BRAC University Bulletin

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Architecture Updates

Dissemination Workshops held on Engendering Disaster Management in Bangladesh

Four workshops were held as follow up to disseminate the findings and recommendations on "Engendering Disaster Management in Bangladesh" a study research jointly done by BDI and the Department of Architecture. The research was funded by the World Bank. The Department of Architecture was involved in the component "Physical Inspection of Disaster (Cyclone) Shelters throughout the Country and Recommendations for Measures for Women/ Girl- Friendly Renovations".

Among these the first one was held in Cox's Bazar on 2nd June, 2013 where**Yasmin Ara**, **M. Aminur Rahman** and **Tahmina Rahman** from the department took part and shared their study. The other two were held at Shatkhira on 7th June and at Bagerhat on 8th June, 2013 where **Tahmina Rahman** represented the team. The final workshop was held in Dhaka on 13th June. **Khondaker Hasibul Kabir**, **Yasmin Ara**, **M. Aminur Rahman** and **Tahmina Rahman** took part there. It was attended by personnel from the World Bank, the ministry, NGO and INGO, representatives from local government, academics and volunteers engaged activities regarding disaster management in different locations.

BBS Updates

Sixth Session of 'Entrepreneur Speaks' Seminar

On 17th June 2013, BRAC University Entrepreneurship Development Forum (EDF) in collaboration with BRAC Business School and Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) organized the 'Sixth Session of Entrepreneur Speaks' supported by Prime Bank Limited. In this session, **Mr. Iftekharul Islam**, Advisor to Sanofi, South Asia was kind enough to grace the occasion as the 'Guest of Honor'. The seminar started with a welcome speech delivered by **Mr. Md. Fazley Elahi**Chowdhury, Assistant Professor, BRAC Business School. Followed by his speech,**Mr. Ishfaq Illahi Chowdhury**, honorable Registrar, BRAC University shared his speech with the audience. Prior to the speech of the 'Guest of Honor' **ProfessorFuad H Mallick**, honorable Pro Vice Chancellor, BRAC University shared his invaluable insights about how an entrepreneur can change the life of many people for the better.

After that, **Mr. Iftekharul Islam**, the 'Guest of Honor' of the seminar, shared his views and opinions about the 'Challenges and Prospects of the Entrepreneurs in the Pharmaceutical Industry in Bangladesh'. The speech delivered by him enriched the knowledge of the budding entrepreneurs. The question and answer session followed his speech. Lastly, **Mr. Rezaur Razzak**, Director in-charge, BRAC Business School, in his concluding remarks said, 'program of this stature would inspire this generation of entrepreneurs to set their own startup which would go a long way to create new employment opportunities in Bangladesh' and appreciated the effort of everyone involved for making this program a successful one.

Awarded 2nd in the Social Business Competition

BBS students, **Mohsin Uddin Taksin** - 12104053, Asif Chowdhury - 12104181,**Maisha Mofiz Esha** - 11304002, **Nuren Durdana** - 11204019, and **Sukanya Fuad** - 11204074 participated in the social business plan competition for "Social Business Forum 2013" organized by the Professional Society for Social Business (PSSB) and North South University held in North South University on 29th June 2013.

The project mainly revolved around opening up a service company called "Chaunies Infinity Services Limited", whose main objective is to raise employment in the economy, address the needs of poor and ultimately, reduce poverty and inequality. Given that it was a social business, the company had to ensure that it operated by earning a surplus rather than being a charitable organization. The project idea was to hire people from the lower class, preferably from rural areas, and train them to become skilled nannies, chauffeurs and waiters. Clients such as corporate employees, classy restaurants and others belonging to the upper class could hire these people to serve their needs. The fees paid by the clients would be given to the employees after deduction of a small percentage of profit. This made sure that the company was sustainable.

The project was presented in North South University on 29th June by **Maisha**,**Asif** and **Taksin**. They did remarkably well which earned them the 2nd place in the competition. The award giving ceremony was held from 7 pm where Nobel Laureate **Professor Yunus** personally handed a crest to BRAC University students. Each of the members also received a certificate of participation. The team was brought together and primarily guided by **Mr. Showvonick Datta**, faculty of BBS, BRAC University.

Besides the competition on 29th June, the students also went to the social business day organized by Yunus Center, and handed a flower bouquet to**Professor Yunus** on the occasion of his birthday on 28th June 2013 at Radisson Water Garden.

Faculty members of BRAC Business School (BBS) visit Indian Institute of Management Shillong (IIMS)

Recently a two member delegation team from BRAC Business School (BBS) visited Indian Institute of Management Shillong (IIMS). **Dr. Mohammed Tareque Aziz** &**Mr. Suntu Kumar Ghosh** (Assistant Professors from BRAC Business School) have visited IIMS to explore the opportunity for launching post graduate, diploma and professional development programs in Bangladesh, as well as in India. The BBS delegates gave IIMS management a keen insight on academic, operational and future opportunities for IIMS engagement with BBS. The delegates from BBS stayed at Shillong from June 21, 2013 to June 22, 2013 and met **Professor Amitabha De**(Director), **Basav Roychoudhury** (Associate Professor), **Dr. P. Saravanan**(Associate Professor), **Dr. Rohit Joshi** (Assistant Professor) and **Professor Dr. Keya Sengupta** of IIM Shillong in order to fulfill the purpose of the visit. The visit at IIMS has been successfully conducted and the purposes of establishment of the terms and conditions for joint collaborations have been accomplished. This visit by BBS delegates to IIMS was a historical step toward establishing academic collaborations between these two premiere institutions from two neighboring countries. Once the collaborative programs are launched, both BBS and IIMS will have the opportunities to facilitate increased access and insight into future relationships and engagements.

Research Work of BBS Faculty Members

1.**Ms. Tasneema** (2013) "The Formulation of a Cost Estimating Model" has been published as a book by Lambert Academic Publishing (ISBN:978-3-659-36930-8)

2. **Ms. Faria Rashid**, Lecturer, BBS, attended a symposium in the United Kingdom on the 20th of June 2013. Nottingham Business School hosted the symposium and the main theme of this academic event was "Gender and Responsible Business". **Ms. Rashid**presented a paper titled "Effect of CSR Advertisements and Programs on the Bangladeshi Female Bottom of the Pyramid (BoP) Consumers: Exploring the Gender Impacts of Altruistic CSR". The event was attended by professionals and academics from organizations like Ernst & Young, International Finance Corporation (World Bank Group), La Trobe University (Australia), University of Essex (UK), Swansea University (UK) and University of Virginia (USA). The gender issues that are critical to the CSR initiatives of businesses and how businesses engage with CSR and gender issues were the key areas which were focused.

BBS Master Class VI - Globalization and Economic Growth with Special Focus on Bangladesh

On 27 June 2013, BRAC Business School (BBS) organized the 6th session of the BBS Master Class centering on "Globalization and Economic Growth with Special Focus on Bangladesh." The distinguished speaker of the session was **Dr. A.B. Mirza Azizul Islam**, Visiting Professor, BRAC Business School, and Former Finance Adviser (Cabinet Minister), Caretaker Government. **Dr. Aziz** talked about the different aspects of globalization and economic growth and about their interrelationships. He also talked about the evolution of Bangladesh as a player in the global economy. He stressed that over the years, Bangladesh became quite liberal when compared to its foreign trade policies in the past few decades. However, Bangladesh still has a lot of scope for expansion in the global market. The event concluded with a Q&A session where students were enthusiastic in asking questions to know more from **Dr. Aziz** - a living knowledge-bank of our country. The event, supported by Dhaka Bank, was coordinated by **Mr. Saif Hossain**, Lecturer, BRAC Business School, under the supervision of **Ms. Afsana Akhtar**, Assistant Professor, BRAC Business School.

Industry visit to British American Tobacco Bangladesh

On 29th of June, 2013 BRAC Business School arranged an Industry visit to the factory of British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB) for a bunch of BBA students. The objective of this particular visit was to ensure holistic learning environment through properly bridging the gap between classroom learning and real business environment. In today's business world, supply chain and operations management is considered as one of the most imperative areas for value addition and cost efficiency. Initiated by **Md. Tamzidul Islam** (Faculty, BBS), well supported by**Mohammad Rezaur Razzak** (Director In charge, BBS) and facilitated by number of employees from BATB, this endeavor is expected to be continued in future for the students of various functional areas offered by BBS. The program started with a presentation

to make the students familiar with end to end value chain of tobacco industry here in Bangladesh and then followed by the entire factory visit.**Mr. Mabroor Wassey** (Manager, Quality Services Manager) and **Mr. Moinuddin Parvez** (Manager, Training) from BATB facilitated the entire program.

Center for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) Updates

Bangladesh Tour of Media Professionals from USA

A team of US Media professionals visited Bangladesh from May 24 to June 3 on an exchange program. This is a jointly managed program by Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Oklahoma, and the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED), BRAC University. The program is a U.S. Department of State supported exchange program under their Professional Fellows program. The team led by **Elanie Steyn**, Assistant Professor of the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Oklahoma.

Professional Development Activity for BRAC University Students

The Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) at the BRAC University has organized a two-day long professional development activity for BRAC University students on "Preparing a Business Plan for a New Venture ". This program was jointly organized with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Business Edge of the World Bank Group & its franchisee Windmill Education Services Limited (WESL) on 25 June 2013. Thirty-nine students from different discipline from BRAC University attended this professional development course. **Mr. Reauddin Mosharaf**, Country Manager and CEO of Windmill Education Services Limited (WESL) facilitated this training.

BDI Updates

President Nakao meets ADB's External Forum on Gender (EFG)

ADB president **Takehiko Nakao** met with members of ADB's External Forum on Gender (EFG) on June 20, at the 2-day 13th session of EFG, which began on June 19. **Maheen Sultan**, Lead Researcher of BDI and the Deputy Coordinator of CGST, is the chair of EFG, who was present in the meeting. ADB President **Nakao**exchanged views on key gender issues in Asia and the Pacific region, ranging from violence to human development, economic empowerment, and the participation in decision making. The President also expressed his appreciation to EFG for sharing its experience and diverse ideas with ADB.

Follow up to the Dhaka Resolution

The Ministers and representatives of the Governments in South Asia, women's Organizations/networks, members of civil society, gathered at Dhaka from the 3rd to 5th October 2010 for the Seventh South Asia Ministerial Conference jointly organized by the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the UNIFEM South Asia Sub-Regional Office. A Dhaka Declaration was formulated where it was agreed that legislative and policy initiatives to attain women's equality need to continue, and these should be implemented and monitored effectively through institutional mechanisms and that it is vital to undertake concrete actions within the upcoming two year period that involve making women agents of change and that are measurable through qualitative and quantitative analyses to be used by policy makers and planners to further inform programmatic action. In particular it was decided to undertake qualitative and quantitative research to identify specifics of the issue(s) to be addressed, generate gender-disaggregated data in the identified initiative, to develop program design and facilitate their use for advocacy, capacity building, programming, policy and decision making in the particular program intervention chosen. The Ministry of Women and Children's Affair and UN Women chose the program to be studied: "Promotion of Legal and Social Empowerment of Women in Bangladesh (PLSEW)" Phase II to be studied.

The overall objective of the project was to strengthen capacity of national and

local institutions at formal and informal levels to deliver improved access to justice for women. The project also focused on delivery of justice to women is improved through capacity building and dialogue. Gender-responsive community-based policing is implemented as a prevention strategy against violence and crime. The study objective is to generate empirical knowledge analysing the existence of VAW and the impact of access to justice among the beneficiaries of Promotion of Legal and Social Empowerment of Women in Bangladesh (PLSEW). This will contribute to strengthen local governance and government services to respond effectively to reduce VAW.

Currently, report based on qualitative data collected by the research team is being written by **Simeen Mahmud**, Lead Researcher and Coordinator, CGST,**Maheen Sultan**, Lead Researcher of BDI and the Deputy Coordinator of CGST and**Lopita Huq**, Research Fellow, BDI. A filmmaker has been contracted to produce a short documentary on the issue of women's access to justice based on the case studies undertaken by the research team. **Dr. Mirza Hasan**, Lead Researcher, BDI will be overseeing this process. The legal review document is complete.

Unpaid Care work in Bangladesh

A draft review of existing policy and research documents on unpaid care work in Bangladesh has been done by **Lopita Huq** for IDS, Sussex University. This will be finalized after comments from **Simeen Mahmud** and **Sohela Nazneen**, Lead Researcher, BDI.

Mediation Book Chapter

Lopita Huq and **Simeen Mahmud** have submitted the final version of a book chapter on "Mediation at the Grassroots: NGO Strategies in Claiming Rights in Bangladesh". The proposed title of the book to be published by Palgraves Publishers is "Citizenship as Mediation: The Role of Intermediaries in Relations between States and Poor & Marginalised Groups in the Global South". Contributors to this book are members of Collaboration on Research for Democracy (CORD) which is a network of academicians, researchers and activists formed in the interest of maintaining the long term collaborative research network developed during the 10 year Citizenship DRC project under the aegis of Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Sussex University.

Certificate distribution of 3 day Short Course: Advocacy and Social Communication

The certificate distribution ceremony of the short course on Advocacy and Social Communication was held on June 27, 2013 at BRAC University. This short course was jointly organized by BDI and BRAC for the BRAC head office staff in March 2013. A team of 18 staff from different departments of BRAC successfully completed the short course from March 18-20. BRAC University Vice Chancellor**Professor Ainun Nishat** graced the certificate distribution event with his presence and shared his advocacy experiences. **Dr. Ferdous Jahan** and **Mr.Alamgir Kabir** from BDI were also present at the event. The event was moderated by the course instructor **Afsan Chowdhury**. Participants of the short course remarked that this was a unique opportunity for them to bring in together their field work experience with a structured training.

BIL Updates

A Workshop with the Students of MA in TESOL

A workshop on Learning, Pedagogy & Innovation was conducted for the students of MA in TESOL of BRAC University on 22 June, 2013 at the BRACU Listening Lab. The session was conducted by **Golam Jamil**, Senior Lecturer of BIL, who is currently pursuing his PhD degree at the University of South Hampton, UK. The session was interactive, informative, relevant and supplementary to one of the courses, namely TSL 506: Use of Technology in ELT, of MA in TESOL offered by BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL).

The activities were focused on different TEL pedagogies like reflection- based teaching, problem-based teaching, dialogic teaching, case-based teaching, apprentice-based teaching, project-based teaching, simulation or role play, reciprocal teaching and anchored instruction. A number of ELT websites were also introduced in the workshop which will be helpful for the English language teachers.

The 4th Workshop of the BIL Workshop Series

The 4th BIL Workshop of the BIL Workshop Series was conducted on Saturday 15 June, 2013 by two BIL faculty members, **Liza Reshmin**, Academic Coordinator and**Ashik Sarwar**, Lecturer. The topic of the workshop was Critical Thinking which is an increasingly emphasized word in ELT (English Language Teaching) around the world today. The participants were introduced to the concept of critical thinking as well as the latest innovations within the field of critical thinking. The first session was conducted by **Liza Reshmin** and focused on the definition and different aspects of critical thinking, while the second session conducted by**Ashik Sarwar** focused on ways of forming questions that puts learners in different levels of thinking.

Notably, BIL Workshop Series has been designed to promote a common platform for English language practitioners to exchange ideas, experiences and knowledge in order to develop the current teaching approaches, methods and strategies of teaching practices. Through the series of workshops we hope to gain a learning opportunity and to come together in a common platform for the exchange of ideas among the teachers and educators.

Workshop Pedagogical Issues in Technology Enhanced Classroom

Md. Golam Jamil, a Senior Lecturer of BRAC Institute of Languages who is currently pursuing his PhD at University of Southampton, UK, facilitated a workshop on Pedagogical Issues in Technology Enhanced Classroom on 15 June, 2013. He shared his knowledge on the concerned area with faculty members of BIL and other participants from BRAC.

As part of the workshop, participants were introduced with some educational yet interactive websites to communicate with students through providing tasks to the students, receiving tasks from them and providing feedback on their tasks. In addition, participants of the workshop were provided with some hands-on activities so that they get clear idea about using technology, more specifically - interactive websites in language classrooms and related pedagogical issues. As a whole, it was an interesting and a great learning experience for BIL faculty members in terms of the freshness of the idea and knowledge shared and the deliverance of the facilitator **Mr. Jamil**.

CSO Updates

Seminar on "BRAC as a Career Choice: Prospects and Challenges"

As part of the lead in event to the BRAC University Prothom-alojobs Career Fair 2013, CSO organized a seminar on "BRAC as a career choice: Prospects and Challenges" on 4 June 2013 at BRAC University Indoor Auditorium, which was targeted to the graduating students from all universities to give them an overview of BRAC as an organization and the number of projects under BRAC. The keynote speaker in the seminar was **Dr. Mahbub hossain**, Executive Director of BRAC. Through his presentation he motivated graduates to make a difference in the society by joining BRAC. " Our strategy is to complement government effort to acquire the MDGS, and contribute to inclusive development focusing on the poor and vulnerable people as well as support them" he added. Other guests present in the seminar were **Professor Mr. Fuad Husain Mallick**Pro-vice chancellor, , **Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed** Director BRAC Institute for Languages, **Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Chowdhury** Registrar, **Mr. Kumar Murshid** Advisor CSO and the rest of the CSO team.

Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) Orientation Summer Spring 2013

The orientation session for Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) was held on 6th June, 2013 at the Indoor Auditorium of BRAC University. Out of 180 registered students, a number of 160 attended this program.
Mr. Kumar Murshid, Advisor CSO opened the session with speech describing the altered PSDP while **Professor Riaz**Khan, Advisor CSO/TLC described the new components added to it. After that he introduced the advisors to the students.

After refreshment session the individual advisors divided the students as per their respective groups and handed out the lesson plan for the semester.
The indivual advisors include members from CSO and TLC. The advisors are **Kazi Shahnoor Kabir** CSO , **Ms. Shanzida Shahab Uddin** CSO , **Ms. Zinat Fatema**CSO , **Ms. Rakshinda Huq** CSO , **Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali** TLC, **Ms. Samina Anzum** Chowdhury TLC , **Ms. Sabrina Syed** TLC and **Mr. Muhammad FoysalMubarak** from TLC.

The Revised PSDP

In order to cater to individual needs of the Professional Skills Development (PSDP) Program underwent a major restructuring not only in the curriculum but in the methodology as well. All PSDP students are divided into 4 sections- two of them being dedicated to business students and two for non-business ones. Eight advisors have been allocated from CSO and TLC to take the classes, each class consisting of one member from CSO and other from TLC. The advisors are **KaziShahnoor Kabir** CSO , **Ms. Shanzida Shahab Uddin** CSO , **Ms. Zinat Fatema**CSO, **Ms. Rakshinda Huq** CSO , **Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali** TLC, **Ms. SaminaAnzum Chowdhury** TLC , **Ms. Sabrina Syed** TLC and **Mr. Muhammad Foysal Mubarak** from TLC. The PSDP classes are moderated by **Professor Riaz Khan**, Advisor TLC/ CSO and **Mr. Kumar Murshid**, Advisor CSO who constantly motivate the advisors as well as the students with suggestions and encouragement.

The curriculum of the new PSDP does not only include CV writing skills, job search skills, interview skills but also provides guidance to the students in topics like self assessment, career explorations, job search process, further education program and most importantly individual advising.

Individual Advising

To provide the student with utmost assistance regarding topics like career choice, job search and academic counseling, to name a few, for the first time CSO has introduced the individual advising program. This advising is not restricted to career services and academic help only but also goes beyond to help students to explore their strengths, interests, weakness and other transferable skills. Apart from that, the students can seek help for personal issues too, especially if that has any effects on their academic grades. The advisors will guide students to dig deeper into themselves and understand as well pursue their suitable career paths. Furthermore, the advisors will always be open for aiding the students, encourage them and motivate them throughout.

The advisors are Kazi Shahnoor Kabir CSO , **Ms. Shanzida Shahab Uddin** CSO ,**Ms. Zinat Fatema** CSO, **Ms. Rakshinda Huq** CSO , **Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali**TLC, **Ms. Samina Anzum Chowdhury** TLC , Ms. Sabrina Syed TLC and Mr. Muhammad Foysal Mubarak from TLC. **Professor Riaz Khan**, Advisor TLC/ CSO and **Mr. Kumar Murshid**, Advisor CSO are also actively engaged in the individual advising by supporting the advisors with ideas, advice, assistance and inspiration.

Seminar on the Development Sector

In order to give the graduating students an idea of career prospects in the development sector, CSO organized their first seminar in collaboration with Prothom-alojobs on 9 June 2013 at BRAC University Indoor Auditorium as a lead-in event to the BRAC University Prothom-alojobs Career Fair 2013, titled "The Development Sector as a Career Choice".

The seminar was a panel discussion moderated by **Mr. Kumar Murshid**, Advisor CSO with representatives from BRAC Development Institute, Institute of Educational Development BRAC University, James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Mott McDonald and IUCN. **Ms. Alia Kamal**, Staff Researcher Institute of Educational Development BRAC University; **Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmad**, Country Representative IUCN; **Professor Malabika Sarker**, Director Research James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH); **Professor Sajjad Zohir**, Professor in Economics BRAC University; **Mr. Shakil Ahmed**, of Educational Development BRAC University, **Ms. Simeen Mahmud**, Lead Researcher and Coordinator CGST BRAC Development Institute and **Ms. Tahmina Shafique**, Manager Bangladesh Advisory Consultancy Mott McDonald were speakers in the occasion. Through their motivating speech they encouraged the students to take interest in this sector and help make a difference in the community. They further mentioned about the wide prospects for graduates from different departments.

Mr. Kazi Shahnoor Kabir Executive CSO, **Ms Rakshinda Huq** Officer CSO and**Ms. Zinat Fatema** were also present in the event

Workshop on Career Clinic

On 13th June 2013 at BRAC University Indoor Auditorium, CSO organized the run-up workshop to the BRAC University Prothom-alojobs Career Fair 2013. The workshop, rather the Career Clinic dealt with students' queries and suggestions regarding their career choice.

The resource person in the occasion were **Ms. TauficaErfan**, Head of HR BRAC EPL, **Sharmin Sultan**, GM, Resourcing HR, ROBI Axiata Ltd and **Sufi Faruq Ibne** Abubakar, CEO-Business Innovation &

Incubation Centre. The students asked them questions regarding HR policies in their organizations, assessment procedures, the opportunities and barriers in their organization as well suggestions regarding suitable career choice on the basis of their department and major.

Members from Prothom-alojobs along with **Ms.Humaira Sharmin**, Head of Operations Prothom-alojobs were present in the occasion in addition to the CSO team namely **Mr. Kumar Murshid** Advisor CSO, **Kazi Shahnoor Kabir** Executive CSO, **Ms. Shanzida Shahab Uddin** Officer CSO, **Ms. Rakshinda Huq** Officer CSO and **Ms. Zinat Fatema** Intern CSO.

"A Jump Start to Your Career": Internship Opening Program by Unilever Bangladesh Limited

Uniliver Bangladesh Limited in collaboration with Career Services Office arranged an Internship Recruitment Program on June 23, 2013 at BRAC University Indoor Auditorium. The program was basically designed to select Interns from BRAC University for the company. Internship in Unilever creates chances for the interns to interact with a professional working environment. It also helps to identify the future course of student's career and gives a meaningful insight into the function that they might chose. Selected interns will be provided with an internship offer for a period of three month with a link between their thesis topics and real work practices.

Interns will be provided with challenging business projects that can contribute to the business growth of Unilever. At the same time, students will gain practical working experience. Around 120 students from BBS participated in the program. The participants were the final year students as well as prospective interns for next year. The program started with an opening speech by**Mr. Kazi Shahnoor Kabir** Executive CSO.

Uniliver Bangladesh divided this whole program in two different parts. In the beginning of the program the key speaker of the session, **Taslima Jaigirdir**, Leadership Development Manager of Unilever gave her vibrant presentation

focusing on the Unilever Bangladesh Limited. Next, she discussed the internship recruitment process of Unilever Bangladesh Limited and how it works. Students of BRAC University who successfully did their internship from Unilever Bangladesh Limited were present in the program and shared their experiences.

In the second part of the program, students were asked to perform a written test provided by Unilever Bangladesh Limited for preliminary screening process. Ms.**Marufa Tabassum**, **Talent Specialist**, Unilever Bangladesh Limited, **Kazi Shahnoor Kabir**, **Ms Shanzida Shahab Uddin**, **Ms. Rakshinda Huq** and **Ms. Zinat Fatema** from CSO were also present at the session. With the help of student volunteers and CSO team the event concluded.

C3ER Updates

C3ER Organized a Workshop on "Role of Governance in Climate Change Induced Migration"

Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER), BRAC University with support from the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability, South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR) successfully organized a workshop on "Role of Governance in Climate Change Induced Migration" on 22nd June, 2013 in BRAC Centre. Lead environmentalist **Prof Dr Ainun Nishat** made the keynote presentation covering the research findings on migration trends and patterns from the coastal region of Bangladesh. Gabura and Munshiganj, two unions in the Shyamnagar upazila of Satkhira district, were taken as the case study. The session was addressed by the Additional Secretary and National Project Director of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (Phase II), **Mohammad Abdul Qayyum**. **Dr Aparup Chowdhury** participated on the session as Special Guest who is currently serving as the Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government People's republic of Bangladesh. The research findings show that one from every 10 households have already migrated from the study areas. In total, more than 3,900 people migrated either permanently or temporarily from

Gabura union, while around 3,000 migrated from Munshiganj union after the cyclone Aila. The speakers informed the session that the government has already spend BDT 2,500 crore from the climate change trust fund to repair coastal embankments . Representatives from World Bank, Giz, DFID, CDMP, BRAC, BRAC-USA, Caritas, Shushilon, CEGIS participated in the workshop and gave their valuable feedbacks and recommendation.

ENH Updates

Study Trip

Students of Eng 102: English Composition-1 visited Korail slum on 3rd June 2013 as a part of their course. The students had to complete an assignment of comparing city life with the life of the poor people after the visit.

On 22nd June 2013, the same group of students went to see **Munier Chowdhury's**play Rupar Kouta performed by students of the Department of Music and Theatre, Chittagong University at the studio theatre of Shilpakala Academy. They wrote a response to the play as a guided writing task.

Students of Hum 101: World Civilizations and Culture went on study tour to Mainamati, Comilla to see the Shalban Bihar and Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) on 14 -15 June 2013. Around thirty five students along with the course teacher **Professor Samina Sultana** went on this tour. **Shahidul Islam**, the Secretary to Vice Chancellor, BRAC University also accompanied the team.

ENH Lecture Series

Department of English and Humanities, BRAC University organised a lecture titled Stalin's Shadow, fear and the Carnival: A Bakhtinian Reading of Mikhail Bulgakov's The Master and Margarita by **Asif Iqbal** on 18th June 2013.

Asif Iqbal is a lecturer of Department of English, East West University, Dhaka.. He is currently a graduate student in the Department of English at the University of Maine, USA. His work Concentrates on the impact of Stalinism/Fascism on J.M. Coetzee's literary works.

The second lecture of the month was "The Envelope of Global Trade: The Political Economy and Intellectual History of Jute in the Bengal Delta, 1850-1930" by **Dr. Tariq Omar**Ali which was delivered on 23rd June 2013. **Dr. Tariq Omar** Ali is an Assistant Professor at the

Department of History, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA.

On 27th June 2013, another lecture on literature was presented by **Abu Sayeed Mohammad Noman**, Senior Lecture at ENH. The paper was titled "Post-colonial Dislocation and Amnesia: An Afrocentric Reading of V. S. Naipaul" .

Noman is currently a Graduate Teaching Assistant and PhD candidate at the Department of African American Studies at Temple University, USA.

Rejoining of Faculty

Abu Sayeed Mohammad Noman completed his MA in African American Literature from Temple University on Fulbright Scholarship 2011-2013, funded by the US Department of State. He rejoined ENH as a Senior lecturer on 3rd June 2013.

ESS Updates

Dr Shamim Shakur, Visiting Professor at ESS presented the keynote paper on a seminar titled "Problems and Prospects of TICFA: The Case of Bangladesh" Held on June 24, 2013, the seminar was jointly organized by School of Business and Department of Economics of Presidency University. In his presentation, **Dr Shakur**made a positive case for Bangladesh's participation in bilateral Trade and Investment Cooperation Framework Agreement (Ticfa) with US. His view is based on his own research that shows Bangladesh would potentially lose from multilateral free trade like WTO-initiated Doha Round, but gain from bilateral free trade with selected partners.

A roundtable discussion on Tcifa followed **Dr Shakur's** keynote presentation. Special guest participants included **Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad** (Chairman of Governing Council, Dhaka School of Economics), **Professor Dr Muhammad Mahboob** (VC, Presidency University), **Major General (retd) Jamil D Ahsan**(Security Analyst), **Emeritus Professor K Ibrahim Khaled** (BIBM), **Professor Amena Mohsin** (International Relations, DU) and **Aftab Ul Islam** (Chairman of American Chamber of Commerce).

ATN NEWS Budget Program 2013-14

The students of BRAC University Economics and Social Science Department participated in the ATN NEWS Budget Program 2013-14 "Jodi Hotam Ortho Mantri" live telecasted on the 6th of June, 2013. The BRAC University participants were Adity Das Gupta, **Shirleen Manzur**, **Zeeshan Ashraf**, **Afra Anika**, **Md. Rahmatullah Khan** and **Ishrat Zarin Alam**. The students were mentored throughout the week by **Dr Wasiqur Rahman** Khan and **Tanvir Sobhan**.

A studio was set up at BRAC University auditorium. There were two other studios as well. One was set up at Dhaka University where students of Economics Department of DU also participated. The other one was set up at ATN NEWS studio itself where the former governor of Bangladesh Bank, **Mohammed Farashuddin**, shared his views on the FY 2013-14 budget.

The BRAC University students initially provided a brief glance at what they thought should be the ideal budget. They also engaged in discussion on various topics such as the ADP allocation, the problems of revenue generation, the importance of health and education sector and the debate circulating the defense spending.

Dr Shamim Shakur, Visiting Professor at ESS presented the keynote paper on a seminar titled "Problems and Prospects of TICFA: The Case of Bangladesh" Held on June 24, 2013, the seminar was jointly organized by School of Business and Department of Economics of Presidency University. In his presentation, **Dr Shakur**made a positive case for Bangladesh's participation in bilateral Trade and Investment Cooperation Framework Agreement (Ticfa) with US. His view is based on his own research that shows Bangladesh would potentially lose from multilateral free trade like WTO-initiated Doha Round, but gain from bilateral free trade with selected partners.

A roundtable discussion on Ticfa followed **Dr Shakur's** keynote presentation. Special guest participants included **Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad** (Chairman of Governing Council, Dhaka School of Economics), **Professor Dr Muhammad Mahboob** (VC, Presidency University), **Major General (retd) Jamil D Ahsan**(Security Analyst), **Emeritus Professor K Ibrahim Khaled** (BIBM), **Professor Amena Mohsin** (International Relations, DU) and **Aftab Ul Islam** (Chairman of American Chamber of Commerce).

IED Updated

A Workshop on 'Leadership, Communication and Motivation'

A day long Workshop on Leadership, Communication and Management was held on Thursday, June 20th, 2013. Prof. Mabel Gomes, visiting faculty from U.S.A. and **A. K. M. Badrul Alam**, Lecturer, IED, BRAC U facilitated the workshop. Students of MEd in Educational Leadership, Planning and Management (Day, MEd-fourth batch) took part in the workshop.

The aim of the workshop was to make the participants understand the concepts, frameworks and processes of different aspects related to leadership, communication and motivation. The participants were enlightened through different interactive activities and were inspired to apply the different approaches in their workplaces. The workshop also broadened the horizon of knowledge of the participants working at the mid level in the government system which will be helpful to promote quality primary education.

IGS Updates

Roundtable Discussion on Politics of Urban Local Governance: A Case of Dhaka City

The Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) organised a roundtable discussion titled "Politics of Urban Local Governance: A Case of Dhaka City" on June 27, 2013 at BRAC Centre Inn Conference Room, Dhaka. The roundtable is being organised as a follow-up event of the research report titled "STATE OF CITIES: Urban Governance in Dhaka".

IGS Director **Dr. Rizwan Khair** opened the roundtable with a welcome speech. The session was moderated by **Professor Salahuddin M. Aminuzzaman**, Department of Public Administration, University of Dhaka, while the panel discussants of the roundtable included **Professor Ataur Rahman**, and **Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman**, Former Advisor to the Caretaker Government and the Executive Chairman of Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC). The Executive Director of IGS, **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman** presided over the discussion. The authors **Muhammad Sirajul Islam** and **Md. Harun-Or-Rashid**made the keynote presentations summarising the chapter in the SoC Report which was followed by comments and suggestions from the panel discussants and participants. The discussion was attended by among others, **Professor Emdadul Huq** of North South University, **Dr. Akhter Hossain** of Dhaka University Politician**Haider Akber Khan Rono** and Dhaka City Mayor aspirants **Shirin Akhter**, **Dr. Tuhin Malik** and Journalists **Syed Abul Maksud** and **Kazi Hafiz**.

IGS Organised Training Programmes on Best Procurement Practices

On 7th and 8th June, 2013 IGS, BRAC University organised a training programme on Best Procurement Practices (Batch -1) at the IGS Conference room. As part of the core activities of IGS, this two-day long training course was offered to enhance the capacity on Best Procurement Practices. The training was attended by 15 participants in each batch from different organizations such as BRAC and Village Education Resource Centre (VERC). **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Director of IGS, awarded certificates among the participants on 8th June, 2013 through an unostentatious ceremony. The course was conducted by the training wing of IGS. IGS organised 2nd Batch training programme on Best Procurement Practices 28th and 29th June 2013 held at IGS Conference Room. A total of 15 participants from different organizations namely BRAC, Swisscontact, Leads Corporation Ltd. participated in this training programme. On 29th June, 2013, IGS Director, **Dr. Rizwan Khair** awarded the certificate to the participants.

IGS Organised Workshop in Satkhira on How to Engage Citizens in Public Procurement

IGS, BRAC University, in collaboration with the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU), IME Division (IMED), Ministry of Planning, organised a workshop on 'How to Engage Citizens in Public Procurement' at the Satkhira Officers' Club Auditorium on 2 June, 2013.

IGS Project Manager (Communications) **Ekram Hossain** welcomed the participants and conducted the workshop with the assistance of workshop facilitator **Nazmul Arifeen**. The workshop was participated by the government officials, members of procuring entities, bidding communities, and civil society members. The workshop was attended by among others, **Dr. Muhammad Anwar Hossain Hawladar**, Deputy Commissioner of Satkhira, Satkhira Municipality Mayor **M A Jalil**, Principal of Satkhira Government College**Liakat Parvez**, Executive Engineer of LGED Anwarul Islam, Executive Engineer of Water Development Board **Abdul Mannan Khan**, DGM of Rural Electrification Board Kamrul Islam Goldar, Executive Engineer of Municipality **Dipak Kumar Mitra**, Staff Reporter of The Daily Prothom Alo Satkhira Kallyan Banerjee.

The workshop was divided into three separate sessions. The first session was focused on the limitations of the existing laws and rules in relation to public procurement, specially citizens engagement. The second session was on current scenario of citizen's involvement in existing tendering process and practical experiences. The last session discussed on finding the ways to decrease the irregularities in the public procurement management process; where, whom, how and in which level citizens can be involved in public procurement and the advantages and disadvantages of such involvement.

This was the sixth and the last district-level workshop under the Public Procurement Reform Project (PPRP)-II. Another 5 workshops were organised in Narayanganj, Comilla, Moulvibazaar, Rajshahi, and Patuakhali. The workshops were the part of research under PPRP-II in order to formulate a strategy on how to engage citizens in public procurement. IGS is providing technical support to CPTU, IMED of Ministry of Planning under this project.

MA in Governance and Development Course First Semester Ongoing

The first semester of MA in Governance and Development Course has commenced from June 2013. During this semester, Honorable Advisor to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, **Dr. Gowher Rizvi** conducted a session on Innovative Governance at the BRAC University Campus. Another Module titled Learning from People is being conducted by **Professor Golam Samdani Fakir**, Vice Chancellor of Green University and **Dr. Salahuddin Ahmad**, Managing Editor, The Daily Star.

Field Visit to Gazipur Attended by Students of 'Environmental Management and Governance Course'

On June 28 & 29, 2013, participants of Environmental Management and Governance (EMG) course visited the Eco-Lab Battery Ltd located at Sreepur Pourashava in Gazipur district. The two-day long field visit was organised by IGS and conducted as a part of the Module: 413, 'Tools for Evaluation and Experiential Learning'. Participants were experienced how to conduct an

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in practical hand under the supervision of Senior EIA consultant**Mr. Ikbal Hassan**. This field visit was coordinated by Research Associate of IGS**Mr. S M Gubair Bin Arafat**.

Certificate Award Ceremony of 'Environmental Management and Governance' Course

IGS Director **Dr. Rizwan Khair**handed over the certiuficates to the students who successfully completed the three-month long 4th Certificate Programme of 'Environmental Management and Governance' course. This award ceremony was held on June 30, 2013 at the IGS conference room. This Certificate course is jointly conducted by BRAC University and Manitoba University, Canada.

IGS Researchers Attended the Certificate Award Ceremony of Executive Certificate Course on Governance & Development At North South University

On 1 June, 2013, A Certificate Award Ceremony of "Executive Certificate Course on Governance & Development" was held at North South University (NSU) organised by Master in Public Policy and Governance (MPPG) Programme, Department of General and Continuing Education, North South University. IGS Research Assistants **Ms. Afrina Islam**, **Ms. Nabila Zaman**, **Kazi Niaz Ahmed**and Research Associate **Ms. Saika Nudrat Chowdhury** and other individual & institutional participants received certificates on successful completion of the four- week long Executive Certificate course held from 5th April to 18th May 2013.**Dr. A M M Shakhawat Ali**, Former Advisor to the Caretaker Government was present at the ceremony as the Chief Guest and **Professor Md. Abdul Sattar**, Acting Vice Chancellor of NSU presided over the ceremony.

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman Appointed as The Executive Director of IGS

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the former Director General of Asian Development Bank (ADB), South Asia, has been appointed as the Executive Director of the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS). From September 1992 to June 2012, **Dr. Rahman** has carried out varied important responsibilities in ADB for 20 years.

Dr. Rahman, a reputed economist, started his professional career in the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) in 1975. And at the time of his retirement from ADB he held the position of 'Director General' which is the senior most position held by a Bangladeshi in an international organisation.

Throughout his professional career of 37 years **Dr. Rahman** presented papers, participated in, organised and chaired many workshops, seminars and conferences around the world. He has worked in Cambodia, Thailand, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Bangladesh as well as 14 Pacific Island countries in the northern and southern Pacific Ocean region. **Dr. Rahman** has published on a wide range of economic issues. His current research interests are in the areas of economic growth and inequality, 'green growth,' macroeconomic policy, financial sector policy, governance and regional economic cooperation and integration.

An alumni of the prestigious Stanford University in the United States, **Dr. Rahman**obtained his Ph.D. and M.A. Degrees from there and M. A. in economics from the Vanderbilt University. He was also educated at Dhaka University, Chittagong College and Faujdarhat Cadet College. He was born on 7 April 1952 in Chittagong, Bangladesh.

IGS Director's Activities

On 2 June 2013, **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Director IGS attended the Presentation and workshop on MDG arranged by the General Economic Division of the Planning Commission at Hotel Rupashi Bangla.

On 3 June 2013 The Director attended a meeting with UNDP and A2I project of the Government to discuss ways to assist and raise competencies of Innovation Focal Points appointed by the Government at District levels.

On 8 June, 2013, He attended a workshop on Local Governance arranged by SHARIQUE project in collaboration with Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) held at CIRDAP Auditorium.

On 11 June, 2013 **Dr. Khair** attended the "Global Institutional Linkages Meeting" arranged by WIEF Foundation and Universiti Teklogi Mara, Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He also made a presentation in the meeting on the public sector leadership programme - MA in Governance and Development offered by IGS, BRAC University.

On 23 June, 2013 **Dr. Khair** attended a meeting of the academic advisors of the National Defense College (NDC) at NDC in Dhaka.

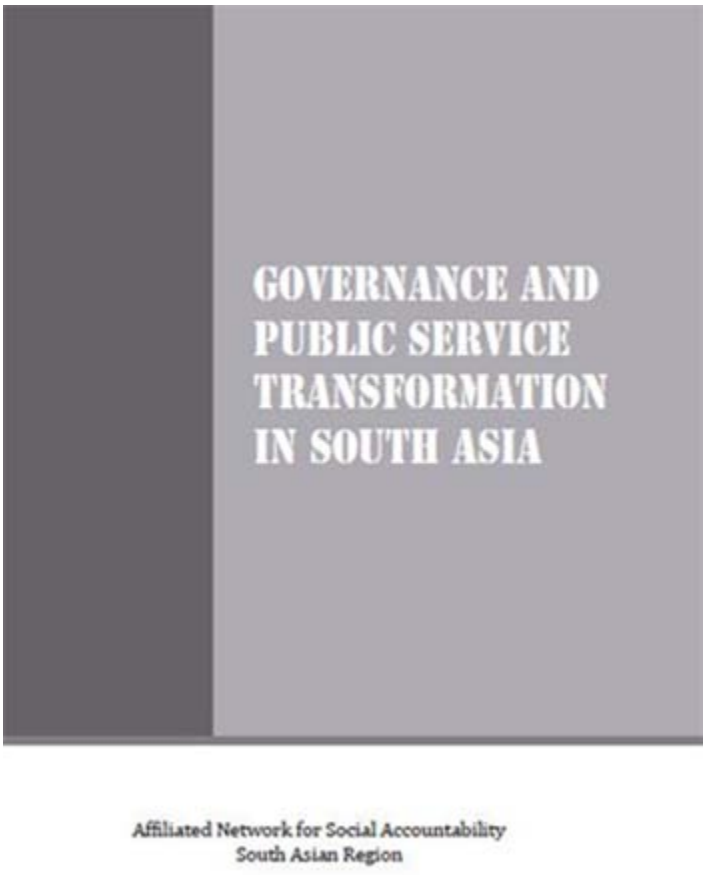
Dr. Rizwan Khair also attended the meeting of the working group of the NUFFIC funded "Capacity Building for Promoting Governance" project at Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC). This project is being jointly implemented by IGS and BPATC.

Affiliated Network for Social Accountability- South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR)Workshop on "Role of Governance in Climate Change Induced Migration

With the support from Affiliated Network for Social Accountability- South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR) the Center for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER) has successfully completed a research on "Role of Governance in Climate Change Induced Migration." The overall objective of the research was to enhance the knowledge base on climate change induced migration from the coastal regions of Bangladesh. Two unions of Satkhira district had been investigated in

this study, to track the evidence based climate change induced migration.
To disseminate the findings of this study a workshop was held on 22 June, 2013 at BRAC Center Inn. The keynote paper was presented by the Vice Chancellor of BRAC University **Prof. Dr. Ainun Nishat**. The function was also addressed, among others, by the Additional Secretary and National Project Director of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (Phase II), Mohammad Abdul Qayyum, and Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, **DrAparup Chowdhury**.

Publication of the Governance and Public Service Transformation Conference Report



A Conference Report was published based on the two day international conference on Governance and Public Service Transformation in South Asia held on 7 - 9 December 2012 at the Hotel Ruposhi Bangla, Dhaka. This conference was organised by Affiliated Network for Social Accountability - South Asia Region (ANSA - SAR) in collaboration with the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), the United Nations Millennium Campaign - Asia and Pacific Region, Public Affairs Centre (PAC), India, Governance and Public Policy Programme of North-South University and Monash University Governance Research Unit (MGRU). The objectives of the conference was to collaboratively explore the governance reform journey in South Asian countries over the past two decades, highlight opportunities and challenges, explore governance deficits that hinder the acceleration of MDG achievement and recommend how the governance agenda can be concretely integrated into the Post 2015 development framework.

The Conference Report highlights the different papers that were presented in the four themes of the conference. Moreover, after two and a half days of discussions and deliberations, the delegates from 10 countries (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Australia, Egypt, the Philippines, Switzerland, UK and the Netherlands) representing civil society, academia, government, and international institutions adopted the Dhaka Declaration on Governance which is published in the last chapter of the publication.

Click here to download the PDF version of the publication.

Publications/Articles by IGS Staff

1. The Daily Samakal: Crises of Democracy and Role of Intellectuals, by Sultan Mohammed Zakaria, 11 June 2013, pdf
2. The Daily Star: The RMG Sector and External Links by **Kazi Niaz Ahmed**, 24 June 2013, pdf
3. IGS Working Paper Series No: 09/2013: **Jannatul Fardosh**, Domestic Violence Against Women in Bangladesh: Discovering Two Sides of A Coin
4. IGS Working Paper Series No: 10/2013: by **M. Shahidul Islam** & **Mohammad Nasir Uddin Khan**, 2013. Access to Urban Basic Services and Determinants of Satisfaction: A Comparison by Non-slum and Slum Dwellers in Dhaka City
5. IGS Working Paper Series No: 11/2013: by **Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed**, Improving Tax Compliance in Bangladesh: A Study of Value-Added Tax (VAT)
6. Public Procurement Watch, 11th Issue, by Public-Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC) Central Procurement Technical Unit, IME Division, Ministry of Planning and IGS, BRAC University.

MNS Updates

Observation of World Environment Day

On the occasion of the World Environment Day on 5 June, 2013, BRAC University Natural Sciences Club (BUNSC) and BRAC University Earth and Environment Forum jointly organized a human chain in order to raise public awareness about world environment. The human chain was formed beside the road near BRACU Mohakhali Campus premises between 12.00 noon and 12.30 pm. The main theme of the World Environment Day, 2013 is "Think-Eat-Save". Focusing on this main theme the human chain was participated by teachers, students, officials and staff members of BRACU. They all participated in this event with lots of enthusiasm. Public awareness regarding wastage of food and optimal utilization of resources and conservation of biodiversity would be enhanced with holding up such activities, it was expected.

Certificate Award Ceremony to the Volunteers of Freshers' Reception

The Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) arranged a freshers' reception and certificate giving ceremony among 26 students on 25 May, 2013. There were ten student volunteers from the Department who helped to complete the program successfully. To acknowledge their contribution, MNS Department

arranged a brief program on 12 June, 2013 where volunteers received the certificates from the Chairman of the Department, **Professor A.A.Z.Ahmad**.**Professor Naiyyum Choudhury**, Coordinator of Biotechnology and Microbiology programs, addressed the meeting and appreciated the good work by the volunteers. **Professor A.A.Z.Ahmad** thanked the volunteers, the faculty members and the staff members of the MNS Department for making the freshers' reception function held on 25 May, 2013 a success. Faculty members and students of the Department were present in the function and a photo session was conducted by Mohammad Al **Mahmud-Un-Nabi**, a student in the microbiology program.

Consultative Workshop on Formulation of Draft Legislation on Medical Biotechnology

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the above-mentioned workshop as a resource person for the formulation of legislations on medical biotechnology. The draft prepared by a legal consulting firm was discussed in detail in the workshop. **Professor Choudhury** suggested a number of modifications to the draft particularly on aspects of promotion of medical biotechnology and regulations. He emphasized that since the goal of the technical committee on medical biotechnology was promotion of biotechnology, the detailed regulatory aspects might be formulated separately to avoid conflict of interests. He cited the examples of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission which was mostly concerned with the applications of nuclear technology and a separate independent body called Nuclear Safety and Radiation Control Division, which is a regulatory body to ensure safe use of nuclear radiation. The workshop recommended revision of the draft in the light of discussions held in the workshop. Selected experts from public and private universities, R&D organizations including ICDDR, B, pharmaceutical companies, and relevant government organizations actively participated in the workshop.

Fifth Executive Board Meeting of ideSHi (Institute for Developing Science and Health Initiative), Conference Room of the Center for Medical Biotechnology

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the above-mentioned meeting as Member, Executive Board of ideSHi. Presided over by National **Professor M.R. Khan**, the meeting was attended by **Professor Abul Kalam Azad**, ADG, Health, and **Mr. Abdul Muktadir**, Managing Director, INCEPTA Pharmaceuticals Ltd., **Dr. Tahmina Shirin**, Member EB, **Mr. Syed Ashfaq Qadri**, Member EB by Skype from London and Executive Director, ideSHi, **Professor Firdausi Qadri**. Dr John Clemens, Executive Director, ICDDRB and **Professor Ann-Mari Svennerholm**, Gothenburg University were present as invited guests. The update from the fourth EB meeting of ideSHi was discussed with the members and the invitees with a power point presentation by **Professor Qadri**. Funding situation was discussed and progress so far made was elaborated upon. A proposal on capacity building had been submitted to WHO TDR in May 2013 to facilitate capacity building of medical personnel in the area of biomedical sciences. **Professor Choudhury**elaborated on the importance of ideSHi in the context of Bangladesh and the need for capacity building and on measures for expediting its activities. **Professor Abul Kalam Azad** assured all cooperation from the government in organizing different programmes and activities of the ideSHi.

Dissemination Meeting on National Guidelines of Gastric Cancer Management

Dr. Mohammad Sorowar Hossain attended the meeting on 'National Guidelines of Gastric Cancer Management' held on 18 June, 2013 at 9-11 am in the MIS Conference Room, DG Health Office, Mohakhali, Dhaka. This program was supported by Non-Communicable Disease Control (NCDC) unit, Director General of Health Services. Prominent health experts from various disciplines were present in the meeting. Although there is no comprehensive epidemiological study on the status of cancer incidence in Bangladesh, gastric or stomach cancer is one of the most common types of cancer affecting Bangladeshis. Most stomach cancer is caused by bacterial infection (Helicobacter pylori). A stark reality is that, in Bangladesh, the overall cancer care and management including diagnosis, treatment and palliative care services are far behind the international standard. There are no national guidelines for cancer care management in Bangladesh. The first ever such effort has been taken to devise national guidelines for the management of gastric cancer. The objectives of the draft guidelines were to reduce wide variations of treatment among doctors and to ensure that all gastric cancer patients should be offered the best chance of cure and palliation irrespective of places where they were treated. Experts in the meeting provided feedback to improve the proposed guidelines for gastric cancer management.

National Seminar on Tissue Banking: A Frontier of Medicine

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury was invited as the Guest of Honour in the above-mentioned seminar organized by the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC). The inaugural ceremony was presided over by **Professor Shahana Afroz**, Member, Bioscience, BAEC. **Architect Yeafesh Osman**, State Minister, Ministry of Science & Technology, GoB was the Chief Guest and **Mr. ASM Firoz**, Chairman, BAEC and Professor **Dr. Kh. Abdul Awal Rizvi**, Director, National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation and President, Bangladesh Tissue Banking Association were special guests. **Professor Choudhury** in his address highlighted the history of tissue banking research and applications at BAEC and its collaboration with hospitals and clinics for supply of radiation sterilized amniotic membranes and tissue grafts. He appreciated the role of medical professionals particularly the paediatric and orthopaedic surgeons in translating the research efforts of tissue banking into practical applications. Medical professionals from different clinics, hospitals, nuclear medicine centres and senior scientists of BAEC participated in the seminar.

BCSIR Visit by Students

Thirty six students of both MS and undergraduate programs of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, BRAC University along with **Professor Naiyyum Chaudhury**, **Dr. M. Mahboob Hossain** and **Mr. Fazle Rabbi** visited various laboratories of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) on 20 June, 2013. They visited different sections such as Tissue Culture, Spiriluna Cultivation Plant, Food Safety Laboratory, Instrument Divisions etc. They were informed about the various activities of each division and introduced with very sophisticated instruments such as MS spectrophoptometer, gas chromatograph, high pressure liquid chromatograph, NMR analyzer with low and high resolutions etc. The principles of these instruments were also explained. They were shown how food safety was monitored, the process of determination of the composition of food and solid materials, the process of freeze drying and its importance. They were also shown the different levels of a biosafety laboratory and use of the equipment. The whole study tour was very much enjoyable and students had a very good practical experience.

Closing and Certificate Award Ceremony of NOAMI's "Ninth Training Coruse in Oceanography: Principles of Applications"

The above-mentioned ceremony was organized by National Oceanographic & Maritime Institute (NOAMI) at the auditorium of the Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka on 29 June, 2013 at 5:30 pm. **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice-chancellor of BRAC University was the Chief Guest. After the welcome address by **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury**, Vice-chairman, NOAMI, the Chief Guest gave away the course completion certificates to the participants in the Ninth Course on Oceanography. **Dr Md. Sajidur Rahman** of the Centre for Climate Change & Environmental Research (C3ER), BRACU spoke on behalf of the participants.**Professor Ainun Nishat** then delivered his speech. He lauded the efforts of NOAMI in promoting the study of oceanography in the country. The Chairperson of NOAMI, **Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad** then addressed the audience and congratulated the participants in the course for their achievement and thanked the Chief Guest and others for their presence in the function. **Dr. Abdur Rahim**, General Secretary, NOAMI conveyed the formal vote of thanks on behalf of NOAMI. The function was also attended by NOAMI members, resource persons of the training course and other distinguished guests including the representatives of the news media.

Popular Science Lecture Organized by the National Museum of Science and Technology (NMST)

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury delivered a popular science lecture on "Science and Technology for Development: Bangladesh Perspectives" at the NMST Auditorium. Organized by the NMST this was a part of a series of lectures for the

public including students from different colleges and universities to create awareness among the people about importance of science and technology for national development. **Professor Choudhury** highlighted the development of science since the ancient times and how science has shaped the society. He elaborated modern development in different branches of science and technology and challenges of the 21st century in utilizing science for addressing the socio-economic issues. Though science by no means can give solution to all problems, but it is necessary to address different problems. Bangladesh has made significant progress in research, development and applications in different branches of science, specifically in agriculture and medical sectors. GoB initiative for promoting science and technology was appreciable, he said. National Science and Technology Policy had been adopted and Action Plan had been outlined. National Biotechnology Policy, National ICT Policy etc. were all necessary conditions for proper development of science and technology to address different social, economic and environmental problems. A large number of participants from different organizations including schools, colleges, universities, NGOs and news media attended the lecture.

Promotion of the Faculty Members

Eight faculty members of the MNS Department have been promoted. They are: **Ms Fardousi Ara Begum**, **Ms Jebunnesa Chowdhury**, **Ms Sanjeeda Nazneen**, **Mr Md Sazib Hasan**, **Mr Fazle Rabbi**, **Mr. Nikhil Chandra Sarkar**, **Mr Md Lutfur Rahman** and **Mr Mahabobe Shobahani**.

"New faces in campus" and "Leaving us"

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman Appointed as The Executive Director of IGS

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Left from BRACU

Mr. Aubhishek Zaman, who was serving as a Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics and Natural Science resigned and left BRACU in last June 2013.

RS Updates

Street Drama Staged

RS batch 33 students enacted a street drama named Lin Jaruta on 25 June, 2013 at Annondopur to create awareness about drug abuse and importance of family relationship.

Through the performance, the participants tried to highlight family conflicts between parents- children, siblings and spouse and its impact on the family members.

This is to be noted that, a sequel of this drama will follow after the midterm break.

A Session on Liberation War of Bangladesh

On 7 June, 2013 a session on the Liberation War of Bangladesh was held at Markuli Hall of BRAC University Savar Campus as the part of experiential learning activity of Bangladesh Studies Course. The session was facilitated by a veteran freedom fighter, Major (Retd.)

Kamrul Hasan Bhuiyan. Commander **Johurul Haque Munshi**(Bir Pratik) and **Ajad Ali**(Bir Pratik) were also present to share their experience.

The purpose of this session was to try to give students a clear idea about the Liberation War to uphold and enhance their sense of patriotism. The lecture was followed by a question-answer session.

Drama on History of Bangladesh

On 27 June 2013, the students of BRAC University residential campus staged a drama related to the historical events of Bangladesh at the Markuli Hall amid the presence of Campus Superintendent, **Md. Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury**, Assistant Campus Superintendent,**Rehan Ahmed**, respective faculty members and house tutors.

The drama was staged as part of the Bangladesh Studies course which tries to encompass the students' learning on the History of Bangladesh since ancient period. The drama addressed the sociopolitical condition of the ancient periods moving down till the independence of the nation. The segments of the drama included the history of Pala dynasty, Sena Dynasty, Muslim Rule, Battle of Palasy in 1757, British Colonial Bengal, Faraizi Movement, Tevaga Movement, Sepoy Movement; Partition of India in 1947, Pakistan Period and Rise of Bengali Nationalism, Language Movement in 1952, United Front Election 1954, Students' Movement in 1962, Six-point Program of 1966, Mass Upsurge in 1969, General Election of 1970, Operation Search Light and Liberation War and the independence of Bangladesh in 1971. The drama ended with the national anthem of Bangladesh.

Happy Reading Orientation Program

Happy reading orientation program for the summer 2013 semester was held on 1 June, 2013 at BRACU Savar campus.**Ms. Sarwat Masuda Reza**, Resource Centre Manager, British Council facilitated the session. Robin Davies, Director, Partnerships and Programmes, British Council Bangladesh was also pleased to be there and see the enthusiastic students of BRAC University engaged through the program. He mentioned that it was worth visiting and he wants to work closely in future.

The purpose of the program was to introduce the students to the process of happy reading activity. Additionally, the special attraction of the program was quiz competition among the students.

Drug Abuse Seminar Held

A seminar on drug abuse and rehabilitation mechanism was conducted on 5 May, 2013 at the Markuli hall of BRAC University Residential Campus facilitated by**Brother Ronald Drahozal**, the CSC and executive director of APON. In addition,**Hasibur Rahman**, another official from APON also talked on drug abuse. During the session, two recovering addicts were introduced to the audiences who shared their experiences. In the last 20 minutes of the seminar the representatives of APON responded to the extensive queries of the students.

Socrates-Er Jobanbondhi- A Drama

As a part of Ethics and Culture course Socrates-er Jobanbondhi was staged in the BRACU Savar Residential campus on 21 June, 2013. The drama was performed by a theater group called Drishyapot, and directed by**Ali Mahamood**. The message of this drama was that if a nation wanted to achieve legal democracy, it will have to ensure public reasoning as the first step of it. It also reflected much of the great philosophy of Socrates.

Report on Story of BRAC

BRAC University Savar Campus organized a seminar titled Story of BRAC conducted by Campus Superintendent, **Md Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury** on 1 June, 2013.

The program started with an introduction given by the Assistant Campus Superintendent, Rehan Ahmed. Next, **Mr. Chowdhury** started his speech with giving an idea about leadership of BRAC and its journey towards development and then related it with BRAC. He briefed about various programs of BRAC, their interventions and achievements. A short documentary on BRAC was also screened to supplement these. Later he asked students to share their feedback. Finally, he showed a video speech of **Sir Fazle**

Hasan Abed on BRAC University. He ended the event by answering students' questions. Overall, the program was informative, participatory and enjoyable.

SECS Updates

SCHOOL VISITS and Out Reach programs

Children, now a days are so interested to know more about robots and their functions. We were surprised when we heard that they knew a lot about NASA Lunabotic Mining Competition and it's purpose. The team visited four different educational institutes of Bangladesh, namely Nur Muhammad Rifles Public School and College, The New School Dhaka(NSD), Munshi Abdur Rouf Public College and Teknaf Pilot School. Along with the Chondrobot 3, a few more robots were taken those were made by BRAC University students.

Outreach program at Birshreshtha Nur Muhammad Public College

The whole program was divided in three parts. In the main auditorium the program was organized. In the first part, girls of the school and college were present. First of all ,Nurul Islam sir introduced our whole team. Then the presentation was started by the team leader of Chondrobot 3, RisulKarim. After the presentation, the video of our work in Chondrobot 3 was shown in the projector. All were very thrilled to see the video. Then a question answer session was held. The top five students who answered the question got the opportunity to control the robot. The students were pleased to run the robot.

After this session all the teacher of the college were starting to come in the auditorium. They were very contented to know about the robot. After the slide shows and movie clips, everyone gave their valuable speech. After their speech we started our next session with the boys of class 9-10.

We continued the same procedure what we did in the first session. After this session college boys came to the third and final session. The students showed their great interest on robotics and were very helpful during the program.

Outreach Program at New School Dhaka

New School Dhaka or NSD is a high profiled English medium school in its area. The school does not have much space but a well-qualified branch of faculties. They cooperated us very well to conduct the outreach program in all aspects. There were about 150 students involved in the program.

We divided thestudents into two groups, one was senior group and another was junior group. Senior group consisted of the students from level 5 to level 11. On the other hand, junior group consisted of level 1 to level 4.

When we were presenting ideas about robot to the senior group in class room, some of us were presenting the Chondrobot 3 in front of the school building to the junior group. We only showed Chondrobot 3 to the junior group and told basics of how it works.

In the room, the curiousness of the students were filled the air. They asked great number of questions to us. We were very happy to answer them. We also discussed some aeronautical issues as they showed their interest on it. Many students showed their eagerness to join in our robotics team in near future. After the question-answer session students operated Chondrobot by themselves. Our team invited them all to visit the robotics lab at our University. It was an enriched program at New School Dhaka.

Outreach Program at Birshreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf Public College

Birshreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf Public College is directly operated by the Border Guard of Bangladesh. It has huge infrastructure, surrounding area and great number of students. It needs special permission to visit this college for any outsiders.

We reached at the college at 10.30 am. Students welcomed us warmly. There were four sessions in total and around 4000 students were involved in the program. At first, we showed a drill in the field of the college. One of us was giving description with microphone and other members were operating the Chondrobot V3. The field is surrounded by three buildings. At the time of drill, all the lobbies of three buildings were crowded by students. Mostly, they were junior students starting from grade 1 to 8. We demonstrated our Luna*Bot and described how it works.

The second session started at the auditorium of the college. The audiences were students of grade 11 and all from science background. They were highly interested and curious about our robot. We discussed about robotics, how to start working on it and how to deal with the obstacles while designing a robot. After

the discussion we asked them questions about NASA and it's programs. Students who gave the right answer were selected to operate the robot at their hand. They also shared their opinion to the whole group. Before finishing we gave Luna*Bot's outreach activity sheets provided by NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

Third session was a bit different. All the students were from Business Studies and Arts. However, they were no less interested than the students from science background. The session was less technical but more descriptive. We showed how Curiosity Rover Landed Safely on Mars. They were much astonished by seeing this. They also gained knowledge viewing a video presentation on the evolution Chondrobot 3. This video covered the making process of Chondrobot version 1 (one), version 2 (two) and 3 (three). We ended the session discussing the relation between Business and Arts with robotics.

There were overwhelming situation in the fourth and final session. Every inch of the two storied auditorium was filled up by the students. That was a combination of students from all grades and backgrounds. In this session we covered technical site of the robotics briefly and the other perspectives as well. The video presentations which were showed in the previous session were also placed in this session. Finally, we showed the Luna*Bot to them, wanted to hear from them about it and corrected them - when needed. The program was closed with the final photo session.

Seven members from BRACU Chondrobot 3 team conducted the program. **Dr. Khalilur Rhaman**, Associate Professor of CSE Department, BRAC University and the advisor of Chondrobot 3 team were present in the program. The Head of Relationship Management Office of BRAC University, **Ismat Shereen**also attended in the first session. Birshreshtha Munshi Abdur RoufPublic College was represented by the Principle and all the department heads. They were very pleased about the outreach program and said that they will invite our team again. They also added that they will publish a write-up on this program in their annual journal.

Outreach Program at Teknaf Pilot School

Robotics Club included the bicyclist group traveled to Teknaf to conduct an outreach program in Teknaf Pilot School after having a 15hours bus journey. Twelve BRACU students went there with eight bicycle and Chondrobot-3 project. After completing the outreach event the team has a 80km bicycle adventure to Cox's bazar. Chandergari has given accompany to carry Chondrobot and the tired cyclist. The adventure end with the cyclone MOHASHEN worning.

Intra-University Robot Race

Place: BRAC University Robotics Lab.
Date: 16th may 2013
Six Robots competed; four of them could touch the finishing line. The fasted one could finish using only 12 seconds. Most of these handmade robots are made by recycled materials.

2nd International Conference on Informatics, Electronics & Vision (ICIEV-13)17thand 18th may 2013

Sponsored by: IEEE, PAMI TC, OSA the optical Society, SICE, ICROS, CNSER
Place: Dhaka University
Date: 17th and 18th May 2013.

There is very active participation of BRAC University engineering department. Some faculties were session chair for different sessions. BRAC University has three publications in this IEEE sponsored international conference. Two were presented orally and the other was presented as poster. They also presented some electronic and robotic projects in CNSER Engineering Project Exhibition (CEPE).

Papers published in Proceedings

Paper chosen for oral presentation

[434] **Md. Risul Karim**, **Syed Shaiyan Kamran Waliullah**, **Badruddin Kamal**,**Insan Arafat Jamil**, **Md. Khalilur Rhaman**, **Mumit Khan**, "Automatic Will Enabled System of Multi-ModalOperation", ICIEV-13

[270] **Rubel Biswas**, **Arif Khan**, **Md. Zahangir Alom**. **Mumit Khan**, "NIGHT MODE PROHIBITORY TRAFFIC SIGNS DETECTION", ICIEV-13
Paper chosen for poster presentation

[67] **MarifaFarzin Reza**, **Rizwana Matin**, "Application of Data Mining For Identifying Topicsat the Document Level", ICIEV-13

CNSER Engineering Project Exhibition (CEPE)

Four Robotic studentprojects were displayed in CNSER Engineering Project Exhibition (CEPE), conducted by Engineering Students Association of Bangladesh(ESAB) on the occasion of ICIEV'13.BRACU Robotics Club helped the BRACU teams to make the event successful.
Name of the Project: Chondrobot-2, 2nd Generation Car security System, Body Controllable Surrogate Robot, IMV012

CHONDROBOT-3 team went to NASA for attending 4th Lunabotics Mining Competition-2013 in Florida, USA.

This time BRAC University attended virtually in LMC2013. Three Students went to Kennedy Space Center, Florida for showcasing their Chondrobot-3 project along with five other teams from Bangladesh. Students came back with huge inspiration and a lot of experience.

39th IEEE Photovoltaic Specialists Conference, 2013, Florida

Paper chosen for poster presentation. **Ahmed Hosne Zenan** presented this paper which could grab significant attention of research community.
(#417) **Ahmed Hosne Zenan**, **Sanjana Ahmed**, **Md. Khalilur Rahman**, **Md. Mosaddequr Rahman**, "A Multilevel Solar Panel System for Urban Areas", 39th IEEE Photovoltaic Specialists Conference, Florida

SPH Updates

Farewell to SPH Dean Timothy G. Evans

James P Grant School of Public Health organised a farewell gathering in honour of outgoing Dean **Dr. Timothy G. Evans** on 19 June 2013 at the School. Faculties, colleagues and students spoke on the occasion commemorating his contribution to the development of the school. The staffs of JPGSPH showed a video compiling funny experience and pleasant memories with Tim. The students also performed music and poetry recitation in relation to his hearty attachments with the school. Dr. Tim also acknowledged that he passes his best three years of his life with the School in Bangladesh. **Dr. Timothy G. Evans** joined BRAC University from August 2010. Prior to joining here, he was Assistant Director General of the World Health Organization in Geneva. He was seconded to BRAC University from icddr,b as a senior strategic adviser on knowledge translation. Dr. Evans has worked as Assistant Professor of International Health Economics at the Harvard School of Public health and as Director of the Health Equity at the Rockefeller Foundation. He is now posted in The World Bank in Washington DC as Director, Health.

Tanahashi 6th round focuses on MPH education

The sixth meeting of the Tanahashi Rounds, a joint initiative by the James P Grant School of Public Health at BRAC University and UNICEF under the facilitating support of Center of Excellence for Universal Health Coverage (CoE-UHC) project at icddr,b and JPGSPH was held on June 19 at the JPGSPH. The objective of the Tanahashi Rounds is to share new knowledge on the cross-sector application of the Tanahashi model in the context of Bangladesh. Assessing

supply and demand bottlenecks that constrain effective and equitable coverage of essential services and practices is of critical importance to claim holders and duty bearers alike.

The topic for the 6th round was "Can training on Tanahashi break bottlenecks in MPH Education: Students' experience from the field?" **Dr. Tajudeen OYEWALE**, Chief of Field Operations and HIV-AIDS, UNICEF Bangladesh inaugurated the session with his presentation 'Building Knowledge Partnership on bottleneck analysis with MPH Students of James P Grant School of Public Health BRAC University'. Two best performing students' group from Health Systems module of MPH programme of JPGPSH presented their findings in the session.
The discussion was moderated by Professor Dr. Timothy G. Evans, Dean of the

JPGSPH and Dr. Pascal Villeneuve, UNICEF Representative

JPGSPH organizes basic security awareness training for MPH students
With the assistance from UN Bangladesh and Fire Service and Civil Defence, James P Grant School of Public Health organized a Basic Security Awareness Training for its MPH students on June 15, 2013. The objective of this training was to create and enhance security awareness among MPH students in the light of emergency and disaster situation including recent issue such as Rana Plaza crisis. The full day training included didactic lectures, power point presentations, simulation and half day field visit to Fire Service and Civil Defence at Mirpur 10. Under the facilitation of **Mr. Gerson Brandao**, Humanitarian Affairs Advisor, UN Bangladesh, students were orientated with basic awareness on how to deal with emergency situation. In the afternoon session **Major Mohammad Zihadul Islam**, Director (Training, Planning & Development) facilitated the fire drill for the students.

TLC Updates

Series of TLC short sessions with Pharmacy department

TLC has been conducting series of short sessions on teaching-learning topics for the students of Pharmacy department of BRACU.
The session on Team Building: A path towards the Win-Win situation was held on June 20th, 2013 at UB10201. The focus of the session was to learn the importance of effective team building and to have better understanding on how a team forms. The session objectives also put emphasize on resolving team-conflicts towards achieving win-win position in a team. The session was started with a discussion on- Team's spirit and its importance and then continued through a PowerPoint presentation, followed by numbers of team building exercises. The session was wrapped by getting reflections from the students and a wonderful team building song. Eighteen students from Pharmacy department of BRACU attended this session. The session

was designed and facilitated by **MS. Samina Anzum Chowdhury**, Lecturer-III, TLC.

The session on Effective Interpersonal Communication skills was held on 24th June 2013 at UB#30601. This session was designed with a view to enabling the students in using interpersonal communication skills effectively in classroom context. The students were involved in different hands-on activities both individually and in groups and they felt the need for gaining better factual understanding of a situation by asking questions and checking understanding with others. It is expected that they will tend to interpret a given message appropriately and will respond to it spontaneously. The exercises done in the session intended to help them in developing awareness for positive work relationship by being thoughtful, enquiring and balanced in classroom. Twenty students of Pharmacy department participated in that interactive session. The duration of the session was 1.10 hrs and it was facilitated by **Mr. Muhammad Foysal Mubarak**, Lecturer of TLC.

'Introduction to Research' was one of the short sessions held on 30th June at UB# 10203. The session was designed in such a way that the students would be able to gain some basic knowledge on research and prepare a concept note for research. The session started with a critical brainstorming on the definition of research and facilitators introduced a mind game with the students for brain storming. Later a PowerPoint presentation was given by the faculties followed by two group works where each of the groups needed to indentify some differences between qualitative and quantitative research and the students gave oral presentations on it. At the end of the session students were assigned to develop a concept note of a research in group. Thirteen students of Pharmacy department participated in the session. The session was conducted and designed by Ms. Sabrina Syed, Lecturer of TLC and **Dr. Nadira Sultana Kakoly**, Research Supervisor, JPGSPH.

TLC supports in facilitating PSDP (Professional skills Development Program) sessions- Summer 2013

PSDP sessions commenced from 20th June, 2013. A total number of 177 registered students are doing this program in summer semester, 2013. The course has been designed for the students of BRACU who have enrolled in their last semester of graduation. The focus of this course is to enhance the abilities and confidence of students by providing professional support in their pursuit of career

success. These participatory sessions follow several activities like presentation, group discussions, employability skills tests and real life examples etc. The sessions focus on how a student should take preparation for facing the job market, how they can organize their ideas and thoughts in appropriate way to represent the qualities, what measures should be taken in order to achieve their dream job, how they can develop networking, interpersonal and professional skills etc. The activities of these sessions intend to fulfill their needs with regards to skill development so that they can have smooth transitions into the professional world. From these sessions the students get help to explore and investigate their potential career in accordance with their interest. PSDP sessions are facilitated in four sections simultaneously. **Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali**, **Ms. Samina Anzum Chowdhury**, **Ms. Sabrina Syed** and **Mr. Muhammad Foysal Mubarak**, faculty members of TLC are facilitating these sessions in collaboration with CSO.

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