

## MONTHLY UPDATES, DECEMBER 2010



IGS organized four roundtables on the four chapters of *The State of Governance in Bangladesh, 2009 (SoG)*, i.e. Food Security, International Labour Migration, e-Government and Energy over the month of December 2010. Chairmen of the related Parliamentary Committees, lawmakers, experts, academics and columnists participated in these roundtables. Dr. AMM Shawkat Ali, former advisor to the Caretaker Government, Dr. Tasneem Arefa Siddique, Chair of the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, Dr. Anannya Raihan, Executive Director of D, Net and Dr. M Tamim, former advisor to the Caretaker Government chaired the four roundtables respectively. Based on the recommendations from the roundtables IGS will produce a policy note which will then be widely disseminated among relevant policy making and implementation agencies.



Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) of IGS organized a discussion session on *Sharing Experience with the Journalists on Health Situation of Bangladesh* on December 14, 2010 at

JATRI Conference Room. A delegation team included the students and faculty of the Florida based Hope Foundation of USA Nova South-Eastern University, who shared their experiences with the journalists of Bangladesh after their visit. In the inaugural speech Chief of Programs at JATRI, Mr. Jamil Ahmed welcomed the participants and introduced them with JATRI staff. Dr. Iftekhar Uddin Ahmad, chairperson of Hope Foundation, Dr. Sirajul Islam, trustee member of Nova, Badruddoza Sumon, reporter of the Daily Samokal also spoke in the program. Journalists from different media houses attended in this discussion.

JATRI organized a public lecture on Right to Information and Media on December 15, 2010 at JATRI Conference Room. Journalists from different print and electronic media attended in the program. Chief Information Commissioner Muhammad Zamir delivered the key note speech in this discussion. At the outset of the program Chief of Programs at JATRI, Mr. Jamil Ahmed welcomed all guests and briefly shared JATRI's activities. The program was moderated by Barrister Manzoor Hasan, Director of IGS.

Affiliated Network for Social Accountability-South Asia (ANSA-SAR) based in IGS & the Global Partnership Fund (GPF), in partnership with the World Bank Institute and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), hosted a workshop with Bangladeshi parliamentarians on *'Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight: Stronger Linkages between Citizens and MPs'* on 13 December, 2010 at the Westin Hotel. The workshop was attended by 20 participants, including nine MPs representing both benches in the National Parliament.

Director of IGS, Barrister Manzoor Hasan, visited Ho Chi Minh City of Viet Nam to participate in the Workshop on UNCAC Implementation from December 02-03, 2010. The objective of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Viet Nam to monitor and report on corruption and anti corruption efforts (in compliance with the UN Convention against Corruption, UNCAC). The conference brought together 40 participants including the working team and UNCAC Implementation Review Group, members of compiling group, representatives of UNDP and other international consultants. Mr. Hasan was invited to provide technical assistance in formulating the strategy by providing methodological support from the experience of the Institute of Governance Studies's joint assessment with the Government of Bangladesh 2007-2008. In his input, Mr. Hasan highlighted scopes, contents, methodology, application and lessons learnt of the gap analysis in Bangladesh.