

## MONTHLY UPDATES, SEPTEMBER 2012

### Launching Ceremony of the First Publication of the “State of Cities” Report



The Institute of Governance Studies of BRAC University celebrates its first publication of the "State of Cities" report on 5 September, 2012 at BRAC University auditorium. This Report highlights the state of urban governance in Dhaka City in different dimensions such as history of governance, political economy of Dhaka, political governance of Dhaka, economic governance in terms of transport sector and the governance of urban service delivery.

Dr. Rizwan Khair, Director of IGS gave a welcoming address at the beginning of the ceremony. The event was chaired by Professor Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-Vice Chancellor, BRAC University and the five panel discussants were Dr. Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor, University of Asia Pacific, Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman, Executive Chairman, Power and Participation Research Centre, Professor Mohammad Mohabbat Khan, Member, University Grants Commission, Architect Saif Ul Haque, Principal, Saif Ul Haque, Sthapati and Dr. Ishrat Islam, Associate Professor, Department of Urban and Rural Planning, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology. Members of the media, civil societies and development sector also participated in this event.

#### **Public Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC)**

#### **Small group meeting-cum-FGD with Public Sector Engineers for the PPRP Policy Note**

On 15 September 2012, a small group meeting-cum-FGD was held at IGS conference room under the Public Procurement Reform Project-II. The meeting was organised and conducted by the IGS researchers to learn about the systemic loopholes and the risks of irregularities in the bidding process of public sector procurement from the experts and practitioners. The meeting was attended by nine public sector engineers from various government departments. Attendees also discussed the solutions to the problems identified and whether citizen engagement/ third-party monitoring in any

stage of the bidding process can reduce the burdens of systemic loopholes and lessen the risks of irregularities.

The discussion was led by Munir Uddin Shamim, Senior Programme Manager of IGS and simultaneously moderated by two Research Assistants; Sultan Mohammed Zakaria and Nazmul Arifeen.

### **Visit to Narayanganj on piloting third party monitoring of public procurement**

On 11 September 2012, a five member team comprised of Munir Uddin Shamim, Senior Programme Manager, Kazi Haque, Senior Research Associate; Farhana Razzaque, Research Associate; Jannatul Fardosh, Research Assistant and Rubayet Hamid, Research Assistant visited LGED situated at Narayanganj. The purpose of this visit was to explore feasibility of pilot exercise on third party monitoring of public procurement. During the visit, the team met the representatives from LGED, Narayanganj and explained the purpose and possible process of pilot exercise.

### **Meeting at LGED headquarter**

IGS research team visited LGED headquarter and had a small group meeting with the representatives of participatory small scale water resource project and primary education development project. These two projects have been selected for piloting third party monitoring of public procurement under Public Procurement Reform Project-II of the Ministry of Planning. IGS has been assigned to provide technical support to this pilot exercise.

### **Key Informant Interview**

As part of developing policy notes on role of media in promoting citizen engagement in public procurement, 3 key informant interviews (KII) were conducted. Respondents of KII included Yasmin Khan, Programme Director and Khadija Bilkis, Deputy Director, Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs and Ajoy Dasgupta of Dainik Shamokal. KIIs were conducted by Farhana Razzaque, Research Associate and Munir Uddin Shamim, Senior Programme Manager of IGS. The KII focused on exploring inputs from the respondents on problems and prospects related to roles of media in facilitating third party engagement in public procurement.

### **Capacity Building for Promoting Governance Project**

#### **Third working group meeting held**

Third working group meeting of the project Capacity Building for Promoting Governance, supported by NUFFIC, was held on 27 September 2012. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Md. Mahmudul Hassan, MDS, Public Administration Training Centre (PATC). The meeting was attended by working group members from PATC, IGS and Dr. Martin. MDF, South Asia. The working group has finalised the second year plan for the project in this meeting.

## **Workshop on Public-Private Partnership for E-Governance Capacity Building in Bangladesh**

IGS Adviser, Barrister Manzoor Hassan, Academic Coordinator Md. Zohurul Islam and Senior Programme Manager Munir Uddin Shamim attended a daylong workshop on public-private partnership for E-Governance capacity building in Bangladesh. The workshop was organised on 13 September 2012 at the International Training Complex of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Center. The workshop was hosted by the representative of Access to Information Programme of the Prime Minister's Office of Bangladesh.

## **IGS partnership with Social Impact Inc. for USAID/Bangladesh DG-Programs Evaluations**

The Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University signed a sub-contract with the Social Impact Inc., USA for Bangladesh Democracy and Governance Programs' Evaluations of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). As its first task, the Social Impact Inc. carried out external performance evaluation of Promoting Governance, Accountability, Transparency and Integrity (PROGATI) project in September 2012. Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Research Associate of IGS worked as governance expert in this evaluation led by senior evaluation expert named Dr. Corbin B. Lyday and the other participants were Dr. Owen Lippert and one evaluation expert named Saiful Islam.

## **IGS Researcher presented papers in Bangalore and Cambridge**

Md. Harun-Or-Rashid, Research Associate of IGS participated in two International Conferences in September in Bangalore, India and Cambridge, United Kingdom respectively.

He gave his first presentation in Bangalore, India from 4-6 September on a paper titled, "Institutions of Accountability and Good Governance: An Evaluation of the Anti Corruption Commission in Bangladesh" on the Public Policy and Governance Conference which was held at the JN Tata auditorium in Bangalore. The conference was jointly organised by the Indian Institute of Science, Public Affairs Centre and the International Development Research Centre, IDRC.

The second conference that he participated in was on Education, Mobility and Migration: People, Ideas and Resources which was held from 8-11 September at the Churchill College of the University of Cambridge. The paper that he presented was titled, "International Labour Migration and its Effect on Education: A Case Study of the Southern Part of Bangladesh". This conference was jointly organised by the faculty of Education of the University of Cambridge, British Association for International and Comparative Education (BAICE) and Anglia Ruskin University, United Kingdom.

## **IGS Researcher presents paper at the National University of Singapore**

From 27-28 September 2012, Kazi Nurmohammad Hossainul Haque, Senior Research Associate of IGS presented a paper on "Determinants and Dynamics of Diaspora Engagement in Home Country Politics: A Case Study of Bangladesh" at the workshop titled, "Diaspora and Development: South

Asian Diaspora Engagement in South Asia. This workshop was held at the National University of Singapore and it was organised by the Institute of South Asian Studies.

### **Focus Group Discussions Conducted for the implementation of the MFS II Programme**



From 22-30 September, two researchers, Faiz Ahmed Chowdhury and Rigan Chakma conducted focus group discussions (FGD)'s and stakeholder interviews of NGO's at Shatkhira and Khulna respectively. This was part of the general evaluation of the Dutch Alliances which fund these NGO's for the implementation of the MFS II programme.

### **Activities of the Director**

Dr. Rizwan Khair, the Director of IGS attended the 5th South Asian Economic Summit in Islamabad, Pakistan from 11-13 September 2012 and took part in the panel on "Social Accountability as Catalyst for Inclusive Development in South Asia". He has also conducted classes at the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) on Policy Analysis in Senior Staff Course for Joint Secretaries on the Governance of Bangladesh (GOB) and equivalent officers of the armed forces of BPATC.

### **Annual Monitoring of the Utilisation of IDRC Think Tank Fund**

From 6-7 September 2012 two representatives of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Dr. Kaveri Gill and Dr. Samar Verma visited IGS and had a meeting with all team members regarding their "Terms of Reference" of respective projects for the annual monitoring and evaluation of the utilisation of IDRC Think Tank Fund.

## **Affiliated Network for Social Accountability (ANSA-SAR)**

### **Fifth South Asia Economic Summit (SAES-V) at Islamabad, Pakistan**



ANSA-SAR participated in the three day summit of the Fifth South Asia Economic Summit that shed light on the major issues relating to South Asia economic outlook, impacts of global financial crisis, regional trade, energy cooperation, transport connectivity, trade normalisation and engaging youth and Diaspora for economic growth. Over 114 foreign delegates, including ministers from the SAARC countries participated in the summit. The Chief Operating Officer of ANSA-SAR, Naimur Rahman chaired the event while Programme Manager of ANSA-SAR, Nuzhat Jabin, spoke at the conference regarding Good Governance.

### **Training Workshop for Community Radio Personnel**

A day long Orientation training workshop for “Community Radio Personnel’ on Radio Broadcasting on Budget Issue” was held on 29 September, 2012 at Auditorium Level 3, IDB Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka. The event was supported by ANSA-SAR and organised by the Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC). The overall event was moderated by Tamjid ur Rahman, CEO, Change Maker, Nuzhat Jabin, Programme Manager, ANSA-SAR, Mostafizur Rahman Khan, Project Officer, ANSA-SAR and Santu Das, Communications Officer, ANSA-SAR attended the training workshop on behalf of IGS. In total 31 Community Radio Personnel including Chief Executive Officers, Station Managers, Programme Producers, Technical Offices, Programme Presenters and Volunteers of 12 Community Radio Stations participated in the training workshop.

The curriculum of the training workshop was designed to give a clear conception on the online and offline roles and responsibilities of the Community Radio personnel in sensitizing grass root level to participate in budgeting process. The recorded radio magazine was presented before the participants as a model for developing programs and take initiatives to broadcast different local government

budgeting processes, so that, the local community will be motivated to participate in different stages of the overall budgeting process.

### **Published Articles**

The Daily Star: [Dhaka's invisible inhabitants](#) by Ipshita Basu, 18 September 2012

The Daily Star: [Syria: Israel's interest and a strategic double-game of the United States](#) by Sultan Mohammed Zakaria, 15 September 2012