metropolitan area of Boston. The final product was a new form of gateway into the city which would also serve as a Technopolis to create a population density at the outer edge of the city. In January 2008, he received an honorable mention for a post disaster housing design competition for New York City. Sayem completed his B. S. in Architecture from the same university in 2005. From 2006 -2008, he worked for Scott Payette Architects in Boston on a Television Studio project.

Golam Sarwar, Lecturer awarded scholarship

Golam Sarwar, lecturer, has been offered a Research Assistant post for the 2008-09 academic year in the National Institute of Advanced Transportation Technology (NIATT), Idaho, USA. This is a full-time research assistant position which allows him to pursue his Masters degree in transportation engineering.

Imon Chowdhoree, Lecturer awarded scholarships

Imon Chowdhoree, Lecturer has been selected as a recipient of the 2008-2009 Asian Development Bank-Government of Japan Scholarship Program (ADB) for studies leading to a Master's Degree in Urban & Regional Planning at the University of Hawai`i at Manoa beginning in August 2008. He will also participate in the Education Program designed to foster intellectual and cultural interaction at the East-West Center (EWC). Beyond fulfilling degree requirements at the University of Hawai`i at Manoa, ADB fellows participate in the EWC community and its programs.

Imon has also been selected as a recipient of the VLIR-UOS scholarship program to study Master of Human Settlement at Katholike University Leuven, Belgium starting September 2008. He has decided to study at the University of Hawaii.