

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development
BRAC University
Monthly Updates, October 2015

Advisory Group Meeting of PPRP-II held

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University organised the first Advisory Group meeting of Public Procurement Reform Project II (Extension) at BIGD office on October 19, 2015. The meeting was attended by Advisory Group members Nurul Islam Bhuiyan, Chief Engineer of Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board; Md. Abul Kashem Bhuiyan, Assistant Chief Engineer, Planning and Maintenance Wing of the Roads and Highways Department; Dr. Md. Akhteruzzaman, Director of the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Ministry of Planning; A.B.M. Ruhunnabi of the Bangladesh Water Development Board; Ms. Khadija Bilkis, Senior Deputy Director, Bangladesh Center for Communication Programmes; Md. Nasimur Rahman Sharif, Deputy Director of the Central Procurement Technical Unit, IMED, Ministry of Planning; Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Head of Research at BIGD and Team Leader for PPRP-II, and Md. Rafiqul Islam Talukdar, Senior Programme Manager at BIGD and Program Coordinator for PPRP - II.

In addition to the Advisory Group members, the meeting was also attended by Dr. Mirza Hassan, Adjunct Fellow of BIGD and Dr. Wahid Abdallah, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Social Sciences, BRAC University, both of whom are Consultants for PPRP – II. The other BIGD team members of PPRP – II present at the meeting included Syeda Salina Aziz, Kaneta Zillur and Nadir Shah.

The main agenda for the meeting was to discuss the inception report and have a review of the overall progress of the project. Several suggestions about the piloting strategy were expressed during the meeting and the research team worked on incorporating those suggestions into the baseline study and overall strategy.

BIGD Head of Research attended the 1st IZA/DFID GLM-LIC Research Conference

Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Head of Research of BIGD, BRAC University attended the 1st IZA/DFID GLM-LIC Research Conference on New Research on Labour Markets in Low-Income Countries, held on 22-24 October, 2015 at The World Bank Headquarters, Washington DC, USA. The conference was organized by Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), Germany.

Dr. Mahmud along with Krishna Kumar, Shanthi Nataraj, A.V. Chari, Italo Gutierrez, and Farzana Munshi presented about their work, progress and newly gained insights of growth and labour markets of the project on “Formal-Informal Labor Nexus and Growth: The Case of Bangladesh”.

The Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) and the UK Department for International Development (DFID) have recently launched the IZA/DFID Growth and Labour Markets in Low Income Countries Programme (GLM | LIC). The conference presented new research on labour markets in

Low-Income Countries, with a focus on results from projects supported by the IZA/DFID Growth in Labor Markets in Low Income Countries (GLM-LIC) Programme.

BIGD researchers attended the USAID/Washington Resilient Cities Team meeting

Kazi Masel Ullah, Senior Research Associate and Md. Gubair Bin Arafat, Research Associate of BIGD attended the USAID/Washington Resilient Cities Team meeting with Civil Society of Bangladesh on 8 October 2015 at the Embassy of the United States of America, Dhaka. The meeting was organised by USAID Bangladesh as USAID's Urban and Engineering Division Chief Mr. Darren Manning visited Dhaka from October 6-8, 2015 to discuss a global Resilient Cities Project concept that their headquarters was designing, along with some others.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Darren Manning and coordinated by Mr. Shahadat Hossain Shakil, Environmental Management Coordinator, Economic Growth Office, USAID, Bangladesh. Among others the meeting was attended by Dr. Ishrat Islam, Professor, Dept. of URP, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology; Dr. Tawfik Utpal, Deputy Director, Urban Development Directorate, Ministry of Public Work, Bangladesh; representatives from Centre for Urban Studies (CUS), Bangladesh Urban Forum and World Vision International. The meeting highlighted the issues of the lack of coordination among the authorities working in Dhaka as well as other major cities and its necessity to form Urban Government in the cities.

BIGD Research Fellow attended the UNDP Roundtable and CPD Dialogue

Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow of BIGD, BRAC University attended the Roundtable on Bangladesh 2015: Challenges of Political Development and Sustainable Growth organised by UNDP, Bangladesh on 4th October, 2015. As a part of commemorating the international day of non-violence, UNDP convened a stakeholder forum to discuss and share the early findings of research commissioned on the impact of political violence. Representatives of national and international organisation attended the event, including the Honorable Prime Minister's Advisor H.T. Imam; Dr. Saleh Uddin Ahmed, Former Governor of Bangladesh Bank; Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director, TIB and Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman, Executive Director, PPRC.

Dr. Shahnawez also attended a Dialogue on National Level Implementation Challenges of 2030 Agenda on 31 October 2015 which was organized by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in cooperation with Southern Voice on Post-MDG International Development Goals and Friedrich-Elbert-Stiftung (FES), Bangladesh at the BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium.



Guests and participants at the Dialogue on National Level Implementation Challenges of 2030 Agenda

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG, Founder Chairperson of BRAC chaired the event where Mr. AHM Mustafa Kamal, MP, Hon'ble Minister for Planning addressed the dialogue as the Chief Guest. Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs addressed as the Special Guest, Mr. Robert Watkins, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Bangladesh addressed as the Guest of Honour of the dialogue. The objectives of the dialogue were to discuss contents of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and process of aligning implementation with national planning and policy process, coordination management and leadership for implementation, Financing mechanisms, issues related to data availability, partnership and institutional arrangement.

BIGD representatives attended Board Meeting of SHARIQUE-III

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director of BIGD, BRAC University along with Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Head of Resesarch; Mohammad Rafiqul Islam Talukdar, Senior Programme Manager attended the Board Meeting of SHARIQUE-III to discuss on the Mid Term Evaluation report of SHARIQUE-III on October 14, 2015 at the SDC premises. The meeting was organised by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to lead the potential adjustment in the action plans and reviewing of progress on research and advocacy activities of BIGD as well as launching of the National Advisory Committee and first meeting agenda.

Meeting held on Research Progress of Sharique-III

BIGD, BRAC University arranged a Research Progress Meeting of Sharique-III on October 6, 2015 at the BIGD conference room to understand the progress of the four researches works and coordinate the study plan. Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Head of Research, BIGD; Maheen Sultan, Visiting Fellow; Md. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow, Md. Fazlur Rahman, Research Specialist, Farhana Razzaque, Harun-Or-Rashid, Muhammad Ashikur Rahman, Research Associates and Mohammad Misbah, Research Assistant of BIGD attended the meeting. Md. Rafiqul Islam Talukdar, Senior Programme Manager and Reasat Jahan, Programme Officer of BIGD also attended the meeting.

CIPS Activities October 2015

Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supplying (CIPS), an academic programme of BIGD, BRAC University, arranged two workshops for the students of cohort 5 and 6. To provide revision workshops for the CIPS Level-4 to cohort 6 and to provide delivery support for CIPS Level-6 (Professional Diploma in Procurement and Supply) to cohort 5, and also in order to prepare participants for the upcoming examination, Mr. Paul Robinson and Mr. Tony Davies of CIPS, UK conducted the workshops. Mr. Tony Davies has conducted the sessions from 8th to 19th October and Mr. Paul Robinson has conducted sessions from 20th to 26th October. Mr. Tony Davies has arranged group sessions and one-to-one sessions for better preparation of the participants.



Participants of the Cohort 5 and 6 at the two workshops with facilitators

Meeting on Promotion of Women's Participation in 2016 UP Elections

BIGD, BRAC University arranged a Meeting on "Promotion of Women's Participation in 2016 Union Parishad Elections", under the SHARIQUE Project III on October 25, 2015 at the BIGD conference room. Maheen Sultan, Visiting Fellow and Nazneen Ahmed, Programme Officer of BIGD, BRAC University attended the meeting along with the representatives from PRIP Trust, The Hunger Project, Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha (BNPS), Democracywatch and Steps Towards Development. The objectives of the meeting were to capitalise the upcoming UP election and take the opportunity to increase the number of women contestants for general seats.

Executive Director's Activities

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of BIGD had several meetings in October 2015 with number of distinguished personalities such as prominent academics and researchers regarding the research collaboration and other relevant issues. Dr. Rahman had attended the 4th Meeting of the Panel of Economists for the Seventh Five Year Plan of Bangladesh, organised by General Economic Division of Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning, held at NEC Committee Room of Planning Commission campus. Dr. Rahman also met with Ms. Salimah Kassam, CEO, and Mr. Sujeet Sarkar, Aga Khan Foundation; Mr. Tom Dresdeen, Research Manager, Evidence for Policy Design (EPoD) of The Center for International Harvard University; Ms. Sharmeen Hossain, Senior Assistant Vice President, Private Equity & Structured Finance, BRAC EPL Investments Limited;

Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed, Commissioner, Anti-Corruption Commission; Dr. Mushtaqe Raza Chowdhury, Vice Chairperson, BRAC and Ms. Sarah Cooke, Country Representative, DFID Bangladesh. Dr. Rahman also attended National Governance Assessment Framework (NGAF) on Governance indicator and assessment meeting with GED, Planning commission, BIDS and Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka.

Op-Ed Published by BIGD Staff

The Daily Prothom Alo: [জবাবদিহি: দুর্নীতিমুক্ত সরকারি সেবা ও গণশুনানি](#) by Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed, Visiting Fellow, BIGD on October 31, 2015

The Daily Prothom Alo: [দলভিত্তিক স্থানীয় নির্বাচন: মতামত; সরকারের সদিচ্ছার অঙ্গীকার থাকতে হবে](#) by Dr. Tofail Ahmed, Local Government Specialist and Honorary Visiting Fellow, BIGD on October 15, 2015

The Daily Star: [Partisan Local Government Polls: Partial Reform Will Not Work](#) by Dr. Tofail Ahmed, Honorary Visiting Fellow, BIGD on October 14, 2015

The Daily Prothom Alo: [স্থানীয় সরকার: দলভিত্তিক নির্বাচনের শর্ত](#) by Dr. Tofail Ahmed, Local Government Specialist and Honorary Visiting Fellow, BIGD on October 12, 2015