

**Institute of Governance Studies
BRAC University
Monthly Updates, January, 2013.**

**IGS organised roundtable discussion on the
State of Governance (SOG) in Bangladesh.**

The first roundtable meeting based on SOG 2010 – 11 Report entitled “Primary Education in Bangladesh: *Policy, Influence, Ownership*” was held on 30 January 2013, at the BRAC Centre Inn in Dhaka. This was a follow-up activity to communicate research findings, instigate further debates and facilitate research impacts in the policy making process of the country. The event was moderated by barrister Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Senior Advisor, Institute of Educational Development, BRAC University. The Director of IGS Dr. Rizwan Khair explained the objectives of roundtable series and Research Associate Mohammad Sirajul Islam presented research findings on primary education.



Roundtable discussion of IGS - *The State of Governance (SOG) in Bangladesh.*

IGS Senior Advisor Dr Manzoor Ahmed said the Government should set up a statutory permanent education commission to improve quality of education. Along with that, other participants suggested that more attention and active participation of politicians were needed for overall improvement of standard of education in the country.

Academics, researchers, experts, former and present public officials, leaders of different teachers' associations, former member of National Education Commission, representatives from think tank and development partners, members of civil society organizations attended the programme . Among the participants Former Vice-Chancellor Professor Kazi Saleh Ahmed Jahangirnagar University (JU), Research Director Dr. Abul Ehsan Institute of Education and Research, University of Dhaka, Mr. Nurul Hoque Majumder, Planning Ministry's Joint Chief for Education Wing, Mr. Samir Ranjan Nath, BRAC's Programme Head of Educational Research Unit, Member of National Education Policy Formulation Committee Kazi Faruque Ahmed, Education Expert Mr. A. N. S. Habibur Rahman, Professor Dr. Mahmudul Alam, Northern University, Professor Dr. Nasir Uddin Ahmed, IGS', Professor John Richards from Public Policy School, Simon Fraser University, Canada, Mr. Nabendra Dahal and Mr. Mohammad Mohsin from Unicef, Mr. M. Shahidul Islam, Project Officer from UNESCO, Mr. AR. Rahman from Action Now, Teachers' and Employees' representatives Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman Bacchu and Dr. Kazuaki Hashimoto, Primary Education Advisor, JICA.

IGS Research Team Attended International Workshop on Four Decades of Public Administration and Governance in Bangladesh

Institute of Governance Studies BRAC University, The Department of Publication Administration of CU and Governance Innovation Unit of Prime Minister Office jointly organised a two-day long international workshop titled 'Four Decades of Public Administration and Governance in Bangladesh'. This workshop was held at Chittagong University campus on January 12, 2013. IGS researcher Farhana Razzaque attended this workshop and presented a paper accordingly.

IGS Research Team attended Training Workshop

Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University, in partnership with the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) organised a training workshop on 'Curriculum Development' which was held at BRAC Center Inn from 27-31 January 2013. This workshop was held as a part of NUFFIC project.

The Dutch partners are MDF, Institute of Social Studies and VU University of Amsterdam. The training workshop was conducted by Dr. Wim Kouwenhoven from VU University, Amsterdam.



IGS research team member participated in Training Workshop.

IGS research team Farhana Razzaque, Syeda Salina Aziz, Kazi Nurmohammad Hossainul Haque, Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Md. Harun-Or-Rashid participated in the training workshop.

IGS Facilitate a Study Tour of a course on "Development Practices: Social Enterprise in Bangladesh"

Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) facilitated a study tour of a course on "Development Practices: Social Enterprise in Bangladesh" from 29 December, 2012-10 January, 2013. A group consists of 13 students from University of Virginia, USA under the guidance of a professor named Dr. Brad Brown, has attended this tour. IGS research assistant Jannatul Fardosh participated in the tour.



Research Assistant Jannatul Fardosh with the visiting students.

During the tour; they visited different institutions including Waste Concern, Grameen Bank projects and multiple BRAC projects including Aarong Dairy, BRAC Micro-finance Programme, BRAC Health Programme, a BRAC Primary School, Ayesha Abed Foundation, BRAC Agricultural Research and Development Centre, BRAC Internship Programme and BRAC Social Innovation Lab.

IGS team attended public lecture

On 15 January, 2013, IGS organised a public lecture on ‘Governance: A Conceptual Riddle or an Ideological Device’ at Vice Chancellor’s Conference Room, BRAC University. The lecture was provided by Dr. Bidyut Chakrabarty, Professor and Head, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi. This lecture focused on accountability, transparency, predictability and participation in the governance issues considering the social, global and academic viewpoint. IGS and BRAC University staffs attended the lecture.

ANSA SAR Staff in EC Proposal Writing at South India

ANSA SAR team members Md. Mustafizur Rahman, Narayan Chandra Das and Aneesa Rahman participated in EC Proposal Writing- Log Frame, Concept Note and Full Proposal. The training was conducted in Karl Kubel Institute for Development Education, Coimbatore, South India from 23rd - 25th January, 2013. The training significantly aimed at helping the participants to review the quality of an impact oriented Logical Framework as an important starting point for writing a potential development project proposal and as a constructing tool for preparing an EC Concept Note. This training programme offered a wide range of subject matters relevant to donor objectives and priorities and writing proposals that respond to the main criteria such as effectiveness, methodology and sustainability.

ANSA SAR Team Conducted Technical Training at Rajshahi

A technical training workshop for the mobile based application on Citizen Feedback was held in Rajshahi from 26 to 28 January, 2013. ANSA SAR and its implementing partner PRIP Trust took this initiative to implement the “ICT Based Citizens’ Monitoring” project in urban and rural areas of Rajshahi by introducing mobile phone-based e-governance system through a survey for redressing criticisms of the citizens. The trainings were held in two rounds, where in the first round ANSA team and PRIP Trust team were trained on how to use the mobile application and in the second round the volunteers who will help the citizens to send their feedbacks were trained.

In order to conduct the survey properly, a team consisting of Mr. Mukul Mahajan and Ms. Anjali Ghosh from Mobilepedia, a technology organization focused on delivering mobile government solutions from India who developed the application, conducted the first round of trainings held on 26th and 27th January, 2013 for ANSA SAR and PRIP Trust. And the second round of training for the volunteers were held by Mr Mahmudul Alam Talukder, Jr. Project Assistant, ANSA and Mr Emran Bin Nasir, IT Officer, PRIP Trust. This initiative aims to increase the participation of citizens in Public Service Monitoring in Rajshahi District.

Participation of ANSA SAR in the Asian Regional Conference At Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Program Manager Ms Nuzhat Jabin, ANSA SAR attended and made a short presentation on ANSA SAR and its current activities in a two day long regional conference on '*Social Accountability in Municipal Governance*' from 31 January – 1 February 2013 at Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Society for Participatory Research in Asia, India, PRIP Trust, Bangladesh and SILAKA, Cambodia with the support of United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) is implementing an initiative called "*Deepening Local Democratic Governance through Social Accountability*" in two Asian cities namely *Rajshahi* in Bangladesh and *Takhmao* in Cambodia. It aims to develop democratic practices in urban local governance institutions through social accountability for the improvement of basic services. It focuses on enhancing organised civic action and participation through mobilization, capacity building, campaigns and monitoring in ensuring accountability.

The conference was aimed at bringing together multiple stakeholders like civil society actors, media, academia, government officials, elected representatives and community members at a common platform so that various perspectives, challenges, dynamics and nuances of urban governance could be collectively deliberated. Although it is in a growing stage this collaboration has been able to execute some positive results in the form of enhanced citizen participation and increased sensitivity and responsiveness from the part of the local government authorities.