

Quarterly Newsletter

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BIGD's pilot project received the World Bank's South Asia Procurement Innovation Award for 2016-2017



Dr. Mirza M Hassan (Left) received the award on behalf of BIGD

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University has received the World Bank's South Asia Procurement Innovation Award for 2016-2017 at the fourth South Asia Regional Public Procurement Conference, hosted by the Sri Lankan Department of Public Finance at Sri Lanka, on 20-23 February, 2017.

BIGD, as part of the Public Procurement Reform Project (PPRP, phase II) has been supporting the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU), IME Division, Ministry of Planning to pilot a third-party monitoring system (model) of infrastructure projects, involving the beneficiaries/citizens at the Upazila level. The pilot project covered four Upazilas of Rangpur and Sirajganj for the past 18 months. The objective of the project was to establish greater transparency and accountability in public procurement through citizens' engagement.

The theme of the conference was "e-GP in South Asia: Achievements, Opportunities and Challenges". On behalf of BIGD, Dr. Mirza M Hassan, Adjunct Fellow attended the conference and received the award. Director General of CPTU Mr. Md Faruque

Hossain, the current Chair of the South Asian Public Procurement Network (SAPPN), represented Bangladesh in the conference. Seven winning entries from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were felicitated during the conference.

The SAPPN is a platform of heads of public procurement regulatory bodies in South Asian countries. They exchange ideas and experiences to innovate good practices to improve public procurement management in the region in general and their own country in particular. The SAPPN for the first time declared public procurement award under some categories. The World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank were the sponsors of the conference.

The key objective of the award is to enhance learning and knowledge sharing from innovative approaches adapted by procurement entities and systems across the region. The award was evaluated by the Awards Secretariat based on three criteria- level of innovations, replicability of the solution and scalability and sustainability.

BIGD & Copenhagen Consensus Center's Seminar on Smart Interventions for 7th Five Year Plan Priorities

The economic benefits of Bangladesh would be much higher and service delivery would improve if the government further prioritized digitization during the ongoing seventh five-year plan 2016 to 2020, the researchers of BIGD and Copenhagen Consensus Center (CCC) urged the government policy makers at a seminar on Smart Interventions for 7th Plan Priorities, on January 09 January 2017. The seminar, jointly organized by BIGD and CCC, aimed to discuss the findings of research on a



series of important governance and policy interventions.

Five different papers were presented on the following topics: Impact of e-procurement on reducing corruption and promoting competition, by Dr. Wahid Abdallah, Research

Fellow, BIGD; Land digitization for smart governance, by Ms. Sumaiya Kabir Talukder, Katalyst; Justice at the village level: What is the smart policy?, by Ms. Nabila Zaman, BIGD; Strengthening UDCs for accelerated public service delivery, and RMG Palli and Factory Compliance, by Mr. Hasanuzzaman, Outreach Manager, CCC.

Dr. Shamsul Alam, Member, General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning and Mr. Anir Chowdhury, Policy Advisor, a2i, Prime Minister's Office (PMO), attended the seminar as the Guests of Honour.

Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed, Commissioner, Anti Corruption Commission (ACC); Mr. Mohammad Muslim Chowdhury, Additional Secretary, Finance Division; Mr. AKM Asaduzzaman Patwary, Research Fellow, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries (DCCI); and Mr. Shahariar Sadat, Academic Coordinator, South Asian Institute of Advanced Legal and Human Rights Studies (SAILS) attended the seminar as panelists. Distinguished personalities, senior government officials, academics and experts also attended the seminar.

In democracy people's trust is crucial

Dr. Gowher Rizvi said at regional conference on Government Performance Management System

"In democracy trust of people in government is crucial. When any government does not enjoy the trust of the people, democracy deteriorates," said Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Professor Dr. Gowher Rizvi. People become cynical if they cannot trust the government. When quality of service declines, people lose confidence and legitimacy of the government erodes, he added as the Chief Guest of a regional conference on Government Performance Management System (GPMS) held on 22 January 2017 at a city hotel.

With the aim to learn from each other and share best practices, the regional conference was organized jointly by the Cabinet Division of the government and BIGD with support of the World Bank.

Mr. Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Principal Coordinator, Sustainable Development Goals and Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, Principal Secretary, Prime Minister's Office addressed the event

as Special Guests. Mr. Mohammad Shafiul Alam, Cabinet Secretary, chaired the conference.



Mr. Ravindra Devagunam, Director, PMANDU, Malaysia; Dr. Prajapati Trivedi, Former Secretary, Performance Management Division, India; Mr. Chenchu, Head of Government Performance Management Division (GPMD), Prime Minister's office of Bhutan and Mr. N M Zeaul Alam, Secretary, (Coordination and Reforms) Cabinet Division of Bangladesh made presentations on their country's perspective at the conference.

Political and social elites have been working as the drivers of the country's economic growth

- Experts said at the BIGD-ESID policy workshop

Political and social elites have been working as the drivers of the country's economic growth, speakers said at a workshop in the capital on 16 February, 2017. The observation came as speakers discussed how the country maintained a 'steady and reasonably high' growth despite shifts in political regimes and economic policies over decades since its independence in 1971. BIGD, in cooperation with Effective States and Inclusive Development (ESID), University of Manchester jointly organised the policy workshop on 'Politics and Development,

Democracy and Growth: Bangladesh and Beyond' at a city hotel. The workshop contained three important sessions titled "Understanding the Politics of Economic Growth"; "Understanding the Politics of Social Policy"; and "The Political Settlement in Bangladesh: Past, Present and Future". Eminent academics and policy experts including Prof. David Hulme, CEO, ESID; Prof. Wahiduddin Mahmud, Country Advisor, International Growth Centre (IGC); Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman, PPRC; Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director, BIGD;



Prof. Rounaq Jahan of the Centre for Policy Dialogue and Dr. Kazi Anis Ahmed, writer and publisher discussed the papers presented at the workshop.

We must focus more on quality than quantity of development works

to avoid higher maintenance cost

said Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal

"The lion's share of the budgetary allocation is spent on maintenance. We have to reduce wastage and must focus more on quality than quantity of development works to avoid higher maintenance cost," said Planning Minister Mr. AHM Mustafa Kamal. He was speaking at the 11th meeting of 'Public-Private Stakeholders Committee' (PPSC) under PPRP (phase II) project of the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) at the city on 9 February 2017. BIGD, in association with the World Bank and CPTU of IME Division, Ministry of Planning, organised the programme. The project is piloted in four Upazilas of Sirajganj and Rangpur districts. As the broad objective of the PPRP-II is



to improve performance of the public procurement system, the meeting discussed learnings from the national seminar 'Citizen Engagement in Public Procurement' and provided an update on the field activities.

Dr. Mirza made a presentation on experience of the pilot projects in four Upazilas. Chief Procurement Specialist of the World Bank in Dhaka, Zafrul Islam said that citizens' engagement was a new concept although it was thought to be a buzz word a few years back.

Economic development cannot be measured only by GDP

said Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud

As Bangladesh is advancing fast in its efforts to ensure sustained economic growth, the disparities between the income of workers and employers is also widening day by day. On one hand per capita income is increasing, on the other hand economic discrimination is also increasing. So, economic growth should not be measured only by Gross Domestic Production (GDP), said Prof Wahiduddin at a workshop on Formal-Informal Labour Nexus and Bangladesh's Growth.

BIGD and Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) organised the workshop on 28 March, 2017 in the capital. The workshop was organised in partnership with the Rand Corporation of the USA and supported by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the UK and the Institute for the Study of Labour (IZA) of Germany.

Prof Wahiduddin also called upon the government to come forward to take pragmatic steps to help the labour community improve their living standard.

Dr. Krishna Kumar of RAND Corporation presented his paper titled 'the Formal-Informal Labour Nexus and Growth in Bangladesh' in the first session and in the second session Dr. Shanti Nataraj also of Rand Corporation, presented the paper titled 'What Do Workers Value about Formal Employment-Results from a Worker Survey in Bangladesh'. Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Senior Research Fellow of BIDS presented his paper titled 'Employee and Employer Preferences for Worker Benefits: Results from a Matched Survey in Bangladesh'.

Presided over by BIGD Executive Director Dr.. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the panelists at the workshop included CPD Distinguished Fellow Dr. Mustafizur Rahman, Economic



Research Group Executive Director Dr. Sajjad Zohir, Professor at the Department of Economics of Dhaka University Dr. Selim Raihan, BIDS Research Director Dr. Kazi Ali Toufique and BIDS senior Research Fellow Dr. Nazneen Ahmed.

Bangladesh must begin to engage to address the rapid changes of country's knitwear industry sector

Experts said at a dissemination workshop

Bangladesh's contribution to knitwear sector calls for action not just words and we must begin to engage to address the rapid change of the industry, experts said at a dissemination workshop held on 27 February, 2017 in the capital. BIGD, in partnership with Skills for Employment Investment Programme (SEIP) project, organised the workshop to disseminate the Needs Assessment Report and Outline of Course Curriculum of the Executive Development Programme (EDP) under SEIP project and to have feedback from entrepreneurs and experts of the knitwear sector.

Prof. Dr. Syed Saad Andaleeb, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University attended the workshop as chief guest where Mr. Abdur Rouf Talukder, Additional Secretary and Executive Project Director, SEIP project was the special guest. Among others, Mr. Arastoo Khan, Chairman of Board of Directors of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, Mr. Md. Khairul Islam, Joint Secretary and Deputy Executive Project Director SEIP project, Dr. Md.

Shanawez Hossain, Chief Coordinator of EDP, SEIP; and entrepreneurs and experts from knitwear sector attended the event.



Mr. Khairul Islam made a brief presentation on EDP while Dr. Shanawez presented the Training Needs Assessment findings. Ms. Mahreen Mamoon, Coordinator of EDP, SEIP presented tentative curriculum of the courses to be offered under this program while EDP-SEIP coordinators Mr. Sirajul Islam and Ms. Jannatun Naim facilitated the workshop. Representatives from several knitwear industries attended the workshop and provided their valuable suggestions and guidelines to make the EDP successful.

Decision-taking process expedited through e-filing

Experts say at the Development Economics Conference

"Decision-taking process is getting expedited now as e-filing is taking place in 59 districts. But mutual accountability of the people involved will have to be ensured to bring more transparency in this process," said Dr. Mashiur Rahman, Economic Advisor to the PM, while speaking at the Development Economics Conference jointly organised by BIGD and International Growth Centre (IGC), at a city hotel on 12 March, 2017.

Dr. Mashiur said efficient officials are needed in the government offices for formulation of correct policies and for their implementation. Otherwise, it is not possible to implement the government's plans properly, he said, adding that at the same time emphasis will have to be given on taking decisions quickly.

Dr. Minhaj of BIDS presented his research paper 'Infrastructure and Well-Being: Employment Effects of Jamuna Bridge in Bangladesh', while Dr. Asadul Islam, an Associate Professor of Monash University, presented his paper on 'Social Network, Referrals and Technologies Adoption: Evidence from Randomized Field Experience'.

In the second session Dr. Adnan Khan of IGC presented his paper on 'Incentivizing Bureaucrats through Performance-Based Postings' and Dr. Ahmed Mushfiq Mobarak of Yale University presented on 'General Equilibrium Effects of Emigration on Rural Labor Markets'.

The last session, chaired by Dr. Mashiur, was also marked by three research papers presented by scholars from Ohio State University, Harvard University and BIGD. Emily Breza of Harvard University presented her research paper on 'Scarcity at the End of the Month - A Field Experiment with Garment Factory Workers in Bangladesh'.

Joyce Chen of Ohio State University presented paper on 'Migration and Climate Change: Environmental Vulnerability



and Location Choice in Bangladesh'. Dr. Wahid Abdallah, Research Fellow of BIGD in his research paper 'Electronic Filing System, Bureaucratic Efficiency and Public Service Delivery: Evidence from Bangladesh', suggested to adopt electronic filing systems in the public offices like deputy commissioner's office.

BIGD Picnic 2017

BIGD arranged its annual picnic on 20 February 2017 at a resort outside Dhaka, attended by staff and their families. The staff passed the day mingling with colleagues and family,



participating in sports and cultural events and sightseeing. The day ended with a cultural program followed by prize distribution and raffle draw. The event helped to strengthen the camaraderie of the staff to work as a team. In the closing remarks emphasizing on the institute's mission and vision BIGD's ED, Dr. Hafeez said, with such industrious, meritorious and cordial staff we can achieve much success. However, we have to work hard to achieve success.

Bangladesh's progress offers lessons for achieving sustainable development globally

Bangladesh's remarkable progress over the last 40 years in reducing poverty and improving lives can offer valuable lessons for achieving inclusive and sustainable development globally, said Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury, Vice-Chair of BRAC, at a signing ceremony in the Palace of Westminster hosted by the UK's All Party Parliamentary Group for Bangladesh and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex.

Ms. Melissa Leach, Director, IDS said over the last four decades IDS has worked alongside colleagues in Bangladesh to tackle some of the world's most pressing challenges and signing these agreements represent an important opportunity to recognise and reaffirm vital partnerships.

Dr. Hafeez, ED, BIGD, said, "These research partnerships will contribute both to the strategic direction of each of the

organisations, as well as continue to support the type of informed, evidence-based policy making that has



Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, ED, BIGD (left) and Melissa Leach, Director, IDS are signing an MoU

helped achieve the remarkable gains in social development in Bangladesh over the last 40 years". Together IDS, BRAC, JPGSH and BIGD will seek to identify future opportunities that foster mutual learning and cooperation around research and policy engagement activities.

ED attended the Southern Social Science Congress as Guest of Honour

Dr. Hafeez, ED of BIGD delivered his speech as the Guest of Honour at the Inaugural Session of the First Southern Social Science Congress on Social Science: New Paradigms Towards Sustainable and Prospective Future. The Institute of Public Enterprise (IPE) and Indian Council of Social Science Research Southern Regional (ICSSR) Centre organized the congress on 23-25 March, 2017 at Osmania University Campus, Hyderabad, India.



The Congress was inaugurated by Chairman of the ICSSR Mr. S. Thorat, and presidential address was given by Mr. Samar Verma, Senior Programme Officer of the Think Tank Initiative, IDRC's Regional Office for South Asia, New Delhi.

Prof. S Ramachandram, Vice Chancellor of Osmania University attended

the congress as the Chief Guest. The

three-day event was a meeting place for a wide variety of disciplines and provided a forum for academicians, researchers, policy makers and practitioners.

BIGD and Cities Alliance to Conduct Studies in Narayanganj and Sylhet

BIGD researchers along with Brussels based 'Cities Alliance' Asia Regional Adviser Dr. Ajay Suri met the Mayor of Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC), Dr. Selina Hayat Ivy on 19 January, 2017 at her office and on January 22, 2017, the team met the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sylhet City Corporation (SCC), Mr. Enamul Habib at his office. The visiting team briefed the Mayor and CEO about the 18-month long global joint work programme. Within the auspice of this programme two studies will be conducted and evidence-based policy briefs will be produced to facilitate equitable economic growth in these secondary cities. Dr. Ivy of NCC and Mr. Habib of SCC agreed to join this global campaign. BIGD's Research Fellow Dr. Shanawez, Senior Manager (Communications) Mr. Ekram Hossain, Senior Research Associate Mr. Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Research Associate Mr. Mahan Ul Hoque and Mr. Raihan Ahamed, were present in the meetings.

BIGD will facilitate partnership and conduct city diagnostics to support this programme in Narayanganj and Sylhet. This programme is being globally implemented by Cities Alliance, hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

BIGD Research Fellow attended the NGAF Seminar

Dr. Shanawez attended a seminar on National Governance Assessment Framework (NGAF) with the Members of Parliament (MPs), held on February 14, 2017, at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The seminar was organised by Governance Innovation Unit (GIU), PMO and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh. Consultants from UNDP presented a

draft governance assessment framework in the seminar, where 10 MPs shared their valuable opinions. Dr. Gowher Rizvi, Advisor to the Prime Minister, chaired the session whilst Md. Abdul Halim, Director General of GIU, and Mr. Sudipto Mukerjee, Country Director of UNDP also attended.

Seminar on Culture and Governance

BIGD organised a seminar on Culture and Governance in Bangladesh on 02 January 2016 at BIGD. Dr Taj Hashmi, Prof. of security studies at Austin Peay State University delivered a presentation on the topic. Explaining how culture and governance are linked in Bangladesh, Dr Taj said that development is not just infrastructure, rather it is a reflection of a nation's identity, values and belief system. Dr. Taj added that terrorism is the byproduct of bad governance. The presentation was followed by a question answer session. Dr. Hafeez chaired the seminar.

Women's economic opportunity draws on all factors in society, experts said at a workshop

"Women's economic opportunity is not any isolated issue. It draws on all factors in society," said Dr. Kaniz N. Siddique, at the technical validation workshop titled "Evidence Based Foundation of Women's Economic Empowerment" at UNDP on 14 March, 2017. The workshop held to review a set of four studies on the current state of and opportunities for women's economic empowerment in Bangladesh.



The study was done to gain a better understanding of the characteristics, opportunities and constraints for women's economic empowerment in

Bangladesh. Four related studies on Gender Aware Macro-economic Analysis, Analysis of Institutional and Social Constraints to Women's Economic Engagement and Benefit, Opportunities Analysis: Market and Opportunities Analysis: Policy, were completed for this purpose.

The Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST) of BIGD in partnership with UNDP and UN Women Bangladesh arranged the workshop.

Mr. Sudipto, Country Director, UNDP Bangladesh inaugurated the session which was followed by introductory remarks from Ms. Christine Hunter, Country Representative, UN Women Bangladesh and Ms. Shaila Khan, Assistant Country Director, UNDP Bangladesh. The presentation and open discussion sessions were moderated by Ms. Simeen Mahmud, Head, Gender Cluster and CGST, BIGD.

BIGD organized a training programme on Implementation of National Plans and SDGs

BIGD, in association with the General Economics Division (GED), Ministry of Planning organized a training on Implementation of National Plans and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Project Identification and Design, held on March 11, 2017. The prime objective of the training program was to enhance the capacity of the government officials so that they can use the plan effectively to identify and design a project as the Government is very keen to render its long term plan and global commitments into a set of pragmatic interventions.



The broad objective of this programme was to provide the participants with a comprehensive

knowledge about all project related documents used by the Government of Bangladesh such as relevant project management tools, rational for undertaking a project, problem analysis (problem tree), objective tree, and logical framework analysis, financial and social/environment impact assessment tools, deal with approval procedure and develop a revision mechanism along with a monitoring and evaluation system, and address challenges at the implementation stage of the project.

Dr. Shanawez of BIGD chaired the event. Prof. Shamsul Alam, Member (Senior Secretary), GED, Ministry of Planning attended the event as the Chief Guest. Mr. Fakrul Ahsan, Project Manager, Support to Sustainable and Inclusive Planning (SSIP) and Mr. Naquib bin Mahbub, Chief, GED & NPD, SSIP, attended the event as Special Guests.

Simeen Mahmud attended a meeting 'What Can We Learn from the Development Success of Bangladesh?'

Ms. Simeen Mahmud discussed and shared her opinions on the development success in Bangladesh as a Panelist at a meeting titled 'What can we learn from development success in Bangladesh?' The meeting was held at Houses of Parliament, Westminster on 28 February 2017.



Ms Anne Main, St Albans' Member of Parliament chaired the meeting organised by IDS, University of Sussex. Dr. Mushtaque, Vice Chair of BRAC; Ms. Naomi Hossain, Research Fellow, IDS; Mr. Saul Walker, Chief of Staff, Asia, Caribbean and Overseas Territories Division, DFID; and Ms. Rushanara Ali MP, UK also spoke at the event as panelists.

Head of Gender Cluster presented paper at the International Conference on Human Capital, Food Security and Economic Development

Ms. Simeen presented a paper titled "Exploring the drivers of female labour supply in rural Bangladesh" at the International Conference on Human Capital, Food Security and Economic Development in South Asia, held on January 11-12, 2017 in Sri Lanka. The conference was jointly organised by Institute of Policy studies of Sri Lanka (IPS) and Centre for Development Economics and Sustainability (CDES) and South Asia Research network (SARN), Monash University. The conference provided an opportunity for researchers from Monash University, the IPS and other academics to engage with scholars and policy analysts from the South Asia region to strengthen links, and plan and implement collaborative research activities on major development challenges facing South Asia.

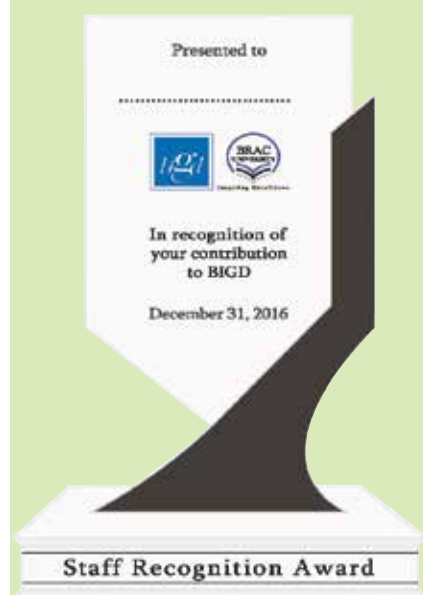
Seminar on Informal Agencies of influences: The Inter Dependence of Social, Religion and Political Trends



BIGD organized an in-house seminar titled "Informal Agencies of Influences: the Inter Dependence of Social, Religion and Political Trends" by Prof. Matthew J Nelson of SOAS, University of London. The seminar was held on 18 January 2017 at BIGD. The discussion focused on the comparative and international politics of South Asia, with an emphasis on non-elite politics, comparative political thought, the politics of Islamic institutions, and democracy. The presentation was followed by a short question answer session.

BIGD Staff Recognition Award 2016

BIGD management acknowledged, in a public way, the contribution of some staff for their better performance. This initiative, the first of its kind at BIGD, is meant to be a recognition and incentive for the staff who receive it but also to encourage the rest to 'lift their game' and to work harder. On 22 February 2017 BIGD awarded ten staff including two General Service Staff (GSS). For their better performance Ms. Syeda Salina Aziz, Ms. Kabita Chowdhury, Mr.



Muhammad Ashikur Rahman, Mr. Md. Mahan Ul Hoque, Ms. Nazneen Ahmed, Mr. Md. Zahirul Islam, Mr. Abdullah Al Mamun, Mr. Tarikul Alam Sharif, Mr. Habibur Rahman (GSS) and Mr. Md. Saiful Islam (GSS) were awarded with crests. In this ceremony Dr. Hafeez hoped that this award will be regarded as encouragement for not only the recipients but also for rest of the staff.

CIPS Activities

Member of the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (MCIPS) is considered a significant professional degree all over the world. The number of MCIPS in Bangladesh is growing steadily and majority of MCIPS holders have completed their degree from BIGD, BRAC University. On 1st February 2017, result of November 2017 series examination was published

and the number of MCIPS now stands at 129 from the government sector and 39 from private sector.

- The global examination of the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS), UK, took place at BIGD from January 23-25, 2017. 73 participants from different public and private organizations attended the examination. As the only examination centre of CIPS in Bangladesh, many external participants participated in the examination too.

Academic Updates

- Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmed Khan, Academic Coordinator, conducted a workshop on February 9, 2017 on Research Methodology for the students of Masters in Procurement and Supply Management (MPSM). The workshop covered issues such as how to submit research proposals, working on research interview, use of references and thesis submission.

- In the first quarter of 2017, 23 students in Masters of Development Studies, 27 students in MA in Governance and Development including two from Afghanistan and Myanmar, 15 students in MPSM and 25 students in Diploma in Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS) were enrolled.

Researchers' other activities

- Ms. Maheen Sultan, Visiting Fellow of BIGD facilitated two sessions titled Women's movement in Bangladesh: organizing in the context of shrinking democratic space, and Cross-movement building: intersection of women's rights and sex-worker's rights, at the training on Feminist Leadership, organized by Movement Building and Rights Institute (South Asia) on January 16-21, 2017 at Kathmandu, Nepal.

- Dr. Shanawez attended the Inception Workshop project titled "Inclusive Budgeting and Financing for Climate Resilience (IBFCR)" on January 29, 2017 at the capital. He also attended the book launching ceremony the 'Immersion in Development Programme' (IDP) January 30, 2017 at BRAC University.

- Ms. Simeen and Ms. Maheen, attended a workshop on "Bangladesh in focus: What can we learn about sustainable and inclusive development?", held on February 27-28, 2017, organised by IDS, University of Sussex.

- Ms. Simeen and Research Associate Ms. Nuzhat Sharmeen, attended the workshop on "Creating Inclusive and Resilient Cities" organized by CORD (Collaboration for Research on democracy), Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Centre in Milan, Italy from March 6-10, 2017. Ms. Simeen presented a paper titled "Engaging the urban poor to build resilient communities: realizing the right to water in urban Bangladesh".

- Ms. Simeen, Ms. Maheen and Ms. Sahida Khondaker presented papers titled 'Care work and Gender Roles', 'Exploring Care Work of Women' and 'Images of Caring Men' at the inauguration of the Center for Advanced Research at Central Women's University.

- Dr. Shanawez attended the meeting between BRAC and Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), National University of Singapore, held at BRAC Centre on March 19, 2017. Dr. Shanawez also participated in a panel discussion on NGO and development in Bangladesh on the occasion of celebrating BRAC Day 2017, held on March 19, 2017. He also, attended a live TV discussion on Traffic and Public Transport of Dhaka City Based on BIGD State of Cities Report, 2016 at News24 on March 29, 2017.

- Ms. Sahida Islam Khondaker, Ms. Nuzhat Sharmeen, Ms. Sufia Khatun and Ms. Sanjida Parvin attended a training on MAXQDA software, organized by ODI and JGPSFH.

- Mr. Gubair Bin Arafat, Research Associate of BIGD participated in a three-day national workshop on "Countering Violent Extremism (CVE): Building Resilience and Capacity", held on March 28-30, 2017, jointly organized by Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS) and Bangladesh Centre for Terrorism Research (BCTR).

Executive Director's Activities

BIGD Executive Director Dr. Hafeez had several meetings in the first quarter of 2017 with a number of distinguished personalities such as prominent academics, policy makers and researchers regarding the research collaborations and other relevant issues of BIGD.

Dr. Hafeez had meeting with Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Chairperson, BRAC; Ms. Candace Rondeaux, Senior Program Officer-USIP; Mr. L. McGann, Associate Coordinator, Research and Knowledge Management, RESOLVE Network; Mr. C A Dhiraj Ajay Suri, Regional Advisor & Mr. K Rajivan, Independent Consultant from Cities Alliance; Dr. Asadul Islam, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, and Coordinator, South Asia Research Network (SARN) of Monash Business School, Monash University; Mr. Ravindran Devagunam and Mr. Fabian Bigar, Director of PEMANDU; Mr. NM Zeaul Alam, Secretary (Reforms and Coordination), Mr. Sultan Ahmed, Additional Secretary, Mr. Altaf Hossen Sheikh, Deputy Secretary and Mr. Kamrul Hassan, Deputy Secretary of Cabinet Division; Prof.

Sohela Nazneen of Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex; Mr. Mohammad Mejbahuddin, Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, regarding research and academic programme, Ms. Isabel Bucknall and Deepa Solanki, Managers at Adam Smith International - Public Financial Management, regarding possible partnership; Mr. Brian D. Hanley, Regional Director for Asia Programmes of Internews, regarding a project of media monitoring, Mr. Md. Nojibur Rahman, Senior Secretary, Internal Resource Division (IRD) and Chairman, National Board of Revenue (NBR), Ministry of Finance; Mr. Tim Dobermann, Hub Economist for Bangladesh, IGC; Mr. Fahad Khalil, Chair, Castor Professor of Economics, University of Washington; Mr. Adnan Khan, Lecturer, London School of Economics and Political Science and Research & Policy Director, IGC; Dr. Nasir Uddin Ahmed, Commissioner, ACC; Mr. Samar Verma Ph.D. Senior Program Officer, IDRC; Prof. Ramkumar Mishra, Director, Institute of Public Enterprise (IPE); Mr. Mohan Das Manandhar, Senior Advisor, Nepal; Dr. Zafrul Islam, Lead

Procurement Specialist of the World Bank and Task Team Leader, PPRP-II; and Barrister Manzoor Hasan, Chair, UNCAC Coalition, Executive Director, South Asian Institute of Advanced Legal Human Rights Studies (SAILS); Ms. Franziska Korn, Resident Representative of Friedrich- Ebert- Stiftung- (FES) Bangladesh Office, regarding the ongoing project and board meeting and Ms. Sylvia Borren, BRAC board member from the Netherlands & former Director of Green Peace.

Dr. Hafeez attended the Consultation Workshop on Strengthening Public Private Partnership for Inclusive and Sustainable growth of Bangladesh Fisheries Sector as distinguished discussants organized by the Department of Fisheries and Bangladesh Shrimp and Fish Foundation.

Dr. Hafeez also attended seminar on "Bangladesh in Focus: What can we learn about sustainable and inclusive development?" at IDS; IGC's International Conference on Development Economics; and *Gunijon Songbordhona* - 2017 organized by Daily Bonik Barta.

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