



January-March 2010
Vol IX Issue 1

CPD

Centre for
Policy
Dialogue
Bangladesh

Quarterly

FROM the editor's desk

During January-March 2010, one of the most important events from the point of view of the manufacturing sector was formation of the Minimum Wage Board for the RMG workers. The Board was established in January 2010, and since then discussions have been taking place to revise the level of minimum wages, particularly for the workers of grade 7 which is currently Tk. 1,662.5. There is a huge gap between workers' demand (Tk. 6,200) and the latest offer by the entrepreneurs (Tk. 1,989). As it appears, the position taken by the workers and entrepreneurs is to carry on with the negotiation for the next several months so that an "acceptable" solution can be arrived at. Although there are specific rules and regulations which are to be taken cognisance of in determining the minimum wages, reaching a consensus is never going to be easy. There is a strong debate on various issues to be considered for determination of wages. For example, is the inflationary adjustment adequate to accommodate the rise of level of living? How to estimate the capacity of business (i.e. entrepreneurs) without having adequate information on various nodal points in value addition (i.e. cutting and making charges), cost of production and entrepreneurs' profits? How to accommodate the rise of workers' productivity in the adjustment of workers' wages since information on workers' productivity is scarce and unreliable? How and to what extent the minimum wage would accommodate the subsistence level of income required for a "family"? What is the definition of a family? Whether the minimum wage set in 2006 should be an acceptable "benchmark" for adjustment since it is alleged that it was set at an unacceptably lower level? The ability to reach a consensus would largely depend on how effectively these issues will be handled in the course of the discussion at the Wage Board in the coming months. It is hoped that the members of the Wage Board will come up with minimum wages for workers of all grades which will be acceptable to the workers as well as to the entrepreneurs.



Dipu Moni, MP is addressing the dialogue. Mustafizur Rahman, Rehman Sobhan, Reaz Rahman, M Rahmatullah and M Syeduzzaman are also seen in the picture (from left)

Dhaka-Delhi Joint Communiqué

CPD Dialogue Stresses Closer Regional Cooperation

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organised a dialogue on *Advancing Bangladesh-India Economic Cooperation: Modalities and Challenges* on 4 March 2010 at the CIRDAP Auditorium in Dhaka with Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, CPD, in the chair. Dr Dipu Moni, MP, Hon'ble Minister for Foreign Affairs, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest while Dr Mashiur Rahman and Reaz Rahman were present as the Special Guest and the Guest of Honour respectively. CPD Executive Director Professor Mustafizur Rahman and Dr M Rahmatullah, Former Director, Transport, UN-ESCAP, Bangkok made two presentations at the dialogue. Mustafizur Rahman, in his presentation on "Trade-Related Issues in Bangladesh-India Joint Communiqué: Maximising Bangladesh's Benefits and Strategies for Future," highlighted the economic issues in the communiqué, tasks for Bangladesh to design follow-up actions in line with the agreements and recent trends in bilateral trade with India, modalities to reduce Indian sensitive list and address the non-tariff barriers (NTBs) to trade and potentials for Bangladesh's trade with India's north-eastern states. He stated that north-eastern region of India presents good opportunity for Bangladesh's export. These opportunities could be best realised if they are

economically developed at a faster pace and Bangladesh facilitates this process through various avenues of deepening cooperation with India. CPD Executive Director said India should be pursued to take out items from the sensitive list as revenue loss for her would be very insignificant even if all Bangladeshi goods get duty-free access. He noted that a comprehensive mechanism is needed to deal with the NTBs. Mutual recognition of standard and testing institutions could be a way forward in this regard, he said. The highlights of the second presentation on "Regional Connectivity for Trading in Transport Services" by Dr M Rahmatullah, included opportunities for Bangladesh to trade in transport services, learning from experiences of other countries, regional connectivity, and implications of recent joint communiqué signed by Bangladesh and India. He mentioned that providing connectivity and use of port facilities could open up opportunities for export services by Bangladesh. He pointed out that prospects for regional patronage for a deep-sea port in Bangladesh would increase manifold if connectivity to neighbouring countries is provided. The speakers at the dialogue laid emphasis on strengthening the relations not only with India, but also with Nepal and Bhutan. They observed that India needed initiatives to settle issues like border,

(Continued on page 3)



State of the Economy in FY2009-10

CPD Review Identifies Areas of Emerging Concern

"Most formidable challenges for the government now are to contain inflationary pressure and tackle the growing power deficit in the industrial sector."

Such observations were made in a review paper of the CPD prepared under its programme Independent Review of Bangladesh's Development (IBRD). Titled *State of the Bangladesh Economy in FY2009-10: From Stability to Accelerated Growth*, the review paper was released at a press conference on 11 January 2010 at its Dhanmondi office in Dhaka.

Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director of CPD, presented and explained various aspects of the review report to the media where CPD IRBD 2009-10 team was also present.

This year's mid-year report included analysis of areas such as public finance, monetary sector, real sector, external sector, inflation and price, and social sectors. The challenges for the FY2009-10 identified were revitalising investments, stimulating export sector, consolidating agriculture, maintaining fiscal



Mustafizur Rahman is making the presentation while other members of the CPD IRBD team look on

balance, enhancing employment opportunities, combating climate change, enlivening development administration, continuing the reforms, and maintaining vigilance against potential inflationary pressure. According to the CPD report, other areas of concern at this time for the government are shortfall in revenue collection against the target, decline in imports of capital machinery

and raw materials, and in disbursement of term loans in large industries. The situation led to a slump in investment, the report pointed out. Besides, fall in production in large enterprises of the manufacturing sector, high excess liquidity in the banking sector, downward demand for loans, concern over interest of farmers and consumers, and pressure on manpower export due to global recession have put strain on the economic situation.

While dwelling on the report, Mustafiz said achieving 6 per cent growth as envisioned by the government in the current fiscal would be difficult as the recent increase in the demand for electricity and gas in the industrial production ranges between 8 per cent and 20 per cent. This may increase further in future. He observed that although the government has taken some steps in this regard this has been a stumbling block for industrial output and urgent actions are required to improve the situation. The CPD Executive Director further said since July 2009, inflation has been on the rise, as

(Continued on page 5)

Restructuring of Jute Sector Brooks No Delay

CPD Dialogue Sheds Light on Possible Actions

Jute and Textiles Minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui, MP spelt out his government's steps and plans at a local level dialogue on finding out possible ways to restructure country's ailing jute sector.

Co-organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and the Economics Discipline of Khulna University, the dialogue titled *Restructuring of the Jute Manufacturing Sector in Bangladesh: Challenges and Options* was held at the Academic Building of the University on 31 January 2010. The Minister was present on the occasion as the Chief Guest while Dr Md Saifuddin Shah, Vice-Chancellor and Dr Purnendu Gain, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Khulna University attended the dialogue as Special Guests with Executive Director of CPD Professor Mustafizur Rahman in the chair. Senior Research Fellow of CPD Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem presented the keynote paper "Restructuring of the Jute Manufacturing Sector in Bangladesh at a Crossroad: Challenges and the Way-out." Teachers and students of Khulna University, political leaders, private sector entrepreneurs, jute trade union leaders, senior officials of both public and private sector jute mills attended the dialogue.



Abdul Latif Siddiqui, MP is addressing the dialogue while (from left) Md Saifuddin Shah, Mustafizur Rahman, Purnendu Gain and Khondaker Golam Moazzem are paying attention

Dr Moazzem stressed the need for policy interventions in three core areas such as strengthening relevant institutions, undertaking necessary reforms and restructuring of the BJMC, and raising the efficacy of privatisation of the SOEs related to the jute sector. His recommendations to revive the jute sector include improving management in the jute mills run by the BJMC, finding new markets for jute and jute goods, decentralisation of the jute mills, setting up of jute training institutes in the country, etc. The Minister in his speech observed that the

problem is not with the jute industry, rather it lies in the financial management of the sector.

He informed that the government is taking steps, including reinstatement of the retrenched workers and opening up of the closed jute mills. Peoples Jute Mill, Daulatpur Jute Mill, and Qaumi Jute Mill, now closed, will be reopened by August. The government would impart training to both workers and management personnel in the jute sector, he added.

He stressed the need for formulating state policies for this and said the state can stand strong if a sound political system can be established. Citing a sign of revitalisation of the jute sector in the country, the Minister pointed out that the main problem in the sector now is the lack of high quality jute seeds. Due to lack of water in the water bodies, rotting green jutes has also become a great problem, Siddiqui noted.

The Minister urged the trade union leaders to shift their attitude from agitation towards production-oriented activities. In this regard, he said, "Please let the workers live in peace."

(Continued on page 4)

Indo-Bangladesh Dialogue

Nobel Laureates Explain Education and Health Scenarios

Two Nobel Laureates from Bangladesh and India shared their insights on the issues of education and health in the South Asian region at a dialogue jointly organised by the CPD, BRAC and Pratchi Trust in association with the UNICEF Bangladesh. The two-day Indo-Bangladesh Dialogue on *Health and Education: Learning from Neighbours* was held on 13-14 February 2010 at the BRAC Centre Inn in Dhaka.

Nobel Laureates Professor Amartya Sen, Professor Muhammad Yunus, and Sir FH Abed, were the panelists for a session on the first day titled "Ensuring Health for All: How can it be Ensured?" with Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman of CPD, in the chair. The second day of the conference was devoted to discussion on education.

A press conference was held at the end of the two-day dialogue.

In his opening remark Professor Sen said economic advancement is the key to solve the health and education-related problems in the two neighbouring countries. He mentioned that disparity between men and women, especially negligence to women is a serious problem in South Asia as this affects the next generation's health and life expectancy. Sen observed that there is no short-cut way to resolve health and education problems in the region but insisted to have a multidimensional and combined efforts. He also noted that general education has a great role in improving health situation. Sen said the role of education and health should be supplementary. He also stressed the need to address malnutrition. In this connection he

brought in the issue of providing meals during school hours which will help reduce drop-outs. The Noble Laureate observed that many people do not get health services due to lack of democratic practices in many parts of the world. He laid stress on expanding the extent and quality of health services in the public sector. For success of the health and education sectors, problems should be identified first and at the same time, the role of the government, private and NGO sector should be supplementary to one another, he added.

Professor Yunus pointed out that there might be difference of opinion on the ways of delivering health services. But the debate should not continue by keeping the health services suspended at field level. Referring to the Grameen Bank experience Professor Yunus stated that the physicians are reluctant to stay in the village. The Grameen Bank is attaching importance to using modern equipment in this regard. He said that the distance between the physicians and the patients can be reduced by using mobile phones.

Both the Noble Laureates mentioned that Bangladesh and India could learn from Japan and Europe who had made tremendous success in the 19th century to improve their health condition.

During the conference Bangladesh Health Watch Report 2009 was also launched. The conference was attended by eminent experts on health and education from India and Bangladesh including Anil Bordia, Chair, Foundation for Education and Development, India and Professor R Govinda, Vice Chancellor of Educational Planning and Administration, India.

CPD In-house Dialogue Held

Managing Labour Migration: Implications for Bangladesh

An in-house dialogue on *Managing Labour Migration: Implications for Bangladesh* was held at the Dialogue Room of the CPD on 21 March 2010.

Professor Philip L Martin, Department of Agriculture and Resources Economics, University of California, Davis, USA, made the presentation. Sabreen S Rahman, Program Development Adviser of the American Center in Dhaka and CPD researchers were present at the session. Professor Martin observed that the international labour migration increases with demographic and economic inequalities and globalisation. Bangladesh's labour migration scenario was highlighted in the



Philip L Martin is seen making the presentation while CPD researchers are paying attention

dialogue showing that about 60 per cent of Bangladeshi migrants make their own arrangement to go to their destinations, 39 per cent leave with the help of recruiters and one per cent take help from Bangladesh Overseas Employment Services Ltd. (BOESEL). It was concluded that low-skilled Bangladeshi workers pay relatively higher recruitment costs. Recommendations were made for shifting migrants from the GCC "cash cows" to "star" destinations including the UK, US and Europe, and developing "Brand Bangladesh" via internationally accredited training institutions and certificates.

Dhaka-Delhi Joint Communiqué

(From page 1)

maritime boundary, water sharing and energy cooperation as Bangladesh was trying to develop road communication with India.

The Foreign Minister observed that the recent Bangladesh-India initiatives are aimed at deepening the relations between the two countries and resolving the unsettled issues. She further said that such initiatives are not only confined to strengthening bilateral ties but also to fostering cooperation in the region by the inclusion of Nepal and Bhutan. These have been reflected in the joint communiqué and it would act as the basis for moving forward all relevant issues, she added. The Foreign Minister urged the opposition parties

to come up with constructive criticism, and help the government towards successful implementation of the communiqué.

Former State Minister for Foreign Affairs Reaz Rahman referred to the huge trade gap with India. He expressed the view that India would benefit further if she is allowed to use Bangladesh's territory for movement of goods and services. Bangladesh's gain from such arrangement will not be significant, he claimed. Mashhur Rahman underscored the need for working on justifying the reasons for import from India and ascertaining the possibilities for export to India. He termed the joint communiqué an important step towards

strengthening ties with India upholding the interests of Bangladesh.

Former Finance Minister M Syeduzzaman felt the necessity of forming a task force comprising Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Bhutan, which would expedite the issue of enhancing the regional ties. MCCI President Anis Ud Dowla highlighted the urgency for regional cooperation in the present context and expressed the view that it required a shift in the mindset. The negotiations need to be done in such a way that both the parties can have a win-win situation. Fazlul Azim MP, Commerce Secretary Golam Hossain and FBCCI Advisor Manzur Ahmed also took part in the discussion.



Expert Group Talks Strategies for Pharma Sector



Syed Saifuddin Hossain is presenting CPD's assessment while professionals from pharmaceutical sector are also seen in the picture

An expert group meeting on *Strategies for the Development of Pharmaceutical Sector of Bangladesh* was organised on 10 January 2010 at CPD to discuss the preliminary findings of a CPD research titled "Development of Pharmaceutical Sector in Bangladesh: Current Concerns and Future Strategies." Syed Saifuddin Hossain, Senior Research Associate, CPD made a presentation at the meeting which focused on the outlook of Bangladesh's pharmaceutical sector for 2016 and beyond in view of the WTO decisions regarding TRIPS and public health. The meeting particularly discussed the export performance of the pharmaceutical sector in Bangladesh, reasons for success in the pharmaceutical business, major weaknesses in the pharmaceutical sector, and challenges and strategies to turn the potentials of the sector into practice. Senior officials of the leading pharmaceutical companies in Bangladesh attended the meeting.

Diplomats are Exposed to CPD's State of the Economy Analysis

CPD IRBD team met the ambassadors at a breakfast meeting on 22 January 2010 at the Westin Hotel in the city. The highlights of a report on the State of the Economy FY2009-10 was presented before the Ambassadors by Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director, CPD which was released earlier at a press briefing at the CPD office. He particularly focused and elaborated on the challenges facing Bangladesh now. The presentation was

followed by a discussion session. At the breakfast meeting, among others, HE Urs Herren, Switzerland, HE Dr Justin Lee, Australia, HE Dr Stefan Frowein, EU, Robert Beadle of CIDA, Arne Huag, Norway, Dr Renata Lok Dessalien, of UNDP were present. At the request from the UN resident representative Renata Lok the same presentation on the state of the Bangladesh economy was again made at the UNDP office on 2 February 2010.

CPD's 33rd Board of Trustees Meeting

The 33rd meeting of the CPD Board of Trustees (BoT) was held at the CPD Dialogue Room on Thursday 18 February 2010. The Board reviewed CPD's research, publication and dialogue activities at national, regional and international levels during the period for August 2009 - February 2010. The Board expressed satisfaction over the performance of the CPD in this period.

CPD BoT approved CPD's half yearly accounts for the year 2009 and the budget for the year 2010. The Board also discussed and approved CPD's Strategic Plan of activities for the period of 2010-2014. The Board

endorsed CPD's plan for Research, Dialogue and Publication for 2010. Presided over by Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, CPD, the BoT meeting was attended by CPD Trustees Syed Manzur Elahi, Former Advisor to the Caretaker Government and Chairman, APEX Group; Nurul Haq, Former Member, Planning Commission; Khushi Kabir, Coordinator, Nijera Kori; M Syeduzzaman, Former Finance Minister; and Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director, CPD and Member Secretary of the CPD Board. Anisatul Fatema Yousuf, Director, Dialogue and Communication Division, CPD attended the meeting on invitation.

Restructuring of Jute Sector

(From page 2)

Mustafizur Rahman noted that the aim of organising such a dialogue is to provide policy inputs to the government to develop the jute industry of the country and explore new markets across the world. He suggested setting up of jute training centres and measures to raise the competitiveness of the sector in the global market.

Among others, Noni Gopal Mondal, MP from Khulna-1; Sheikh Harunur Rashid, Former Whip of Parliament; Dr Mohammad Ziaul Haider, Head of Economics Discipline of Khulna University; Khaill Hossain, General Secretary, Committee for Protection of Jute and Jute Industry; Forhad Ahmed Akand, Senior Vice President, Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industry also spoke on the occasion.

WB Economists' Visit to CPD

Diepak Elmer and Md Abul Bashar, Economists of the World Bank visited CPD on 24 January 2010. They met the senior CPD researchers and discussed issues and concerns related to textile and apparels sector in view of the global financial crisis.



YSSS

FDI Scenario in LDCs

The challenges facing flow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to the least developed countries (LDCs) was highlighted at a presentation at CPD on 25 February 2010. This was a part of CPD's Young Scholars Seminar Series (YSSS).

Laura Jepson, a graduate from Canada who is doing an internship at the CPD made a presentation titled "FDI in LDCs: Challenges, Experiences and Suggestions for the upcoming LDC IV." In her presentation Laura explored factors affecting the flow of FDI to LDCs, attendant problems and challenges, expected benefits of FDI, and policy weaknesses that inhibit FDI's contribution in LDCs. The paper suggested that it is important for the LDC governments to put in place conducive policies for attracting FDI to that inhabit the private sector and improve the overall investment environment.



CPD Stall at

Ekushey

Book Fair

In keeping with its tradition, CPD raised a stall at the Ekushey Book Fair in February 2010. The month-long book fair was held on the occasion of the immortal Ekushey February. Chairman of CPD Professor Rehman Sobhan inaugurated the stall on the premises of the Bangla Academy. Different publications, research journals, dialogue reports, policy papers, newsletters and books brought out by the CPD were on display at the stall.

Professor Rehman Sobhan Turns 76

Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman of the CPD, stepped into 76 on 13 March 2010. CPD accorded a warm reception to Professor Sobhan on the occasion of his 75th birth anniversary at the Spectra Convention Centre on the day. Former students, former colleagues, friends and family members joined CPD family members in extending their warm greetings to Professor Sobhan at the reception. Among others, Noble Laureate Professor Mohammad Yunus, M Syeduzzaman, Member, CPD Board of Trustees, Motiur Rahman of Prothom Alo, Asaduzzaman of BIDS, Ayesha Khanam of Mahila Parishad, Economist Professor Anisur Rahman and CPD Executive Director Professor Mustafizur Rahman, spoke on the occasion. Director, Dialogue and Communication of CPD Anisatul Fatema Yousuf welcomed the guests while Professor Mustafizur Rahman recalled the seminal contribution of Professor Rehman Sobhan as an economist, as development thinker and as civil society activist, his outstanding contribution to the War of Liberation of Bangladesh, Syeduzzaman and Anisur Rahman recalled the important contribution of Professor Sobhan had made towards nation building and economic development of Bangladesh. Speakers highlighted exceptional qualities of Rehman Sobhan as a human being and as a citizen. They recalled his vision, and how he has tried to realise it through the CPD. Everyone wished Professor Rehman Sobhan excellent health and many more years of active service to the nation. Renowned artist Mita Huq rendered Tagore songs on the occasion.



State of the Economy in FY2009-10

(From page 2)

official records showed that the rate of inflation was 6.71 per cent in October against 3.46 per cent in July 2009. Price volatility has also increased in recent times and careful

monitoring in the coming months is needed to maintain macroeconomic stability.

Laying emphasis on higher output of Boro paddy, Rahman said achieving agriculture growth target mainly depends on the Boro output. Rahman expressed the fear that in the

coming days production of rice may fall, but its price may rise in the global market which is likely to create a negative impact on Bangladesh. In this regard, he mentioned about maintaining interest in the agricultural production and keeping the price stable at the consumption level.



CPD Professionals in International Fora

Professor Rehman Sobhan
Chairman

- Attended the Kolkata Group Meeting as a Member, on 15-16 February 2010, in Kolkata, India.
- Attended the Pre-Summit Conference and Board Meeting of the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS), on 23-25 February 2010, in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Presented the Keynote Paper at the Second Annual Conference on "Social Entrepreneurship and International Development," on 26 March 2010, in the University of Virginia, USA.

Mustafizur Rahman
Executive Director

- Attended the meeting on "OECD Global Forum on Development," organised by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), on 28 January 2010, in Paris, France.
- Participated at the "Creating Systemic Change Workshop," organised by the Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento (CEBRAP), on 21-26 February 2010, in Sao Paulo and Barra do Sahy, Brazil.

Dr Uttam Deb
Head, Research Division

- Presented a paper titled *Global Financial Crisis and Food Security in Bangladesh* at the "Regional Workshop on Food and Financial Crisis in Asia," organised by FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, on 23-24 February 2010, in Bangkok, Thailand.

CPD Professionals in National Fora

Dr Uttam Deb
Head, Research Division

- Presented the Keynote Paper on *Public-Private Partnership for Development: A New Way to Forward Bangladesh Agriculture*, at the "4th Convention of the Krishibid Institution," on 11-12 February 2010.

Dr AKM Nazrul Islam
Senior Research Associate

- Presented a paper titled *Labour Outflows and Remittances in the Time of Climate Change: Some Observations*, at a seminar organised by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), on 14 March 2010, in Dhaka.



Staff News

Sungida Rashid Shimul from the Department of Statistics, Dhaka University has joined CPD on 13 January 2010 as Intern for a period of four months.

Kazi Mahmudur Rahman, Senior Research Associate will be on Study Leave from CPD for the period of 27 January 2010 to 31 January 2014 to pursue PhD from the University of Queensland, Australia.

Md Ashiq Iqbal, Senior Research Associate has been awarded with the Australian Leadership Awards to pursue Master's Degree in Development Studies in the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. He will be on Study Leave from CPD for the period of 12 January 2010 to 15 January 2011.

Asif Anwar, Senior Research Associate has been awarded with the Endeavour Awards to pursue MS in International Trade and Economic Relations in Australian National University (ANU), Canberra, Australia. He will be on Study Leave from CPD for the period of 1 February 2010 to 31 January 2012.

Subir Kanti Bairagi, Senior Research Associate has been awarded with the Fulbright Scholarship to pursue MS in Agricultural Economics in the Nebraska University, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA. He will be on Study Leave from CPD for the period of 22 March 2010 to 21 September 2012.



Research Division Report

Bangladesh's Export Opportunities in the Indian Market: Addressing Barriers and Strategies for Future

A study on "Bangladesh's Export Opportunities in the Indian Market: Addressing Barriers and Strategies for Future" was carried out at CPD which investigated opportunities for Bangladesh to expand her exports to India in view of the recent developments of relationship between the two countries. The study revealed that the composition of Bangladesh's export to India has shifted towards newer products while the number of exportable products has also increased significantly. RCA analysis revealed that products with positive comparative advantages, of which raw jute, chemical fertiliser, cement, RMG, leather, battery, textile fabrics, etc., are the most prominent ones, have a combined potential market of USD 2.0 billion in India. Examining the tariff and non-tariff barriers currently faced by Bangladesh in the Indian market, the study emphasised on persuading India to provide duty-free quota-free access for all Bangladeshi products, which is necessary to realise these opportunities, and can be rationalised on the ground that elimination of the entire sensitive list would have an insignificant adverse impact on India's revenue earnings. A comprehensive mechanism to deal with NTBs was also suggested, while improvements of trade-related infrastructure at borders and customs points are highly recommended. Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director, CPD, led the research team while the other members were Towfiqul Islam Khan, Senior Research Associate, CPD, Ashiqun Nabi, Research Associate, CPD and Tapash Kumar Paul, Research Associate, CPD.

Global Economic Crisis and Food Security in Bangladesh

CPD, in collaboration with the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP), Bangkok has completed a study on the "Impact of Global Economic Crisis on Food Security in Bangladesh." The study analysed the evolution and transmission of the global economic crisis in Bangladesh. It has documented public and private sector responses, implications and policy lessons for the agriculture sector and food security in the country. This research was carried out as part of a regional initiative to study the implications of global financial crisis for agriculture and food security in Asia. A team of CPD researchers led by Dr Uttam Deb, Head, Research Division, CPD conducted this research.

Developing a Framework for a Comprehensive Trade Policy of Bangladesh

Trade-led development is increasingly becoming the mainstay of development strategies of Bangladesh. However,

there is strong debate as regards efficacy and effectivity of various trade and investment-related policies currently in operation towards ensuring sustainable development of the country because of various weaknesses in policy documents as well as their implementation. In view of attaining trade-led sustainable development, there is increasingly a felt-need for a comprehensive trade policy for Bangladesh. CPD, in association with Katalyst has initiated a study titled "Developing a Framework for a Comprehensive Trade Policy of Bangladesh." The study will critically assess the coherences of various policies related to trade and investment in order to identify inconsistencies and gaps, identify problems in case of implementation of these policies, analyse and discuss issues and concerns related to trade and investment linkages at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels in the coming decades, and set targets related to production, investment and employment in view of achieving the export targets for major export-oriented and domestic market-oriented industries in the next decade. Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Senior Research Fellow, CPD is the lead researcher of this study, while Dr Nazneen Ahmed, Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and Syed Nasim Manzur, Managing Director of Apex Adelchi Footwear Ltd. will work as consultants for this study. The other members of the study are: Dr Masudur Rahman, Research Fellow, CPD, Md Tariqur Rahman, Research Associate, CPD, and Sharmin Chowdhury, Research Associate, CPD. The study is expected to be completed in February 2011.

Development of an Export Strategy for the Woven Wear Sub-sector of Bangladesh

CPD, in association with the GTZ, has initiated a study on "Development of an Export Strategy for the Woven Wear Sub-sector of Bangladesh" with the objective of identifying potential opportunities to enhance export of woven wear apparels in traditional markets as well as exploring opportunities and challenges to enhance export to non-traditional markets. The study has identified top seven countries outside the US, EU and Canada, which would be potential destinations in the coming decade for enhancing Bangladesh's export. These markets are: Turkey, Japan, South Africa, Mexico, Brazil, South Korea and Australia. Under the study two reports are to be prepared. The first report titled "Bangladesh's Export of Woven Wear Apparels to USA, EU and Canada during 2000s: What Should be the Strategy for the Next Decade?" has been finalised. Analytical work on non-traditional markets is being carried out at present, and the report is expected to be completed by July 2010. The study is being led by Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Senior Research Fellow, CPD. Mr Miran Ali, Managing Director of Bitopi Group is working as a consultant. Afrin Islam, Research Associate, CPD is providing the research support for this study.



CPD Publications

Books



State of the Bangladesh Economy in FY2008-09 and Outlook for FY2009-10

This volume has been published as part of CPD's flagship research programme titled Independent Review of Bangladesh's Development (IBRD) initiated back in 1995. It captured five chapters detailing the State of the Bangladesh Economy in FY2008-09; Analysis of the National Budget for FY2009-10; A Set of Proposal for the National Budget FY2009-10; Delivering on Budget FY2009-10: A Set of Implementation

Issues; and Recent Monetary Policy Statement of Bangladesh Bank (July 2009): An Analytical Commentary; The book attempted at reviewing the behaviour of key macroeconomic indicators during FY2008-09, identifying a number of emerging challenges confronting macroeconomic management by the newly elected government over the next fiscal year of 2009-10, analysing various proposals in the national budget for FY2009-10, growth prospect, budget implementation, domestic resource mobilisation, ADP implementation, PPP and examining steps taken by the Bangladesh Bank to control inflation. The IBRD volume is accompanied by four annexes on different dialogue reports and a list of important economic news in national dailies during the period of January to December 2009.



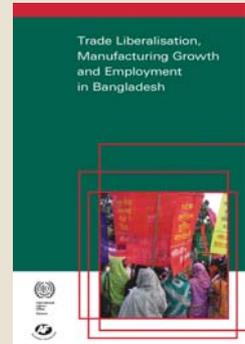
বাংলাদেশের অর্থনীতি: বিশ্লেষণ ২০০৭-০৮ এবং অন্তর্বর্তীকালীন পর্যালোচনা ২০০৮-০৯

This is the Bangla version of the volume "State of the Bangladesh Economy in FY2007-08 and Outlook for FY2008-09." The volume examines and analyses key macroeconomic performance indicators of Bangladesh in the immediate past fiscal year, i.e. FY2007-08. The volume provides an analysis of both the success and failures of economic governance in FY2007-08, and identified major challenges to be addressed

over the FY2008-09. Two additional chapters on the input delivery strategy for higher Boro production and actionable agenda for Boro

procurement strategy to ensure food security in Bangladesh are included in this book with policy suggestions for consideration of the new government.

Trade Liberalisation, Manufacturing Growth and Employment in Bangladesh



This publication is based on a collaborative work that CPD had undertaken in partnership with the ILO, Geneva. The study reviews and analyses major trade policy reforms carried out in Bangladesh over the past years, and based on phasing and sequencing of the reforms identifies a number of distinct periods in the context of trade liberalisation in Bangladesh. The study has undertaken an in-depth analysis of manufacturing growth and employment sector performance in Bangladesh in relation to the various identified stages of trade reforms in the country.

Occasional Papers

- Syed Saifuddin Hossain, Uttam Deb and Muhammad Al Amin. Impact of Information Technology in Trade Facilitation on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in Bangladesh. Occasional Paper 84.
- Uttam Deb and Muhammad Al Amin. Current State of Doha Round Negotiations on Agriculture: Issues, Concerns and Strategies for Bangladesh. Occasional Paper 85.
- State of the Bangladesh Economy in FY2009-10: From Stability to Accelerated Growth. Occasional Paper 86.
- Uttam Deb, Nafisa Khaled, Subir Kanti Bairagi, Muhammad Al Amin, Mazbahul Golam Ahamad and Kaniz Tasnima. Achieving Boro Rice Production Targets in FY2009-10: Challenges and Actions Required. Occasional Paper 87.

Other Publications of CPD Researchers

Uttam Deb. 2010. Adapt and Thrive. Forum, 5 (5).

AKM Nazrul Islam. 2010. Climate Change and South Asia: What Makes the Region Most Vulnerable? MPRA Working Paper No. 21875. Germany: University of Munich.

Hasanuzzaman. 2010. "2009: A Political Economy Review." The New Age, 13 January.

Hasanuzzaman. 2010. "Davos 2010: Expectations versus Reality." The New Age, 28 January.

Hasanuzzaman. 2010. "Parliament: What Art Thou?" The Daily Star, 22 February.

Hasanuzzaman. 2010. "The Energy Crunch." The New Age, 6 March.

Hasanuzzaman. 2010. "A New Face." The Daily Star, 10 March.

Introducing CPD Blog

The CPD has launched its own blog for enhancing the interaction with its stakeholders from different levels. The blog was launched as of March 2010. It is open for visit, and put comments and share views on CPD's latest activities, published reports and all other postings. It can be visited from the CPD Website Homepage.

Published by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)

House 40C, Road 11 (new), Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1209, Bangladesh Mailing Address GPO Box 2129
Tel 880 2 8124770, 880 2 9141734 Fax 880 2 8130951 E-mail info@cpd.org.bd Website www.cpd.org.bd
Post your comments at <http://www.cpd.org.bd/Blog/>

ISSN 1817-7662

