



April 2017

Inauguration of Academy of Work held

Academy of Work (AoW), an initiative of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Bangladesh, in collaboration with Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS) and BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University, was inaugurated through a Press Conference on April 20, 2017 at a hotel in the city. The AoW is a three-month academic programme for mid-level trade unionists. It is the very first initiative in Bangladesh that enables emerging young leaders from the trade union movement to participate in an intensive cross-sector training programme in the field of industrial relations, economy and the decent work in the global supply chain in their very own language.



Mr. Mujibul Haque, State Minister for Labour and Employment graced the event as Chief Guest. The event was attended by Michel Sommer, Vice Chairman of the FES and former President of the International Trade Union Confederation and German Confederation of Trade Unions, Dr. Thomas Prinz, German Ambassador to Bangladesh, Professor Martin Allesspach from the University of Frankfurt. Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, Executive Director of BILS, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director of BIGD and Franziska Korn, Resident Representative of FES Bangladesh also spoke on the occasion. Prominent trade union leaders, government representatives and academicians also attended the event.

Meeting with Counterpart International held

BIGD organized a meeting with Counterpart International on April 25, 2017 and had a discussion on developing a USAID proposed five years program that will support a broad array of civil society actors to improve governance and promote reform in Bangladesh. The program will educate, and empower these groups and support platforms, tools and initiatives that will enable them to advocate for better governance, and inclusive democratic practices. Ms. Allison Strype, Senior Manager and Mr. Saiful Bhuiyan, Consultant from Counterpart International and Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow of BIGD attended the meeting.

BIGD's ED attended the BBIN Conference

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahmna, Executive Director of BIGD attended a think tank level BBIN Conference organized by Institute of Strategic and Socio-Economic Research (ISSR), held on 17-18 April 2017 at Kathmandu, Nepal. Dr. Rahman attended there as a Speaker in a session

titled Potential area and way forward for enhancing Cooperation at the Sub-regional level in South Asia. Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat, Former Finance Minister of Nepal, chaired the session.

BIGD Researcher attended BIDS Critical Conversation 2017

DDr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director of BIGD and Ms. Simeen Mahmud, Head, Gender Studies Cluster, BIGD attended a two-day long BIDS Critical Conversation 2017, held during 23 and 24 April, 2017 at a hotel in Dhaka addressing the “Bangladesh Journey: Accelerating Transformation”. Dr. Hafeez chaired a session titled Sustainable Cities in Bangladesh: Issues and Strategies, where Ms. Mahmud

was a Distinguished Panelist at the session titled ‘Status of Women Entrepreneurship: What have we achieved?’. The event created an opportunity for the policy makers and a broad spectrum of academics, practitioners, experts and civil society members engaged in a genuine conversation on the current state of development and critical challenges for the future.



Publication

Research Report: Regional Cooperation in South Asia and the Sustainability of the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Transit by Nuzhat Sharmeen, Research Associate, BIGD, BRAC University

Researchers Other Activities

- Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow of BIGD participated in the Sharing and Validation Workshop of SDC Local Economic Development Project in Bangladesh, organized by Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh on April 13, 2017.
- Dr. Shanawez delivered a Lecture on the topic “Urbanization and Urban Transport Governance in Bangladesh” in a course titled Master in Environmental Management in Independent University (IUB) as a Guest Lecturer on April 8, 2017.
- Sahida Khondaker attended the findings sharing of a Qualitative Assessment Study on Adolescent Friendly Health Corners (AFHCs) in Selected Government Health Facilities in Bangladesh conducted by Population Council, held on April 26, 2017
- Dr. Shanawez appeared in an interview of a TV Channel named News24TV on Traffic and Public

Transport of Dhaka City Based on BIGD State of Cities Report, 2016 on April 26, 2017.

- Dr. Shanawez delivered an online guest lecture for the students of RMIT University, Australia on the topic, ‘Traffic and Transportation in Dhaka, Bangladesh-Governance Perspective’ for the Course, 'Urbanisation Issues in the Asia Pacific Region' under the UN Habitat Project: State of Cities in the Asia Pacific Region, on April 28, 2017.
- Dr. Shanawez, Maheen Sultan, Visiting Fellow; Sahida Khondaker, Sadia Mustafa and Nuzhat Sharmeen, Research Associates of BIGD attended the sessions titled “Can Bangladesh Continue to Grow without ‘Good Governance?’” and “Status of Women Entrepreneurship: What Have We Achieved?” at the BIDS Critical Conversations 2017.

Executive Director's Activities

BIGD's ED Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman had several meetings in April 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. Rahman had meetings with Mr. Pial Islam, Managing Partner, pi STRATEGY; Mr. Abdur Rouf Talukder, Additional Secretary, Executive Project Director (SEIP) and had a discussion on SEIP Phase II; and Dr. Farhat M. Iftakharuddin, Acting Pro- Vice

Chancellor, BRAC University and had a discussion on some International Programmes of BIGD. He also attended as a discussant in a Roundtable organized by Resolve Network. Dr. Rahman also visited the BRAC Learning Centre to meet with the Academy of Work (AoW) participants along with Franziska Korn, Resident Representative, FES Bangladesh and Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, Executive Director, Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS). He also attended several Skype and Dinner meeting.



BRAC Institute of Governance and Development
BRAC University

SK Centre (3rd - 7th Floor), GP, Ja-4, TB Gate
Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh

Tel +88 02 58810306, 58810320, 58810326, Fax: +88 02 8832542
Website: <http://bigd.bracu.ac.bd>



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