

MONTHLY UPDATES, APRIL 2013

Roundtable discussion Titled Banking Sector Governance: Reforms and Impacts



Participants at the Roundtable on Banking Sector Governance

The Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) organised its second roundtable discussions on topic covered in its flagship report – The State of Governance (SOG) in Bangladesh 2010-11. The roundtable meeting based on the chapter of SOG 2010–11 entitled “Banking Sector Governance: Reforms and Impacts” was held on 27 April, 2013, at the Conference Room of BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka.

The event was moderated by Professor Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka and Chairman of Unnayan Anneshan. The panel discussants of the roundtable discussion were: Professor Abu Ahmed, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman, Economic Advisor of Bangladesh Bank and Dr. Khandakar Golam Moazzem, Additional Director (research) of Centre for Policy Dialogue. The meeting started with a welcome speech by IGS Director Dr. Rizwan Khair while M Shahidul Islam, Research Fellow of IGS presented research findings on banking sector reforms and impacts. The discussion was followed by views, remarks and suggestions made by different academics, research experts and professionals working in the country’s economic, finance and banking sector such as: Mr. Forrest E. Cookson, Economist, Research and Development Centre, Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed, Former Chairman of NBR and Research Coordinator of IGS, Mr Hasanuzzam, Project Manager, Access to Information Programme, UNDP and Mr. Ashikur Rahman, Research Fellow of IGS.

IGS Finance Team Attended Training Programme on Global Financial System and Governance

On 5th April 2013 IGS finance team attended a training programme titled “Global Financial System and Governance” at GDLN Centre, BRAC University. This training was jointly organised by Global Development Training Network and BRAC University. The training programme was focused on capacity building and creating awareness about the global financial situation.

Grant Agreement between IGS and the Carter Center

IGS signed a grant agreement on 29 April 2013 with The Carter Center to conduct second piloting (Pilot Phase II) of Access to Information Implementation Assessment Tool (ATI- IAT) in Bangladesh. As per the contract, IGS will reapply IAT in six Ministries namely; Agriculture, Customs, Education, Finance, Health, and Justice. Besides, IGS will also conduct focus group discussion, write narrative reports and present findings in a review meeting to be held in Atlanta GA in 19-20 May 2013. Previously, IGS has also carried out Pilot Phase I in Bangladesh along with South Africa and Mexico which was completed with a review meeting in Atlanta GA in December 2011. The meeting was attended by Dr. Rizwan Khair, Director of IGS and Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Research Associate, IGS.

IGS Research Team participating on a Certificate Course on “Governance and Development”

IGS research team enrolled in an Executive Certificate Course on “Governance and Development” at North South University started on 5th April 2013. This certificate course is designed based on the Master in Public Policy and Governance programme under the Department of General and Continuing Education (GCE). Professionals working in public sector, defense service personnel, development partners, non-profit sectors and research organization are the potential participants of the course. At the end of the course, the participants will be evaluated through thesis paper and field visits reports. Research Associate Saika Nudrat Chowdhury, Research Assistant Afrina Islam, Nabila Zaman and Kazi Niaz Ahmed participated in this course. This course will be ended by 18th May, 2013.

IGS Research Team Visit to Jessore and Khulna

From 27-30 April, 2013, IGS research team comprising of Kazi Nurmohammad Hossainul Haque and Faiz Ahmed Chowdhury, conducted a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and Key Informant Interview (KII) at Jessore and Khulna. This visit was organised by IGS. The FGDs and KIIs were focused on their working paper on “Tidal River Management (TRM): Community Initiative to Adapt the Climate Change”. Besides they also went to the TRM implementation sites.

Training on Procurement Principles and Management



Participants from PPM Batch-1 and PPM Batch-2 Attended the Training Programme

A training programme, titled Procurement Principles and Management was organised by IGS, BRAC University, at IGS Conference Room. There were two batches in this training programme. PPM Batch-1 was held on 05-06 April and PPM Batch-2 was held on 19-20 April, 2013. As part of core activities of IGS, this training course was offered to enhance the capacity on Procurement Principle and Management. The training was attended by 14 participants for each batch from different organisation. Dr. Rizwan Khair, Director of IGS, awarded certificates among the participants on 6th and 20th April, 2013 respectively through an unostentatious ceremony. The course was conducted by the training wing of IGS.

Admission Test Held for Masters in Procurement and Supply Management (MPSM)

On 13th April, 2013 IGS, BRAC University held admission test on Masters in Procurement and Supply Management (MPSM) for Summer Semester 2013 at BRAC University. Total 24 participants from different procurement and supply chain organisations were selected through this test. Classes will start from 16 May, 2013.

Foreign Representatives' Visit to IGS

On 8 April, 2013, a delegation team from the Institute for Sustainable Communities, Vermont, USA, lead by George Hamilton, President of the Institute, visited IGS to discuss collaborative efforts with IGS in the area of training. The team included their Program Director, Asia and Technical Director from Shanghai.

On 10 April, 2013 a delegation from Royal University of Bhutan lead by Mr. Yangka, Director of Academic Affairs of the University, visited IGS to discuss possible areas of collaboration between IGS and Royal University.

IGS Director's Activities

Director of IGS, Dr. Rizwan Khair, conducted a workshop on Public Policy Analysis for Joint Secretaries of Government at Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre at Savar on 11 April, 2013.

On 28 April, 2013, Director of IGS attended a meeting with the academic advisors for research at the National Defence College, Mirpur.

Dr. Rizwan Khair, Director and Kazi Nur Mohammad Hossainul Haque, Senior Research Associate of IGS attended a brain-storming session in the School of Public Health (SPH) of BRAC University on 22 April. The main theme was to design a short course on Urban Health which would be run by SPH in collaboration with IGS and BRAC Development Institute.

ANSA SAR Funded Meetings in Rangpur and Jamalpur

ANSA SAR funded two separate Community Score Card (CSC) experience sharing meetings organized by Manusher Jonno Foundation and PRIP Trust. Manusher Jonno Foundation had organised the experience sharing meeting on 'Primary Education and Social Accountability at Begum Rokeya auditorium of Rangpur-Dinajpur Rural Services (RDRS) Rangpur, on 27th April, 2013. Government and NGO officials, headmasters and presidents of different government primary school managing committees (SMC), District and Upazila level Primary Education Officers, Upazila Nirbahi Officers, union parishad chairmen and members, community leaders, guardians, civil society members, and elite of greater Rangpur participated in the meeting. Ms Nuzhat Jabin, Programme Manager and Ms Aneesa Rahman, Programme Associate from ANSA SAR, represented at the meeting.

On 30th April, 2013, PRIP Trust had organised their experience sharing meeting on Citizen's Engagement for Quality Service at DC Office, Conference Room, Jamalpur. The chief guest was the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Jamalpur, Md Delwar Haider and Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jamalpur. Participants included civil surgeons from the Jamalpur Civil Surgeon Office and other representatives of civil society organizations. Mr Musthafizur Rahman Khan, Project Officer, ANSA SAR represented ANSA at the meeting.

ANSA-SAR & PRIP Trust Organised Mobile Phone based Skill Training

Training on ICT Based Monitoring services



From 16-27 April, 2013 ANSA-SAR & PRIP Trust organised a Mobile Phone based Skill Training in Urban and Rural Level for the citizens who are getting public services. In the trainings the citizens were taught how to evaluate the services of public services through mobile software. This training was a part of the project called "Improvement of Quality and Delivery Mechanism of Public Services through ICT based Citizens' Monitoring Initiatives" in Rajshahi. Each of the training sessions had 50 participants. The first four training was held in Rajshahi city for 12 No. ward and remaining three training were held in Dhankura Union of Rajshahi.

ANSA SAR – PTF Book Launch

ANSA-SAR in collaboration with Partnership for Transparency Fund (PTF) has published a brand new book by Pierre Landell-Mills titled “Citizens Against Corruption- Report from the Frontlines” on 30th April 2013 at India International Center, Delhi. This book tells the story of how groups of courageous and dedicated citizens across the globe are taking direct action to root out corruption. It draws on over 200 unique case studies that describe impressive initiatives undertaken over the past decade by 130 civil society organizations (CSOs) in 51 countries that were supported by PTF to engage directly with public agencies to stop the bribery and extortion that damages peoples’ lives and obstructs social and economic progress.

Publications:

The Financial Express: [Saving state-owned banks from government intervention](#): Tuesday, 30 April 2013 by M. Shahidul Islam

The Financial Express: [Growth in uncertain times](#): Saturday, 20 April 2013: M Shahidul Islam

The Financial Express: [Making central bank operationally effective](#): Tuesday, 30 April 2013