

Newsletter

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Institute of Governance Studies
BRAC University

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The Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) is one of the four higher studies and research institutes of BRAC University. The Institute primarily focuses on research and academic activities; however, it also provides training to individuals and technical assistances to different institutions, including the government, in a number of other areas relating to governance and public policy. Although the main interest of our research is democratic governance, it extends its ambit on to a large number of other areas including political processes, public service delivery mechanisms, horizontal accountability mechanism, urban governance etc.

The “State of Governance” (SoG) report, published annually, is the flagship research output of the Institute. This year IGS is also working on a new product. i.e. State of Cities Report. In addition to research activities, the Institute runs a few academic and training programs i.e., Masters in Governance and Development Programme (MAGD); Certificate Course on Environmental Management and Governance in collaboration with the University of Manitoba, Canada; and Training in Supply Chain Management in collaboration with the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, UN. Other major areas of work of

the Institute include Affiliated Network for Social Accountability, South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR); Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI); Capacity Building for Promoting Governance, Bangladesh Youth Survey and Public Procurement Reform Project (PPRP-II) etc. Of these, ANSA is an initiative to promote, strengthen and sustain social accountability knowledge and praxis globally with about 23 grantees, mostly in the South Asia region with a few beyond the region. JATRI promotes investigative journalism through providing training and research support to journalists. Capacity Building for Promoting Governance aims at building capacity at IGS and Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) to transform the public sector in Bangladesh to be responsive to the needs of its citizen through competent curriculum designing, training, learning and developing effective sustainable strategy while Bangladesh Youth Survey is a study on youth development and policy matters. Under PPRP-II project of the Ministry of Planning, Government of Bangladesh IGS provides technical assistances to the Central Procurement Technical Unit of Ministry of Planning in formulating a strategy to engage citizens (third party) in monitoring the transparency and accountability in public procurement process.

Conference on “Forty Years of Bangladesh: Retrospect and Future Prospects”

In celebrating the 40th anniversary of the independence of Bangladesh, the Institute arranged an international conference titled ‘40 Years of Bangladesh: Retrospect and Future Prospects’ in collaboration with Centre for Development Studies of University of Bath. The conference was attended by national and international academicians and practitioners, who presented papers on the



Group Photo of participants and the organisers of the Conference titled, “40 Years of Bangladesh: Retrospect and Future Prospects” on 28 November 2011 at BCDM, Savar

successes and failures of the country keeping the governance as core focus. The conference was held on 26-28 November 2011 at BRAC CDM at Savar.

Former Chief Adviser to the Caretaker Government Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman attended the



Round Table session of the conference moderated by IGS Adviser, Barrister Manzoor Hasan and attended by Professor Gowher Rizvi, Adviser to the Honourable Prime Minister, Shaheen Anam, Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, Salima Ahmed, President of Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries and Abul-Muyeed Chowdhury, Chairman, BRACNet and former Adviser of Caretaker Government on 27 November 2011 at BCDM, Savar.

Launching Ceremony of the Conference as Chief Guest, while Dr. Gowher Rizvi, Foreign Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister, was the Special Guest at the launching ceremony held in BRAC Centre Inn on 26 November. Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman gave a speech at the launching ceremony of the conference focusing on the state of this region from pre-historic times and its state and governance within the years of evolution.

On 27 November, a round table discussion titled “Good Governance from Within and Without: The Role of Public Sector, Civil Society and the Private Sector” was held at BRAC CDM, Savar. The round



Head of former Caretaker Government Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman delivering his speech at the Launching Ceremony of the conference as Chief Guest at BRAC Centre Inn on 26 November 2011

table was moderated by IGS Adviser Barrister Manzoor Hasan and the discussants were Professor Gowher Rizvi, Adviser to the Honourable Prime Minister, Ms. Shaheen Anam, Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, Ms. Salima Ahmed, President of Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries and Mr. Abdul-Muyeed Chowdhury, Chairman, BRACNet and Former Adviser of Caretaker Government

Strategy Review Workshop

On 29 November, IGS organised a workshop to evaluate activities of the Institute in 2011 and review and update the strategies for 2012-15. All IGS staff members participated in the session. Andrew Jenkins, Donor Liaison Officer of BRAC moderated the first part of the session. Cluster-wise as well as the overall IGS strategy was discussed in detail and an updated plan was developed in the session.



Dr. Rizwan Khair, Director-in-Charge and Munir Uddin Shamim, Senior Programme Manager presenting their annual plan at the strategy review workshop at BRAC Centre for Development Management, Savar on 29 November 2012

Bangladesh Youth Survey 2011

Currently the Institute is conducting research on aspects and aspirations of Bangladesh youth. The topic of the research is Bangladesh Youth Survey



Dr. Elvira Graner and Fatema Samina Yasmin in a Focus Group Discussion with adolescent girls in Sherpur town in October 2011 as part of Bangladesh Youth Survey research work.

(BYS) 2011. BYS is co-funded by International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). A kick-off workshop and brain storming session was held at IGS in October 2011.

BYS team, meanwhile, visited three fields—Chittagong, Comilla and Sylhet divisions and interviewed different target groups in the first quarter of December in preparation of the Youth Survey.

From 11-12 November 2011, a regional planning workshop of BYS was held in Colombo. The workshop was attended by thirteen participants—five from Sri Lanka and eight from other countries. Dr. Elvira Graner, Research Fellow, Fatema Samina Yasmin, Research Assistant and Mahboob Elahi Akhter, Research Assistant represented IGS at the workshop. Along with other presentations made by the participants, Mahboob Elahi Akhter presented a summary of the Arab Youth Survey 2011 while Samina and Elvira elaborated various issues and aspects of BYS 2011.

NUFFIC & MDF Visit

IGS in collaboration with Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC), Netherlands-based MDF Training and Consultancy B.V. (MDF), the Center of International Cooperation, of the VU University Amsterdam and the Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam has initiated a four-year project named 'Capacity Building for Promoting Governance'. The project has been undertaken under the Netherlands Initiative for Capacity Development in Higher Education

(NICHE)/NUFFIC. It aims at building capacity of IGS and BPATC through competent curriculum designing, training, learning and developing effective sustainable strategy. A delegation consisting of three members representing MDF, ISS, and VU University visited IGS and BPATC in November 2011 as part of project's inception phase. The team had a meeting with the concerned IGS and BPATC team and reviewed project proposal documents.

IGS Team Visited Netherlands

From 10-19 December 2011, a four-member team—two from IGS and two from BPATC, went on a 10-day visit to Netherlands. The IGS team comprised of Dr. Rizwan Khair, Director-in-Charge and Munir Uddin Shamim, Senior Programme

Manager while the BPATC team included A A M Shafiqul Alam, Rector and Dr. Md Mahmudul Hasan, Member Directing Staff, BPATC. The purpose of the visit was to finalise the project documents.



Representatives of IGS and BPATC visited VU University of Amsterdam on 15 December 2011 to explore mutual co-operation under "Capacity Building for Promoting Governance" Project

Inception of the 3rd batch of Environmental Management and Governance Program

On November 16, the 3rd batch for the Environmental Management and Governance program started. The course has been introduced in collaboration of North South University and Centre for Natural Resource Studies of the University of Manitoba in Canada. 12 mid-level government and NGO officials enrolled in the 2011 program whose sessions were conducted by resource persons of

BRAC University, North South University, University of Manitoba, Canada and professionals from the government sector.

State of Cities (SoC)

IGS has conducted a research on the "State of Cities" and the report is expected to be published shortly. The Institute organised a workshop on the report on 5 October 2011 at the IGS conference room. The workshop was attended by the research team members and peer reviewers for different chapters of the report. Dr. Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman, Dr. Iftekhar Iqbal, Dr. Ferdous Jahan, Dr. Jalal Alamgir, Dr. Simeen Mahmud and Dr. Kishore Kumar Singh were present at the workshop as the peer reviewers.

On 30 November 2011, the SoC team had a workshop with Bath University Professors Geof Wood and Joe Devine regarding the progress of the report. The team visited and interviewed Dr. Nurul Amin, Dean of the School of Environmental Science at North South University on "Waste Management in Dhaka City".

Leadership Changes in the Research Department

In December 2011 M. Shahidul Islam took over the position of Research Coordinator replacing Dr. Ipshita Basu who had acted the role of Head of Research till November 2011. Dr. Basu went back to UK for personal reasons, but would be still working for IGS as a Research Fellow.

Workshop on "Social Accountability Stock-Taking in Bangladesh"

ANSA-SAR organised a round-table on "Social Accountability Stock-Taking in Bangladesh" on 15 November 2011 at BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka. It was attended by representatives from a number of civil society organisations including Hunger Project-Bangladesh, Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC), D-Net, PRIP Trust, Article 19, Manusher Jonno Foundation, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Bangladesh, Nagorik Uddog/AIB etc.

Procurement Training courses for Public Sector officials

Advanced Diploma in Purchasing & Supply Chain (Level 5) Course of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply (CIPS) started in December 2011 for Batch-2 of Public Sector Officials. This training would continue up to February 2012.

Public-Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC)

The 5th PPSC quarterly newsletter was published in December, 2011. The contents of the newsletter include different cycles of e-tendering process and news snippets on public procurement. It has also published a report on experiences of three government agencies with regard to public procurement.

Affiliated Network for Social Accountability-South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR)

New Chief Operating Officer (COO) of (ANSA-SAR)

Naimur Rahman joined IGS as the Chief Operating Officer at the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability- South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR) in October 2011 replacing Dr. Gopakumar Thampi. Following his joining, Naimur Rahman delivered a speech at the National Credibility Alliance in Delhi on "Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the Changing Socio-Economic Political Scenario", especially in the context of Governance Accountability in October 2011.



Participants at the Round Table on Social Accountability Stock-Taking in Bangladesh at BRAC Center Inn on 15 November 2011

Chief Operating Officer (COO) of ANSA-SAR attended workshops

The COO of ANSA-SAR attended the first Horizontal Learning Programme (HLP): Appreciative Inquiry Network Workshop from 21-22 November 2011 at Elenga, Tangail. Representatives from Pourashavas, Local Government Division (LGD) and partner agencies were present at the workshop. The COO of ANSA-SAR participated in a workshop on “Engaging

Citizens against Corruption in Asia: Approaches, Results and Lessons” from 29 November to 02 December 2011 at Jaipur, India. The three-day workshop brought together Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from eight countries in Asia and anti-corruption experts from all over the world and mainly featured results from over 30 case studies and four country programs.

Partnership with “The Carter Center”, USA

IGS entered into a partnership with The Carter Center, based in Atlanta, GA, USA in the piloting process of the Carter Center’s “Access to Information Implementation Assessment Tool (IAT) in Bangladesh” along with Mexico and South Africa. For this task, six ministries and divisions in Bangladesh were identified for the piloting process which included the Ministry of Health and Family

Agriculture; Finance Division; and Internal Resources Division. Dr Rizwan Khair, Director-in-Charge of IGS and Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Research Associate were the key researchers in conducting piloting in Bangladesh. Mr. Islam participated in the IAT Pilot Phase-I meeting held at Atlanta, GA, USA from December 12-13, 2011 and presented a report on Bangladesh entitled “IAT Application in Bangladesh: Findings”. The meeting was inaugurated by the Vice President (Peace Programs) of the Carter Center Dr. John Stremlau and moderated by Laura Neuman, Manager, Global Access to Information Project, The Carter Center. Other participants were from various organisations including International Budget Partnership, Mexico City; Hewlett Foundation’s Global Development and Population Program, Mexico City; African Freedom of Information Center, Cape Town; Scottish Information Commission, Edinburgh; International Budget Partnership, Mexico City; South African Human Rights Commission, Johannesburg; Open Society Institute, New York; International Development Research Centre, Ottawa; The World Bank; and Information Commission, Bangladesh, Dhaka.



Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Research Associate presenting his report: “IAT Application in Bangladesh: Findings” on 12 December 2011 at “The Carter Center” in Atlanta

Welfare; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs; Ministry of

IGS Researcher Participates in the Peace building Training organised by the School for International Training, USA

Md. Harun Or Rashid, Research Associate of IGS participated at a training programme titled ‘Peace building Education and Training for SAARC Emerging Leaders’ from December 07-18, 2011 in Kathmandu,

Nepal. The training was organised by the School for International Training (SIT) of Vermont, USA under its Conflict Transformation across Cultures (CONTACT) Project. 26 participants from South Asia participated in the programme where Mr. Rashid was selected as the Country Representative of the CONTACT.

Amartya Sen Attended Salma Sobhan Fellowship Program at Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI)

JATRI has organised a view exchange meeting with regard to Salma Sobhan Fellowship on 29 December 2011. Noble Laureate Dr. Amartya Sen attended the meeting as Chief Guest while other dignitaries including Professor Rehman Sobhan, Professor Rawnak Jahan, Dr. Rizwan Khair, and BRAC University Registrar Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury were present at the meeting.



Noble Laureate Professor Amartya Sen exchanging views with Salma Sobhan Fellows at Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) premises on 29 December 2011

JATRI organises Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids Program

JATRI organised Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK) program in November 2011. The program was attended by Ruhul Amin Rushd of Banglavisision, Mohammad Nadim from the Daily Ittefaq, Rita Nahar from Boishakhi TV and many other media personnel. In this program, the affects of tobacco intake and causes and prevention were discussed.

Visit From of IDRC Monitoring Team

Dr. Kaveri Gill, Senior Program Officer, Think Tank Initiative, and Dr. Stephen J. Mcurk, Regional Director of IDRC, visited IGS in October for the annual monitoring of the utilization of IDRC Think Tank funds. After a two-day discussion with different teams at IGS, IDRC team made a presentation regarding their findings of TTI Policy Community Survey on Think Tanks in Asia. They also debriefed the senior members of IGS about their findings.

Condolence

IGS deeply mourns the premature demise of Dr. Jalal Alamgir, a Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute, who died in Thailand on 3 December 2011. Dr. Alamgir was also an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of



Dr. Jalal Alamgir

Massachusetts, Boston and Fellow of the South Asia Initiative at Harvard University. He had been with IGS since the beginning of 2011 and was advising the IGS researchers on their ongoing researches. Dr. Alamgir was also working on a book on the history of political violence in Bangladesh with the assistance of IGS researchers. IGS family expresses profound

condolence to the members of his bereaved family and sincerely prays for the eternal peace of this brilliant young scholar. IGS also plans to dedicate the books to be published from the papers of the 40 Years Conference that was held in November 2011.

Published Articles

In this quarter, IGS researchers have published eight articles so far in different publications including The Daily Star, The New Age Journal of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), and Bangladesh Urban Research Forum.

[The Daily Star: Economy: The Big Picture by M. Shahidul Islam, 26 December 2011;](#)

[The New Age: Durban Climate Sealed to save face by Faiz Ahmed Chowdhury, 19 December 2011;](#)

[The Daily Star: Power of Cities and Division of Dhaka by M. Shahidul Islam, 2 December 2011;](#)

[The Daily Star: Rights of Street Children: Moving beyond rhetoric by Dr. Gopakumar Thampi and Rubayet Hamid, 20 November 2011;](#)

[The Daily Star: Paying more, getting less! by Jannatul Fardosh, 19 November 2011;](#)

[The Daily Star: Democracy as we see it, Syeda Salina Aziz, 19 November 2011;](#)

[The Daily Star: Youth in Bangladesh Democracy by Kazi Haque, 19 November 2011;](#)

Documentation of the Bangladesh Urban Research Forum, " Presentation on Inclusive Cities and Economies- Governing Dhaka's Urban Transport " by Dr. Elvira Graner and Mahboob Elahi Akhter, October 2011

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Institute of Governance Studies
40/6 North Avenue, Gulshan-2, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh
Tel: +88 02 881 0306, 881 0320, 881 0326, +88 01199 810 380, +88 35303
Fax: +88 02 883 2542
Email: igs-info@bracu.ac.bd