



IGS  
BRAC UNIVERSITY

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## Giving Youth a Voice – a Regional Conference

Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) in collaboration with Colombo University, Sri Lanka organised a Regional Conference titled **"Giving Youth A Voice"** at Mount Lavinia, Sri Lanka during March 22-24 as part of the Bangladesh Youth Survey 2011 project.

Speakers from 7 countries: Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan and Germany participated at the conference

and presented papers on policy issues regarding youth, such as politics, governance, education, modern technology, employment, vocational training,

family and other youth issues related with community.

Representatives from the Centre for Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), New Delhi; the Ministry of Youth and Skill Development, Sri Lanka; Department of Youth Affairs and the United Nations

Program (UNDP), Pakistan and Bangladesh participated in the conference along with the IGS staff members. Total 23 papers were presented in the Conference attended by 40 participants.

In the conference, IGS participants were: Barrister Manzoor Hasan, Adviser; Dr. Elvira Graner (Co-Organiser) Research Fellow; Senior Research Associates Kazi Nur Mohammad

Hossainul Haque and Syeda Salina Aziz and Research Assistants Fatema Samina Yasmin and Rigan Chakma.



*The Conference participants at Mount Lavinia on 24 March 2012*

Children's Fund (UNICEF), Bhutan; Colombo University; Sri Lankan youth survey federations; and young professionals from United Nations Development

## Study Tour Facilitation for the University of Virginia



*Team from University of Virginia, with Noble Laureate Dr. Muhammad Yunus*

A group of 17 students from the University of Virginia, USA under the guidance of Brad Brown, Associate Professor and Cliff Maxwell, Teaching Assistant of The University visited Bangladesh

from 1-12 January. They were in Bangladesh in a study tour titled "Development Practices: Social Enterprises in Bangladesh, 2012" facilitated by IGS.

As part of the tour, the team, visited Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries (BWCCI), Aarong, Grameen Bank, BRAC Microfinance Programme, BRAC

Health Programme, BRAC Primary Education Programme, Ayesha Abed Foundation, BRAC Enterprises, USAID Programme, BRAC Dairy and Food Project Programme and BRAC Agricultural Research and Development Center, and Srimongal, as remote field, with the assistance of IGS. As part of the program, the team had the privilege of interviewing Nobel Laureate Dr. Muhammad Yunus regarding his initiative in microcredit financing.

## Public Lecture on The Transformation in the Arab World at the Dhaka University

The Department of Political Science, Dhaka University, IGS - BRAC University and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany jointly organised a public lecture titled **‘The Transformation in the Arab World: Why do dictatorships survive, When do they fall’** at R. C. Mojumder Auditorium in Dhaka University on

22 February focusing on the current issues which have emerged in the Arabian world in present days. The keynote speaker was Dr. Wolfgang

Merkel, Director of Social Science Research Centre and Professor of Comparative Political Science and



*The speakers at the Public Lecture held at R. C. Mojumder Auditorium at the Dhaka University*

Democracy Research at the Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany while Dr. Elvira Graner, Research Fellow, IGS and Dr. Gias Uddin Molla,

Acting Chairman of the Department of Political Science moderated the session consecutively. Dr. Ralf Matthias, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and Mr Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Registrar, BRAC University participated in the discussion.

Research and Communication staff members of IGS and some 160 students of Dhaka University attended the lecture program.

## Public-Private Stakeholders Committee’s Sixth Meeting Held

The 6th Public-Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC) meeting was held on January 4, 2012 at the NEC Conference Room at the Planning Commission Campus in Dhaka. Md. Mozammel Haque Khan, Secretary of Implementation Monitoring Evaluation Division (IMED), Ministry of Planning was presided over, and Iqbal Mahmood, Secretary of Economic Relations Division,

Ministry of Finance, Barrister Manzoor Hasan, Adviser of the Institute of Governance Studies, BRAC University and



*Participants of the 6th Public-Private Stakeholders Committee Meeting*

Amulya Kumar Debnath, Director General of Central Procurement Technical Unit

(CPTU) attended the meeting. Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Research Associate of IGS & Begum Mahmuda, Controller (Finance & Accounts) of Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board made two separate presentations in the event. It was featured in the popular national dailies such as *Prothom Alo*, *Jugantor*, *Dainik Janakantha*, *The Independent*, *The Financial Express* and *the Daily Sun*.

## Baseline Study of Capacity Building for Promoting Governance

IGS has completed the baseline study of the **“Capacity Building for Promoting Governance”** during 4-20 January 2012. This research project was undertaken in collaboration with the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) in partnership with the MDF

Training Centre, Institute of Social Studies, Netherlands and VU University, Amsterdam. The activities comprising the baseline studies are: capacity assessment of trainers’ and curriculum designer and assessment of gender and organisational sustainability of IGS and BPATC. These were carried out through interactive

discussions, demonstrations, presentations, self-assessments, self-reflections and peer assessments. The sessions were moderated by Martin Van Asseldonk, Project Coordinator of MDF in consultation with IGS and BPATC representatives.

## Academic Programmes

### Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply

#### Examination Held in January

The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) LA-04 exam was held at JATRI on 25 January for the private cohort. A total number of 15 candidates participated in the exam.

#### Study Tour

On 25 January, Batch-2 of the CIPS program went for a study tour to the Renata Pharmaceuticals Limited situated at Mirpur, Dhaka to practically observe the operational processes and storage maintenance that is adhered by the company.

### Completion of CIPS, Cohort-2, Level-5 Course

During 14-18 February, Dr. Glynis Davies, FCIPS from CIPS, UK conducted the Level-5 revision classes after the completion of the course at JATRI office premises of IGS.

### Certificate Award Ceremony At the British High Commission

An Award Ceremony for CIPS Certificate awardees was held at the British High Commission, Dhaka on 22 February which was attended by Cohort-1, Cohort-2 and private cohorts. 17 participants from Cohort

-1 were awarded with Member of the CIPS certificates. Robert Gibson, British High Commissioner in Dhaka, Ellen



*The distinguished guests along with the British High Commissioner in Dhaka Mr. Robert Gibson, World Bank Country Director Mr. Ellen Goldstein, IMED Secretary Md. Mozammel Haque Khan, at award ceremony*

Goldstein, World Bank Country Director, Andrew Coulcher, Director, Business Solution, CIPS, UK, Paula Steele, Global Public Sector Manager, CIPS, UK, Dr. Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, Md. Mozammel Haque Khan, Secretary, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), Amulya Kumar Debnath, Director General, Central Procurement Technical Unit and other significant personalities attended the ceremony as guests including IGS staff members.

### CIPS students leave for the United

### Kingdom

On 18 March, students of Cohort 2 left for the United Kingdom for a period of nine weeks to complete Level 4 exams.

### Masters in Governance and Development (MAGD)

On 14 January, written test and a group interview for the selection of the MAGD 4<sup>th</sup> batch students was held where 25 out of 49 candidates was selected for enrollment to the program. The classes commenced on 4 March at the BRAC Centre for Development Management Premises.

### Technical Assistance to The Asia Foundation

IGS has prepared a draft advocacy manual for The Asia Foundation on Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy through Able and Active Civil Society. This was done as part of the technical assistance to The Asia Foundation under the project named Promoting Democratic Institutions and Practices (PRODIP). An advocacy training course has been designed for the Representatives of Civil Society Organisation based on this manual. The first Training of Trainers' (ToT), according to the manual, was held from 22-23 February attended by 15 people from different civil society organisations. IGS Research Associate Farhana Razzaque participated in this program.

## Trainings, Conferences, Workshops and Presentation

A number of IGS staff has participated in various trainings, conferences, FGDs and workshops and made presentations in different programs.

### Presentation at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Yunnan-Bangladesh Cooperation Dialogue

M. Shahidul Islam, Research Coordinator of IGS, made a presentation at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Yunnan-Bangladesh Cooperation Dialogue titled **"Boosting Trade Partnership and Strengthening Bangladesh-China Connectivity"**. The dialogue was jointly organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies and Yunnan Development Research Centre at the Ruposhi Bangla Hotel on January 4-6 in Dhaka.

He made another presentation in a Round Table discussion organised by Policy Research

Centre titled "Trade and Commerce in Bangladesh: Challenges Ahead" on February 12 held in the same hotel.

### Presentation in Malaysia

IGS Research Assistant Jannatul Ferdosh attended an International Conference from 11-13 February in Malaysia titled **"Leadership and Social Changes: Challenges and Future Prospects"** organised by International Islamic University of Malaysia. Ms Jannatul also presented a paper in the conference on **"Urge of Promising Leadership for Combating the Present Crisis of Muslim World"**. In her paper she covered the present political situation of the Arab World which has resulted in an intense unrest.

### Participation in BRAC Global Learning Meeting

IGS Senior Research Associate Salina Aziz and Research Assistant Fatema Samina Yasmin attended the BRAC Global Learning Meeting 2012 held on 7 February at the BRAC Centre for Development Management, Savar, Dhaka where they made a presentation on the findings from IGS recent research Bangladesh Youth Survey 2011.

### Participation in Training and Workshop

IGS Research Assistant Rigan Chakma attended a workshop titled **"Linkage between Climate Change and Migration in Bangladesh"** jointly organised by Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) and Sussex Centre for Migration Research (SCMR), University of Sussex, UK, which was held on 23 February at the BRAC Centre Inn.

## Group Discussions on Role of Media in Engaging Citizen

IGS organised two separate Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) on how to engage citizens in public procurement under its Public Procurement Reform Project –II. The first FGD was with the public officials, which was held on 10<sup>th</sup> March in JATRI on “**Role of Media in Engaging Citizens in Public Procurement**” and the second FGD was with the journalists held on 29<sup>th</sup>

March at the same venue and the same topic.

### Lecture Delivered by IGS Director



Participants at the FGD at JATRI

IGS Director Dr. Rizwan Khair,

delivered a lecture to the senior and mid-level government officials on Public Policy Analysis on 28 March at BPATC, Savar. The lecture was the part of Senior Staff Course for the public officials.

### Contribution in the Newspapers

M. Shahidul Islam, Research Coordinator of IGS, was interviewed by *China Daily* recently on the existing relations between Bangladesh and China. The interview was published in the daily on 23 March with the title, “**Silk Route Builds Bridge**”.

## ANSA-SAR Activities

### Meeting with Grantees

From 4-5 January, the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR) Naimur Rahman attended a meeting of grantees of ANSA SAR in Bangalore organised by Public Affairs Centre.

On January 12 both the COO and ANSA-SAR Project Manager Nuzhat Jabin attended a half-day experience sharing workshop that was organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) in their office. MJF is one of ANSA-SAR’s partners. The four partner NGO’s the Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Agrogoti Shangstha, Jagrata Jubo Shangha and Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Services attended the workshop.

### Open Doors 2012 – A Regional Conference

From 16-18 January, a regional conference titled “Open Doors 2012” was held in Manila for

Procurement Practitioners organised by East-Asia Pacific. Mr Naimur Rahman attended the conference which will help ANSA to build networking and capacity building and provide all the necessary technical support in this region.

### Workshop for Communities of Practice on Rights to Information

From 22-23 January, ANSA-SAR organised a design workshop for the Community of Practice on Right to Information which was held in Brac Centre Inn. Members of civil society organisations from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal participated in the workshop where establishing of right to information in respective countries were demonstrated.

### Presentations by Partners

On January 30, Orissa based ANSA-SAR partners namely Sambandh, YSD, Adhar and CDS made presentations to the World Bank’s State Portfolio Review Committee. The meeting was held in The World Bank office in Bhubaneswar, Orissa, in India.



Participants at the launching of a third-party monitoring event at BRAC Centre Inn

### Launching of Third-Party Monitoring System

On 8 February, ANSA-SAR and Manusher Jonno Foundation jointly organised the launching of a Third-Party Monitoring system at BRAC Centre Inn. Dr. Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University spoke at the event which was followed by one and a half day training for Manusher Jonno Foundation on “**Tools for Third-Party Monitoring**” focusing on “**Citizen’s Report Card**”. Dr. Prabhakar Kollapudi, Research Officer of Public Affairs Centre, Bangalore, India was the key resource person in the training.

### Meetings and Presentations in Pakistan

From 13-18 February, a partner review meeting ANSA-SAR was held in Karachi, Pakistan. A stock-taking Round table was also held in this regard which was attended by 15 organisations based in Islamabad and other neighbouring cities. All the emerging social accountability agenda for South Asia was discussed in this Round Table.

COO of ANSA SAR Mr Naimur Rahman made a presentation to the World Bank Pakistan Country

Office on social accountability and possible way forward for Pakistan. ANSA-SAR is a World Bank sponsored programme which is housed in the IGS in Dhaka.

### Design Workshop

From 29 February to 1 March a workshop on Community of Practice on Social Accountability Tools was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka which was organised by Consumer Unity and Trust Society

(CUTS). The workshop suggested ways to make an effective online network, usability and effectiveness of the tools and prepared strategic plans for the next year. The workshop was attended by a number of organisations from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

## JATRI Activities

### Orientation for JATRI-OCAG Fellows

On 21 January, JATRI organised an orientation programme for the JATRI-OCAG Fellows 2012 in JATRI office, Karwan Bazaar, in the city, which was attended by 6 selected fellows, 3 mentors and representatives from PROGATI. The objectives of this fellowship programme are to train the fellows on how to prepare investigative reports on the government audits. This fellowship programme is actively supported by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (OCAG). The fellows were requested to present practical knowledge for investigative journalism in the orientation. On 23 January, JATRI had another meeting with the senior officials of the OCAG in their office at Kakrail regarding the fellowship programme.

### Orientation for JATRI-PIB Fellows

On 20 February, JATRI organised an orientation for the JATRI-PIB Fellows 2012 in JATRI office. According to this fellowship programme five awardees from print and electronic media will work on investigating reporting on Tobacco Control Issues in Bangladesh. Associate International Communications Director of Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK), Rajika Jayatilaka and Advocacy and Media Coordinator, Bangladesh, Taifur Rahman attended the programme along with five fellows and two other mentors. Taifur

Rahman gave his presentation on anti tobacco issues while the fellows shared their own issues. JATRI Chief Jamil Ahmed moderated the meeting.

### Planning Meetings

On 10 February, a planning meeting, in relation with JATRI-OCAG Fellowship Programme, was held at JATRI office where Chief of Party, USAID PROGATI, Denis Gallagher, Deputy Chief of Party, PROGATI, Beth Cunningham,

Consultant, DAI-PROGATI, Ralph Frammolino, all fellows and mentors were present. Fellows and Ralph shared their thoughts and experiences regarding investigative reporting and submission of the request letter according to Right to Information Act.

### Seminar on Threats to Quality Journalism

On 28 February, a seminar on "Major Threats to Quality Journalism: Global and Bangladesh Context" organised by JATRI, was held in its office. Executive Director of International Press Institute (IPI), Alison Bethel McKenzie,

presented the key note paper in the seminar, while the CEO and Editor in Chief of Boishakhi Television, Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul presided over the meeting. Advisory Editor to the Financial Express, Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury was the guest speaker.



From left Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, Jamil Ahmed, Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul and Alison Bethel McKenzie at the seminar

Alison Bethel McKenzie talked about the top challenges facing quality journalism and the other various micro and macro factors of the relevant issues.

## Published Articles of IGS Staff in the National Dailies

A total of 9 articles on different governance issues have been published in two popular national dailies, *The Daily Star* and *The New Age* in this quarter written by IGS staff. They are put in chronological order below:

*The Daily Star*: "Of Youth and Indian Elections" by M. Shahidul Islam, 20 March, 2012

*The Daily Star*: "Giving Youth a Voice" by Dr. Elvira Graner, Syeda Salina Aziz and Fatema Samina Yasmin, 27 February, 2012

*The Daily Star*: "Foiled Coup Attempt: Consolidating Democracy is the Key" by Sultan Mohammed Zakaria, January 31, 2012

*The Daily Star*: "China-Bangladesh Relations: Contemporary Convergence" by M. Shahidul Islam, January 25, 2012

*The Daily Star*: "Iran Standoff, War of Words and the Armageddon" by Sultan Mohammed Zakaria, January 21, 2012

*The Daily Star*: "Gender Pattern in Voting and Political Participation" by Mariha Khalid and Ipsita Basu, January 19, 2012

*The Daily Star*: "Imran Khan, an Agent of Change and Our Politics" by Sultan Mohammed Zakaria, January 17, 2012

*The Daily Star*: "Making Citizen's Charter Effective" by Farhana Razzaque, January 13, 2012

*The New Age*: "Awaiting an Agent of Change" by Sultan Mohammed Zakaria, January 8, 2012