

## **MONTHLY UPDATES, FEBRUARY 2011**

### **Training for the Assistant Commissioners of Customs and VAT**

The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability- South Asia Region based at the Institute conducted a day-long training on social accountability with a focus on Citizen Report Card for 28 Assistant Commissioners of Customs and VAT. The training was held in Chittagong on 13 February, 2011 at the Customs and VAT training academy. This sensitization workshop was the third of a series of workshops held for entry to mid-level civil servants in Bangladesh. This workshop explored the possibility of civil servants institutionalizing social accountability tools such as Citizen's report Card to enhance their accountability.

### **Public Discussion on “Language of FM Radio”**

The Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) of IGS organized a public discussion on “Language of Advertisement” on 9 February 2011 at the JATRI conference room. Mr. Ameen Al Rashid, Senior Reporter & News Presenter of ABC Radio was present as guest speaker. Radio jokies, reporters and producers of different radio stations, representatives of Bangla Academy and Bangladesh Betar participated in the discussion. Mr. Rashid said that the main objective of language is to communicate with others, so it is important to fix the standard of that communication. The guest speaker's speech was followed by an interactive question & answer session. The programme was moderated by Chief of JATRI Mr. Jamil Ahmed.

### **Public Discussion on “Language of Advertisement”**

JATRI organized a public Lecture on “Language of Advertisement” on 28 February 2011. Mr. Afzal Hossain, famous actor and Managing Partner of MATTRA, attended the programme as a key speaker. Fifty journalists from different print and electronic media attended the discussion. In his lecture Mr. Hossain mentioned that the main objective of an advertisement is to attract others attention. Power of advertisement lies in its novelty and language of advertisements should not hurt anybody. The discussion ended with a question-answer session.

### **JATRI Fellowship Awarded**

Eight journalists were awarded JATRI Fellowship in the first cohort for their work on investigative journalism. The fellows were selected from different newspapers, radios, television channels and online news agencies. Each fellow would produce three investigative reports during their tenure. Three such reports have already been published in their respective news papers. JATRI formed a Fellowship Management Team to supervise selection of journalists under the second batch of the fellowship program. In order to uphold a transparent selection process, a three member jury board has also been created. Initial screening for selection of journalists has been done in February 2011. JATRI received thirty six applications for consideration in its second batch of the fellowship program.

## **Training on Ethics and Standards of Journalism**

JATRI organized a four-day training for twenty five journalists on 'Ethics and Standards of Journalism' on 12-15 February 2011 in JATRI Training Room. The purpose of the training was to enhance the knowledge of the participants about ethics and standards of journalism. The contents of the training focused on both the theoretical and practical sides of ethics and standards of journalism. Apart from training staff members of JATRI, Mr. Nayeemul Islam Khan, Editor of The Daily Amader Shomoy and Mr. Robaet Ferdous, Associate Professor of the Mass Communication and Journalism Department, University of Dhaka conducted sessions of the training as resource persons.

JATRI also organized the same course for the second batch consisting of twenty journalists on 27 February to 02 March 2011. Mr. Muzzammil Husain, Senior Journalist; Ms. Sheepa Hafiza, Director, Gender, Justice & Diversity and Advocacy, BRAC and Ms. Munni Saha, Head of News, ATN News conducted sessions of the training as resource persons.