

MONTHLY UPDATES, OCTOBER 2010

IGS launched the summary of its fourth annual report *The State of Governance in Bangladesh (SoG) 2009* on 6th October 2010 at 11.00 am at the JATRI Conference Room, Dhaka. Former Chief Advisor to the Caretaker Government **Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman** was present as the Chief Guest at the launching ceremony. Pro-Vice Chancellor, BRAC University **Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir** chaired the programme. The 2009 Report analyses the state of governance in of Bangladesh. The 2009 Report focuses on four key sectors, namely, Energy, Food Security, e-Government and Labour Migration. The ceremony was divided into three sessions i.e. inaugural, presentation of key findings and question answer session. Barrister Manzoor Hasan, Director of IGS opened the event with a welcome address. Ms. Irum Shehreen Ali, Editor, SoG 2009 and Ms. Christina Rozario, Head of Programme of IGS presented the key findings of SOG research. The launching event provided a platform to share and disseminate key findings of the SoG research with the press. Most of the leading print and electronic media covered the event.



IGS started a four-month long *Professional Certificate Programme on Environmental Management and Governance* from 18th October 2010 at IGS Conference Room, Dhaka. The **Certificate Programme is being offered under** 'Building Environmental Governance Capacity in Bangladesh' project, jointly implemented by IGS, North South University, and Centre for Natural Resource Studies and University of Manitoba, Canada. The main purpose of the certificate programme is to sensitize and further the capacity of mid-level public-sector officials, NGO officials and executives from the private sector on key environmental governance issues related to natural resources and environment management. 12 executives, most of them are from private sector, have got enrolled in the Programme. Resource persons from BRAC University, professionals at the government sectors, and academics from University of Manitoba (Canada) and North South University (Dhaka) are conducting the sessions.

A thirteen member delegation from the YouChange Foundation of Beijing, led by its Chairperson Ms. Wang Ping, visited the Institute of Governance Studies on 2nd and 4th October 2010 as part of their tour of BRAC University and other organizations in Bangladesh. YouChange aims to indentify, support and cultivate new philanthropy leaders and develop China's philanthropic community by

creating a YouChange University of Social Innovation. Ms. Wang Ping believes YouChange University will build a platform that combines theoretical studies with practice and share latest theoretical studies, practical cases, training bases and talents in social innovation with others through modern media and the Internet. As part of the tour the delegation members met the Director and other colleagues at IGS. The delegation learnt about different research and academic activities of IGS and explored avenues for collaboration and cooperation.

The Director of IGS, Barrister Manzoor Hasan, participated in *Training for Focal Points and Governmental Experts participating in the Review Mechanism for the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)* in Jakarta, Indonesia from 11-13 October 2010. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in cooperation with the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised this training for State parties to the UNCAC, namely, Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Laos, Maldives, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, and Singapore. The overall objective of this training was to develop the participants' capacity to participate in the UNCAC Review Mechanism. Mr. Hasan gave a presentation on *UNCAC Review Mechanism: Concepts & Experiences*.

Affiliated Network for Social Accountability, South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR), based in IGS organised a five-day long workshop in Dhaka, from October 10-14, 2010 to share experiences and insights on strategies, approaches and methodologies that inform and influence social accountability discourses and practices in South Asia and elsewhere, alongside elements of project design and implementation. ANSA SAR had recently shortlisted 15 civil society organisations in South Asia as potential partners for its Second Grants Programme. Two members from each shortlisted organisation took part in the workshop.

The overarching objectives of this learning and sharing event were: to provide a "hands on" introduction to Social Accountability (SAc) Tools & Approaches; to strengthen conceptual & practical perspectives to carry out SAc Tools & Approaches; to enhance awareness & knowledge about the advantages & challenges of SAc Tools & Approaches; to explore the concept and practices of Results Based Management (RBM); and to integrate RBM principles into project design and implementation

Dr. Gopakumar Thampi, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of ANSA- SAR & Global participated 2010 Council Meeting of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) from 21 - 22 October, 2010 as a Keynote Speaker for the Opening Plenary. The theme of Plenary was *"The Bottom Billion: Are Governments, Business & NGOs Accountable?"* ACFID represents Australia's non profit aid and development sector, with member organizations in more than 100 countries.

Dr. Gopakumar Thampi also addressed a plenary session at the Evaluation Conclave 2010 held in New Delhi, India on the 28 October 2010. He spoke about the relation between evaluation and accountability and the need to broaden the understanding on the various tools and methodologies that may be used to bridge the two. The Evaluation Conclave 2010 was jointly organized by Community of Evaluators (CoE), Association for Stimulating Know how (ASK), Sambodhi

Research & Communications and Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IMAR). Nuzhat Jabin and Ipshita Basu from IGS also attended the Workshop.

Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) launched a study report on *The State of Women in Journalism* on 24th October 2010. The objective of the study was to understand the ground realities of women journalists in the media. The study has recorded the day to day experiences of the women journalists and highlights the areas for improvement. A total of 100 women and 25 male journalists were the respondents in the study. The responses of respondents were recorded through questionnaire survey. The qualitative methods of Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and Key Informant Interviews (KII) were also used to collect data for the study. Both groups of respondents are working in the newspaper, television, radio and news agency and online media in Dhaka.

JATRI organised a roundtable on *New Media New Horizon Citizen Journalism in Bangladesh* on 31 October 2010 at JATRI Conference Room. Dr. Fahmidul Haq, Assistant Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, University of Dhaka and Mr. Abu Saeed Khan, General Secretary, Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh, delivered key speeches in the roundtable. JATRI Research Manager Khan Md. Rabiul Alam gave a presentation based on a study findings conducted by the research team. Chief of JATRI Jamil Ahmed moderated the discussion. Journalists from newspapers, online newspapers, television, Radio, online media, news agencies as well as a good number of bloggers took part in the discussion.

JATRI declared the names of winners of *JATRI Fellowship 2010* on 6th October 2010 alongside the launching ceremony of SoG 2009 at JATRI Conference Room. The Fellowship has been given to 8 journalists under the categories newspaper, television, radio, and online newspaper. The journalists were selected on investigative reporting 2010 of JATRI. A designated Jury board selected the fellows through a rigorous review of their proposal and also a viva-voce performance.