

BIGD, BRAC University Monthly Updates, September 2015

Course Design Team Meeting-Workshop held

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University in partnership with Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) and Management for Development Foundation (MDF) based in Netherland arranged a workshop titled *Design Team Meeting-Workshop* as a part of the Capacity Building for Promoting Governance of Nuffic Project at the Hotel Sarina in Banani, Dhaka on 21 September 2015. The participants at the workshop specifically worked on finalising the three courses. The three courses were: Policy Analysis, Strategic Negotiation & Communication and Organisational and Institutional Development. The participants included members of the course design and programme team from BPATC, BIGD and MDF. Professor Akhter Hossain, Chairperson of Department of Public Administration, University of Dhaka; Afsan Chowdhury, Senior Advisor, Communications, BRAC; Dr. M. Jahirul Quayum, Additional Commissioner, Custom and VAT; Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Head of Research, BIGD, BRAC University were also present at the workshop and expressed their valuable opinions.



S.M. Gubair Bin Arafat facilitated discussion on Strategic Negotiation & Communication

Dr. Rizwan Khair, Director, BPATC; S.M. Gubair Bin Arafat, Research Associate, BIGD; and Sharif Hasan, Deputy Director, BPATC & Farhana Razzaque, Research Associate, BIGD gave presented the course design respectively on the *Policy Analysis, Strategic Negotiation & Communication*

and *Organizational & Institutional Development*. The courses were finalised based on the suggestions and recommendations that were made during workshop.

BIGD's Research Fellow attended a Policy Roundtable

Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow of BIGD, BRAC University attended the Policy Roundtable on Global Port, Global City: Prioritising Chittagong for Accelerating National Growth organised jointly by Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC), Chittagong Research Initiative (CRi) and The Daily Banik Barta on September 3, 2015 at the Azimur Rahman Conference Hall, The Daily Star Centre, Dhaka. The roundtable was organized to gather experts on different issues, challenges and opportunities of developing Chittagong as a regional economic hub and be a key driver for national economic growth.

AHM Mustafa Kamal, FCA, MP, Honourable Minister for Planning was present as the Chief Guest. Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman, Executive Chairman, PPRC chaired and presented the keynote paper at the roundtable. Among others Mr. Dewan Hanif Mahmud, Editor, Bonik Narta, Mohammed Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, Managing Director, LankaBangla Finance and Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director, BIGD, BRAC University was also present. The roundtable was participated by business leaders, policy makers, development partners, civil society members, academics and others.

BIGD's Executive Director attended a seminar as Distinguished Panelist

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of BIGD attended as a distinguished Panelist at the Special Seminar titled Contribution of Microfinance to GDP in Bangladesh organized by Institute of Microfinance (InM) held on September 14, 2015 at the Media Bazar, Bangabandhu International Conderence Center (BICC), Dhaka. Dr. Selim Raihan, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and Executive Director, South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) presented the Keynote paper at the seminar. Mr. M. A. Mannan, MP, Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Planning, Government of Bangladesh attended the event as Chief Guest where Dr. Shamsul Alam, Member, General Economic Division, Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning and Dr. M. Aslam Alam, Secretary (Banking), Ministry of Finance, GoB were also present as the Guests of Honour.

Executive Director's Activities

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of BIGD had several meetings in September 2015 with number of distinguished personalities such as prominent academics and researchers regarding the research collaboration and other relevant issues. Dr. Rahman had a meeting with the representatives of Open Society Foundation (OSF), one of the major donor of BRAC University which objective was to understand the situation of higher education in Bangladesh, especially the activities and plans of BRAC University. Dr. Rahman had also met with Martein Van Asseldonk, MDF Asia; Dr. Rizwan Khair, Director, BPATC; Dr. Selim Raihan, Professor of Economics, University of Dhaka and Executive Director, SANEM; Professor Fahad Kalil, Department of Economics, University of Washington and Mr. Norbert von Hofmann, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Bangladesh Office. Dr. Rahman also attended the IGC Leadership Retreat, South Asia Growth Conference and Growth Week 2016 in London as well as the Country Review meeting (CRM) of UK-IGC.

Op-Ed Published by BIGD Staffs

Daily Star: [Democracy in party constitutions](#) by Harun Or Rashid, Research Associate, BIGD, BRAC University on September 30, 2015

Bonik Barta: [ইব্রাহীম গাজি ও কৃষি পরিষদ: কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়কে](#) ঠিকি by Dr. Tofail Ahmed on 21 September, 2015

Bonik Barta: [কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়কে](#) ঠিকি by Dr. Tofail Ahmed, Honorary Visiting Fellow, BIGD, BRAC University on 22 September, 2015

New Age: [MP'S ROLE IN UPAZILA PARISHADS: A deterrent to decentralisation](#) by Nazneen Ahmed, Programme Officer, Local Governance Programme-Sharique, BIGD, BRAC University on September 3, 2015