

MONTHLY UPDATES, JANUARY 2011

Third PPSC meeting held

IGS provided technical assistance to the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of the Government of Bangladesh in holding the third of the Public-Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC) meetings. The meeting was held on 06 January, 2011 at the NEC Conference Room 02 of the Planning Commission Campus in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Air Vice Marshall (Retd.) A K Khandker, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Planning, and Chairperson of the Public-Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC) chaired the meeting. 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. It consists of representatives from academia, business community, think-tanks and civil society organisations 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.



Two Days Curriculum Review Workshop

IGS organised a Curriculum Review Workshop from 21-22 January, 2011 at the BRAC Centre for Development and Management, in Savar, Dhaka. Alumni from three batches of the MA in Governance and Development (MAGD) participated at the workshop. Among others Dr. Gowher Rizvi, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Dr. Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor of BRACU, Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-VC of BRACU, Dr. Salah Uddin Ahmad, Ex-Pro-VC of BRACU, Barrister Manzoor Hasan, Director of IGS, Donald Curtis, Evaluator of MAGD were present at the workshop. The workshop was coordinated and facilitated by Dr. Rizwan Khair, Academic Coordinator of IGS.



Training on 'Engaging with Citizens for Improving Service Delivery'

The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability (ANSA-SAR) of IGS in partnership with the Bangladesh Civil Services (Tax) Training Academy organized a day-long workshop on Engaging with Citizens for Improving Service Delivery on 18 January, 2011 at the BCS (Income Tax) Training Academy, Dhaka. Forty Assistant Income Tax Commissioners participated in the workshop. The workshop was structured around learning and sharing theme and explored cutting edge insights on strategies, approaches and methodologies that inform and influence social accountability discourses and practices



Round table on 'Use of ICT to enhance information transparency and accountability for the poor: Prospects & Challenges'

ANSA-SAR in partnership with Development Research Network, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the World Bank Institute, hosted a round table discussion on Use of ICT to enhance information transparency and accountability for the poor : Prospects & Challenges on 31 January, 2011 at the BRAC Centre Inn. Participants from different civil society organisations, business organisation and media were present to discuss the current status, challenges and future prospects of using ICT in implementing Right to Information Act in Bangladesh. ANSA SAR provides technical assistance to the Asia Foundation-Sri Lanka:

The Chief Operating Officer of ANSA-SAR, Dr. Gopa Kumar K Thampi designed and moderated a session on Social Accountability and Political Economic Review – The Local Governance Project-The Asia Foundation- Sri Lanka from 23-30 January, 2011 to assess the nature of challenges and key issues to achieve the social accountability strategic objectives in the context of an overall political and economic analysis. The session was mainly focused on a road map for introducing social accountability mechanism and tools to partners and stakeholders, enhancing their capabilities for implementing and institutionalising social accountability mechanisms and leading practices at local, sub national and national level.

Presentation on Right to Information: Legacies, Profiles and Challenges Dr. Gopa Kumar K Thampi, COO of ANSA SAR made a presentation on Right to Information: Legacies, Profiles, and Challenges on 15 January 2011 for 250 students at the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Center (BPATC). The presentation was the first module of the foundation course and gave the regional and international context of RTI.

JATRI training program on 'Investigative Reporting for Broadcast Journalism Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) of IGS organised a training programme on Investigative Reporting for Broadcast Journalism from 09-13 January, 2011 at the JATRI Training Room in Karwan Bazar Dhaka. The objective of the training was to enhance the knowledge of the participants about investigative reporting for broadcast media in Bangladesh. This five-day training covered the theoretical and practical sides of broadcast journalism. The training also focused on the ethics and standards of investigative journalism with a purpose to motivate the participants to practice the ethics in reporting. Apart from the staff training members of JATRI, Sanaullah Lavlo, Head of News & Program, ABC Radio and Mir Masrur Zaman, Joint News Editor, Channel i conducted various sessions of the training as Resource persons. There was a total of twenty one participants from different print and broadcast media houses in the training program.

Public lecture on Media Education

JATRI organised a public lecture on Media Education: Bangladesh Perspective on 12 January, 2011 at JATRI Conference Room. Journalists from different print and electronic media attended in the discussion. Mr. Khaled Muhiuddin, Editor of Media Watch and weekly magazine Saptihik Kagoj delivered the lecture as guest speaker. At the outset of the programme chief of JATRI Jamil Ahmed welcomed all of the guests and briefly spoke about JATRI and its activities. Broadcast Journalism and Deputy Director of Bangladesh Betar Mr. Faroha Surawardy, Media Component Manager of

DAI Mr. Zahid Hossain, Assistant Editor of The Daily Amardesh Mr. Ayed Hossain and Senior Journalist Mr. Chinmoy Mudsuddhi attended as discussants in the programme. The presentation of the guest speaker was followed by a lively question and answer session.

JATRI's Public lecture on Gender and Media

JATRI organised a public lecture on Gender and Media: Bangladesh Perspective on 23 January, 2011 at the JATRI Conference Room. Journalists from different print and electronic media attended the discussion. Mr. Robaet Ferdous, Associate Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of the University of Dhaka, delivered the lecture as guest speaker. In his speech Mr. Ferdous pointed out that the media are portraying the stereotyped image of women and presenting them as weak, passive, dependent and sex objects. The root cause of the representation is the patriarchal mindset of the people working in the senior positions of the media. Among others Fahmida Rahman, reporter of Desh TV, Mostafizur Rahman Shahin from Gonosakhrota Ovijan, Faisal Mahmud from the daily Independent, Nadira Kiron from Channel i, Rita Bhowmic from Jaijaidin, Jahanara Ferdous from ABC Radio, Tanjila Nijhum from the daily Kaler Kantha, Dunia Khandakar from CARE Bangladesh, Sima Moslem from Bangladesh Mohila Parishad participated in the lectures

JATRI's Public lecture on Journalism in Bangladesh

A public lecture on Journalism in Bangladesh: Past, Present and Way forward was held at the JATRI conference room on 27 January, 2011. Renowned journalist and editor of the Bangla daily Kaler Kantha Abed Khan delivered the lecture. Journalists from different print and electronic media attended in this discussion. Former managing director of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) and Advisor to the JATRI Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury also spoke in this discussion. The sessions were moderated by Jamil Ahmed chief of JATRI.