

BIGD, BRAC University Monthly Updates, June 2015

SHARIQUE Opinion Sharing Meeting with Local Government Associations' Representatives held



Ms. Hosne Ara (Left), Maheen Sultan (Centre) and Mr. Rafiqul Islam Talukder are seen at the meeting

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University organized an Opinion Sharing Meeting with the Local Government Associations' Representatives on Social Accountability Mechanisms in the Union Parishads on June 16, 2015 at the BRAC Centre Inn under Local Governance Programme SHARIQUE III, implemented jointly by BIGD and Helvetas Swiss Inter – Cooperation.

In the inauguration part, Mr. Rafiqul Islam Talukder, Senior Programme Manager, BIGD welcomed participants and guests, and discussed SHARIQUE's background and activities while Ms. Hosne Ara Begum, Local Governance and Public Finance Specialist, Helvetas Swiss Inter-cooperation briefly explained the role of the implementing partners in the programme.



Dr. Tofail Ahmed (3rd from left) seen sharing the concept of research

BIGD SHARIQUE Advocacy Specialist Maheen Sultan highlighted the role of Swiss Development Corporation (SDC), and BIGD Senior Manager - Communications Ekram Hossain discussed on BIGD's role in implementation of the programme.

Followed by the introduction part, SHARIQUE Team made multiple presentations of proposals for policy reform and requested valued views and opinions of the associations and the participants 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.

Dr. Tofail Ahmed, Local Government Expert and Honorary Fellow, BIGD shared the concept of the forthcoming SHARIQUE research on local government associations with the participants and collected their opinions on the challenges and prospects of the associations they individually represented. The Participants also reviewed the content of the policy reform proposals to which they made useful recommendations and corrections. An exciting sharing session followed wherein participants debated and discussed their positions on governance issues with Dr. Tofail Ahmed.



Participants at the meeting

The event was attended by among others, representatives from local government Associations and SHARIQUE Partners including Presidents and Secretaries of local government associations including Prof. Shamim Al Razi, General Secretary, Municipal Association of Bangladesh (MAB); Bangladesh Union Parishad Forum; Upazila Parishad Association; Upazila Parishad Women Vice Chairmen Association; Municipality Councilors Association; Municipality Engineers Association; and Union Parishad Secretary Association.

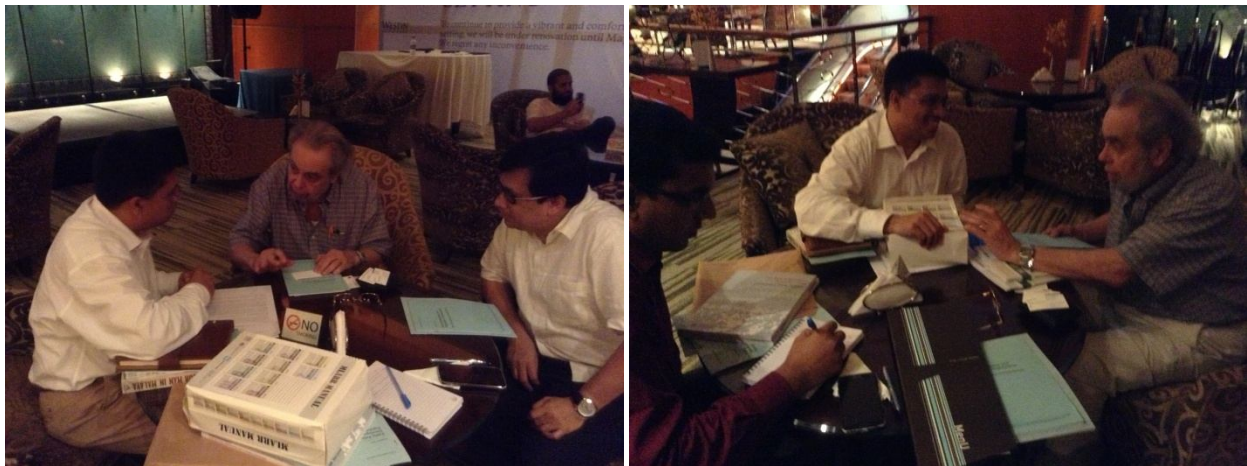
BIGD organized a live programme on Elections of Women Representatives to the Upazila at Channel i

BIGD, BRAC University in collaboration with channel i organized a live programme titled Teleshomoy in Channel I at 11 AM on 12 June, 2015. The programme was conducted by eminent journalist Muhammad Jahangir and participated by local government expert Dr. Tofail Ahmed, former law-maker Advocate Apu Ukil, and Shibganj (Chapai Nababganj) Upazila's Vice Chairman Sayema Begum. The programme was organized to prioritize the elections of women representatives to the Upazila Parishad held on the 15th of June for the first time in six years.

This Sharique III programme is designed to discuss women's representation in the local government of Bangladesh. Sharique III programme is mandated by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and implemented by a consortium of Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation and the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University.

BIGD Researcher's meets Dr. Michael M. Cernea

A BIGD team led by Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Head of Research met Dr. Michael M. Cernea, the non-residential Senior Fellow of Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement, and Foreign Policy at Hotel Westin, Dhaka on 10 June 2015.



Dr. Cernea appreciated the work of BIGD's resettlement centre which offers a 14-week long post-graduate certificate course on Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (MLARR). He advised to brand the MLARR training with "Certificate in Resettlement Specialist" and draws students from neighbouring countries through proper publicity. Dr. Cernea also suggested developing research proposals on resettlement issues and submitting them to relevant national and international funding organizations including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, etc.

BIGD's Head of Research Dr. Minhaj Mahmud invited Dr. Cernea to give a lecture in next MLARR batch. The BIGD team comprised Professor Rashed Uz Zaman PhD, BIGD's Acting Academic Coordinator, and Mohammad Sirajul Islam, MLARR Course Coordinator and Lecturer III of BIGD.

BIGD Executive Director's Activities

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the ED, BIGD, BRAC University held several meetings in June 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. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, Secretary, MoPA and had a discussion on MAGD programme. Dr. Rahman also met with the UNDP team.

Academics

Short Training

A day long training on "Setting Priority in Procurement and Managing Work Load" was held at BRAC Center on 17th June 2015. There were total 20 Participants from different departments of BRAC, those who are involved with procurement. Mr. Mainul Hasan Rumen , MCIPS and Mr. Asif Abdullah Chowdhury, MCIPS, two guest faculties of BIGD, BRAC University have conducted the training.

Teaching and Revision Programme for CIPS Advanced Diploma

To provide teaching and revision sessions for the CIPS Advanced Diploma in Procurement and Supply Management in order to prepare participants for CIPS July 2015 series exam, a faculty from CIPS, UK, Mr. Jeremy Johnson visited CIPS Cohort# 5 at BIGD, BRAC University from 14th June to 18th June 2015. To give an opportunity to review any problem in the subject areas for any of the modules of Advanced Diploma in Procurement and Supply, Mr. Johnson conducted a final session on 18th June. Also BIGD arranged a faculty meeting with Mr. Johnson on 16th June.

Publications by BIGD Staffs

- The Daily Star: [Rohingya Refugee Crisis: Regional Governance Matters](#) by Md. Harun Or Rashid, Research Associate, BIGD, BRAC University on 25 June, 2015.
- The Daily Prothom Alo: ["A silent Election for Women"](#) by Dr. Tofail Ahmed, Honorary Visiting Fellow, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University on June 4, 2015