

MONTHLY UPDATES, APRIL 2011

Fourth PPSC meeting held

The fourth Public-Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC) was held on 17 April 2010 at the NEC Conference Room II of the Planning Commission Campus in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.



The Honourable Minister for Planning and the Chairperson of the Committee, Air Vice Marshall (Retd.) A K Khandker presided over the meeting. Dr. GopaKumar K. Thampi, Chief Operating Officer of the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability-South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR) based in IGS and Engineer Shafiqul Alam Bhuiyan, President, Bangladesh Association of Construction Industries (BACI) presented two papers in the meeting. A case styled “Public Procurement in Bangladesh: A study of legal compliance” was presented in the meeting by Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Research Associate of IGS.

The PPSC was formed under the auspices of Public Procurement Reform Project – II (PPRP-II) to devise a third party monitoring mechanism for public procurement in Bangladesh. It consists of representatives from academic institutions, business community, think-tanks and civil society organisations along with government officials. The Committee will evaluate the broad impact of the Public Procurement Act and Rules on country’s actual procurement practices, and put recommendations to the Government to make appropriate changes in Procurement Act and Rules. The Committee will also discuss some cases of irregularities and successes in government procurement and make recommendations in this regard. IGS provides technical assistance to the Committee in association with the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of the IME Division of the Ministry of Planning.

Brainstorming Session on the draft Civil Service Act

IGS organised a brainstorming session on 23 April 2011 at Dhaka to solicit comments and recommendations on the draft Civil Service Act 2011 from practitioners' perspective. Sixteen civil servants across the country participated in the session. Dr. Rizwan Khain, Director in-Charge of IGS facilitated the session. Based on the comments of the participants, IGS provided the Government of Bangladesh a report on the draft proposed Civil Service Act.

IGS Research Team Retreat

IGS arranged a retreat for its research team from 7-9 April 2011 at Bangladesh Public Administration Training Center in Savar. In the retreat IGS researchers presented their respective chapters under the State of Cities (SoC) Report and Dr. Geof Wood, Emeritus Professor of the University of Bath provided comments and suggestions. Dr. Ipshita Basu, Research Head of IGS facilitated the retreat.

Training on Storytelling for Women Journalists



Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) of IGS organised a three-days training on Storytelling for women journalists from 5-7 April, 2011 at JATRI premises. 21 aspiring women journalists participated in the training. The objective of the training was to strengthen the quality of news writing/reports and introduce them with alternative, more creative forms of storytelling that attract readers, viewers and listeners. Mr. Nadim Qadir, Editor of ATN News, Mr. Anisul Hoque, Deputy Editor of the Prothom Alo & Mr. Zahirul Alam, Chief of correspondent of NTV conducted different sessions.

ANSA Field Visit:

The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability- South Asia Region, based at the Institute conducted field visits to two of its grantees in April 2011. The field visits are as much for monitoring as it is for informing the work of ANSA SAR. With the ANSA SAR funds, CREDA, based in Mirzapur, India is implementing a project on raising awareness on the entitlements of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, a safety-net scheme in India. The other project visited was in Dewas, India being implemented by Jan Sahas Development Society on conducting community score cards on the health and education services in two districts. The visits presented the opportunities to speak

with beneficiaries directly and discuss with the staff on ways to maximize the impact of the projects. Detailed field visit reports for both will be available on the website once completed. ANSA SAR, over two has given small to medium sized grants to 22 organizations in the region and similar visits have been made to six already.