

## MONTHLY UPDATES, NOVEMBER 2011



### **The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability (ANSA)**

#### **Workshop on “Social Accountability Stock-Taking in Bangladesh”**

The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability- South Asia Region organized a Round-table on “Social Accountability Stock-Taking in Bangladesh” in November 15, 2011 at BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka. The aim of the workshop was to build an information or evidence base for the present and emerging accountability practice – especially in the context of Bangladesh, and subsequently rest of South Asia. It was attended by representatives from a number of civil society organizations, viz. the Hunger Project-Bangladesh, Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC), D-Net, PRIP Trust, Article 19, Bangladesh, Manusher Jonno Foundation, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Bangladesh, Nagorik Uddog/ AIB and many others.

#### **HLP: Appreciative Inquiry Network Workshop**

The COO of ANSA-SAR & Global attended the first Horizontal Learning Program (HLP): Appreciative Inquiry Network Workshop from November 21 to November 22, 2011 at Elenga, Tangail. The objectives of the workshop was to share the existing good practices, plan exposure visits for learning from peers, identify opportunities for collective engagement at the Bangladesh Urban Forum and identify next steps for scaling-up, deepening and sustaining this initiative. Representatives from Pourashavas, Local Government Division (LGD) and partner agencies were present in the workshop. The workshop was facilitated by the Ministry of Local Government with support from WSP, UPPR (UNDP, DFID), UGIIP (ADB, KFW, GIZ) and JICA.

#### **2011 Asia Regional Peer Learning and Knowledge Sharing Workshop**

Mr. Naimur Rahman, Chief Operating Officer of ANSA-SAR and GPF participated in a workshop on “Engaging Citizens against Corruption in Asia: Approaches, Results and Lessons” from November 29 to December 2, 2011 at Jaipur, India. The event was sponsored by Partnership for

Transparency fund (PTF) in collaboration with its partners in India – the Public Affairs Center, CUTS and Transparency International India. The three-day workshop brought together Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from 8 countries in Asia and anti-corruption experts from all over the world. The workshop mainly featured results from over 30 case studies and four country programs. The participants had the opportunities for peer-to-peer and peer-to-expert discussions on a variety of demand for good governance related topics, including funding strategies, sharing of best practice, innovative forms of engaging media and new technologies for anti-corruption programs.

### **The Institute of Governance Studies (IGS)**

#### **State of Cities (SOC)**

On November 30, 2011 the SOC team had a workshop with Bath University Professors Geof Wood, Joe Devine and Ipshta Basu regarding their progress and problems and visited Dr Nurul Amin, Dean of the School of Environmental Science at North South University, to seek advice on issues related to waste management in Dhaka.

#### **Conference on 40 Years of Bangladesh**

The Institute of Governance Studies organized an International Conference on 40 Years of Bangladesh: Retrospect and Future Prospects from 26-28 November 2011. The launching ceremony of the conference took place at BRAC Centre Inn while the rest at BRAC BCDM, Savar, Khagan. The chief guest at the launching ceremony was Justice Habibur Rahman and



special guest was Dr. Gowher Rizvi. The purpose of the conference was to highlight the Governance of Bangladesh in these 40 years; the failures and the future prospects that lie ahead and proposing better and effective ways of governance. Significant International scholars like Geof Wood, Joe Devine, Theodore Thomas, Donald Curtis, Harry Wallace Blair, Jalal Alamgir, Akhlaque Haque and many others have participated in this conference and made their presentations.

#### **IGS brainstorming session for strategy**

On November 29 IGS organized a half day brainstorming session to evaluate the activities of 2011 and review and update the strategies of (2012-15). All IGS employees participated in this session.

Andrew Jenkins, Donor Liaison Officer of BRAC moderated the first part of the session. Divisional as well as overall IGS strategy was discussed in this session.

### **Meeting with BPATC & ACAD**

Dr. Rizwan Khair, Director-In-Charge at IGS has attended Senior Staff Course for joint secretaries at BPATC and ACAD in November 2011.

### **Nuffic and MDF visit**

A three member team of Netherlands (Dutch Delegation Des) in partnership with IGS and Bangladesh Public Administration Training Center has initiated a 4-year project named 'Capacity Building for Promoting Governance'. The project has been undertaken under the Netherlands Initiative for Capacity Development in Higher Education (NICHE)/NUFFIC. Netherlands based MDF Training and Consultancy B.V (MDF), the Center for International Cooperation, of the VU University Amsterdam and the Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam are part of this collaborative intervention. The project aims at building capacity at IGS and BPATC to transform the public sector in Bangladesh to be responsive to the needs of its citizen through competent curriculum designing, training, learning and developing effective sustainable strategy. The team had a meeting with the concerned IGS team and created a logical framework of the project.

### **Journalism Training & Research Initiative (JATRI)**



JATRI organized CTFK (Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids) program in November 2011. The program was attended by Ruhul Amin Rushd of Banglavisision, Mohammad Nadim from the Daily Ittefaq, Rita Nahar from Boishakhi TV and many other media personnel. In this program, the affects of tobacco intake and causes and prevention were discussed.