

MONTHLY UPDATES, FEBRUARY 2012

Procurement Training

Completion of CIPS, Cohort II, Level 5 Course

Cohort II, level 5 course, (250hrs lectures/166 sessions) has been completed. Dr. Glynis Davies, FCIPS, CIPS, UK, conducted the level 5 revision classes during 14-18 February at JATRI Office of IGS.

Certificate (Cohort I, CIPS) Awarding Ceremony at the British High Commission



On 22 February, Cohort I awarding ceremony took place at the British High Commission, Dhaka. Cohort I, Cohort II and private cohorts attended the event. 17 participants from Cohort I were awarded with MCIPS certificates. The British High Commissioner, Robert Gibson, World Bank Country Director, Ellen Goldstein, Director, Business Solution, CIPS, UK, Andrew Coulcher, Global Public Sector Manager, CIPS, UK, Paula Steele, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, Dr. Ainun Nishat, Secretary IMED, Md. Mozammel Haque Khan, DG (CPTU of the Planning Ministry), Amulya Kumar Debnath and many more significant personalities were the guests of the ceremony. Staff of IGS involved with CIPS programme were also present at the ceremony.

Technical Consultancy Service to Asia Foundation

Under the technical support to Promoting Democratic Institutions and Practices (PRODIP), of the Asia Foundation-Bangladesh, IGS prepared a draft advocacy manual on Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy through Able and Active Civil Society. The manual was shared with the representatives of the Asia Foundation. Based on this manual, an advocacy training course was also designed for CSO representatives. The first Training of the Trainers (ToT) on the said advocacy

manual was held from 22-23 February. A total of 15 participants from different CSO organisations attended this 2-day training.

Public Lecture Conducted at Dhaka University

Department of Political Science, Dhaka University, Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) of BRAC University and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany jointly organised a public lecture on **‘The Transformation in the Arab World: Why do dictatorships survive, when do they fall’** at R. C. Mojumder Auditorium in Dhaka University on 22 February.



Director of Social Science Research Centre and Professor of Comparative Political Science and Democracy Research at the Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, Dr. Wolfgang Merkel, was the key note speaker. Acting Chairman of the Department of Political Science, Dr. Gias Uddin Molla presided over and Research Fellow of IGS, Dr. Elvira Graner moderated the lecture programme. Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Ralf Matthias Reusch, Registrar, BRAC University, Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury also spoke at the occasion. Research and Communications staff of IGS and about 160 students of Dhaka University attended the public lecture and participated in an open discussion session.

Trainings, Presentations, Conferences and Workshops Attended by IGS Staff

Research Assistant of IGS, Jannatul Ferdosh, presented at the International Conference on **‘Leadership and Social Changes: Challenges and Future Prospects’**, organised by the International Islamic University, Malaysia (IIUM) from 11-13 February. The topic of her presentation was **‘Urge of Promising Leadership for Combating the Present Crisis of Muslim World’** where she highlights what the nations, across the Muslim world (Middle East to North Africa) are very recently experiencing i.e. emergence of independent political upheaval and unrest.



Research Coordinator of IGS, Shahidul Islam, made a presentation on **“Trade and Commerce in Bangladesh: Challenges Ahead”** at the Round Table Conference organised by Policy Research Center, Bangladesh on February 12 at the Ruposhi Bangla hotel.

Sr. Research Associate, Salina Aziz and Research Assistant of IGS, Fatema Samina Yasmin attended the **“BRAC Global Learning Meeting 2012”**, at Rajendrapur, BCDM, which was held on 7 February. They have presented some key findings of Youth Survey in that meeting.

Research Associate of IGS, Farhana Razzaque, has participated in a training programme named **“Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy through Able and Active Civil Society”** from 22-23 February. Research Assistant of IGS, Rigan Chakma, participated in a workshop on **“Linkage between Climate Change and Migration in Bangladesh”** organized by RMMRU on 23 February.

Affiliated Network of Social Accountability (ANSA)



Launching of Third-Party Monitoring System

The World Bank (WB), in collaboration with ANSA-SAR of IGS and Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), organised an event on 8 February to launch a Third-Party monitoring system for the WB-financed schemes. MJF will conduct the monitoring process for the WB. Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, Dr. Ainun Nishat, spoke at the launching event, which was followed by a one-a-half-day training for MJF on **“Tools for Third-Party monitoring”** with a special focus on **“Citizen’s Report Card”**. Research Officer of Public Affairs Center, Bangalore, India, Dr. Prabhakar Kollapudi was the key resource person for the training.

Meetings and Presentations in Pakistan

A partner review meeting was held in Karachi, Pakistan, from 13-18 February. A Stock-taking Round Table was also held in Islamabad where fifteen organisations based in Islamabad and neighboring cities attended. The Round Table aimed to build an information/evidence base for the current and emerging accountability agenda, especially for South Asia. COO of ANSA-SAR, Naimur Rahman, made a presentation to the World Bank, Pakistan Country Office, on social accountability and possible way forward for Pakistan.

Design Workshop on Communities of Practice on Social Accountability (CoPSA) Tools

The workshop, held from 29 February to 1 March, was organized by CUTS, who will anchor the Communities of Practice on Social Accountability tools. The workshop was attended by various organisations from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka, who took part as the core group of this “Communities of Practice”. The outcomes and the summary of in-country consultations were analysed. They shared the challenges being faced for information sharing and confrontation they experienced during the in country consultations. The workshop suggested ways to make an effective online network with website components with a benchmarking example from The Center for Civil Society of India. The capacity building of the core teams as well as the other CSOs were emphasized. Operational strategies with the usability and effectiveness of the tools were discussed. The discussions also identified ways to make the tools useful. Preparations for this workshop and the country level consultations were held throughout February. The workshop ended with summarised outcome of the learnings from both the workshop and country specific action plans for the year and beyond particularly for the next 6 months.

Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI)

Planning Meeting with Fellows and Mentors

A planning meeting with fellows was held on 10 February. Chief of Party, USAID PROGATI, Denis Gallagher, Deputy Chief of Party, PROGATI, Beth Cunningham, Consultant, DAI-PROGATI, Ralph Framenlino and all fellows and mentors of CAG-JATRI fellowship 2012 were present at the meeting. Fellows shared their experiences with Ralph. He discussed on investigative reporting, its process and things that need to be kept in mind while writing a report. He also

discussed about the audit reports of Bangladesh Government and showed them ways the fellows could dig out more from the reports or investigate those reports further. Discussions were also held on the submission of the RTI request.

Orientation on Reaching MDG - 5 Goals: Role of Policy Makers



On 18 February, JATRI and White Ribbon Alliance (WRA) jointly organised an orientation for the Member of Parliament. WRA, Bangladesh, (WRA,B) is a civil society coalition working at the national, district and grassroots levels to advocate for a stronger, more effective and safe motherhood. The objective of this orientation was to engage a select group of female Parliamentarians to advocate for commitment to maternal and newborn health initiative (MNH). Orientation was organised for the parliamentarians on advocacy for Maternal Health particularly to increase the focus on MNH in parliamentary sub-committees of Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs. It was expected that the Parliamentarians will become active members and initiate efforts in their constituencies to promote MNH following the efforts taken by the WRA,B. Representative from WRA,B gave presentation on their activities and the scenario of Maternal Health. JATRI Chief, Jamil Ahmed, moderated the session. Members of Parliament gave specific commitments to promote maternal and newborn health in their constituencies.

Orientation for Fellows of JATRI-PIB Fellowship

On 20 February, JATRI organised an orientation for the fellows of JATRI-PIB fellowship 2012 on Tobacco control issues in Bangladesh. Selected fellow names were announced on the occasion. 5 journalists from print and electronic media were awarded the fellowship for this year. Associate International Communications Director, Rajika Jayatilake and Advocacy and Media Coordinator, Bangladesh, Taifur Rahman, along with 5 fellows and 2 mentors attended the orientation. Taifur Rahman gave a presentation on anti tobacco issues. Chief of JATRI, Jamil Ahmed, shared the fellow and mentor selection process and fellowship objectives with the participants. The fellows shared their topics of reports.

Planning meeting with the fellows:

A planning meeting was organised with 5 fellows of the Anti Tobacco Fellowship and Associate International Communications Director, CTFK (Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids), Rajika Jayatilake. During the meeting, she shared the main focus of fellowship. The fellows planned the total programme with her where they fixed the topic, developed an action plan and shared a draft proposal in accordance to the defined templates.

Seminar on Major Threats to Quality Journalism: Global and Bangladesh Context



A seminar on **“Major Threats to Quality Journalism: Global and Bangladesh Context”** was organised at JATRI on 28 February. Executive Director of International Press Institute (IPI), Alison Behel Mekenzie, was the key note speaker while the CEO and Editor in Chief of Boishakhi Television, Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, performed the role of the chair. Advisory Editor of the Financial Express, Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, was the guest speaker. Ms. Mekenzie addressed the issues of the top challenges facing quality journalism around the world. She talked about things which influence the media environment and the quality of journalism, including physical and political environment, cultural attitudes and basic infrastructure.

Article Published by IGS staff

Research Fellow, Dr. Elvira Graner, Sr. Senior Research Associate, Syeda Salina Aziz and Research Assistant, Fatema Samina Yasmin have co-authored an article titled **“Giving Youth a Voice”**, which was published in “The Daily Star” on 27 February.