

## **MONTHLY UPDATES, SEPTEMBER 2011**

### **ANSA field visits in India**

The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability- South Asia Region, based at the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) of BRAC University conducted field visits to two of its grantees in September 2011. The field visits are as much for monitoring as it is for informing the work of ANSA SAR. With the ANSA SAR funds, ADHAR, based in Bolangir, India is implementing a project on promoting social accountability through community initiatives for the activation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and Public Distribution System to ensure food and livelihood security of the targeted families of Balangir district of Orissa state in India. The other project visited was in Berhampur, India being implemented by Youth for Social Development on enabling community monitoring of bidding process of rural road projects (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana) in Ganjam and Gajapati districts of Orissa, India. The visits created the opportunities to speak with beneficiaries directly and discuss with the staff on ways to maximize the impact of the projects. Detailed field visit report will be soon available in the ANSA-SAR website ([www.ansa-sar.org](http://www.ansa-sar.org)).

### **Renowned American journalist Amy Herdy in JATRI**

Amy Herdy, the famous American journalist and media consultant visited the Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) based at IGS on the 25 September 2011 to conduct a session on “Investigative Journalism: Past, Present and Way Forward.” The session was held at JATRI premises in Kawran Bazar. The program was jointly organized by the American Center, US Embassy and JATRI. In her lectures, Ms. Herdy talked about the past and present investigative techniques of journalism and proposed future techniques to make journalism transparent and highly informative. In her session she has discussed storytelling techniques, worthy storytelling practices, ways to interview, breaking news and trauma reporting.



Ms. Patricia Hill of the American Center Press Section gave welcome remarks and Jamil Ahmed, Chief Executive of JATRI moderated the session. Senior journalists, media professionals and representatives of leading print and electronic media were the participants.

#### **IGS Director gave lecture at PATC**

Dr. Rizwan Khair, Director (in-charge) of IGS, delivered two lectures at the Public Administration Training Center (PATC) of the Government of Bangladesh under its Senior Staff Course (SSC) on September 2011. The topics of the lectures are public sector reform and public policy. The SSC caters Joint Secretaries of government.

#### **IGS researchers participated in the TLC Workshop**

A group of four IGS researchers/faculties participated in the 5th Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) Workshop of BRAC University. It is a capacity building orientation for the university faculty. The IGS participants are: Research Fellow Dr. Elvira Graner, Senior Research Associate Kazi Nurmohammad Hossainul Haque, and, Research Assistants Mahboob Elahi Akhter and Jannatul Fardosh. The curriculum of the 5th TLC included basic concepts of learning and teaching, critical thinking, classroom conduct and decorum, teacher performance, micro-teaching, instruction strategies, managing disruptive behavior and student performance evaluation.