

## Architecture (ARC) Update

### BRAC University students won 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes

In the student design charette (one day design competition) held at the department of architecture, north south university on 19th October as a part of their 'architecture week', the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes were all won by students of architecture, BRAC University.

1st prize: Nazmul Haque and Raiyan Samiul Haque

2nd prize: Tamzid Farhan Mogno and Inteza Shahriar

3rd prize: Dhruvo Antor and Sonia Kamal Emmi (this was jointly won with another group from the University of Asia Pacific)

More than 100 students of different schools of architecture from all over Bangladesh participated in this competition. The objective of that charette was to devise an architectural concept to accommodate "climate change refugees in our present cities".

### BRAC University student won UNYSAB award for photography

Nazmul Haque Sarker, student of architecture won first prize in photography competition on "stand up, take action, end poverty now". The competition was organized by United Nations youth and students Association of Bangladesh (UNYSAB).

### BRACU intern's involvement with a Winning project for the AR award, India

Matharoo Associates, a renowned Indian firm has won AR awards for emerging architecture, 2009 the Dilip Sanghvi residence door design. Sudeshna Shireen Chowdhury, a student of Architecture, BRAC University, while doing her internship in that firm had active participation and involvement the winning design.

### Study tour to North Bengal

Department of Architecture arranged a study tour titled 'Exploring the Ancient North'. The two- day long study visit was compiled with intense observation and identification of the Northern part of Bangladesh. ARC 327 History of Art & Architecture of Bengal and ARC 491 Architectural Conservation, these two courses were partially executed on the site with assignment, documentation, lectures and preliminary identification process of historical buildings. The Varind Track that is Pundrabardhan-Bogura, Paharpur-Nawgaon, Rajshahi, Choto Sona Mosque, Darasbari, Shah Niamatullah mosque complex at Shibgonj and Puthia Temple complex were the focal points of the site study tour.

### A day-long excursion to Mymensingh

Students of ARC 111 went on a day-long excursion to Mymensingh on Saturday October 26th to visit and draw inspiration from the buildings and campus of the Bangladesh Agricultural University. The design of the complex, started in the late 1960s, was authored by renowned architect Paul Rudolph and initially executed by William Grindereing. The original masterplan also includes a number of buildings designed by Richard Neutra.

Students visited the academic precinct to gain an understanding of the compositional principles that helped establish its layout, how spaces and functions are placed in sequences, and the elegant and disciplined use of consistent materials throughout the campus. Having been an educational class trip, the students were instructed to sketch and photograph elements, which they found interesting as a way of documenting their experiences.

After walking several miles around the campus, the trip ended with a fun and relaxing boat cruise on the Bhramaputra River.

### ANGAN film on Doshi

A one-hour film on B.V. Doshi, an Indian famous architect, was screened on 13th October 2009. The film covered the life of the architect as well as his contribution to the contemporary architecture of India.

### Film show on architecture

Three twenty-six minute films were shown in the department on 20th October 2009. The films were on "The Yoyogi Olympic Gymnasium" in Tokyo by Kenzo Tange, "The Villa Barbaro" by A. Palladio and the "Phaeno"-Science Center by Zaha Hadid. All of them are popular architectural documentary film.

### **Presentation on building material**

Architect Showkat Pasha made a presentation on "Dynamic sun control system"- sophisticated louver and window systems used in modern buildings and also on the service provided by architectural support group of Hunter Douglas on 27th October 2009 in the department of architecture. The Presentation showed various examples of buildings using the dynamic sun control system.

## **BRAC Business School (BBS) Update**

### **Formation of Working Groups in BBS**

With the aim of fostering research and increasing interaction with various organizations (both business and non-business), the BRAC Business School (BBS) has formed a number of working groups. All the working groups have already had their initial meeting and some issues have already been identified on which further work will be continued. At present, BBS has working groups for corporate governance issues, corporate social responsibility, leadership and team building, entrepreneurship development, and stock market.

### **Unilever holds discussion session with the students of BBS**

Unilever Bangladesh Ltd. visited BRACU campus on October 15, 2009 with their HR team and conducted an interactive session for the upcoming BBA graduates. The session was jointly organized by Career Services Office (CSO) and BRAC Business School. Dr. Sanaul Mostafa, Director BBS shared a brief note of welcome at the beginning of the session. Then the seminar started with a 40 minute overview presentation and a short Q&A round with Mr. Jerry Jose, Director HR, Unilever Bangladesh. Later, representatives from the finance, marketing and HR department of Unilever Bangladesh conducted separate sessions at three different corners of the program venue. The session ended with an endnote from Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, In-Charge, Career Services.

### **BBS faculty attends international conference**

Mr. Anup Chowdhury, Senior Lecturer, BBS, attended an international conference on economics, business management and marketing (EBMM 2009) organized by Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. In the conference he presented a paper titled "Investors' Confidence Index (IC Index) as an Investment Determinant in Dhaka Stock Exchange".

### **Battle of Minds 2009**

The Road show and the interactive grooming session of Battle of Minds 2009 were conducted by British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB) at BRAC University premises on the 19th of October 2009. From a vastly competitive pool of dynamic applicants across the country, 9 distinguished BRACU students were selected for these sessions succeeding the Road show at Indoor Games Room of BRAC University.

### **Seminar on Stand Up Against Poverty**

BRAC University Business Club (BIZ BEE) in collaboration with UNYSAB organized a seminar on the 20th of October 2009. This seminar was a part of a series of events organized by the club to raise awareness on poverty among the educated youths of the country. The speakers in the seminar provided valuable insight on this issue and shared their views on how the youth of the country can play a more important role in alleviating poverty. The distinguished panel of speakers included Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, former governor of Bangladesh Bank; Mr. Humayun Kabir, former ambassador to the United States; Mr. Kazi Ali Reza, officer, UNIC; and Dr. Sanaul Mostafa, Director, BRAC Business School. Dr. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-VC, BRAC University, provided the concluding speech.

## **BRAC Development Institute (BDI) Update**

### **BDI and PPRC jointly organize a seminar on - Extreme Poverty and Graduation Dynamics**

To discuss the broad issue of extreme poverty and the challenges of scaling up success stories, BRAC Development Institute (BDI) and the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) jointly organized a conference on "Extreme Poverty and Graduation Dynamics" on October 3rd, 09 at the LGED auditorium. Syed Hashemi, Director, BDI and Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Former Governor of Bangladesh Bank were

Chairpersons at the event. Professor David Hulme, Director, Brooks World Poverty Institute, University of Manchester, Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, Former Advisor, Caretaker Government, Mustafa M. Mujeri, Director-General, BIDS, Dipal Chandra Barua, DMD, Grameen Bank and Md. Moklesur Rahman, Secretary, Ministry of Food & Disaster Management were Panel Discussants. Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, Executive Chairman, PPRC, Imran Matin, Deputy Executive Director BRAC Overseas Programmes and Penny Davies, Senior Advisor, Livelihoods and Infrastructure, DFID and Syed Hashemi made presentations at the event. Dr. Abdul Razzak M.P., Honourable Minister for the Ministry of Food & Disaster was the Chief Guest. The event brought together participants from various non-government, government and academic institutions.

### **Katie Maeve Murphy visits BDI**

BDI will undertake the Master's in Development Practice (MDP) from Fall 2010, which will be its flagship graduate program. It will be developed in collaboration with the Earth Institute at Columbia University. This program will be cross disciplinary and will aim to provide students with the knowledge and skills required to better identify and address the global challenges of sustainable development.

As part of developing this program, Katie Maeve Murphy, Deputy Director, Global Curriculum and Field Training Coordinator for the MDP, at Columbia University visited BRAC University. The purpose of her visit was to get a better understanding of expertise and facilities available at BRAC and BRAC University. She visited Korail, Mymensingh and Kishoreganj to observe BRAC programmes and met key individuals from BRAC, BRAC University and partner donor agencies.

### **Workshops on 'Mobilizing Resources for Women's Organization'**

The research on 'Mobilizing Resources for Women's Organization' by Pathways of Women's Empowerment Programme, held workshops with members of the Bangladeshi Ovibasi Mohila Sramik Association (BOMSA) on October 5th and with Kormojibi Nari on October 26th. The objective of these workshops were to gather information regarding the growth of these organizations, the kind of issues they focus on, their resource allocation, and their relationship patterns with donor agencies.

### **Maheen Sultan & Samia Afroz Rahim attend 'Management and Strategic Influencing Meeting' in UK**

Maheen Sultan, Coordinator of the Pathways of Women's Empowerment Programme, and Samia Afroz Rahim, Communications Officer & Research Associate, attended the 'Management and Strategic Influencing Meeting' of the Pathways Programme from 9th -16th October, 2009 in Brighton, UK. The meeting brought together the convenors of different hubs and research themes, to plan for the second phase of work for the Pathways Programme and to collectively brainstorm and learn about communication and influencing initiatives.

### **Lecture on 'Representations of Poverty in Literature and Art' by Professor Firdous Azim**

Professor Firdous Azim, Lead Researcher of the Pathways Research Programme, gave a lecture on 'Representations of Poverty in Literature and Art' on 16th October, at a conference entitled Understanding and Addressing Poverty as part of the Alumni Academic Seminar of the Institute of Ismaili Studies.

### **BDI & IDRC to research on 'Revisiting the Devaluation of Daughters in Bangladesh: Continuity or Change?'**

BDI has signed a contract with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to undertake research on 'Revisiting the Devaluation of Daughters in Bangladesh: Continuity or Change?'. The research intends to understand why there has been greater reduction in gender disadvantage in Bangladesh, compared to India and Pakistan, inspite of higher levels of poverty. It supplements the Pathways research on Empowering Work that investigates son preference among women. The research will be conducted over a period of 18 months and will be lead by Simeen Mahmud, from BDI, in collaboration with Professor Naila Kabeer of the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Sussex.

### **Aanmona Priyadarshini & Sahida Khondaker participate in follow-up workshops on 'Sexuality, Health and Media'**

Aanmona Priyadarshini and Sahida Khondaker took part in the follow-up meeting of the workshops on 'Sexuality, Health and Media' and 'Gender, Sexuality and Rights' that was organized by the Center for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS at BRAC University on the 8th of October 2009. The workshop brought together journalists, researchers and rights activists to discuss ways to work more closely on issues of

sexual rights.

## **Centre for Languages (CfL) Update**

### **Pro-VC meets CfL faculty members**

The newly appointed Pro-VC, Dr Golam Samdani Fakir, met the faculty members of CfL in the morning on 18th October. After introductions, Dr Fakir appreciated the role of the faculty for conducting classes diligently and exploring different avenues of teaching and training outside the university. He also spoke on various issues related to effective teaching and learning.

The highlight of the meeting was the candid response of the faculty members to the question "Why did you join BRAC University?" posed by the Pro VC. The participants reflected that BRAC University provides challenging but a stress-free work environment and creates room for innovative teaching practices. The discussion concluded with Dr. Fakir emphasizing on the need for continuous self-development in order to take BRAC University's teaching quality to an international standard.

### **CfL lecturer attends international conference in Pakistan**

Mahmuda Yasmin Shaila, lecturer at CfL, attended the 25th International SPELT Conference 2009 in Karachi, Pakistan from 16 to 18 October. The conference theme was 'Celebrating Diversity in ELT' which was properly reflected when ELT experts such as Michale Halliday, Marcia Fisk, Fauzia Shamim and many more from different parts of the world came and shared their ideas. Ms. Shaila, as a specially invited speaker, conducted a workshop titled "Teaching Language through Literature."

### **Workshop on 'rubrics' held**

On October 24, 2009 CfL staff participated in a workshop on using rubrics facilitated by English Language Fellow Lisa Ponzetti. The workshop covered issues such as why using rubrics is useful (e.g., giving timely feedback to students; evaluating our own teaching and course content); what rubrics consist of (e.g., scales and dimensions for evaluating tasks); and ways to develop them (i.e., the four stages of development). The end-task was for teachers to work according to their module levels or department programmes (such as DevPro) to develop a rubric for one of their course's writing assignments. While the workshop was one-day, the work on developing rubrics was only the beginning. In the larger picture, it was felt that the efforts to develop rubrics will lead to greater focus, development and coherence within and among the CfL courses as a whole. Developing rubrics will force to go back to, explore, and identify the assumptions and expectations of the courses, target students, and teachers. This endeavor will lead to courses, classes, and assignments based on articulated beliefs and expectations that will make learning and teaching more focused, engaging and rewarding.

### **Open University, UK organizes workshop on Reflective Teaching**

A workshop was conducted on the 24th of October by Clara Woodward, Lecturer, Open University (OU), UK for CfL faculty members and other members of the 'MYTEC Training' (Making Your Teaching Experience Count) Programme under English in Action (EIA), a program funded by DFID. The workshop gave updates on EIA and MYTEC, gathered opinions on the understanding of 'reflection', on the use of 'reflection' in Bangladeshi context and discussed the possibility of shared research in collaboration with OU. The OU team consisted of Claire Hedges, coordinator of EIA, Daniela Beddal, Course Manager of OU (UK) and Dr M. Mahruf Chowdhury, Research Associate, OU (UK).

### **Nutrition Talk at Savar Campus held**

Sunida Witayakarn, CfL Lecturer, conducted a Nutrition Talk on October 17, 2009 for students at BRACU Savar Campus focusing on the Importance of Healthy Food for Young Adults, Sources of Nutrition, Eating Habits and Eating Disorders (mainly Anorexia and Bulimia). The aim of the Talk was to show the importance of necessary nutrition for the students, improve better eating habit and increase the awareness of eating disorders.

### **Cfl faculty member's research article published**

A research article by Shaheen Ara, lecturer, CfL, has been published this month in Harvest, journal of the department of English, Jahangirnagar University. The title of the paper is 'The contribution of the communicative language teaching approach to teaching writing in the English classroom'. The findings of the research show how the teachers are still teaching rules of English grammar ignoring the principles of

CLT approach and how other factors like discrepancies between the new teaching method and the examination system, lack of trained teachers, inadequate time for teaching writing in English class, etc, are also affecting the quality of English education in Bangladesh.

### **CfL offers French and Chinese language courses**

CfL has started Elementary French language course having duration of 45 hours for the second time with BRACU students and faculty members. The instructor of the course is Mr. Probal Dutta, lecturer, BBS. He is also a certified French language teacher of Alliance Francaise. CfL will also start another French language course from mid-November in the evenings. Discounted fee for the course is BDT 2000 only for BRACU students and Faculty members. In addition, the Chinese language courses under CfL will resume from mid-November on a fee of BDT 1000 for BRACU students and faculty members.

### **Institute of Governance studies (IGS) Update**

A workshop for the Training Needs Assessment (TNA) validation under the auspices of Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI), Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University and Korean Development Institute (KDI) held on 13 October 2009. A number of senior government officials in the rank of Secretary and Additional Secretary and private sector representatives participated in the workshop. Mr. H.T. Imam, Advisor to the Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh attended the session as Chief Guest. Among others Mr. Salman F. Rahman, Mr James Crittle and Ms. Laura Anne Watson from BICF, Dr. Rizwan Khair from IGS joined the workshop. The discussion broadly covered different spectrum of issues related with the methodology of training and module development, mainstreaming the training and its sustainability, changing mindset, foreign attachment to the training.

Classes for the three months Environmental Governance Certificate Programme started on 8 October 2009. Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University and Professor Emdad Huq from the University of Manitoba, participated in the occasion. Dr. Lance Robinson, Post Doctoral Fellow at Vancouver Island University, Dr. Mizan R. Khan, Professor at the Environmental Science and Management Department (DESM), North South University, S.M. Manjurul Hannan Khan, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of Bangladesh and Dr. Rizwan Khair, Academic Coordinator of IGS, are the key resource persons for the classes.

A discussion on "Efficient Delivery of Rural Infrastructure: An Operational Risk Assessment" was arranged at IGS on 14 October 2009. Dr. Clay Westcott, Dean of the Asia-Pacific Governance Institute and former Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist for the Asian Development Bank, Deputy Director for the Management Development and Governance Division of UNDP, and Director of Finance, Management, and Economics Division of Development Alternatives, Inc. was the guest speaker. Staff from IGS participated in the discussion.

Journalism Training and Research Initiatives (JATRI), a research and training wing of IGS, organized a training on 'Interviewing and Source Development' for the students of Journalism at BRAC University, Savar Campus and JATRI training center from 15 to 18 October 2009. The students of journalism in different public and private universities participated in the training. The objective of the training was to strengthen the interviewing skills of Bangladeshi journalists by educating them on various techniques and approaches.

IGS is delighted to have Dr. Elvira Graner as a Research Fellow, who was the faculty at the Department of Geography under South Asian Institute of the Heidelberg University. She has a vast research experience about different governance issues of the South Asia. Dr. Graner is providing technical support to the Research Team at the Institute, particularly in preparing the annual publication 'State of Governance Report'.

### **School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) Update**

BRACU ECE graduates can apply for membership of the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) as our ECE program has been accredited by IEB Council recently. Our CSE graduates also can apply for membership of IEB as our CSE program was accredited by IEB about two years ago.

### **Department of English and Humanities (ENH) Update**

### **Dr. Sharmila Sen teaches as a guest lecturer**

Dr. Sharmila Sen who is the general editor for the Humanities, Harvard University Press taught Eng 367: English writing and British Colonialism from October 4th to 13th 2009. She concentrated on Caribbean writing, which is her area of specialization.

### **Book donation by Indian High Commission and Dr. Radha Chakravarty**

The Indian High Commission donated books to the ENH Department on October 7th, 2009. His Excellency Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty, High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh handed the books to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, who accepted the books on behalf of the department. There were a total of 69 books by prominent Indian publishers pertaining to literature and language. Dr. Radha Chakravarty, who has been associated with the department in various capacities also donated 48 books which included journals pertaining to literature and culture.

### **ENH organizes Caribbean Literature Conference**

The Department of English and Humanities of BRAC University held a conference entitled "Colonial Contacts and the Caribbean Context" on the 8th of October 2009 at the BRAC Centre. The aim of the conference was to explore new directions in the teaching of English and literature in Bangladesh.

The key-note speaker was Professor Sharmila Sen of Harvard University Press. The first panel concentrated on "Reading Caribbean Texts" and was chaired by Professor Niaz Zaman. The speakers included Dr. Shamshad Murteza and Mashrur Hussain from JahangirNagar University, Professor Kaiser Huq and Syed Manzoorul Islam from Dhaka University who are also visiting faculty at Brac University and Rashida Ahmed who is a M.A. student of the ENH department.

There was a special session on Cricket, chaired by Professor Mumit Khan of the Computer Science and Engineering Department, which explored the ways in which cultural links can be studied. The final session, echoing the theme of the conference was titled, "Englishes" which highlighted an 'other' kind of English being written and produced in the world today. This session was chaired by Rukhsana Rahim Chowdhury.

The conference was addressed by the Vice-Chancellor of BRAC University, who was the chief guest. He very kindly graced the occasion with his presence in other sessions as well. The conference was well attended, drawing in poetry and literature teachers, writers and publishers from various private and public universities. An interesting aspect was that people from all disciplines including economics, architecture, business and engineering were part of the audience, showing that literature and cultural studies can indeed draw a wide audience.

### **ENH student receives award**

Md. Abdullah-Al-Mamun received the Prime Minister's Award in recognition of getting a GPA of 5 in both his S.S.C. and H.S.C. examinations. He received the award on 14th October, 2009. He is one of the 20 students in the country to get this award for continuing education despite economic and social barriers. Along with the award, he also received a cheque of Tk. 20,000. At the moment he is attending the TARC residential semester.

### **In conversation with the author**

The launching ceremony of Shazia Omar's book, "Like a Diamond in the Sky" was held on 15th October 2009 at Red Shift. Professor Firdous Azim helped launch the book by conducting a conversation with the author about the book and English writing in Bangladesh.

### **Professor Firdous Azim presents paper**

Professor Firdous Azim presented a paper on "Representing poverty in literature and Art" on 16th October 2009 at a seminar entitled, "Understanding and addressing Poverty" arranged in Dhaka by the Institute of Ismaili Studies, London.

### **Professor Firdous Azim visits Asian University for Women in Chittagong**

Professor Firdous Azim is part of the advisory panel for the first year curriculum review of Asian University for Women (AUW). As a member of the advisory panel, she was in Chittagong from October 19th to 22nd 2009.

## **Department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS) Update**

### **Participation in Workshops and Presentation by ESS faculty**

Dr Minhaj Mahmud, Associate Professor, ESS Department participated in a workshop on "Economic Approaches to Climate Change and Poverty" in Dhaka held on 13-14 October. The workshop was jointly organized by UNDP, UNEP, the Planning Commission of Bangladesh and SANDEE for economic policy makers and researchers in Bangladesh. Dr Mahmud has made a presentation on "Economics of Health and Climate Change in Bangladesh."

To celebrate World Mental Health Day (which was on 10th October), Department of Clinical Psychology, University of Dhaka and Bangladesh Clinical Psychology Association arranged a whole day programme on 25th October, 2009. Mahbuba Naznin Sani, Lecturer of ESS, attended the programme at TSC auditorium. She attended the workshop on "Family and Marital Therapy" focusing on family and marital problems, assessment and intervention process from cognitive behaviour approach, communication skills etc.

Md. Abdul Wohab, Senior Lecturer, ESS Department participated in a two day long training workshop entitled "The emergence of post-structuralism: Sex and Gender revisited" organized by the Department of Gender Studies, Dhaka University held on 17-18 October. The workshop was held at the Departmental conference room of Development Studies Department, University of Dhaka.

Md. Abdul Wohab, Senior Lecturer and Mahbuba Naznin Sani, Lecturer of ESS Department attended a daylong workshop on "Child Rights as an Academic Discourse" at the UGC auditorium held on October 8, 2009. The workshop was organized by the Save the Children (Sweden- Denmark) in collaboration with the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC).

Research Outcome

Dr. Shahidur Rahman, Assistant Professor, ESS Department published a paper in South Asia Research, volume- 29 issue- 3, 2009 pp 234-255. The title of the paper is 'Socio-economic Vulnerability and Neo-liberalism: Lessons from Bangladesh'.

### **Liberation War Museum & Lalbagh Fort visit by the Students of Bangladesh Studies**

On October 24, 2009, a total of 195 students of Bangladesh Studies (DEV101) went to visit Liberation War Museum and Lalbagh Fort, Dhaka, as part of their academic activities. Department of ESS organized the visit for the students of Bangladesh Studies. While visiting, students were informed about the history and culture of Bangladesh as well as the historical perspectives, archeological evidences and importance of Lalbagh Fort during Mughal period. Faculty members of ESS and house tutors of TARC, Savar accompanied the students.

### **Pledge Taking**

'Monon' (club of BRAC university) has taken the initiative to arrange an oath taking ceremony at mohakhali campus on 18th October, at 12:30 pm in the indoor games room of BRAC University. 'Stand Up, Take Action, End Poverty Now' with this motto UNDP and UN agencies inspired people all over the world to take stand against poverty. More than 173 million people from more than 120 countries gather and set the new world record for largest mobilization in the history. To take part in this great programme Dr Md Golam Samdani Fakir, (Pro-Vice Chancellor), Zainab F. Ali (Director, Student Affairs) and the advisor of 'Monon' and other faculty members of BRAC University attended to make it successful. Moreover, the members of 'Monon' and other students also took part in this event. Everyone stands by holding each other to show the unity and takes the oath to diminish poverty from the world within 2020. This ceremony is reflecting a clear message to world leaders that there is massive, universal, global demand for eradicating poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals and to make aware the young generation about their responsibilities against poverty. It was a great opportunity to the university students to be a part of the history by being a part of the 173 million people.

## **Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) Update**

### **International Workshop on Science Education**

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Ms Adeeba Raihan, Mr. Rasel Chowdhury and Mr. Md. Shamsul Kaonain

participated in the International Workshop on Science Education held on 10 October, 2009 at the Auditorium of the National Museum of Science and Technology, Agargaon, Dhaka. About 200 participants from 12 countries including Bangladesh, Australia, China, India, Iran, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Russia, Singapore, Thailand and Turkey participated in the workshop jointly organized by the Association of Academies of Sciences in Asia (AASA), Federation of Asian Scientific Association and Societies (FASAS) and the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS). The participants of the workshop included policy makers, teachers and academics from different countries. They discussed about the status of science education at the primary and secondary levels in different countries and regions, ways and means of improving methods of science education, inquiry based science education etc.

Architect, Yeafesh Osman, Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology, GOB inaugurated the workshop as the Chief Guest. Professor Jinghai Li, President, AASA and Professor Omar Abdul Rahman, President, FASAS were special guests on the occasion. An exhibition on science equipment for use at the secondary and higher secondary levels was also organized on the occasion and a large number of science clubs from all over Bangladesh, took part in the exhibition, demonstrating science equipment made from indigenous materials for use at the primary, secondary and higher secondary levels.

### **Consultation Meeting on "2010 Biodiversity Target National Assessment"**

Dr. Aparna Islam, Assistant Professor of Biotechnology programme in the MNS department attended the stakeholder consultation on the "2010 Biodiversity Target National Assessment" and "Fourth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity". The programme was organized by the '2010 Biodiversity Target National Assessment Project' under the Department of Environment (DoE), GOB. The meeting was held on 14 October 2009 at Paribesh Bhaban, Dhaka. Participants from various public and private institutes and universities, UN organizations and NGO's working in various fields of biodiversity either in assessment of status and trends, research in improving sustainability of livelihood and also in implementing such ideas in practice attended the meeting. Discussion was concentrated on several issues like present biodiversity status, its trends and threats; current status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans; sectoral and cross-sectoral issues; and most importantly, formulating a way-forward to implement the strategic plan. The importance of having a complete account of biodiversity was emphasized in the meeting. In addition to this, importance to identify the changes in biodiversity and its threats and also training on biosafety as transgenic sciences progress was highlighted.

### **Seminar Organized by the MNS Department**

Mr. Md. Jakir Hossen presented a seminar talk on the topic "Adaptive Observations in a 4D-Var Framework Applied to the Nonlinear Burger Equation Model" on Thursday, October 15, 2009 at the Conference Room (UB 1521) of the MNS Department. He presented two methods (observation sensitivity and adjoint sensitivity) to find adaptive observations locations in order to reduce the forecast errors at the verification time on the verification domain. He found that the observation sensitivity method performed better than the adjoint sensitivity method. The faculty members of the MNS Department were present in this seminar.

### **MNS Faculty Elected as a Member of the Executive Committee of BGGGA**

Ms. Lopamudra Chakravarty, Lecturer in mathematics, MNS Department has been involved in Girl Guides activities since 1990. She is presently a young leader of Bangladesh Girl Guides Association (BGGGA). To reach this position she had to come up the stages of Yellow Bird, Guide and Ranger. In the capacity of young leader she participated in the 33rd World Conference of WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girls Scouts) held at Johannesburg, South Africa in July 2008. She is also a Master Trainer of life skills-based reproductive health educator for in-school youth and adolescents through peer approach project jointly organized by BGGGA, Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education under the Ministry of Education, GOB and UNFPA. Ms. Lopamudra Chakravarty was elected a member of the Executive Committee of Bangladesh Girl Guides Association (BGGGA) on 22nd of October 2009. She is committed to rendering her service in taking Girl Guides Movement to a new height.

### **MNS Faculty Returns after Completing EMMA Programme**

Dr Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, Assistant Professor of the Department of MNS returned to Bangladesh from Italy on October 21, 2009 after successfully completing a two months (August 20, 2009- October 20, 2009) research fellowship under the framework of the Erasmus Mundus Mobility with Asia (EMMA) program which was funded by the European Commission. During this period he was able to complete a research report on



the temporal disaggregation (disaggregating yearly data to quarterly data) topic "Evaluation of Different Temporal Disaggregation Techniques and an Application to Italian GDP" at the Department of Statistics, University of Padova, Padova, Italy. He resumed his duty in the Department on October 22, 2009.

### **UGC Award 2007 to Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed**

Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed a visiting faculty at the Department of MNS got the UGC Award 2007. The award was given in a ceremony held at the University Grants Commission, Agargaon, Dhaka, on October 5, 2009. Professor Ahmed is a well-reputed plasma physicist. Presently he is engaged in research on pulsar and black hole plasmas and on the earthquake prediction from space. Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed is an Associate Member of AS-ICTP, Founder Member of Asia-African Association for Plasma Training and also the Visiting Professor of Salam Chair, Govt. College University, Lahore. His research interests include fusion and plasma astrophysics, nonlinear optics, solitons and chaos, electron-positron system, black holes and neutron stars, gravitational waves, earthquake prediction from space, quark-gluon plasma and popularization of science.

The title of the research paper for which he got the UGC Award 2007 is " On generation of dark solitons by gravitational waves in a strongly magnetized pulsar plasma" published in Physics of Plasmas, Volume 14, Issue 11, pp. 112906-112906-6 (2007). In this research an indirect way of detecting gravitational wave is proposed. It is due to nonlinear interaction between gravitational waves and the plasma. By detecting a dark soliton one can predict the existence of gravitational wave.

### **Seminar Organized by the MNS Department**

Dr. Mezbahur Rahman, Visiting Professor at the MNS department of BRACU gave a seminar talk on "A Note on Modified Box-Cox Transformation" on Thursday, October 29, 2009, at 11:00 am in the Conference Room (UB 1521). This seminar was based on a paper published in Festschrift in Honor of Distinguished Professor Mir Masoom Ali, Ball State University, Indiana, and USA, 2007. This paper presents a joint work with Dr. Larry M. Pearson at the Minnesota State University, Mankato, and USA, where the speaker is also a Professor. The paper deals with finding appropriate transformation of the data when it violates the assumption of normality. The seminar talk was attended by the faculty members of the Department.

## **Residential Semester (RS) Update**

### **Cultural Evening**

On October 21, 2009 the Savar Campus experienced a beautiful, enjoyable and amusing cultural evening. Students of all dorms participated in the cultural program. The audience reveled in the rendition of music and Drama playing to their heart's content. The students of RS organized this evening.

### **Inter Dorm Competition**

Cricket - Boys: The inter-dorm Cricket competition was held on October 16 & 23, among the boys Dorms. On the first match chhayaneer won the match by 4 wickets and on the second match krisnochura won by 37 runs against Krishnochura and Dhanshiri respectively.

Volleyball: On October 18, 19, 20 and 25, the inter-dorm volleyball competition was held among the boys Dorms. Chhayaneer became champion by defeating other two dorms.

Badminton - Girls: On October 25 the inter dorm girls badminton competition was held among the girls dorms. Roshidoy became champion by a beating Lokmukhi dorm.

Badminton - Boys: On October 11, 12, 13 and 14 the inter dorm boys badminton competition was held among the boys dorms. Dhanshiri became champion by defeating other two dorms.

Carom - Girls: On October 18 the inter dorm girls carom competition was held among the girls dorms. Lokmukhi became champion by defeating Roshidoy dorm.

### **RS Dinner**

The 1st RS Day of the semester was held on October 28, 2009. Mr. Dr. Golam Samdani Fokir, Pro-VC, BRACU was the Guest of Honor. The guest gave a speech on "professional career development". On behalf of the students, Gulsatine Ahamed, the Campus Secretary received the guest and gave welcome speech. After the guest's speech there was a beautiful candlelight Dinner.

## **Seminar on Nutrition**

The seminar was held on 17th October at 9:00 am and facilitated by Sunida Witayakarn, a Cfl instructor from Thailand. She emphasized on the importance of healthy eating and the important sources of nutrition, especially for young adults. It was observed that some students were reluctant to eat vegetables and fruits. Therefore, creating awareness among those students in particular was a key objective of the seminar.

## **Seminar on Drug Abuse**

A seminar on drug abuse was held on October 17, 2009. It was moderated by Brother Ronald Drahozal, CSC, director of APON (Ashokti Punarbashan Nibash). He explained how APON is working to provide drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation services and make these services readily available and accessible for the drug addicts. One of those persons who got recovery from addiction with the help of APON was present in the seminar to share his experience. All of the students of RS as well as some of the staff and teachers were present in the seminar. The audience got a real picture of drug abusing practices in Bangladesh.

## **Parents Day**

In the afternoon of October 2nd BRACU Savar Campus organized a "Parents Day" for the first time with the parents/guardians of the students of Fall 2009. Almost 150 parents/guardians came to see their wards.

## **Social Lab**

First Social-lab Exercise of the Semester was conducted on October 24, 2008. Half of the students of the campus participated in the exercise. In this unique exercise, the students performed the duties of the TARC officials and the staffs starting from the campus super down to cleaners and laundry persons. The exercise created a lot of enthusiasm among the students and the exercise was conducted successfully.

## **Student Affairs Update**

### **Computer Club, BUCC Activities Participation in ACM ICPC 2009**

5 (five) teams consisting of 15 students from MNS, CSE, EEE and 5 faculty members have participated in the ACM-ICPC Asia Regional Dhaka Site 2009 during October 23 to 24, 2009. The event focused on enhancing the programming skills and problem solving ability of the students. It provides University students with opportunities to interact with students from other universities and to sharpen and demonstrate their programming, problem-solving, and teamwork skills. The contest provides a platform for ACM, industry, and academia to encourage and focus public attention on the next generation of computing professionals as they pursue excellence. To inspire our students, following faculty members were present during the event: Annajiat Alim Rasel, Md. Omar Faruque, Ahmedul Kabir, Nazmus Saquib, and Apurba Saha. Participating students were Mohammad Murtaza Mahmud (Id: 07311001, MNS), E. M. Yeaseenur Rahman Tahin (Id: 07110050, CSE), Shiblee Imtiaz Hasan (Id: 07110049, CSE) forming "BRACU Nazguls", Mahbub Zaman Ananda (Id: 09301004, CSE), Sadat Sakif Ahmed (Id: 09301005, CSE), Imran Farid Shuvo (Id: 09310041, EEE) forming "BRACU Octave", Syed Sabbir Ahmed (Id: 08101018, CSE), Md. Eftekhairul Islam Rain (Id: 07310001, EEE), Tanjima Ali (Id: 07110097, EEE) forming "BRACU Sprinkle", Raihan Ahmed (Id: 07110073, CSE), Mahbub Prottoy (Id: 07110075, CSE), Zawad Hossain (Id: 07110070, CSE) forming "BRACU Sprinkle", Imran Hossain Shaon (Id: 08101025, CSE), Imran Kader Chowdhury (Id: 08101008, CSE), Shammur Absar Chowdhury (Id: 07110071, EEE & CSE) forming "BRACU Hello World". This participation have made all participating students eligible for the student/lite membership of Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) for free. It is expected that they will largely contribute to the ACM Student Chapter to be opened at BRACU soon.

### **Organized seminar on Distributed Computing 2009**

It was the first Distinguished Lecture from one of the top five researchers and core developers of MetaCDN named Mukaddim Pathan, The University of Melbourne, Australia titled "MetaCDN: Harnessing Storage Clouds for High Performance Content Delivery". The seminar was held at Room: UB 223, BRAC University, Mohakhali Campus. It continued for one and half hour on 1 October 2009, Thursday. The seminar was aimed at building our own facilities within Bangladesh though we are fully aware of the human-initiated and environmental difficulties and limited resources. Mainly, the seminar had three objectives: (a) Helping the students in Bangladesh for their future careers, (b) Information about the latest research trends in CDN, MetaCDN, Grid computing, and (c) Explore opportunities for students and young faculty members for higher

studies in CLOUDS lab, Univ. Melbourne, Australia (<http://www.cloudbus.org/>) and chance of working with top researchers like Rajkumar Buyya, Ian Foster, Kai Hwang etc. Besides over hundred participants, Dr. Sayeed Salam, Dr. Mumit Khan, Dr. Al-Sakib Khan Pathan, Sadia Hamid Kazi, Md. Omar Faruqe, Ahmedul Kabir, and Afroza Sultana attended the seminar where all are members of School of Engineering and Computer Science. Volunteers for the event includes but are not limited to Nabila Naushin (Id: 05201002, CSE), Md. Shamsul Kaonain (Id: 06101002, PHY & CSE), Rasel Chowdhury (Id: 05201006, CSE), Kalyan Banik (Id: 06310035, CSE), Shammur Absar Chowdhury (Id: 07110071, EEE & CSE), Syed Sabbir Ahmed (Id: 08101018, CSE) and many others.

### **Club Fair 'Dugdugi' Organized By EDF**

This semester, on the 10th of October 2009, the club fair was hosted by the Entrepreneurship Development Forum, EDF. EDF was established to help members discover entrepreneurship skills in themselves, to inspire them and help them be better prepared for the corporate world that they would be a part of in the future. It provides a platform for students to work on their leadership skills, their performance as a team player, and to learn other skills and ethics that would be required in their careers ahead. Among their other goals, EDF also stresses on creating an environment where the students, faculty, staff and members of the business community in Bangladesh come together to share their ideas and knowledge about the enterprise system around the world, and to inspire each other. EDF also puts a high priority in involving non-business students in their team. The club organizes events and workshops for the students like quiz competitions, study tours, workshops, and lectures with successful entrepreneurs.

### **BUDTF (BRACU Drama And Theater Forum)**

After an introductory intro-view session there were a Fresher Orientation session held on 22 October. Fresher Orientation is basically set to welcome the new members of BUDTF. This time the program was organized under the supervision of Badrul Alam Bappy, the senior member of Drama and Theatre Forum. The program started with his anchoring and some cheering speech. All the senior members of BUDTF were introduced to the new members. There were some slide shows based on the previous works and tours arranged by BUDTF. Then the cultural function started with a duet dance performance. The palatable presence of a clown cheered the function more. A creative game show made the audience more influenced. Then the concluding session started with amazing live singing performances. At the end of the show, refreshments were provided. The entire show was inciting and entertaining to work with BUDTF.

### **HoV-BU**

The orientation kicked off with a brief introduction of the organization by the president of HoV-BRACU, Ahmed Tanjil Ruhullah. For the clueless, HoV-BRACU is one of the local chapters of HoV-MIT, encouraging youth from all backgrounds to take part in empowering the education sector in underdeveloped communities around the world. The orientation was followed by sharing of both the past and forthcoming activities by HoV-BRACU. The oration involved the three projects currently run by the organization, termed as iSchool (Interactive school), OSCEP (Open-Source Computer Education Program) and Book Drive. As inspiring as the details of the projects were, the audience was more moved by the appearance of the chief guest for the occasion, Alam Master, a devoted teacher and founder of the night school in the poverty stricken village of Fulchori. Even more, Alam Master is an awardee of the famous TV program in ATN Bangla called "Shada Moner Manush. ♦" He was honored for his great humanitarian work for improving the quality of education in his district. The inspirational story of Alam Master's success, narrated by the honorable man himself, further encouraged the audience, giving them a vision that if there is a will, there will always be a way to attain something as big as what he has achieved.

### **BUFC (BRACU Film Club)**

Winning the battle with the inevitable traffic of Dhaka, finally the BRAC University Film Club (BUFC) members reached Alliance Francaise de Dhaka (AFD) at 5:00 pm on Thursday, 15th October. BUFC accommodated in the spacious AFD caf ♦ and posed in front of the camera to kill time as the movie was due at 6:00 pm. BUFC's group was led to the comfortable auditorium of AFD on the 1st floor, where BUFC waited for a while for the Vice Chancellor (VC) of BRAC University (BRACU), Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury to arrive, overcoming the city's traffic hurdles. The show started off at 6:10 pm with all BUFC members seated in the auditorium and the front row booked by the chief guests-the VC of BRAC University; Jacques Bounin, the director of AFD; Professor Zainab F Ali, the director of BRAC University Student Affairs and Sheikh Rubaiya Sultana, the advisor of BUFC. As it has become a clich ♦ in Bangladesh to start a

program with a speech, Stawb Peter Halder, the director of BUFC, did the honours by welcoming the guests, thanking everybody for being there, introducing the chief guests and then inviting them to share a few words.

### **BUCuC (BRACU Cultural Club)**

This semester (Fall 2009) BRAC University cultural club arranged annual cultural competition. Competition was held on three respective days (28th October, 29th October, and 30th October) in different categories.

## **Career Services Update**

### **Placement News**

September:

Rehab Alam Taru BRAC

Dilruba Shirmin Telnet

Sunjib Kumar Singha Telnet

Moutushi Esha BRAC Bank Limited

Ishtiaq Ahmed Mallick Amin Mohammad Group

Anira Tanzeem Grey Advertising Limited

Rajib Kumar Chanda Shapla Online Limited

October:

Muhit Hossain Banglalink

Md. Rezaul Haider Standard Chartered Bank Limited

Mufar Reha Rahman Augere wireless Broadband Ltd

Reza E Rabby Augere wireless Broadband Ltd

## **EVENTS**

### **On Campus Interview**

Career Services Office arranged an 'On Campus Interview' on September 01, 2009 with BBDO a renowned multinational advertising firm. Recently they started operating in Bangladesh. An interactive interview session with 10 students took place at BRACU campus.

Unilever Seminar and Workshop

Career Services jointly with BBS organized the event on October 15, 2009. Dr. Sanaul Mostafa, Director BBA shared a short note to the students and the main speaker was Mr. Jerry Jose, Director HR, Unilever. An interactive workshop with participation of students took place with his team from Unilever. Afterwards top 15 BBA CVs of year 2009 graduates has been sent to Unilever for their Management Trainee recruitment 2010 by Career Services Office.

### **Battle of Minds starts off Again!**

Battle of Minds by British American Tobacco, Bangladesh has started the popular competition in October 2009. BRACU being the last year champion took part this year with great enthusiasm. Career Services along with BRAC Business School organized the initial promotion and assisted BAT,B with their initial screening and assessment by providing logistics and logistics. This year 18 students applied through online and 9 passed the first assessment.

## **School of Public Health (SPH) Update**

### **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

#### **MPH PROGRAM**

##### **Courses**

The MPH course Aging and Health (MPH 681) took place in September 27 ♦ October 8, 2009. The course was taught by Zarina Nahar Kabir, PhD, and the teaching assistant was Dr. Mofijul Islam Shuvro.

##### **FIELD VISITS**

As part of the Aging and Health (MPH 681) course, the students visited Probin Hitoishi Songho, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar on October 6, 2009.

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (CEP)**

BRAC University is offering the second course on of "EXECUTIVE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT (ECPHM): An Innovative Capacity Development Program for Health Professionals in the Public Sector" specifically tailored for Upazilla Health and Family Planning Officers and other health officials from the MoH&FW.

After the successful completion of the first course held in May, 2009, the second six-week course of fully residential ECPHM for government health officials will run from 11 October 11 to November 19, 2009 inclusive of a week- long field trips. The course will accommodate 25 government officials.

## **HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR SERIES**

Dr. Jeremy Shiffman from the Syracuse University presented a lecture on October 1, 2009 for the MPH Students of James P Grant School of Public Health. Jeremy Shiffman is the Associate Professor of Public Administration at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, USA. Dr. Jeremy Shiffman presented his research findings on 'Generating Political Priority for Maternal Mortality Reduction in 5 Developing Countries'.

## **GFATM PROJECT - 913**

### **Consortium Management Committee (CMC) meeting**

A meeting of Consortium Management Committee (CMC) was held on October 12, 2009 at JPGSPH conference room of BRAC University, Dhaka. The Executive Director, Project Director and the Focal Persons of the partner organizations participated in the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Professor Dr. Anwar Islam, Associate Dean & Director, James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. The extension of 2nd phase of GFATM round 6 project, briefing on agreement signing with Management Agency (Save the Children USA), agreement signing with the consortium partners and project implementation/work plan of 2nd phase were the main agenda of the meeting. The CMC is responsible for ensuring smooth implementation of the activities.

### **Partners Coordination Committee (PCC) meeting**

A PCC (Partners Coordination Committee) meeting of GFATM project- 913 was held on October 18, 2009 at JPGSPH conference room of BRAC University, Dhaka. The meeting chaired by Md. Salim Khan, Program Implementation Specialist, James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. All the Focal Persons of the consortium attended the meeting. The revised work plan and implementation of the work plan were the main agenda of the meeting. PIACT Bangladesh, one of the associate partners of the GFATM-913 consortium raised some of their concerns in the meeting. This is a monthly meeting of the consortium for sharing the updates of the activities.

## **SCHOOL EVENTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

### **WORKSHOP**

The Center for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS (CGSH) held a one-day follow up workshop on Sexuality and Rights on the 8th of October at the BRAC Center Inn. The event brought together participants of two workshops held earlier this year on Sexuality, Health and Media and Gender, Sexuality and Rights. Participants of the follow up workshop included academics and researchers from public and private universities from around Bangladesh, as well as journalists, NGO professionals, human rights activists and representatives from gender and sexual minority groups.

### **SEMINARS**

Dr. Saskia Wieringa giving her lecture on heteronormativity to faculty and students of BRAC University PGSPH, BU and the The Realising Rights Research Consortium had jointly organized a public seminar on 'Heteronormativity' by Dr. Saskia Wieringa, distinguished guest speaker from Amsterdam School for Social Science Research, University of Amsterdam, on October 20, 2009. The lecture discussed issues of identity, labeling and the tension between sexual behaviors and identities. Prof. Saskia Wieringa has worked extensively on issues of gender planning, women's empowerment, and women's organizations. She co-designed the African Gender and Development Index for the Economic Commission of Africa. The seminar was held in the indoor games room of BRAC University Campus.

## **MEETINGS AND VISITS**

To discuss the possibility of initiating research, program and media advocacy in the neglected field of mental health, Dr. Nasima Selim convened a meeting on October 28, 2009 with BRAC Health Programme (BHP) and the Bangladesh Health Journalist Forum with James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH). Dr. Anwar Islam, Associate Dean & Director, JPGSPH, Faruque Ahmed, Director, BHP and Saiful Shamim from HJF attended the meeting and provided valuable comments & suggestions among others from BHP, HJF & JPGSPH.

### **OTHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

In mid 2009, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the UNICEF and the James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), BRAC University that JPGSPH and UNICEF will prepare District Investment Case Analysis in Bangladesh. Following the MOU, JPGSPH organized three workshops at Narail, Jamalpur and Bandarban and started collecting secondary data..

### **FACULTY NEWS**

Dr Anwar Islam, Associate Dean and Director of JPGSPH, taught the course Health Systems in Developing Countries: Challenges and Constraints ♦ Context Bangladesh at Nagasaki University in October 3-8, 2009.

He also attended a meeting as a member of the Internal Advisory Board of the Nagasaki University. At the meeting, it was agreed upon that the partnership between JPGSPH and Nagasaki University will continue successfully with more students from Nagasaki University arriving for internship at JPGSPH, and 2-4 students visiting for a 8 month stay to work on their thesis.

Dr Anwar Islam, Associate Dean and Director of JPGSPH, attended a Regional Meeting on Health Sector Reform for the 21st Century in Bangkok, Thailand on October 20-22, 2009. The meeting was attended by representatives from all South Asian countries like India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Maldives etc. The meeting concluded with the consensus that health sector reform is pivotal.

Hilary Standing was a consultant to the World Bank in Beijing from 10-22 October, 2009 for the China Rural Health Project's supervision mission on Strengthening supervision and technical support in Health Financing and service delivery.

Dr Farah Mehjabeen Ahmed, Coordinator of Continuing Education Programme (CEP), was invited to attend an International Network Symposium titled: International Collaboration to Advance Global Public Health Education , held in Eldoret, Kenya October 27-30.,2009. The purpose of the meeting was to further operationalize collaboration on curriculum strengthening, faculty development and building implementation research capacity in global health education.

Owasim Akaram, Research Associate of JPGSPH, presented a poster in The 8th International Conference on Urban Health held in Nairobo, Kenya from October 18-23, 2009. The presentation was focused on Men's Sexual and Reproductive Health based on the research findings of Realising Rights Project of the school. He received a partial scholarship from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to attend the conference. The poster presented by Mr. Akram also awarded as The Best Poster of the conference.

On October 21-23, 2009, UNICEF organized a two and an half day 'Bottleneck Analysis Workshop' in Nepal to identify the bottlenecks in health system of the country and propose strategic solution to overcome these bottlenecks. UNICEF invited researchers from countries like India and Bangladesh involved in investment case to attend the workshop as observers to gain knowledge from the experience of Nepal and use it in the investment case of their own countries. Dr. Enamul Hasib and S. N. Shimul on behalf of JPGSPH joined the workshop.

Dr. Saskia Wieringa, Professor, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Co-founder of the Kartini Network on Asian Women's Studies and Director of the International Information Centre and Archives for the Women's Movement, conducted a two-day training workshop entitled "The Emergence of Post-Structuralism: Sex and Gender Revisited". The workshop was held on October 17-18, 2009 at the Department of Development Studies in the University of Dhaka. Anuradha Hashemi and Tisa Muhaddes from JPGSPH participated at that workshop.

### **FACULTY PUBLICATIONS**

Dr. Anwar Islam, Associate Dean and Director of JPGSPH, published an editorial titled Traditional Healthcare

across Cultures: Time for a New Look in New Age newspaper on October 31, 2009.

### **NEW FACULTY**

Nuzhat Chowdhury joined JPGSPH as part of the DICA project. She has a Masters in Psychology and Masters in Public Health (4th batch) from JPGSPH .She previously worked as a psychologist at Naripokkho and at a pre-school.

Md. Saiful Islam Sarker joined JPGSPH as a Research Associate. He completed his BSS Honors and MSS in International Relations from Dhaka University. Before joining JPGSPH as Research Associate, he worked as Resource Centre Development Officer at National Resource Center; the Knowledge Management body of NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation, an apex organization in the water and sanitation sector of Bangladesh.