

MONTHLY UPDATES, OCTOBER 2012

Commencement of the 4th Batch of Environmental Management and Governance Classes

The 4th batch of Environmental Management and Governance course has commenced from 1 October, 2012. A total of 10 students have been enrolled in this course this semester.

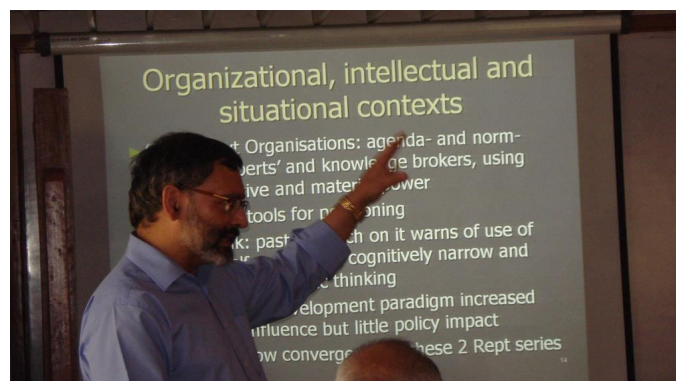
Marketing Strategy Workshop at IGS



On 10 October, 2012 a marketing strategy workshop was held at IGS. Netherlands based MDF Consultant and Trainer Ms. Hanneke Spaans moderated the workshop and has talked about the different marketing strategy approaches that IGS can undertake to appeal to its various stakeholders. She has specifically focused on the need of a more illustrative and to the point informative website comprising the products and services of IGS as the first step towards successful marketing.

The workshop was comprised of role playing games, presentations and practical demonstrations on marketing strategy on behalf of the staff participants of IGS. The staff comprised of the research, communication, administration, programme, information technology and training coordination team of IGS.

IGS Holds Public Lecture III



IGS Public Lecture III was held on 15 October 2012 at Vice Chancellor's Conference Room, BRAC University. The public lecture was delivered by Dr. Des Gasper, Endowed Professor, International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Hague, The Netherlands. The program was jointly organised by the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC Development Institute (BDI) and Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER) of BRAC University.

The title of the lecture was "Climate Change and International Organisations (IOs): A comparative analysis of the Human Development Report of UNDP and the World Development Report of World Bank."

In his lecture, Professor Gasper spoke about the relationship between UNDP's Human Development Report (HDR) 2007/8 and World Bank's World Development Report (WDR) 2010 in terms of climate change and development. He argued that HDR and WDR provide very different perspectives in diagnosis, of what is perhaps the largest question that faces humankind and is certainly a major issue for Bangladesh. The lecture was followed by an open discussion participated by the members of the audience. They were faculties from various schools and departments of BRAC University including IGS, BDI, C3ER, Economics, Social Science, and Law; programme personnel of NGOs working on climate change; and relevant government officials.

3rd party Monitor Selection Meeting

IGS has provided assistance to the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), Ministry of Planning, Bangladesh in implementing a project titled "Public Procurement Reform Project (PPRP)-II." This project is funded by International Development Association of the World Bank. The main objective of this piloting is to examine the possibility of the third party engagement in public procurement, to identify, accumulate and disseminate lessons learned from field level experience.

The first meeting on this 3rd party Monitor Selection was held in October at Rupganj, Narayongonj where Dakarkhali Community Prathomik Biddaloy was taken as a project of this third party engagement in public procurement. School Monitoring Committee (SMC) secretary and its members, corruption prevention committee's secretary and member, Head Teacher, NGO activists, LGED Engineer, concerned contractor, Assistant Upazilla Education Officer, teachers, guardians, UP members and IGS representatives Munir Uddin Shamim, Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Farhana Razzaque and Jannatul Ferdous actively participated in this meeting.

The strengths and weaknesses of the school were presented in the meeting and recommendations have been made in overcoming the weaknesses. Guardians were requested to voice their opinions on the improvement of the school while Munir Uddin Shamim, Senior Programme Manager of IGS emphasised the importance of third party engagement i.e. the guardians' involvement in projects such as these.

IGS General News

Mr. Henrick van Asch, First Secretary, Political Affairs, Netherlands Embassy Bangladesh and Ms. Heather Cruden, Canadian High Commissioner, Canadian High Commission Bangladesh paid a casual visit to IGS on 7 and 10 October, 2012 respectively.

Dr. Rizwan Khair, Institutional Director, attended an International workshop on “Controversial Democratic Spaces: Land, Environment, and Human Rights in Bangladesh” which was jointly organised by the Department of Law, University of Dhaka and Bielefeld University, Germany on 16 October at Dhaka University.

He has also conducted lectures on Public Policy to the Foundation Training Participants at The Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) Savar, Dhaka.

Affiliated Network for Social Accountability-South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR)

Policy Roundtable on ‘Advancing Public Participation and Accountability in the Budget Process’



Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) in collaboration with the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability (ANSA) held a half-day policy roundtable entitled “Advancing Public Participation and Accountability in the Budget Process” on 1 October, 2012 at Hotel Ruposhi Bangla, Dhaka. A number of parliament members, government/non-government high officials, members of parliamentary standing committee, civil society representatives, and journalists attended this policy roundtable. They discussed about different issues regarding budget process, its bottlenecks, and ways of effective implementation of budget in Bangladesh and ways in encouraging people from every sphere to take part in the budgeting to ensure a stronger accountability in the budget formulation and implementation process.

Dr. Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir, MP and honorable minister of Home Affairs of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh was present in the roundtable as chief guest and gave his valuable speech. The policy roundtable was chaired by Ms. Rokeya Kabir, Executive Director of BNPS. Barrister Manzoor Hasan, Institutional Advisor, IGS BRAC University moderated the event.

Visit to Katiadi, Kishoreganj for the observation of BRAC Community Empowerment Programme



ANSA-SAR team visited Katiadi Kishoreganj from 9th Oct to 11th Oct to observe BRAC Community Empowerment Programme (CEP) implemented Polli Shomaj Participatory Budgeting training and popular theatre programme. The Union Parishad Chairman, Ward members and citizens of the Union Parishad attended this programme. The objective of the training is to sensitize the citizens of the ward to actively participate in ward budgeting meeting. The popular theatre session was inaugurated and concluded by the remarks of the citizens to participate in the ward budgeting meeting and the proclamation from the Chairman and members to arrange a ward meeting with at least 25 percent attendance of the entire ward citizens.

Meeting On “Review of Institutionalization of Civil Engagement in Development And Implementation of Budget”

A discussion on “Review of Institutionalization of Civil Engagement in Development and Implementation of Budget” was held on 21 October, 2012 at Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi, Dhaka. The discussion was organised by Bangladesh Nari Progati Shangha (BNPS).

The programme was moderated by Ms. Rokeya Kabir, Executive Director of BNPS. Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh, Ahmed Ataul Hakeem, Auditor General, Rokeya Deen, Director of Trust Bank & Former Assistant Auditor General, Joint Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat A S M Mahbubul Alam, MP, Dr. Abdul Mannan, MP, Dr. Murad Hasan, Member of the Governing body of Bangladesh Bank, Dr. Hannana Begum, Professor of Economics Dept. Dhaka University, Dr. Saayma Hoque Bidisha, Researcher, Women for Women, Rowshan Jahan, Programme Manager of ANSA-SAR of IGS, Nuzhat Jabin, Economist, Dr. Kaniz N Siddique, Dr. S M Morshed of Finance Ministry, and Nazrul Islam, Researcher Unnayan Sommonnay actively participated in the discussion. The meeting identified some focused strategies and actions to enhance accountability and oversight on budget formulation and implementation.