

BIGD, BRAC University Monthly Updates July, 2015

Public lecture on Security Governance for Conflict Prevention held



Professor Tatsuo Yamane (Right) seen delivering the Lecture

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University organised a Public lecture on Security Governance for Conflict Prevention by Professor Tatsuo Yamane, Associate Professor at the Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation (IDEC), Hiroshima University, Japan at the BIGD Conference Room on 1st July, 2015.

In his lecture, Professor Yamane, also a research fellow in the Institute for Peace Science Hiroshima University (IPSHU) shared the institutional mechanism between Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and West Africa Network for Peace building (WANEP) in West African Region on conflict prevention. Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of BIGD moderated the lecture session. Followed by the lecture, BIGD Researchers and Staffs participated in an interesting Q/A session with Professor Yamane.



Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman (From left to right) with the listeners at the event

Among others, the lecture was also attended by BIGD Head of Research Dr. Minhaj Mahmud; Mr. Tsuyoshi Hikita and Ms. Masako Saito, both the Second Secretaries, Mr. Shohei Souoda, Researcher, of the Embassy of Japan in Dhaka respectively; Dr. Jashim Uddin, Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) were present. The public lecture session was concluded with the speech of Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman followed by Iftar.

Mr. Yamane's main areas of interest are International Relations on international peace and security studies, especially on armed conflicts and peace building.

BIGD organized a Workshop on End-line Planning of Impact Evaluation of the DFID programme

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University, organized a two days Workshop on End-line Planning of Impact Evaluation of the DFID program to Accelerate Improved Nutrition for the Extreme poor in Bangladesh, phase II (2nd Follow up) on 29-30 July, 2015 at the BIGD Conference Room. The event was facilitated by Professor Ferdous Jahan, PhD, Lead Researcher of the project, and Inka Barnett, Research Fellow, IDS made a presentation in the workshop. Among others, the workshop was attended by Nick Nisbett, Research Fellow, IDS; Jessica White, Research Associate, IDS; Richard Longshurt, Research Associate, IDS; Sanjida Hossain, Md. Mahan ul Hoque, Md. Rofiquzzaman, Gazi Arafat Uz Zaman Markony, Research Assistants of BIGD. The objective of the workshop was to go through the progress so far and discuss and finalize further planning for Endline.

BIGD's Adjunct Fellow Chaired and Presented at the International Conference on Gender Relations and Rising Inequalities

Dr. Sohela Nazneen, Adjunct Fellow of BIGD chaired and presented at the University of East Anglia's (UEA) International Conference titled '**Gender Relations and Rising Inequalities**' on July 6-8, 2015. The Conference aimed to bring together gender analysts, researchers and research scholars for a sustained consideration of changing gender relations in contexts of rising inequality, and to stimulate new ways of thinking about gender relations.

Dr. Nazneen chaired the first session where presentations were made by Prof. Sam Hickey, University of Manchester on gender and political settlements, and what are the gaps on existing feminist theory; Prof. Georgina Waylen, University of Manchester on informal institutions; and Dr. Sohie King, University of Manchester on shifting global norms on violence against women.

Dr. Nazneen presented her paper titled "What drives gender equity in Bangladesh: the case of Domestic Violence act" in the second session of the conference.

Opinion-sharing Meeting on Policy Reform Proposals with Local Government held

The Local Governance Programme - Sharique (Phase III) Programme, implemented jointly by BIGD and Helvetas Swiss Inter-cooperation organized an Opinion-sharing Meeting with representatives from Upazila and Union Parishads of Dharmapasha and Jamalganj Upazila Parishads, Sunamganj district on July 29, 2015. The programme took place at Jamalganj Upazila Parishad conference room in Sunamganj.

The purpose of the dialogue was to present proposals for policy reform, which the SHARIQUE team had prepared, and seek participants' views on the following issues: (a) strengthening of Ward Shobhas as social accountability mechanism (b) reform of Standing Committees and (c) streamlining other project-based and sectoral committees.

The programme was attended by S. M. Shofi Kamal, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Jamalganj Upazila; Md. Abdul Motaleb Khan, Chairman, Dharmapahsa Upazila Parishad; Mokarram Hossain, Chairman, Jamalganj Upazila Parishad. Other participants included Vice Chairmen of both Upazila Parishads, Chairmen, Secretaries and Members of Union Parishads.

Under the facilitation of the UNO, a group session was held where participants divided themselves into three groups with each group representing each issue. They reviewed the content of the policy reform proposals as a team and later presented their recommendations and corrections. A vibrant interactive session followed, wherein the local government representatives debated and gave feedback on each other's presentations. The half-day programme concluded with lunch.

BIGD's Head of Research presented a paper at the World Meetings of ESA

Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Head of Research, BIGD presented a paper titled "Natural disaster and risk sharing behavior: Experimental Evidence from Bangladesh" at the World Meetings of Economic Science Association (ESA) held at University of Technology, Sydney on 23-25 July, 2015.

The Economics Discipline Group and the Centre for Policy and Market Design (CPMD) at the University of Technology, Sydney organized the World Meetings of the Economic Science Association. The ESA meetings took place on July 24 and 25, 2015 preceded by a reception in the late afternoon of July 23. There was also a two-day market-design workshop organized by the CPMD on July 22 and 23 that ends at the time of the reception. This workshop was open to everyone attending the ESA conference.

The Centre for Policy and Market Design at the University of Technology Sydney was established in July 2014. It is an innovative hub for research, teaching, networking, and practical advice. Members from various disciplines within the Business School combine their different backgrounds and expertise in a single centre to facilitate synergistic research collaborations, broaden the fields of research and expertise, and attract attention and funding from external organizations including businesses, policy makers, and governmental agencies.

BIGD Executive Director's Activities

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, BIGD Executive Director held several meetings in July 2015 with number of distinguished personalities such as prominent academics and researchers regarding the research collaboration and other relevant issues of BIGD. Among others, Dr. Rahman had meeting with Dr. Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury, Vice Chairperson, BRAC; Ms. Ismat Shereen, Head, Relationship Management Office, BRACU; CIPS delegation from UK Ms. Paula Steele, Global Sector Manager, CIPS; and Mr. Howard Selden, International Development Consultant, MCIPS; USAID Acting Mission Director Paul Sabatine; Ms. Silmat Chisti and Dr. Hasan, Yale alums; Professor Siddiq Osmani; Dr. Atiur Rahman Governor, Bangladesh Bank; Prof David Hulme of the University of Manchester; and Mr. Nanda Dulal Saha, Director, Internal Audit, BRAC. Dr. Rahman also had a meeting with Inka Barrelet- Research Fellow, IDS and Jessica White of Nutrition team at BIGD. Dr. Rahman had also several skype meeting with Mr. Anup Roy, Associate Director, Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR) regarding ESRC-DFID proposal and Mr. Samar Varma of IDRC.

Dr. Rahman also met with Mr. Liaquat Ali Choudhury, Ambassador of High Commission of India regarding the flagship Research Report of BIGD titled 'the State of Governance in Bangladesh'.

Publications by BIGD Staff:

- The Daily Star: [Reflection on Bangladesh's democratic governance](#) by Barrister Manzoor Hasan, Institutional Advisor, and Sultan Mohammed Zakaria, Research Associate of BIGD, BRAC University on 30 July, 2015
- The Daily Star: Interview of Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University, on connectivity titled ["THE POWER OF CONNECTING THE DOTS"](#) on 4 July 5, 2015
- The Daily Star: [The "sorrow of Chittagong City"](#) by S M Gubair Bin Arafat, Research Associate, BIGD, BRAC University on July 1, 2015