

**Institute of Governance Studies
BRAC University
Monthly Updates, January 2014**

**A Workshop to Finalise the Framework for
Citizens' Engagement in Public Procurement Held**



Participants along with the Special Guests Ms. Christine E. Kimes, Acting Director of the World Bank and Mohammad Mejbahuddin, Secretary, IMED, Planning Ministry at the National Workshop

A national workshop for the finalisation of the framework for citizens' engagement in public procurement under Public-Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC) of Public Procurement Reform Project (PPRP) II was held on 12th January 2014 at the NEC Conference Room at the Planning Commission Campus, Dhaka. The workshop was organised and facilitated by Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of the Implementation Monitoring & Evaluation Division (IMED) of the Planning Ministry and the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University.

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss and finalise the draft framework which has been devised through a number of consultation workshops, interviews, focus group discussions, literature review, and meetings with key stakeholders at various levels. The first draft of the framework was presented on the 7th and 8th PPSC Meeting held on 3rd July and 11th September 2013 respectively. Rigorous discussions on the draft were held and the stakeholders provided their written feedback on the framework.

Mohammad Mejbahuddin, Secretary, IME Division and Christine E. Kimes, the Acting Country Director, the World Bank Dhaka Office, attended the workshop as the Special Guests. CPTU DG Amulya Kumar Debnath chaired the workshop. IGS consultant A K M Nashirul Haq presented some of the key proposals of the framework. PPSC members, representatives of the member organisations, NGOs, international NGOs, think tanks, procurement experts working in different organisations attended the workshop. Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director, IGS-BDI and Dr. Rizwan Khair, Director of IGS, BRAC University was also present at the workshop.

IGS Staff Attended a Workshop on Ethics & Standards in News Reporting and Newsroom Management

IGS Communications Associate Shakil Md. Faisal attended a day-long workshop on *Ethics & Standards in News Reporting and Newsroom Management*. The workshop was held on 11 January 2014 at the GDLN Centre at BRAC University. This workshop was organised by the Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI), BRAC University with a view to increase/enhance newsroom management skills and a clear understanding of ethics and standards in news reporting among the participants. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Ed Kelley, Former Editor of the Washington Times and Ms. Elanie Steyn, an Associate Professor in the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Oklahoma, USA. Around 40 participants from the field of journalism and media houses such as JATRI, The Daily Prothom Alo, The Daily Star, Ntv, Rtv, Independent Television, Boishakhi Television, ATN Bangla, ATN News attended the workshop.

Training on Evaluation of Goods and Non-consulting Services Contract Management and Supplier Relationship Management



Participants along with the faculties Mr. Rashed Morshed and Md. Zikrul Islam at the training programme

A training programme on *Evaluation of Goods and Non-consulting Services Contract Management and Supplier Relationship Management* was held at BRAC Centre Inn on 21-22 January 2014. The training was organised by IGS and facilitated by its Training wing. A total of 31 participants from different departments of BRAC, participated in this workshop. IGS faculties Mr. Rashed Morshed and Md. Zikrul Islam conducted this training

Admission Test Held for Masters in Procurement and Supply Management

The admission test for Masters in Procurement and Supply Management (MPSM), Spring 2014 (Batch-5) was held respectively on 27 December 2013 and 25 January 2014. 19 participants from different public and private sector organisations participated in the admission test. A total of 14 participants were selected for the Masters Programme. Also, Classes of MPSM Batch 3 with 17 students have started from 24 January 2014 for Spring 2014 semester at BRAC University.

MAGD News: Courses in January 2014

In January, 2014, Master in Governance and Development (MAGD) programme offered the module titled '*Strategic Management*' for the students. This course was conducted on a block teaching method by Dr. Quamrul Alam, an Associate Professor of the Department of Public Policy and Management, Monash University in Australia. Dr. Quamrul conducted a total 8 days of full time sessions, group works, individual assignment, and group works presentation. In the meantime, MAGD students are concentrating on their research work for dissertation.

IGS Researchers Attended a Workshop on Generic Curriculum Development



IGS-BDI Researchers with Dr. Wim Kouwenhoven at the workshop on Generic Curriculum Development

A Generic Curriculum Development Training-Workshop under the NUFFIC Project was held at the BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka from 12 January-16 January 2014. A total of 18 participants from BPATC, IGS and BRAC Development Institute (BDI) attended the workshop. The lead facilitator of the workshop was Dr. Wim Kouwenhoven, Senior Adviser at the Education and Development Centre for International Cooperation, VU University, Amsterdam. The purpose of the workshop was to capacitate a group of curriculum designers at BPATC and IGS that could be instrumental in advising on and guiding the design and development of new courses that contribute to the success of academic and trainings programmes in the area of governance.

IGS researchers Syeda Salina Aziz, Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Kazi Nurmohammad Hossainul Haque, Md. Harun-Or-Rashid, Farhana Razzaque, SM Arafat Gubair and Academic Coordinator Dr. Zohurul Islam participated in the workshop. BDI participants at the workshop were Dr. Rashed-uz-Zaman, Md. Alamgir Kabir, Ms. Anindita Hridita and Mr. Ripon Chakraborty.

Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor and H.E. Lee Yun-Young, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea BRAC University were also present at the opening ceremony as Special Guests.

This year's BUGMUN had 12 committees: Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs Committee (SOCHUM); Security Council; African Union; European Union; Human Rights Council; The Group of 20; World Trade Organisation; World Health Organisation; Arab League; United Nations Environmental Programme; The Economic and Financial Affairs Council; FIFA-UEFA. Each of the committees was headed by a Dais, consisting of Chair and Co-chair, or President and Vice President. Prior to the event, each delegate was assigned a committee and country. Agendas were also given to the delegates alongside study guides, so that the delegates would be able to actively participate in the Model UN, and come up with feasible solutions for the discussed agendas. BUGMUN had a Youth Speakers session on 20th January, where the guest speakers were Maimuna Ahmed, CEO of Teach for Bangladesh, and Korvi Rakshand, Founder of JAAGO Foundation.

IGS Staff Participated in Inception Study Mission of Food Security

IGS Senior Programme Manager Mohammad Rafiqul Islam Talukdar took part in a Food Security Study Mission held from 25-30 January 2014 in Dhaka, Jessore and Khulna. The newly formed BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) was appointed as the local partner of MDF, who is contracted by the Policy & Programmes Evaluation Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands for a Baseline and Evaluation study on two projects in Bangladesh: Blue Gold and Safal of the Dutch Food Security Programme. An inception phase mission team was formed to conduct this study. Mission Members are Mr. Jan Joost Kessler, Aidenvironment (Team Leader), Mr. Philip de Jong, APE (Expert in Econometrics and Surveys), Mr. Ferencz Bodnar, Representative, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Food Security Expert), Mr. Rob Kuijpers, Representative, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Statistical Expert), Mr. Geert Geut, Representative, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Water Expert), Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, BIGD (Evaluation and Policy Specialist), Dr. Ferdous Jahan, BIGD (Food Security Specialist and Research Coordinator) and Mohammad Rafiqul Islam Talukdar, BIGD (Survey and Programme Evaluation Expert, Policy Analyst and Study Organiser).

IGS-BDI Senior Officials Attended a Brainstorming Session on TTI Grant Proposal Writing



IGS-BDI Executive Director Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman along with other IGS and BDI senior officials at the Brainstorming Session

An informal brainstorming session consisting of some senior officials from IGS and BDI took place at the IGS Conference Room on 13th January 2014. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss ideas about writing a TTI grant proposal. IGS-BDI Executive Director Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman was present at the session. Among others, Simeen Mahmud, Lopita Huq, Maheen Sultan, Dr. Ferdous Jahan, Mirza Hassan and Alamgir Kabir from BDI and IGS Director of Academics Dr. Rizwan Khair, Senior Manager Salahuddin Mahmud, Programme Manager Nuzhat Jabin and Research Fellow M. Shahidul Islam were present at the session.

**Executive Director Meets
With Sir Fazle Hasan Abed and Others**

In January, Executive Director of IGS-BDI Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman held several meetings with some distinguished personalities and prominent academics and researchers of Bangladesh regarding the research collaboration, capacity building and other relevant issues of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD). Among others Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman had meeting with Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG, Founder and Chairperson of BRAC, and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of BRAC University on 30 January 2014. He also held meetings with the Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque and M. Riaz Hamidullah, Director General of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr. Atiur Rahman, Japanese Ambassador H.E. Shiro Sadoshima, Commissioner, Anti-Corruption, Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed, Dr. Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury, Vice Chairperson of BRAC, Prof. M. A. Taslim, Chairman of Department of Economics, Dhaka University, Dr. S. R. Osmani, Professor of Economics, University of Ulster, Northern Ireland and Dr. Mohammad Yunus, Senior Research fellow of BIDS. Dr. Sultan Hafeez also had a video conference with representatives from London School of Economics and Political Science as well as Oxford University, UK.