

MONTHLY UPDATES, MAY 2011



The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability- South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR) conducted a day-long consultation on ANSA SAR's future activities and network building on May 22, 2011 at the BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka. The key objectives of this consultation were to share emerging experiences from different context that may inform and influence future work on social accountability, and identify approaches/ strategies to sustain, widen and deepen the network. The consultation involved the heads/ senior representatives of the 22 partner organisations, invited representatives from the Programme for Accountability Nepal (PRAN), Integrity Watch Afghanistan, representatives from BRAC University/ Institute of Governance Studies, World Bank Institute and ANSA SAR team.



ANSA organised a workshop on “Building Negotiation and Advocacy Skills” from May 23- May 25, 2011 at the BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka. Representatives from selected organisations from the South Asia Region and all the 22 partner organisations of ANSA- SAR participated in the workshop.

ANSA co-organised a write-shop with the South Asian Right to Information Advocates Network (SARITAN), Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative and World Bank Institute on “How to Make RTI the Story: communicating RTI experiences and their impact” at the Institute of Governance Studies, BRAC University, Dhaka on May 25, 2011. The write shop aims to strengthen the capacity of CSO’s in Bangladesh focusing on RTI, to effectively communicate stories about the impact of their RTI work, while laying the ground for a joint publication between SARITAN, CHRI, ANSA and WBI showcasing concrete experiences on the use of the RTI Act at grassroots level by CSOs. The representatives from Manusher Jonno Foundation, Nijera Kori, Research Initiatives Bangladesh, D-Net, Transparency International Bangladesh, Intercooperation, Nagorik Uddog, MRDI ,BRAC Advocacy Unit, Common Wealth Human Rights Initiatives, the Daily Star, Channel I and World Bank Institute were present in the event.

The Chief Operating Officer of ANSA-SAR delivered a lecture on Social Accountability: Concept, Practices & Challenges on May 18, 2011 at the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre. The lecture was part of the Foundation Course of the Centre, attended by 300 civil servants.

The Journalism Training & Research Initiative (JATRI) of IGS organized a training on ‘Planning & Research for Investigative journalism’ at the JATRI Training Room from 30 April to 5 May 2011. Twenty participants took part in this training. The purpose of the training was to enhance the knowledge of the participants about planning & research for investigative journalism. This six day long training started with the discussion of Dr. Md. Golam Rahman, Professor of Mass Communication & Journalism of Dhaka University. Dr. Rahman discussed the concept, criteria, and types of investigative journalism. He also discussed about the differences between interpretative reporting and investigative reporting. Mr. Dulal Chandra Biswas , Director General, Press Institute of Bangladesh, discussed about the methodologies of investigative reporting. Mr. Mir Mashrurzzaman, Editor of Channel I, focused on the theoretical and practical sides of investigative journalism, collecting and verifying information for investigative journalism, camera operation. The training ended with the presentations on different topics by the participants. Ms. Farhana Islam (Training Manager, JATRI), and Zahidul Islam (Training Specialist, JATRI) facilitated the training.

JATRI organised a discussion event on its publication “State of Press Freedom in Bangladesh 2010” on 5 May, 2011. Columnist Mr. Sayed Abul Moksud, Mr. Abed Khan, Editor, the Daily Kaler Kantha, Professor Dr. Sadeka Halim, Information Commissioner, Mr. Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, Senior Journalist and Adviser of JATRI discussed in the event. Besides, journalists from different print and electronic media attended the event. Mr. Rabiul Alam, Research Manager of JATRI, presented the media monitoring report. The research was conducted by JATRI during January to December 2010 based on 12 newspapers scanning, 51 issues and 3714 clippings. These newspapers are Daily Star, New Age, Prothom Alo, Kaler Kantha, Ittefaq, Jai Jai Din, Amar Desh, Amader Shomoy, Naya Diganta, Samokal, Jugantor, and Janakantha.

Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Research Associate of IGS participated in the First Global Conference on Transparency Research from May 18 – 20, 2011 organised by the School of Public Affairs and Administration, Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey, USA. He presented a paper titled

“Improving Transparency in Public Procurement in Bangladesh: Use of Right to Information and Whistleblowers’ Protection laws at sub national levels”. The paper is posted on the Conference websiteThe link is:[Click here](#)