

**Institute of Governance Studies
BRAC University**

Annual Report

2007



Bringing Value to Public Life

The Institute

The Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) is a research, training and teaching institute of BRAC University. In 2007, the Institute responded to the great political changes seen in Bangladesh at the turn of the year. As a result of these changes the Institute experienced a number of major changes which placed it at the forefront of cutting edge research and genuine two-way partnership with the government. On 22nd July 2007 the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) became the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS).

UNCAC

The Institute provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs (MoLJPA) in producing 'UNCAC: A Bangladesh Compliance & Gap Analysis' report. The MoLJPA presented the report at the second Conference of the States Parties for UNCAC held in Bali, Indonesia. The Bangladeshi delegation was headed by Mr Manzoor Mannan, Commissioner, Anti-Corruption Commission, other delegates included several senior government officials and from the Institute, Mr Manzoor Hasan, Ms Tahmina Rahman & Mr Saiful Bhuiyan.

The report 'UNCAC: A Bangladesh Compliance & Gap Analysis' is a result of an extraordinary effort of coordination and cooperation among all concerned government institutions of Bangladesh, the Institute, and the German Technical Cooperation. A first of its kind the report provided an analysis of the entire set of anti-corruption laws, institutions and processes of Bangladesh against the UNCAC standards. The report concluded that in terms of legal regime, Bangladesh is largely compatible with standards and principles of the UNCAC and highlights a number of initiatives undertaken by the government in critical areas of

governance that helped address weaknesses with regard to both gaps in the law and practice. It recommended the development of a time bound action plan taking into account ongoing initiatives to addressing challenges and improving practice.

National Integrity Strategy

The Institute commenced discussion with the Cabinet Division, Government of Bangladesh (GoB) to develop an integrated anti-corruption strategy for Bangladesh to be known as Bangladesh National Integrity Strategy (NIS). IGS will be providing technical assistance to GoB to formulate the NIS in 2008.

Education

The Masters programme offered at the Institute continued in 2007. The University conferred Masters Degree in Governance & Development to 15 students at the Third Convocation. Ms Asma Dina Ghani was the first student from the Institute to receive the Vice Chancellor's medal for her academic achievements. The second batch of the Masters programme began in July 2007 at the Training & Resource Centre (TARC), Savar. The Masters programme contains an international learning and sharing visit as part of their studies and the second batch of students began a month long tour of South Korea and China in November. The Korea Development Institute (KDI) hosted the students for fifteen days which included workshops and seminars aimed at enhancing and providing a rounded understanding of the processes of governance from an international perspective. After completing their trip to Korea, the students travelled to Sichuan Province, China, where they were hosted by Sichuan University.

The Institute is committed to broaden the horizon of governance in Bangladesh. Keeping this in mind, the Institute signed a MoU with the University of Manitoba, Canada to develop a Certificate course on Environmental Governance in partnership with assistance from Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA); this will be offered from the Institute in 2008. The Institute also signed a MoU with North-South University (NSU) and Centre for Natural Resources Studies (CNRS) to facilitate this course. The Institute signed a MoU with George Mason University (GMU) in November to facilitate closer ties with faculty and research staff of both institutions.

Public Policy Papers

Another significant activity of IGS in 2007 was to launch the policy note series on *Institutions of Accountability*. The research conducted by the Institute is designed to enhance the knowledge and to constructively engage with public institutions in the reform process dialogue. The findings and recommendations are disseminated through policy notes and background papers. The policy notes have been divided into four themes: Independence, Accountability, Effectiveness and Efficiency. In 2007 the Institute hosted the two international workshops on the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and the Public Service Commission (PSC) as part of the series. Both workshops were attended by government officials, civil society organisations, donor agencies and academia. The Institute published policy notes on the basis of research conducted and discussions from the international workshops. The policy notes have been widely disseminated and available on the Institute's website (www.igs-bracu.ac.bd).

The State of Governance in Bangladesh project

After the successful launch of 'The State of Governance in Bangladesh 2006: Knowledge, Perception, Reality' report, the Institute earnestly began research on 'The State of Governance in Bangladesh 2007' report. The report aimed to track and document events as they happened and provided an analytical narrative of the year of change and uncertainties in 2007. The report was divided into four sections: *Political Governance, Enabling Environment for Good Governance (national survey), NGO Governance and Reports from the frontline of bad governance: evidence on crime, violence and human insecurity*. A national survey was conducted to secure a quantitative analysis of the state of governance under the caretaker government in 2007. A summary of the findings of the survey will be included in 'The State of Governance in Bangladesh 2007' report, which is available on the IGS website.

Executive Training

For the first time the Institute organised a two-week course on 'Sustainable Water Management and Good Governance' for twenty young professionals of the Bangladesh Water Development Board 17 February – 1 March 2007 at BCDM Rajendrapur, as part of the Institute's professional training programme. The course familiarised the participants with principles of good governance and their importance for management of natural resources through a series of lectures, case studies, participatory exercises and participants' presentations.

Seminar Series

The Institute also hosted seminars where international scholars presented the findings of their latest research paper. Dr Jose Campos, Lead Governance Adviser for Bangladesh, World Bank, presented his paper on 'Managing the Politics of Reform Overhauling the Legal Infrastructure of Public procurement in the Philippines' in September. Dr Paul Posner, Programme Director, George Mason University presented his paper on 'Third Party Governance: Transformations in Public Management' in November. Dr Akhlaque Haque, Visiting Fulbright Professor and Associate Professor at The University of Alabama at Birmingham, presented his paper on 'Local Government Capacity Building Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS)' in December.

Publications & Presentations

The Institute encourages faculty and research staff to submit scholarly work for publication. Mr Haydory Akbar Ahmed, presented a keynote paper at the workshop organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) on 'Right to Transparent Governance: Bangladesh Perspective' held at CIRDAP auditorium, Dhaka. On the invitation of the Young Economists Forum at North South University (NSU), Mr Ahmed also presented the keynote paper on 'Bangladesh Bank Autonomy: Some Thoughts at the International Conference of Young Economists 2007' in June. Mr Manzoor Hasan & Dr Shahnaz Karim presented the Keynote paper, 'Harnessing the potentials of Good Local Governance', at *Local Governance: Grassroots Experiences & Perspective* workshop held in September. Mr Manzoor Hasan also presented a paper, 'Public Sector Corruption in Bangladesh: Political & Bureaucratic', at the *Victory Day Commemorative Seminar* organised by the Bangladesh International Institute for Strategic Studies (BISS).

The Institute co-hosted with the South Asian Institute of Advanced Legal & Human Rights Studies, the launch of Dr Sharif Bhuiyan's first book, *National Law in WTO Law: Effectiveness and Good Governance in the World Trading System* published by Cambridge University Press. Dr Bhuiyan is a faculty of IGS, teaching 'Laws of International Governance & Cooperation' on the Masters programme.

New Recruits

The Institute recruited 12 additional staff & faculty in 2007. Dr Shahnaz Karim joined the Institute as Assistant Director. Mr Sanjan Haque joined the institute as Research Associate/Lecturer. Mr. Mohin Khan joined the Institute as Programme Development Officer. Mr Niloy Ranjan Biswas & Mr Asif Shahan joined the Institute as Research Assistants. Ms Afroja Khanam joined the Institute as Programme Assistant (academic). Mr Arsil Islam joined the Institute as a Programme Assistant. Ms Tahmina Rahman joined the Institute as Research Coordinator. Mr Quazi Tarique-ul-Alam joined the Institute as Programme Manager (admin). Dr M Emdadul Haq joined the Institute as Professor. Mr Morshed Alom joined the Institute as Research Associate. Mr Sydur Rahman Molla joined the Institute as Project Officer.

Visiting Scholars

Throughout the year, the Institute hosted visiting faculty and researchers. In 2007, the Institute hosted three Fulbright Scholars; Mr Steven Micetic joined IGS in a Research capacity. Dr Akhlaque Haque, a Visiting Fulbright Professor and Associate Professor at The University of Alabama at Birmingham, joined the Institute to conduct research in governance & Global Information System (GIS). Dr David Skully, Fulbright Fellow, joined the Institute to carry out research in the State of Governance in Bangladesh project. Mr Saiful Bhuiyan joined the Institute as Project Associate

(part-time) on the 'UNCAC: A Bangladesh Compliance & Gap Analysis' project. The institute also hosted two research interns for the 'State of Governance in Bangladesh' project, Ms Rabab Ahmed & Ms Nuzhat Jabin.

In May, the Institute moved into its permanent new residence in Gulshan, Dhaka. The new location is a two-storied spacious, modern and vibrant building with ample room for expansion.

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