

## MONTHLY UPDATES, AUGUST 2010

Institute of Governance Studies launched “The Judiciary: Policy Note” on 11 August 2010 at JATRI Conference Room, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka. Dr. Mizanur Rahman, Chairman, National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh was present as the Chief Guest at the launching ceremony. Dr. M. Shah Alam, Member, The Law Commission, Barrister Harun ur Rashid, Former Bangladesh Ambassador to the UN, Geneva and Dr. Shahdeen Malik, Director, School of Law, BRAC University were the Guest Speakers. Vice Chancellor of BRAC University Professor Ainun Nishat chaired the programme. More than 30 journalists from both print and electronic media covered the programme. “The Judiciary: Policy Note” is a part of IGS Policy Note Series on ‘Institutions of Accountability’.



IGS offered technical assistance to the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of the Government of Bangladesh in holding the second of the Public-Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC) meetings. The meeting was held on August 19, 2010 (Thursday) in the NEC Conference Room 02 of the Planning Commission Campus in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Air vice Marshal (Rtd.) A K Khandker, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Planning and Chairperson of the Public-Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC), chaired the meeting. Ms. Munyema Hasan, Research Associate of IGS, presented a paper in the program on “Social Accountability in Public Procurement”. It may be recalled that the PPSC is formed under the auspices of Public Procurement Reform Project – II (PPRP-II), which is funded by the World Bank, to create citizen engagement in public procurement processes in Bangladesh, consists of representatives from academia, business community, think-tanks and civil society organizations 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. The first meeting of the Committee was held on February 03, 2010.



IGS organized a certificate giving ceremony on 28 August 2010 for the 22 successful participants of the CIPS TOT for Level 4 courses. Secretary, IME Division gave away the certificates and other guests from CPTU, World Bank and Director, IGS attended the programme, which was followed by an Ifter. IGS is collaborating with Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, UK to provide procurement training to selected government servants under the World Bank funded Public Procurement Reform Project II (PPRP-II) of the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of the Government of Bangladesh. As this course is offered for the first time in Bangladesh a one week long TOT session was organized from 11 June to 19 June 2010 at IGS's Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) office at 13 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka for the prospective CIPS procurement trainers, which included Bangladesh Government's national procurement trainers, and IGS and BRAC Training Division staff. The TOT was conducted by CIPS Master Trainers Mr. Jeremy Johnson and Mr. Howard Sheldon.

Journalism Research and Training Initiative (JATRI) of IGS organized a roundtable on Media and Indigenous People on the occasion of International Day of the World's Indigenous People at JATRI Conference Room on 05 August, 2010. Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary, Bangladesh Adivashi Forum presented the keynote paper in the program. Raja Devasish Roy, Chakma Circle Chief and

member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, was the chief guest and Prof. Sadeka Halim, member of information Commission was the special guest in the program. In his speech Raja Devasish Roy urged the government to take necessary measures to end discrimination against indigenous people. The indigenous people should have the right to self-determination for their social, political, cultural and economic development, he said. He also urged the journalists to work for the betterment of indigenous communities deprived for years. Prof. Sadeka Halim said recognition of the indigenous people in the constitution is a must to restore the '72 constitution. Mr. Dulal Chandra Biswas, Director General, Press institute of Bangladesh moderated the discussion while Mr. Jamil Ahmed, Head of JATRI, prominent journalist and columnist Mr. Jaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, and Mr. Sanaullah Lablu, Head of News and Programme, Radio ABC also gave their speech in the program.

Director of IGS, Barrister Manzoor Hasan, participated at a workshop on 'Collaborative Research on South Asia Tax System' in Singapore organized by the 'Governance Institutes Network International (GINI)' from August 8-9, 2010. The purpose of the workshop was to formulate a detailed integrated proposal for research conducted by collaborating institutions, focusing on the proposed research themes identified by the participants for research within their respective countries in Asia. During the workshop, Mr. Hasan gave a presentation on 'Political Economy of tax Regime in Bangladesh' and also Co-chaired a session on Organization and Planning. Twenty one Delegates from Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, USA, and Canada joined the workshop.

A Resource Pack (CD) on the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) was launched on 31 August, 2010 at the conference room of the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts. IGS in collaboration with GTZ provided technical support to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs to publish the 'Resource Pack' where all the information of the activities pursued by the GoB regarding UNCAC implementation is recorded. Barrister Shafiq Ahmed, Minister, Ministry of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs was present as the Chief Guest and launched the Resource Pack. The State Minister Advocate Kamrul Islam was the Special Guest and the present Secretary (Acting) Mohammad Shahidul Haque chaired the session. The representatives of different ministries, government agencies, ACC, Bangladesh Bank as well as from IGS and GTZ were present in the function. IGS representative Dr. Rizwan Khair expressed that IGS always believes in adding value to public life and has been associated in the government's mission against corruption from the very beginning. He also mentioned that IGS is willing to work with the government regarding anti-corruption efforts more in future. It is hoped that this compilation of publicly available UNCAC related documents will assist stakeholders and researchers for their future endeavor.