BIGD Works

Quarterly Newsletter

January–March 2023

World Bank-BIGD Conference

The 11th South Asia Economic Policy Network Conference on Social Progress in South Asia

9–10 May

The World Bank in collaboration with BIGD is convening the **11th South Asia Economic Policy Network Conference on Social Progress in South Asia.**

This two-day hybrid event happening on **9–10 May 2023** at the **BRAC Centre** in Dhaka, Bangladesh, will feature paper presentations, keynote lectures, panel discussions, and Q&A sessions on the current state, challenges, and advancements related to social progress in South Asia.

Register to join the conference in person or online

BIGD International Conference

Making Digital Finance Work for Women

21–22 June

BIGD is pleased to announce its international convening in 2023: **Making Digital Finance Work for Women.**

The two-day hybrid conference, hosted at the BRAC Centre in Dhaka, Bangladesh from **21–22 June 2023**, will share recent global research insights on how to make digital finance work for women's economic empowerment. Much anticipated results will be unveiled from BIGD's WEE-DiFine Initiative, which supports rigorous research at the intersection of digital financial inclusion and women's economic empowerment.

Themes will include women-friendly approaches to phone distribution programs, and barriers and opportunities regarding digital microfinance in Bangladesh.

Leading academics from around the world, including Dr Michael Carter of the University of California, Davis; Timothy Ogden of the Financial Access Initiative at NYU-Wagner; Dr Erica Field of Duke University; and Dr Munshi Sulaiman of BIGD, will join industry leaders and policymakers in this dynamic event.

Register to join the conference in person or online

BIGD will also host an exhibition to feature the work of innovators in the space of digital financial services and women's economic empowerment. The most promising submissions will be selected by a panel of experts to receive cash prizes.

Learn more and apply to our Emerging Innovators Poster Presentation by April 20, 2023.

View guidelines

Master of Arts in Governance and Development (MAGD)

Admission Now Open: Fall 2023

The **Master of Arts in Governance and Development (MAGD)**, offered by BIGD at Brac University, is a nationally and internationally acclaimed program.

MAGD has been meticulously redesigned for public policy professionals in the government, policy research institutes, think tanks, and nonprofits, or in any other capacity that entails working on policy issues. It is also an attractive option for young professionals who want to enter the sphere of public policy.

We are now accepting applications for our redesigned MAGD program for Fall 2023!

Apply by 17 August 2023.

Submit your application

"Public policy should be everybody's business."

Dr Imran Matin

Listen to Dr Imran Matin, Executive Director, BIGD talk about how public policy can help governance work for development.

BRAC-LSE-BIGD Knowledge Partnership

BLUE: Tackling Poverty and Climate Crisis through Innovation and Evidence-Based Growth Strategies

BLUE, emerging from the 15 years of relationship between BRAC and LSE, is a new knowledge partnership that BIGD is excited to join. This new initiative is dedicated to creating innovative solutions to climate change and poverty through research and policy. There are two Bangla words in BLUE – **উন্নয়ন এষণা**– meaning 'development discovery'. Its goal is to ensure that everyone, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to thrive in a changing world.

Learn more

Stakeholder Engagement

STICERD at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) organized a discussion titled "Why Do People Stay Poor?" to celebrate BRAC 50 and 15 years of partnership with LSE. The discussion was joined by Dr Imran Matin, along with LSE researchers Robin Burgess and Oriana Bandiera, Chief Economist of FCDO Adnan Khan, and BRAC leadership.

The Oxford Martin Programme on the Future of Development hosted a discussion session with BRAC and BIGD leadership to discuss how BRAC has been using research-based evidence and insights to develop proven and scalable approaches for global development over the last fifty years.

The Saïd Business School at the University of Oxford welcomed members of BRAC, BRAC International, and BIGD senior leadership, including Asif Saleh, Shameran Abed, Dr Imran Matin, and Scott MacMillan, to reflect on BRAC lessons and Sir Fazle Hasan Abed's legacy in BRAC's 50th anniversary year.

Publication Highlights

The economic, social and environmental implications of heritage tourism: Evidence from Bangladesh

Authors: Islam, Md. Karimul; Ahmed, Md. Shakil; Farjana, Fariha; Nasrin, Nishad
Journal: SN Business & Economics
Date: 14 January 2023

VIEW PUBLICATION

Graduation approach to poverty reduction in the humanitarian context: Evidence from Bangladesh

Authors: Rahman, Atiya; Das, Narayan; Bhattacharjee, Anindita; Nisat, Rafia
Journal: Journal of International Development
Date: 18 January 2023

VIEW PUBLICATION

Growth effects of budgetary fiscal variables in a panel of middle-income countries

Authors: Rahman, Sultan Hafeez; Siddiquee, Muhammad Shahadat Hossain
Journal: Review of World Economics
Date: 14 February 2023

VIEW PUBLICATION

Quiet Revolution? Women's Collective Empowerment and BRAC

Authors: Nazneen, Sohela; Sultan, Maheen; Chowdhury, Nobonita
Journal: Development in Practice
Date: 15 Mar 2023

VIEW PUBLICATION

Socio-Economic Constraints in Re-Entering the Labour Market During COVID-19 and the Resilience of Female Informal Workers Living in Urban Informal Settlements

Authors: Nur, Jahid; Jabeen, Huraera
Journal: Asia Pacific Journal of Social Work and Development
Date: 27 Mar 2023

VIEW PUBLICATION

Blog Highlight

Chronicles of Hard Times: 'Durdin-er Diaries' in Bangladesh

Salina Aziz, Sohela Nazneen, Anu Joshi, Miguel Loureiro and Niranjan Nampoothiri

IDS and BIGD are conducting a joint research project in Bangladesh to explore the recovery trajectories, coping strategies, and governance experiences of households that were previously secure but became "new poor" due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The study aims to examine the collective shocks experienced by these households, such as lockdowns, reverse migration, and loss of livelihoods.

LEARN MORE

Knowlegde for a Better World

Follow us on our socials