

**Institute of Governance Studies
BRAC University**

Monthly Updates, December 2012

International Conference on *Governance and Public Service Transformation in South Asia*



Different sequences of the conference organized by ANSA-SAR, WBI and IGS

Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) of BRAC University and Affiliated Network for Social Accountability – South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR), in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Millennium Campaign – Asia & Pacific Region, Public Affairs Centre (PAC) Bangalore, India, and Governance & Public Policy Programme of North-South University organised an International Conference on 7th – 9th December 2012 at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka.

The principal objective of the conference was to collaboratively explore the governance reform journey in South Asian countries over past two decades; the challenges and emerging opportunities and prospects in short and medium term. This exploration was of growing significance in the context of the on-going post 2015 development agenda-setting process. The conference explored specific governance deficits that hinder the acceleration of MDG achievement, as well as recommended how governance agenda can be concretely integrated in the post 2015 development framework.

On 7th December, the inaugural ceremony of the conference was marked with the presence of Dr. Gowher Rizvi, International Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh as the Chief Guest, Stefan Priesner, Country Director, UNDP Bangladesh and Dr. Salman Zaidi Lead Economist of

The World Bank, Bangladesh. Dr. Rizwan Khair, Director, IGS of BRAC University delivered a detail overview on the objectives of the conference. The welcome note was delivered by Nuzhat Jabin, Programme Manager of ANSA-SAR to the delegates from over 10 countries (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Egypt, the Philippines, Switzerland, Australia, UK and the Netherlands).

The Valedictory session of the International Conference on “**Governance and Public Service Transformation in South Asia**” was held on 09 December 2012. This session was followed by a press conference to meet the media, where the two and a half days of discussions and deliberations of the delegates from were published. The Dhaka declaration was announced by Pauline Tamesis, Democratic Governance Practice Leader, UNDP Asia Pacific Regional Centre and Naimur Rahman, Chief Operating Officer, ANSA-SAR. In the press conference, Dr. Rizwan Khair, Minar Pimple, Regional Director, United Nations Millennium Campaign Asia Pacific; R Suresh, Director, Public Affairs Centre, India; Nuzhat Jabin, Naimur Rahman from ANSA-SAR was present and briefed journalists about the Dhaka declaration.

ANSA-SAR funded project consultation meeting in Rangpur

Md. Mustafizur Rahaman, Project Officer ANSA-SAR attended a consultation meeting arranged by MJF partner RDRS on 24th December 2012 in RDRS conference hall in Rangpur. RDRS is implementing the ANSA funded project titled ***Scaling up Primary Education and Community Score Card*** in 10 schools of Rangpur, Kurigram and Gaibandha districts. It was an experience sharing meeting about the project. The meeting ended with some recommendations for policy advocacy on the project deliverables.

On 26th December, 2012 Mr. Md. Mustafizur Rahman attended the second consultation meeting of the same project in RDRS Office, Kurigram. The meeting was attended by Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman, District Controller of Kurigram and Mr. Md. Saiduzzaman, District Primary Education Officer- Kurigram. The consultation meeting deliberated on the effective application of community score card (CSC) in measuring the quality of primary education. It also involved distinguished participants from all respective line divisions of District Governing body.

IGS Researcher participated at an International Conference in Paris

Sultan Mohammed Zakaria, Research Assistant of the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University, attended and presented a paper in an International Conference held in Paris, France on 27-28th December 2012. The two-day conference titled “***Business and Social Science Conference: Paris 2012***” has been organized by Macro theme Review, a multidisciplinary academic journal published from Paris, France. Mr Zakaria participated in the “Policy and Law” session (session 3) and presented his research paper titled “*Middle East democracy: Promise, Prospects and Challenges*” which aimed to analyse challenges towards Middle East democracy and measured its implication on the democratic outcome. The paper will be published in the journal’s upcoming issue. The session as well as the conference was attended by senior Professors, academicians, and researchers from renowned universities including Cornell, Indiana, Duke, Aberdeen, Beijing James Cook etc.

Paper Presentation by IGS Researcher at Dhaka University

Researcher Jannatul Fardosh of IGS presented a paper at the Conference titled, “Urbanization, Sustainability and Governance” at R.C. Mojumder Hall on 5-6 December at Dhaka University. The presentation topic was "Access to Water in Urban Poor Settlements: Addressing Crisis through Good Governance" under the panel of "Urbanization and governance". The conference was organized by the Department of Sociology, University of Dhaka.

IGS Research Team members attended an International Conference in Sri Lanka

IGS researchers and the Academic Coordinator presented their respective papers at the 9th International Conference 2012 of Network of Asia Pacific Schools and Institutes of Public Administration and Governance (NAPSIPAG) which took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka. It was themed as Development Challenges in the Asia Pacific: Millennium Development Goals and Beyond. It took place from 12-14 December 2012 and was organized by Monash University of Australia. The participants of IGS were researchers Kazi Nurmohammad Hossainul Haque, Faiz Ahmed Chowdhury, Farhana Razzaque, and Academic Coordinator Dr. Zohurul Islam.

IGS Supported Bangladesh Inter-Ministerial Study Tour in Sri Lanka

Research fellow of IGS Elvira Graner participated in a study tour titled “***Wetland Policies and Co-Management***” in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. This inter-ministerial Study Tour to Sri Lanka was conducted between the 27th November and the 3rd December 2012. It was jointly organised by the GIZ Wetland Biodiversity Rehabilitation Project (WBRP) and the Department of Fisheries (DoF), with support from the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) of BRAC University. The Study Tour had the main aim of improving the understanding of complex policy issues related to the co-management of wetland ecosystems in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The high level delegation comprised of representatives from the Government of Bangladesh from four key ministries, namely the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, and its Dept. of Fisheries (DoF), the Ministry of Land, the Ministry of Environment and Forests, as well as the Ministry of Water Resources.

Research Fellow of IGS, Elvira Graner, participated in this study tour and attended 3 meetings, 1 policy dialogue, field visits and presentations in connection with Wetland Biodiversity Rehabilitation Project in Sri Lanka.

IGS team organised Meeting with Social Impact-Bangladesh

A coordination meeting was held on 2nd December, 2012 with the representative of Social Impact at its office. On behalf of IGS, Dr. Rizwan Khair, Director, and Munir Uddin Shamim, Senior Programme Manager, attended this meeting. Chief of Party and Deputy Chief of Party of Social Impact-Bangladesh were present at the meeting. The meeting discussed the upcoming activities under the project with Social Impact.

IGS Research Team Attended Workshop on Curriculum development

IGS and Bangladesh Public Administration Training Center (BPATC) organized training on Policy Analysis under curriculum development workshop under the NUFFIC project from 2nd -6th December 2012 at BRAC Center Inn. This training programme was carried out by Professor Dr. Des Gasper, from International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Erasmus University Rotterdam.

IGS research team comprising of Syeda Salina Aziz, Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Md. Harun-Or-Rashid, Kazi Nurmohammad Hossainul Haque, Farhana Razzaque attended this training programme.

IGS and PATC Jointly Arranged

Training on Gender and Governance

Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) and Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) organised training on Gender and Governance under NUFFIC project on 22nd-24th Decemeber, 2012 at BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka. This training was conducted by Dr. Amrita Chhachhi, faculty of International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam.

This training programme was attended by the IGS Researchers Syeda Salina Aziz, Kazi Nurmohammad Hossainul Haque, Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Md. Harun-Or-Rashid, Farhana Razzaque, Faiz Ahmed Chowdhury, Rigan Chakma and Jannatul Fardosh.

*Gender and Governance Training program organized by
IGS and PATC*



Public Lecture on ‘Good Governance or Developmental Governance? Reform Challenges for Bangladesh’



From right : Dr. Mushtaq Khan, Dr. Rizwan Khair and Dr. Akbar Ali Khan at the lecture.

On 31 December, 2012, IGS organised a public lecture on ‘Good Governance or Developmental Governance? Reform Challenges for Bangladesh’. The lecture was provided by Dr. Mushtaq Khan, Professor of Economics, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. The lecture was held at BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium. Dr. Akbar Ali Khan, Professor, BRAC Business School & former Adviser to the Caretaker Government chaired the event. Academicians, researchers, governance experts, economists, politicians, civil society members, leaders of the think tank organisations, former bureaucrats attended the lecture.

Publications:

M. Shahidul Islam and M. Nasir Uddin Khan- “Urbanization: Spatial Dynamics” in Hossain Zillur Rahman (ed.) *Bangladesh Urban Dynamics*, PPRC, Dhaka, December 2012

The Daily Star: [Three decades of banking reforms](#) by M. Shahidul Islam and Rubayet Hamid, 25 December 2012

The Daily Star: [Expensive power and price adjustment](#) by M. Shahidul Islam and Syeda Salina Aziz, 19 December 2012