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One of the components of the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability - South Asia Region and Global Partnership Fund (ANSA - SAR & Global) was officially launched at a press meeting at Journalism Training and Research Initiatives (JATRI) conference room on 7 March 2010. This is the first time a network has brought together diverse organizations from neighboring countries in the South Asian region, to work under a common theme of social accountability.



Among others, the Acting Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, Professor Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, and the Director of IGS Barrister Manzoor Hasan, were present at the occasion. Thirty five members from eighteen partner organisations, from countries as Argentina, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Kyrgyz Republic, Philippines and Sri Lanka were present and spoke at the event. This event also received significant coverage in the media both in Bangladesh and India.

Another component of IGS, Journalism Training and Research Initiatives - JATRI organized a day long workshop on Covering Unrest Situation on 22 March, 2010. The workshop was attended by a number of renowned photojournalists of Bangladesh. The event focused on experience sharing of covering unrest situation by the participants. The objective of the workshop was to share the experiences and challenges of photojournalists on covering unrest situation in Bangladesh. The event started with a welcome speech by Golam Kibria, Senior Training Manager, JATRI. Legendary photo journalist Mr. Pavel Rahman from AP, Mr. Shawkat Jamil from The Daily Star, Adid Abdullah from EPA shared their experiences in the field of photojournalism. At the end of the event Mr. Jamil Ahmed, Head of Program, JATRI extended a vote of thanks to all for taking part in the event.

JATRI Training Team organized a 3-days training course for the journalists of the new daily Adhinayak which is yet to be published. The training course on Interviewing and Source Development Techniques was held from 30 March to 1 April, 2010. Based on the demand from the authority of the new daily, JATRI organised training course. The total of 20 participants attended the training. The objectives of the training course were to orient the participants with ethics and standards of journalism, source development, news interviewing techniques, etc. Mr. Prohash Amin, Joint Chief News Editor, NTV facilitated a session on News interviewing techniques as a recourse person. Mr. Mozammel Hossain Monzoo, Editor, the Daily Adhinayak was also present at the opening and closing sessions.

JATRI, organized a half day session on 10 March, 2010, where Tathagata Dasgupta, Associate Director, ORG Centre for Social Research, AC Nielsen South Asia gave a lecture on 'Interpreting Statistics for Media Professionals'. Interpreting statistics or graphically presented data are vital for good news, Tathagata Dasgupta said at the discussion. He also briefed about how to present statistics for the readers or audiences. Tathagata Dasgupta said "Interpreting statistics or graphically presented data in news also requires critical thinking". Senior Journalists from print and electronic

media were present at the discussion. JATRI's Head of Program Jamil Ahmed moderated the session.

The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in South Asia (ANSA) and the Global Partnership Fund (GPF) organised a 2-day refresher course for the MA in Governance and Development Alumni on 29-30 March, 2010 at BRAC Center for Development and Management (BCDM). Fifty-five former MAGD students who are now currently serving in the Bangladesh civil service at various levels attended the course. The workshop was based on interactive discussions among the government offices on the issues like social accountability tools, Participatory Expenditure Tracking Study (PETS), citizen's report card, community score card. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Gopakumar Thampi, Chief Operating Officer, ANSA-South Asia Region and Global Partnership Fund.

Institute of Governance Studies in association with the Brummer and Partners Bangladesh organized a day-long workshop on the state of corporate governance in Bangladesh on 18 March 2010. The main objective of the workshop was to discuss the state of corporate governance in Bangladesh with a view to addressing the challenges of establishing a strong base for corporate governance in Bangladesh. Chairman of Apex Group Syed Manzur Elahi presented the keynote speech on corporate governance and its importance in the global and regional context. IGS director Manzoor Hasan, CEO of Brummer and partners Bangladesh and director of IBA-DU, GM Chowdhury in their address highlighted relevant areas within corporate governance at the workshop. Other participating companies at the workshop were ACI, Al-Amin Group, Apex Group, Citibank NA, GEMCON Group, Delta insurance, Rahimafrooz, Ananta Group, Nitol-Niloy, HSBC and others.

A workshop on "Implementing Social Accountability Programs: Strategies, Approaches & Methodologies" was held between 8-11 March. This was an event of learning and sharing for the members of partner organisations, organized by ANSA - SAR & GPF. On 11 March, members from the 16 participating organisations from 6 countries signed Memorandums of Understanding with ANSA - SAR & Global, inaugurating the first round of grants being given through a seed fund, financed by the World Bank Institute.

Nuzhat Jabin, Project Associate, made a presentation on 'Empowering the Margins: Social Accountability & Climate change Adaptation' at a Training Workshop on Perspectives on Governance and Natural Resource Governance, organised by IUCN Bangladesh & UKaid on 09 March 2010.

Dr. Gopakumar K Thampi, Chief Operating Officer, ANSA-SAR, IGS, gave a lecture on Regional and International Experiences with RTI to 250 civil servants at PATC, Savar on 20 March, 2010. The presentation also drew upon ANSA's emerging mandate to promote RTI in Bangladesh.