

## MONTHLY UPDATES, FEBRUARY 2010

IGS offered technical assistance to the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of the Government of Bangladesh in holding the first of the Public-Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC) meetings in February 2010. The meeting was held on 03 February 2010 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.



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. Twenty three out of twenty seven PPSC members (or their representatives) attended the meeting.

Journalism Training and Research Initiatives (JATRI) of IGS organized a lecture on "Broadcast Journalism: Past, Present and Way Forward" at JATRI premises on Thursday, 04 February, 2010. Prominent broadcaster of Voice of America (VOA), Mr. Anis Ahmed was the key speaker. The lecture was followed by a question-answer session. Senior journalists, media professionals, academic from the University of Dhaka were also present.

A daylong event titled "Review Reflection" was organized by JATRI on 17 February, 2010 at BRAC Centre for Development Management, Rajendrapur, Gazipur. The objectives were to get feedback/suggestions from the participants who attended the trainings organized by JATRI so far and to know how they have applied it their work. JATRI Training Unit has organized 9 trainings so far where 150 participants from various media houses in Bangladesh attended. Mr. Abdur Rahman, Senior Faculty Member of BRAC Training Division facilitated the event. Some of the suggestions that came out from the participants for further improvement of JATRI included things like offering fellowships, declaring annual awards, organizing trainings abroad, and offering long course for the journalists etc.

Mr. Manzoor Hasan, Director of IGS visited Bangkok, Thailand from 1-3 February, 2010 to participate in the Regional Community of Practice meeting on Anti-Corruption. The meeting focused on United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) Compliance Reviews and also included a half day ethics training. The workshop was primarily organized to launch a Regional Consortium that will support UNCAC Compliance Reviews in 6 countries in 2010, namely Bhutan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Palau and Solomon Islands. The main objectives of the meeting were to a) Share lessons learned on how to conduct UNCAC Gap Analyses, processes, outputs and outcomes; b) Review a draft Guidance Note on how to conduct UNCAC Gap Analyses; c) Provide a platform for Regional Consortium partners and national counterparts to meet prior to launching the nationally-led UNCAC Gap Analysis process.

As a follow-up of this meeting, Mr. Manzoor Hasan also visited Bhutan from February 26-27, 2010 to provide technical assistance to the government of Bhutan in developing a Guidance Note to conduct UNCAC Compliance Review.