

MONTHLY UPDATES, JULY 2010

The Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), in collaboration with the BRAC Business School organised a training course on “Project Management for Development Practitioners” from 17-22 July at the JATRI Conference room. The main purpose of the programme was to sensitise and enhance the capacity of mid-level public sector officials, NGO officials and executives from the private sector on project management issues. This six-day programme was designed to provide advanced knowledge on project management and to equip participants with skills necessary to address issues pertinent to Bangladesh. Twelve mid-level government and non-government officials participated in the training course. Dr. Sanaul Mostafa, Dean, BRAC Business School, Mr. Syeedul Haque, Joint Chief, Ministry of Shipping, Dr. Rizwan Khair, Academic Coordinator of IGS and Ms. Fatema Yasmin, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Finance were the lead trainers of the training programme. The programme concluded with a Certificate awarding ceremony on July 22, 2010, handed over by IGS' Director Mr. Manzoor Hasan .

IGS, in collaboration with the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of the Government of Bangladesh and the UK based Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) is currently offering a comprehensive course on procurement (CIPS Level 4 on Foundation Diploma in Purchasing & Supply and CIPS Level - five on Advanced Diploma in Purchasing & Supply) for government officers of Bangladesh. Training for the first cohort of twenty participants started on 04 July 2010 at the Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) office of IGS at Karwan Bazar, Dhaka. Twenty government officers, who are involved with public procurement, were selected for the training through a selection test jointly conducted by IGS and CPTU. All the trainees are sponsored by CPTU under the PPRP-II project. In June (12-19) 2010 Bangladeshi national procurement trainers successfully completed a week long Training of Trainers (TOT) which was conducted by CIPS master procurement trainers to orient local trainers with CIPS study materials. An inaugural programme for Level 4r (Cohort one) training was organized on 04 July 2010 at JATRI office. Pro-VC of BRAC University Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Academic Coordinator of IGS Dr. Rizwan Khair and CIPS representative Mr. Peter James were present. The first cohort of CIPS Level 4 classes will complete their training on 04 November 2010.

Director of IGS, Barrister Manzoor Hasan, visited Sana'a (Yemen) to participate in the Second Regional Conference on “National Anti-Corruption Strategies and the Roles of National Stakeholders”, organised by the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network from July 26-27, 2010. The conference brought together key stakeholders in the Arabian region and partner countries, as well as a number of regional and international organisations. It discussed approaches and entry points to reinforce national efforts aimed at designing, implementing and monitoring such strategies, through a comprehensive approach based on practical experiences from the Arab region and beyond. In addition, the conference witnessed the launch of a national anti-corruption strategy for Yemen. Mr. Manzoor Hasan has been invited to provide technical assistance in formulating the strategy by providing methodological support from the experience of the Institute during such an assessment done jointly by the government of Bangladesh and IGS in 2007-2008. In his input, Mr.

Hasan highlighted issues of monitoring and Implementation of the National Strategies in Concept and Practice.

The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability - South Asia Region (ANSA SAR) took part in three events in Sri Lanka during the month of July. On July 22, 2010, ANSA SAR in association with the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) organised an Interactive Dialogue on Procurement in Local Government involving senior local government officials. Dr. Gopakumar Thampi, head of ANSA SAR, gave a presentation on regional and global best practices (for more details click here). On July 24 2010, Dr. Gopakumar Thampi gave a public lecture on 'Right to Information' at the Consortium for Humanitarian Agencies in Colombo which was attended by representatives of leading civil society organisations and media in Sri Lanka. Gopakumar Thampi and Nuzhat Jabin also participated in a workshop organised by The Asia Foundation (TAF), a grantee of ANSA SAR on social accountability in local governance; TAF recently designed a training manual on this theme: <http://ansa-sar.org/ansa/node/111>

The Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) of IGS has conducted a training on Ethics and Standards in Journalism at Beyanibazar, Sylhet, during 20-22 July, 2010, in order to train 21 mid-level and senior journalists, working for different national and local media at Biyanibazar. The objective of the training event was to train mid-level Bangladeshi journalists on standards and ethics of journalism and inspire them to increase their efforts for producing enterprise stories. The following topics were discussed in three-day training course –

- Current scenario of ethics and standards of journalism in Bangladesh
- Teaching of standard reporting
- Standards of journalism
- Source development teachings and cultivation considering teachings and ethical issues
- Ethics in interviewing and exercise
- Bangladesh Press Council Code of Conduct and Exercise

Mr. Abdullah Al Mamun and Mr. Khan Md. Rabiul Alam of JATRI facilitated the sessions and Mr. Faroha Suhrawardy, Deputy Director, Bangladesh Betar was the lead trainer of the training course.

JATRI organised a refreshers training course on Interviewing and Source Development Techniques on 27 July 2010 at JATRI for Dhaka University correspondents. Ten participants from different news media were attended the course. Ms. Shahanaz Munni, special correspondent of ATN Bangla facilitated the session. At the outset of the programme, Training Manager of JATRI, Golam Kibria, presented the objectives of the session. Participants took part in the discussion spontaneously and shared their experiences, providing some ideas to overcome the challenges.