



IGS
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The State of Governance in Bangladesh 2010-11 Launching Ceremony held

The research team of the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) produced the Institute's flagship report – "The State of Governance in Bangladesh: Policy,



From left, Barrister Manzoor Hasan, Dr. Akbar Ali Khan, Professor Ainun Nishat, Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman, Dr. Rizwan Khair and M. Shahidul Islam

Influence, Ownership" 2010-2011. The formal launching ceremony of the publication was held on 21 November 2012 at BRAC Centre Inn. The programme inaugurated with the welcome address by Dr. Rizwan Khair, Director, IGS. The event was chaired by Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University. The presentation on the key findings of the report was made by M. Shahidul Islam, Research Fellow, IGS. The two panel discussants of the event were Dr. Akbar Ali Khan, Professor, BRAC Business School and former Adviser to the Caretaker Government and Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman, Executive Chairman, Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) and former Adviser to the Caretaker Government. Distinguished academics, researchers and experts and practitioners participated in this programme.

International Conference on Governance and Public Service Transformation in South Asia held in Dhaka

Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) and Affiliated Network for Social Accountability - South Asian Region (ANSA-SAR) in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme Asia-Pacific Regional Centre and United Nations Millennium Campaign – Asia & Pacific Region, Public Affairs Centre (PAC) India, Monash University Australia and North South University, organised a two-day conference (08th -09th December) at the Pan Pacific

Sonargaon Hotel for ensuring equitable and inclusive development in South Asia as well as influencing the ongoing international dialogue on United Nations Post 2015 Development Agenda. The Inaugural Ceremony was attended by Dr. Gowher Rizvi, International Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh as the Chief Guest, Stefan Priesner, Country Director, UNDP Bangladesh and Dr. Salman Zaidi, Lead Economist of The World Bank, Bangladesh as distinguished guests. Dr. Mahabub Hossain, Executive Director, BRAC, Chaired the occasion, Dr. Rizwan Khair, Director, IGS of BRAC University presented a detailed overview on the objectives of the conference. The welcome note was delivered by



Distinguished Guests at the Inaugural Ceremony of the International Conference

Nuzhat Jabin, Programme Manager of ANSA-SAR to the delegates from over 10 countries (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Egypt, the Philippines, Switzerland, Australia, UK and The Netherlands).

The opening ceremony also saw the unveiling of ANSA-SAR compendia on Social Accountability Experience in India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in the form of 3 publications.

After two and a half days of discussions and deliberations at the International Conference on Governance and Public Service Transformation in South Asia, the delegates adopted the Dhaka Declaration. The Declaration 'noted' South Asia, being the home to the largest concentration of people living in poverty on earth, presents a depressing paradox in the global poverty landscape and the need for efforts to be adequately

resourced at multiple levels of the implementation chain; The Declaration noted the need for decentralisation and strengthening of local governance systems; and to provide robust accountable frameworks for effective regulation and guidance of public service agencies. It further recognised that access to public information is central for inclusive, informed and accountable civic engagement, and reiterated the importance of open government by expanding reach of ICT, mobile phones and social media.

The Declaration reiterated the lessons from the implementation of MDGs highlight the role and contributions of democratic governance as one of the critical determining factors to achieve and sustain development outcomes. It emphasised on the need for correcting the inherent dichotomy of poverty in the midst of growth, demanded among others, efficient public administration and transparent, participatory and accountable governance processes. It also encouraged the adaptation and application of a wide range of instruments and tools to promote citizen's voice and deliver specific development goals in South Asia. The Declaration reinforced the idea of establishing effective accountability mechanisms which facilitates a stronger Citizen-State relationship, where people have a voice in governance and decision making processes.

Recalling the new opportunities and tools available to media, civil society, academia and social entrepreneurs to measure government performance, the Declaration emphasised the need to support constructive engagement of citizen groups with governments and public service delivery agencies at the national and local levels. It was highlighted in the

Declaration that these approaches need to be contextualised to meet emerging needs of regions and special population. The Declaration recommended specific attention to be given to issues related to gender inequality in socio-economic, education and employment and inadequate participation of marginalised communities in the achievement of development goals; and called for appropriate actions in this direction.

The Declaration re-affirmed the centrality of strengthening governance capacities at all levels to help foster innovations in governance processes and the urgency of the process of re-thinking the Millennium Development Goals, and to utilise the time between now and 2015 to recast the MDGs with renewed spirit and purpose.

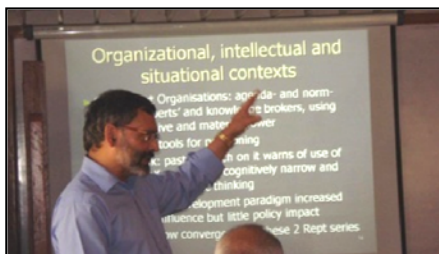
Finally, the Declaration called for collective augmentation of research efforts to encourage co-creation, assimilation and dissemination of knowledge with regard to design and implementation of development initiatives and interventions of the MDGs. It further encouraged academia, civil society groups, national governments and multi-national aid agencies to take into account the Dhaka Declaration on Governance in their future endeavours of enhancing governance capabilities in South Asia. [Please visit: www.ansa-sar.org for details.]

On 09th December, the Valedictory of the International Conference on "Governance and Public Service Transformation in South Asia" in Hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon was followed by a press conference.

Public Lectures

Public Lecture on Climate Change by Dr. Des Gasper

IGS Public Lecture was held on 15 October 2012 at Vice Chancellor's Conference



Dr. Des Gasper

Room, BRAC University. The public lecture was delivered by Dr. Des Gasper, Endowed Professor, International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Hague, The Netherlands. The

programme was jointly organised by the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC Development Institute (BDI) and BRAC University, Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER).

The title of the lecture was "Climate Change and International Organisations: A Comparative Analysis of the Human Development Report of UNDP and the World Development Report of the World Bank."

Public Lecture on Good Governance and Reform Challenges for Bangladesh

On 31 December, 2012, IGS organised a public lecture titled 'Good Governance or Developmental Governance? Reform Challenges for Bangladesh'. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Mushtaq Khan, Professor of Economics, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. The lecture was held at the BRAC Centre Inn



From Right: Dr. Mushtaq Khan, Dr. Rizwan Khair and Dr. Akbar Ali Khan

Auditorium. Dr. Akbar Ali Khan, Professor, BRAC Business School & former Adviser to the Caretaker Government chaired the event. Academicians, researchers, governance experts, economists, politicians, civil society members, leaders of the think tank organisations, former bureaucrats attended the programme.

Academic Programmes

Environmental Management and Governance Course

The 4th batch of Environmental Management and Governance course commenced from 1 October, 2012. A total of 10 students have been enrolled in this course in this semester.

MAGD Programme: Strategic Management Workshop held

A workshop on Strategic Management for the Master of Arts in Governance and Development (MAGD) Programme was held in November 2012 in BRAC Centre for Development and Management

(BCDM), Savaar Campus. Students of the MAGD Programme attended this workshop.

CIPS Diploma Exam held

The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) diploma courses on Level-4, Level-5 and Level-6 were conducted by IGS. CIPS November exams were held at IGS from 12th to 15th November, 2012. A total of 35 candidates appeared in this exam from both public and private sectors.

Presentation of Papers in International Conferences

IGS Research Coordinator Delivered Lecture at Yunnan University in China

On 27 November 2012, M. Shahidul Islam delivered another lecture at the Yunnan University, China. The topic



M. Shahidul Islam with the Students of Yunnan University

of his lecture was “Living with Dragon and Elephant: Bangladesh Perspectives”.

IGS Researcher Presented Paper at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands

Sultan Mohammed Zakaria, Research Assistant of the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University, participated in an International Conference in The Netherlands on 28th -30th November 2012. The two-day conference titled “Imagining Democracy: Arab Spring, Asian Visions and Western Lessons” was organised by the Dept. of International Relations, University of Groningen to celebrate the Department’s 25 years of anniversary.



Mr. Zakaria presenting his paper in University of Groningen, The Netherlands.

The conference was attended by international scholars and researchers mostly from European Universities (including University of Oxford, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Helsinki, and Ghent) and Middle Eastern universities (including Turkey, Egypt, Iraq and Tunisia). Mr. Zakaria presented his paper on “Arab Spring and Post-conflict Realities: Issues and Challenges in Middle East Democratisation” which has been selected to be published by the

University in an edited volume “Imagining Democracy”— based on selected papers drawn from the conference.

IGS Researchers Presented Papers in International Conference in Hong Kong

3 researchers of IGS presented papers in the 6th Asian Political and International Studies Association (APISA) Congress. The Congress was jointly organised by the Department of Asian and International Studies, and The Southeast Asia Research Centre, City University of Hong Kong & Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and Centre for Governance and Citizenship, the Hong Kong Institute of Education. The theme of the Conference was “Policy and Politics in Changing Asia”. The Congress was held from 30 November to 1 December 2012. On 30 November, the event was held at the Hong Kong Institute of Education and on 1 December at the City University, Hong Kong. The researchers of IGS were Kazi Nurmoammad Hossainul Haque, Faiz Ahmed Chowdhury and Farhana Razzaque. Mr. Kazi presented a paper on: “The Role of NGO as Policy Change Actor in Democratic Governance: RTI and NHRC in Bangladesh”, Ms. Farhana presented her paper on “Citizen Engagement in Public Procurement in Bangladesh: Media as a Facilitator of Accelerating Citizen’s Engagement” and Mr Faiz Ahmed presented a paper on “Fragile Democracy and External Influence: Bangladesh Perspectives”.

Paper Presentation by IGS Researcher at Dhaka University

Researcher Jannatul Fardosh of IGS presented a paper at the Conference titled, “Urbanization, Sustainability and Governance” at R.C. Mojumder Hall on 5-6 December at the Dhaka University. The presentation topic was on “Access to Water in Urban Poor Settlements: Addressing Crisis through Good Governance” under the panel of “Urbanization and Governance”. The conference was organised by the Department of Sociology, University of Dhaka.

IGS Research Team Members attended International Conference in Sri Lanka

The Academic Coordinator of IGS and three researchers of IGS presented their respective papers at the 9th

International Conference 2012 of NAPSIPAG which took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The theme of the Conference was “Development Challenges in the Asia Pacific: Millennium Development Goals and Beyond”. It took place from 12-14 December 2012 and was organised by Monash University of Australia and NAPSIPAG. The participants of IGS were researchers Kazi Nurmoammad Hossainul Haque, Faiz Ahmed Chowdhury and Farhana Razzaque, and Academic Coordinator Dr. Zohurul Islam. The title of the paper presented by Dr. Zohurul Islam was “HRD for e-Government in Bangladesh”; Mr. Kazi presented his paper on “NGO’s & Policy Change in Bangladesh: The Case of Right to information: RTI” and Mr. Faiz Ahmed presented a paper titled, “Democracy, Geo-politics and External Influence: The Bangladesh Case”, while Ms Farhana presented a paper on “Introduction of Citizen Charter in Bangladesh: A New Dimension in Service Delivery”.

IGS Researcher Participated International Conference in Paris

Sultan Mohammed Zakaria, Research Assistant of the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University, attended and presented a paper in an International Conference held in Paris, France on 27-28th December 2012. The two-day conference titled “Business and Social Science Conference: Paris 2012” was organized by Macrotheme Review, a multidisciplinary academic journal published from in Paris, France. Mr. Zakaria participated on “Policy and Law” session and presented his research paper titled “Middle East democracy: Promise, Prospects and Challenges”. The paper has been selected to be published in the journal’s upcoming issue. The session as well as the conference was attended by academicians, and researchers from renowned universities including Cornell, Indiana, Duke, Aberdeen, Beijing, James Cook, etc.

Regional Policy Dialogue on Wetlands

Dr. Elvira Graner, Research Fellow of IGS presented a paper- “Strengthening Governance in Wetland Management Policies in Bangladesh” in the Regional Policy Dialogue in Colombo, Sri Lanka held in 29th November, 2012.

IGS Director attended an International Workshop on Controversial Democratic Spaces

Dr. Rizwan Khair, Director, IGS attended an International workshop on "Controversial Democratic Spaces: Land, Environment, and Human Rights in Bangladesh" which was jointly

organised by the Department of Law, University of Dhaka and Bielefeld University, Germany on 16 October 2012 at the Dhaka University.

Training/Workshops/Other Activities

Canadian High Commissioner and The Netherlands Embassy Officials visit to IGS

Mr. Henrick van Asch, First Secretary, Political Affairs, The Netherlands Embassy Bangladesh and Her Excellency Ms. Heather Cruden, High Commissioner, Canadian High Commission in Bangladesh visited IGS on 7 and 10 October, 2012 respectively.

Marketing Strategy Workshop held at IGS

On 10 October, 2012 a marketing strategy workshop was held at IGS. The Netherlands based MDF Consultant and Trainer Ms. Hanneke Spaans moderated the workshop and talked about the different marketing strategy approaches that IGS can undertake to appeal to its various stakeholders. She has specifically focused on the need of a more illustrative and to the point informative website comprising the products and services of IGS as the first step towards successful marketing.

The workshop comprised of role playing games, presentations and practical demonstrations on marketing strategy on behalf of the staff participants of IGS. The IGS staff comprised of the research, communication, administration, programme, information technology and training coordination team of IGS.

IGS Researchers Attended Training on "Project Cycle Management Content"

IGS research team comprising of Syeda Salina Aziz, Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Md. Harun-Or-Rashid, Kazi Nurmohammad Hossainul Haque and Farhana Razzaque participated in the training on Project Cycle Management Content (PCM) from 18th -22nd November 2012 at the BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka. The training was conducted by Mr. Martien Van Asseldonk, of MDF (Management Development Fund). It was held under the NUFFIC, a joint project of IGS, BPATC and VU University. The 5-day training was held with the mission of training the participants about the different concepts, tools and techniques of PCM with a special focus on Logical Frame Analysis (LFA).

ANSA-SAR Activities

ANSA-SAR Policy Roundtable on "Advancing Public Participation and Accountability in the Budget Process"

Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) in collaboration with the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability (ANSA) held a half-day policy roundtable entitled "Advancing Public Participation and Accountability in the Budget Process" on 1 October, 2012 at Hotel Ruposhi Bangla, Dhaka. A number of parliament members, government/non-government high officials, members of parliamentary standing committee, representatives from civil society organizations, and journalists attended this policy roundtable. They discussed about different issues regarding budget process, its

bottlenecks, and ways of effective implementation of budget in Bangladesh and ways in encouraging people from every sphere to take part in the budgeting to ensure a stronger accountability in the budget formulation and implementation process. Dr. Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir, MP and Honorable Minister of Home Affairs of the



BNPS and ANSA-SAR Meeting on "Review of Institutionalisation of Civil Engagement in Development and Implementation of Budget"

IGS Supported Bangladesh Inter-Ministerial Study Tour in Sri Lanka

Research fellow of IGS Dr. Elvira Graner participated in a study tour titled "Wetland Policies and Co-Management" in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. This inter-ministerial Study Tour to Sri Lanka was conducted between the 27th November and the 3rd December 2012. It was jointly organised by the GIZ Wetland Biodiversity Rehabilitation Project (VBRP) and the Department of Fisheries (DoF), with support from the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) of BRAC University. The Study Tour aimed at improving the understanding of complex policy issues related to the co-management of wetland ecosystems in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The high level delegation comprised of representatives from the

Government of Bangladesh from four key Ministries, namely the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, and its Dept. of Fisheries (DoF), the Ministry of Land, the Ministry of Environment and Forests, as well as the Ministry of Water Resources.



Md. Sirajul Islam, Farhana Razzaque, and Syeda Salina Aziz in the Project Cycle Management Content Workshop

Research Fellow of IGS, Dr. Elvira Graner, participated in this study tour and attended 3 meetings, 1 policy dialogue, field visits and presentations in connection with Wetland Biodiversity Rehabilitation Project in Sri Lanka.

Peoples Republic of Bangladesh were present in the roundtable as Chief Guest and gave his valuable speech. The policy roundtable was chaired by Ms. Rokeya Kabir, Executive Director of BNPS. Barrister Manzoor Hasan, Institutional Advisor to the IGS, BRAC University moderated the event.

ANSA-SAR Meeting on "Review of Institutionalisation of Civil Engagement in Development and Implementation of Budget"

Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) with the support from ANSA-SAR organised a meeting on, "Review of Institutionalisation of Civil Engagement in Development and Implementation of Budget" on November 21, 2012 at the conference room of BNPS office.



BNPS and ANSA-SAR meeting on “ Review of Institutionalisation of Civil Engagement in Development and Implementation of Budget”

The substantial emphasis on the discussion was given on analysing how budget could be more effective and how to ensure accountability from different sectors. The meeting upheld the series outcome of the previous Policy Roundtable and Meeting with Parliamentarians, Executives and Civil Society representatives held respectively on the 1st and 21st October 2012.

ANSA-SAR Feasibility Study in Rajshahi for New Project

ANSA-SAR supported by PRIP Trust and has taken initiatives to implement the “ICT Based Citizens’ Monitoring” project in urban and rural areas of Rajshahi City Corporation by introducing mobile phone-based E-Governance system through a survey on 11th -12th November 2012. To inspect and subsequently strengthen the opportunities of the deliverables of this project, ANSA-SAR Secretariat Programme implementation team comprised of Naimur Rahman, Chief Operating Officer, Nuzhat Jabin, Programme Manager and Mustafizur Rahman Khan, Project Officer visited the

project implementation zone on ward no. 5 of Rajshahi City Corporation and Dhankura Union of Poba Upazila (sub-district) under Rajshahi District of Bangladesh. The proposed project aimed to improve quality of public services at the local level, both rural and urban, particularly in the water supply & sanitation and community health sectors.

ANSA-SAR Funded Project Consultation Meeting in Rangpur



Meeting and visits by ANSA-SAR officials to implement ‘ICT Based’ Monitoring” Project in urban and rural areas of Rajshahi City Corporation

Md. Mustafizur Rahaman, Project Officer, ANSA-SAR attended a

consultation meeting arranged by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) partner RDRS on 24 December 2012 at 11 am in Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS) conference hall, RDRS Building, Rangpur. RDRS is implementing the ANSA funded project titled Scaling up Primary Education and Community Score Card in 10 schools in Rangpur, Kurigram and Gaibandha districts. It was an experience sharing meeting on the piloting of the project. The meeting ended with some recommendations for policy advocacy on the project deliverables. It was attended by Deputy Director of Primary Education - Rangpur. On 26th December, 2012 Md. Mustafizur Rahman attended the second consultation meeting of the same project in RDRS Office, Kurigram at 10 am. The meeting was attended by Md. Habibur Rahman Deputy Commissioner of Kurigram and Md. Saiduzzaman, District Primary Education Officer- Kurigram. The consultation meeting deliberated on the effective application of community score card (CSC) in measuring the quality of primary education. It also involved distinguished participants from all respective line divisions of District Governing body.

Published Articles by IGS Staff

M. Shahidul Islam and M. Nasir Uddin Khan- “Urbanization: Spatial Dynamics” in Hossain Zillur Rahman (ed.) **Bangladesh Urban Dynamics**, PPRC, Dhaka, December 2012

The Daily Star: **“In Defence of Bangladesh Bank’s Independence”** by M. Shahidul Islam, 7 November 2012

The Daily Star: **“Expensive power and price adjustment”** by M. Shahidul Islam and Syeda Salina Aziz, 19 December 2012

The Daily Star: **“Three decades of banking reforms”** by M. Shahidul Islam and Rubayet Hamid, 25 December 2012