

June 2017

Illicit money and illicit power are influencing the Public Procurement

Experts said at the 12th PPSC meeting

Illicit money and Illicit power are badly influencing public procurement. The procuring entities are facing various challenges during implementation of projects, especially at field level. Absence of a proper monitoring system of public procurement is one of the reasons, for which Bangladesh cannot ensure proper implementation of projects and its quality.

These were some of the observations of the participants at the 12th meeting of Public Private

the monitoring report of pilot projects completed in two districts - Rangpur and Sirajganj - by the citizens committees. He also proposed scaling up the project on a national level.

He said the citizens committees monitored the textbook print quality and distribution of text books in 28 schools in the two districts at the first day of the year. They also monitored 19 projects (11 road constructions and 8 school building constructions) in



Stakeholders' Committee (PPSC) under Public Procurement Reform Project II of Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) under Ministry of Planning. The meeting was held on the 8th June 2017 at the NEC Conference Room, Planning Commission Campus in the capital, which was facilitated by BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University.

Team leader of the social accountability component of PPRP-II Dr. Mirza M Hassan presented the findings of

these areas where the committees failed to monitor two projects out of the 19 due to interference by socially and politically influential persons.

Beyond the engagement of the Citizen Committees, the project was also able to successfully mobilize local communities for monitoring projects which led to conceptual and strategic innovation of a Site Specific Citizen Monitoring idea which we plan to replicate nationally, he added.

Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) Secretary in Charge Md. Mofizul Islam, who also presided over the meeting, said, most of the citizens do not know that their money is being spent in public procurement. Increasing people's awareness regarding public procurement will reduce the influence of Illicit money and Illicit power. The monitoring only by IMED personnel is not enough, and the citizens should have a role in monitoring the development projects. He added that proper monitoring of public procurement is an important issue for successful implementation of the projects. The government wants to ensure cent per cent transparency and accountability in public procurement.

In response to a question on formation of Citizens Committee he said, "Citizens committees should be formed with those persons, whose morals and ethics are above question. We need citizens' monitoring in purchasing of goods also, as we want to get value for money."

CPTU Director General Md. Faruque Hossain said there are various challenges in monitoring of the public

projects by citizens committees, as there is no legal provision in this regard. If the government finds third party monitoring beneficial, the relevant rules will be changed to give it a legal basis.

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director, BIGD; Mr. ANM Mustafizur Rahman, World Bank; Dr. Kazi Ali Toufique, Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS); Mr. Ahmed Najmul Hussain, Administrative Director, BRAC; Engr. S. M. Khorshed Alam, Director, Bangladesh Association of Construction Industry; Mr. Ziaur Rahman, General Secretary, Economic Reporters' Forum also made their valuable remarks and participated in discussion at the meeting.

The Public-Private Stakeholders' Committee (PPSC) has been formed under the auspices of the Public Procurement Reform Project-II (PPRP-II) with representatives from business community, think tanks, and civil society organizations along with government officials, to institutionalise external monitoring and citizen engagement in different stages of public procurement.

Award Giving Ceremony of MCIPS



The Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS), UK, awarded the participants of cohort 5 & 6 for achieving the MCIPS degree. The main purpose of

the ceremony was to celebrate the success of the participants that held on June 18, 2017 at a city hotel in Dhaka. A total 50 number of Government of Bangladesh officials through the Public Procurement Reform Project (PPRP II) implemented by CPTU, IMED was awarded at the ceremony.

Mr. Howard James Selden, International Development Adviser of CIPS hosted the programme and delivered the welcome speech. Ms. Rajashree Paralkar, Acting Country Director of World Bank Bangladesh, Mr. Md. Faruque Hossain, Director

General, CPTU, Mr. Md. Mofizul Islam, the Secretary in Charge of IMED and Dr. Rahman, ED of BIGD also spoke at the ceremony.

UNODC Anti-Corruption Academic Expert Workshop

Dr. Wahid Abdallah attended a two-day UNODC Anti-Corruption Academic Expert workshop on 13- 14 June 2017 organised by Centre for Law & Business, National University of Singapore, Singapore.

THE UNODC has organized this workshop to create and serve as a forum for academics from the Asia-Pacific region to further exchange knowledge and

experiences in the field of anti-corruption education. The UNODC representatives have also presented a model course on Anti-Corruption based on the UN Convention against Corruption. Dr. Abdallah was the only participant from Bangladesh. There were participants from other countries including Australia, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand etc.

Dr. Wahid Abdallah presented paper at International Public Policy Conference



School of Public Policy in Singapore on June 28-30, 2017. More than 250 panels were held in twenty topics where researchers around the world presented and discussed their work. Dr. Wahid Abdallah, Research Fellow & Head, Governance and Politics Cluster of BIGD presented two papers in the conference, one on the effect of electronic procurement and the other on public private

The International Public Policy Organization has organized their biennial International Public Policy Conference, which was hosted by the Lee Kuan Yew

partnership. He has also shared his research work in a session organized by UNDP Global Centre for Public Service Excellence (UNDP GCPSE).

Technical Consultation meeting with MoWCA

Ms. Lopita Huq, Research Fellow of BIGD presented a paper titled "Paradox of Change in Women's capabilities: Case of Two Villages in Bangladesh" in the session on "Deprivation vs. Empowerment". The paper was presented at the 26th IAFFE Annual Conference

titled "Gender Inequalities in a Multipolar World" organized by the International Association for Feminist Economics at Sungshin Women's University, Seoul, South Korea from 29th June - 1st July 2017.

BIGD's Research Fellow presented paper at 26th IAFFE Annual Conference

Ms. Lopita Huq, Research Fellow of BIGD presented a paper titled "Paradox of Change in Women's capabilities: Case of Two Villages in Bangladesh" in the session on "Deprivation vs. Empowerment". The paper was presented at the 26th IAFFE Annual Conference

titled "Gender Inequalities in a Multipolar World" organized by the International Association for Feminist Economics at Sungshin Women's University, Seoul, South Korea from 29th June - 1st July 2017.

Executive Director's Activities

BIGD's ED Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman had several meetings in June 2017 with a number of distinguished personalities such as prominent academics, policy makers and researchers regarding the research collaborations and other relevant issues of BIGD.

Dr. Rahman had meetings with Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Chairperson, BRAC; Dr. Shamsul Alam, Senior Secretary, Member GED; Dr. Moinul Hafeez; Ms.

Yasmina Yousuf; Mr. Rajan Basak; Khandker Wahedur Rahman, lecturer of Bangladesh Army University; Mr. Ali Ahmed, CEO, Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute (BFTI); Dr. Saiful Islam, Dhaka University; Howard James Selden, International Development Advisor, CIPS; Mr. Zahidur Rahman, Senior Manager, Programmed Operation, BRAC; Ms. Hasina Mushrofa, Director, Urban Development, BRAC. He also attended several Skype and Dinner meeting.

Publications by BIGD Staff

New Age: The costs of traffic congestion: By Nabila Zaman, Research Associate, BIGD on June 20, 2017



BRAC Institute of Governance and Development
BRAC University

SK Centre (3rd - 7th Floor), GP, Ja-4, TB Gate
Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh

Tel +88 02 58810306, 58810320, 58810326, Fax: +88 02 8832542
Website: <http://bigd.bracu.ac.bd>



Inspiring Excellence