

Centre for Governance Studies

BRAC University

Annual Report

2006



Bringing value to public life

The Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) concluded its first twelve-month residential academic programme – Master’s in Governance and Development (MAGD) – in September 2006. The programme for 25 mid-career civil servants and one NGO (BRAC) representative was held for two semesters at the BCDM BRAC facility in Rajendrapur with the final semester in Dhaka. All students received full scholarship to pursue their studies.

In addition to providing students with the topical expertise in governance and development, the multidisciplinary academic programme was designed to encourage independent thinking, sharpen analytical skills and provide tools for working with the complexities of public service delivery in the contemporary global environment. Among the faculty teaching MAGD were top national experts in the fields of economics, public administration and law including Dr. Akbar Ali Khan, Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed and Dr. Kamal Hussein. Ten international faculty members participated in the programme as lectures and resource persons.

In the final semester, the students took a foreign study tour to Sweden and UK. Students found the tour to be a valuable and eye-opening experience and cited the opportunity to observe well-functioning local and national governments of Sweden as inspirational for their work. In UK, the students participated in a three day custom-designed course on local government in Bangladesh delivered on-site by the faculty of the Institute of Development Studies in Brighton.

The MAGD programme was externally evaluated in October 2006 by a Dutch consulting team and received positive review with a recommendation to continue. However, due to the unstable political situation in the country in Fall 2006, the recruitment for and the commencement of the second batch of MAGD programme were postponed till 2007.

Research on governance is, in addition to teaching, a core mission of the Centre. In 2006, the Centre produced its first annual report *The State of Governance in Bangladesh: Knowledge, Perceptions, Reality* along with the attendant research studies. This report, prepared in partnership with BRAC Research and Evaluation Division and reviewed by national and international specialists, was launched in December. Based on comprehensive literature review and targeted primary research, the *State of Governance* represents Centre’s effort at better understanding of challenges of governance and provides an entry into the academic and policy debates about how good governance may be achieved in Bangladesh. The report and the working papers are available on the Centre’s website www.igs-bracu.ac.bd

In 2006, CGS continued to build its faculty and research team under a leadership of a new Director, Barrister Manzoor Hasan, formerly Deputy Executive Director of BRAC. Mr. Hasan brings formidable legal expertise to the Centre along with the experience of managing organisations in the non-governmental sector. He is a founder and a former Executive Director of Transparency International, Bangladesh. Academic programmes are coordinated by Dr. Rizwan Khair, a public policy and public administration expert. The resident foreign faculty are Dr. Beata Czajkowska who supports development and implementation of research programmes and Dr. David Skully who joined the Centre as a Senior Fulbright Scholar.