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CPD QUARTERLY

From The Editor's Desk

CPD's Second Quarter activities included organisation and implementation of dialogues and research works of which two need particular mention. Both these relate to providing platforms for expression of civil society's voice with respect to current developments.

The first one was holding of a national dialogue prior to the meeting of the Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF) in Dhaka during May 08-10, 2004. The keynote paper, and the discussion which followed it, concentrated on some of the key agendas of the BDF including economic reforms, use of aid and state of governance.

The dialogue, where high level policy makers and development partners were present, provided an opportunity to the civil society representatives to share their thoughts and concerns on such issues as allocation and efficacy of aid, economic securities, the nexus between aid and poverty alleviation, particularly in the context of the ongoing PRSP exercise, self-reliance and aid dependence, and investment environment and its interface with state of governance.

The other important activity of CPD concerned Budget FY2004-05. In this connection CPD took two initiatives. One was to organise a press briefing on Budget 2004 immediately after the budget was placed before the parliament on June 10, 2004 where CPD gave its initial reaction to the key elements in the budget including such aspect as resource mobilisation and allocation, fiscal initiatives and incentives, and ADP and the related resources. The other one was the organisation of a dialogue on State of Bangladesh Economy and Budget Responses 2004 to provide an opportunity to key stakeholders to discuss Budget 2004-05. The dialogue put under scrutiny the various initiatives, measures and proposals put forward in the budget and came out with a number of suggestions in this regard.



Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, MP speaks at CPD's pre-BDF dialogue while Professor Rehman Sobhan and Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya pay attention.

Negative Politics Holds Back Economic Development

Finance minister at CPD dialogue

"Under a democratic framework, there should be a consensus on economic reform programmes among the political parties. Otherwise, it will be difficult to carry forward the reform initiatives", observed M Saifur Rahman, MP, Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Planning while addressing a CPD dialogue on Civil Society's Perspectives on the Bangladesh Development Forum 2004 as the Chief Guest. Held on May 05, 2004 at the CIRDAP Auditorium in Dhaka, the dialogue was also attended by Mr Mushfiqur Rahman, MP, Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Finance and Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Political Secretary to the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition as Special Guests. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Executive Director, CPD, presented the keynote paper. CPD Chairman Professor Rehman Sobhan moderated the dialogue. The dialogue was held prior to the BDF meeting scheduled to begin in Dhaka from May 08, 2004.

Presenting the keynote paper Bhattacharya noted that the citizens of the country felt disempowered as the government has always been acting in response to donors' demands rather than on being informed by demands that originate from the people. Identifying weak foreign aid utilisation capacity as a major cause of low implementation of ADP, the CPD Executive Director said, "The role of foreign aid in the country's economy was on the decline and it was equivalent to 2.8 per cent of the GDP in FY03 as against 5.8 per cent in FY81".

Discussants at the dialogue expressed deep concern over proper implementation of the ADP and urged the government to work out strategies to overcome the dependency syndrome. Issues such as citizens' security, strategies for poverty alleviation including the PRSP, large expenditure during

national and local elections, and regulation and management of NGO activities were also discussed during the session.

World Bank (WB) Country Director Christine Wallich noted that Bangladesh had performed well in terms of some of the sectoral reforms including the banking sector; she underscored the need to further strengthen the reform process in other areas. A number of participants highlighted the importance of cooperation amongst the political parties to ensure people-oriented economic development.

Former Finance Minister M Syeduzzaman, NGO activist Khushi Kabir, USAID Country Director Gene George, Australian High Commissioner HE Lorraine M Barker, German Ambassador Dietrich Andreas, Danish Ambassador Niels Severin Munk, eminent journalist Ataus Samad, and President of the Jatiya Sramik League Hasanul Huq Inu were among those who took part in the discussion.



Globalisation and Marginalisation of Developing Nations

On April 21, 2004 CPD held an in-house dialogue where S Mansoob Murshed of the Institute of Social Studies (ISS), the Netherlands, made a presentation on Resource Endowments, Globalisation and the Conflict Nexus.

In his presentation, Murshed argued that increased international trade has contributed to the growth of international inequality and disparities between developed and developing worlds. His thesis was that globalisation in the nineteenth century created the present-day third world, and that contemporary process of globalisation is helping to perpetuate the marginalisation of the developing world. He mentioned

that violent internal conflicts within nations were products of either grief or grievance, and were linked to increasing inequalities both within and across nations. Murshed underscored the importance of good institutions as precondition for better policy implementation. "This, ultimately, will contribute to sustainable resource management", he added.

Moderated by CPD Executive Director Debapriya Bhattacharya, the dialogue was attended, among others, by Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud of Dhaka University, former ambassador Muhammad Zamir and S R Osmany of BRAC University.

CPD Study on Movement of Natural Persons

Developed manpower export plan to yield rich dividends

"Export of 2 lakh professionals may fetch up to US\$11.57 bln to the national exchequer". This projection evolved from a CPD study on Temporary Movement of Natural Persons (TMNP) titled Opportunities and Risks of Liberalising Trade in Services: Country Study on Bangladesh. The study was prepared at CPD by Ananya Raihan, Research Fellow, CPD Mabroor Mahmood, Research Associate, CPD. The findings of the study were presented on April 27, 2004 at a press conference held at the CPD Dialogue Room. CPD Executive Director Debapriya Bhattacharya facilitated the session.

The study made an analysis of both demand and supply side situation with regard to management of natural persons and Bangladesh's interests in this area. The study noted that between 1976 and 2003 about 3.7 million Bangladeshis went to the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Europe with temporary work permits. Given the

dynamics of population growth in OECD countries, the demand for skilled and semi-skilled workers is likely to increase manifold in the coming years.

The study suggested that Bangladesh would need to prepare a proposal to place in the WTO to add the International Standard Classification of Occupation-88 (ISCO-88) as a categorisation of service providers. The study identified 23 categories as potential sectors where Bangladesh could concentrate on future manpower export.

Sharing his thoughts on the subject with the media, Bhattacharya urged the government to draw a long-term plan to take advantage of the growing demand for service-providers in some of the OECD countries in the coming days. He also stressed the need for taking cognisance of this emerging opportunity in GoB's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

A Peace Activist Shares Her Thoughts

On April 24, 2004 CPD welcomed Ms Roberta S Taman, a renowned peace activist from Canada, who shared her experience with the CPD collective. The discussion with Ms Taman, a former Official of the Canadian Ministry of Justice and Reforms, reflected her devotion towards world peace and her unwavering concern for war victims.

Ms Taman was accompanied by her husband Mr Larry Taman, a consultant to the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Ms Taman came into media focus because of her engagement with an UK based peace

organisation known as the Human Shield during the build up to the Iraq War in 2003. Ms Taman narrated her experience, emotions and thoughts as a member of the Human Shield under very challenging and trying circumstances in Iraq, and dwelt on the role of civil societies, Iraqi authorities, and governments of various countries involved in the conflict. In her presentation and during subsequent discussion, Ms Taman underscored the need for all people of goodwill to come together and join the global fight for peace.

Upcoming Activities

- u National dialogue on In Search of New Products & New Markets for Bangladesh on Sunday, August 8, 2004 at the CIRDAP Auditorium.

- u 22nd Meeting of the CPD Board of Trustees (BoT) at the CPD Dialogue Room on September 09, 2004.

- u Dialogue on Citizen's Voice in Health Policy and Programme: Setting Agendas and Establishing Accountability on Wednesday, August 18, 2004 at the CIRDAP Auditorium. The dialogue will be jointly organised by CPD and Columbia University, USA.

CPD YSSS

Under the YSSS programme, the following in-house dialogues will be held during the third quarter of 2004.

- u Privatisation of SOEs in Bangladesh: An Observation on Recent Performance by Programme Associate Touhidul Hoque Chowdhury on July 05, 2004.

- u Climate Change and Bangladesh: A Policy Analysis by Programme Associate Mariam Rashid on July 15, 2004.

- u Benefiting from Tourism: The Case of Bangladesh by Visiting Intern Damien Brosnan on August 26, 2004.

- u Trade Facilitation in the WTO: What Should Be the Next Steps for the LDCs? by Sharmin Farhana Rahman, Research Associate, on September 9, 2004.

- u TRIPs and Traditional Knowledge: Implications for Bangladesh by Kazi Mahmudur Rahman, Research Associate, on September 16, 2004.

- u Settlement of Disputes in the WTO: Lessons for Bangladesh by Syed Saifuddin Hossain, Research Associate, on September 23, 2004.



Appropriate Policies Must to Boost Women's Income Generation Activities

Discussants urge at CPD dialogue



Dialogue on Women's Contribution in Rural Economy: (From right) Agriculture Minister Mr M K Anwar, MP, Member, CPD Board of Trustees and BRAC Chairman Mr Fazle Hasan Abed, State Minister for Agriculture Mr Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, MP, and Dr Mahabub Hossain.

CPD organised a dialogue on Women's Contribution to Rural Economic Activities: Making the Invisible Visible on April 22, 2004 at the BRAC Centre INN Auditorium, Dhaka. The dialogue was organised as part of CPD's ongoing agricultural policy research and advocacy activities in collaboration with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), under the Poverty Elimination Through Rice Research Assistance (PETRRA) project. Thelma R. Paris, Gender Specialist, Social Sciences Division, IRRI and Mahabub Hossain, Head of Social Sciences Division, IRRI jointly presented the keynote papers.

Fazle Hasan Abed, Member, CPD Board of Trustees and Chairman, BRAC moderated the dialogue. M K Anwar, MP, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Government of Bangladesh was present as the Chief Guest. Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, MP, Hon'ble State Minister for Agriculture and Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, MP, attended the dialogue as Special Guests. The keynote paper underscored the growing importance of women's contribution in both farm and non-farm related activities and pointed out that this increasingly

important role was not being accorded due importance in policies. The presenters urged the government and also the NGOs to formulate an explicit gender strategy targeting rural women as equal stakeholders with men. Discussants were of the view that agriculture credit should be channelled more through women and women's groups to ensure appropriate use of credit and also as a means of empowering them. They also emphasised on education, control over resources and training as factors that could enhance women's capacity to participate more effectively in the management of the economy. They urged the government to take adequate measures in this regard. Discussants also placed importance on women's political participation which was seen as essential to enhancing economic power of women.

Among others, GM Quader, MP, former ambassador Rezaul Karim, women-rights activists Maleka Begum and Khushi Kabir, Salehuddin Ahmed of PKSF, Meghna Guhathakurta of DU, Tariq Hassan of DAE, and Rushidan Islam Rahman and Salma Zohir of BIDS participated in the discussion session.

CPD Launches UNCTAD LDC Report 2004

Linking International Trade to Poverty Alleviation -was the theme of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Report 2004 published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). On behalf of UNCTAD, CPD launched the report in Bangladesh on May 27, 2004. CPD Research Director Professor Mustafizur Rahman presented the highlights of the LDC Report, 2004 at a press briefing held at the CPD office. Executive Director of the Centre Debapriya Bhattacharya facilitated the session.

The LDC Report 2004 highlighted investment and technological progress as the engines of sustained economic growth which could lead to substantial poverty reduction, and identified international trade as the major driver of this engine.

The report observed that LDCs could strengthen the links between international trade and poverty reduction by mainstreaming both trade and development into their poverty reduction strategies. In this context, both domestic capacity building issues and issues related to market access and management of global trading system were highlighted.

Bhattacharya noted that although Bangladesh's performance in terms of trade and global integration was better than many other LDCs, low performance in critical areas of human development and technology had undermine the country's potentials in a globalising world.

The launch meeting was also attended by CPD Chairman Professor Rehman Sobhan, Research Fellows Ananya Raihan and Fahmida Khatun. A large contingent of representatives from both print and electronic media attended the press briefing.



SACEPS Dialogue on South Asian Cooperation



Foreign Minister Mr M Murshed Khan, MP pays attention to the remarks by Professor Rehman Sobhan at the inaugural session of SACEPS dialogue on regional cooperation. Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Mr Reaz Rahman, and Dr Nagesh Kumar are also seen in the picture.

On May 18, 2004 the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS), in association with CPD, and Research and Information System for the Non-aligned and Other Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi organised a day-long seminar on Follow-up of SAARC Summit Decisions Concerning SAFTA and Energy Cooperation. Held at the BRAC Centre INN Auditorium, the event was also marked by launching of the South Asia Development and Cooperation Report.

The inaugural session was attended by Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, MP as the Chief Guest and Reaz Rahman, Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the Special Guest. CPD Chairman Professor Rehman Sobhan presided over the session. Nagesh Kumar, Director General, RIS, India presented the South Asia Development Report.

In his presentation, Kumar said that it was necessary to create a conducive environment for trade and investment cooperation amongst countries of the region. The Foreign Minister was also of a similar view when he said, "Government may change, but economic issues should not be affected because of change of governments". Discussants emphasised on the need for exploiting all possible avenues to further strengthen cooperation within the region to ensure development.

The second session of the dialogue concentrated on discussion on SAFTA in the regional context. Chaired by former Finance Minister and Member, CPD Board of Trustees, M Syeduzzaman, the session was attended by Former Minister for Commerce and Industries Tofail Ahmed and Kazi Zafarullah, MP, Former Chairman, Privatisation Board, respectively as Chief Guest and Special Guest. Dushni Weerakoon, Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Colombo presented a paper on Implications of Building a South Asian Free Trade Area, and Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Research Director, CPD presented a paper on Operationalising SAFTA: Strategic Perspectives from Bangladesh.

Taking cue from observations made in the keynote presentation by Dushni, Professor Rahman stated that

Bangladesh needed to design its trade liberalisation plan with a view to strengthening interregional export and trade and at the same time keeping in view its domestic interests. Discussants at the session emphasised on simpler rules of origin, identification of para-tariff and non-tariff barriers inhibiting regional trade and undertaking trade facilitation measures.

Mahendra P Lama from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India, presented a paper at the third and final session of the day on Energy Cooperation in South Asia. The session was presided over by Azim Uddin Ahmed, former Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources. Hon'ble State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud, MP was the Chief Guest on this occasion.

In his presentation, Dr Lama noted that development of diverse energy sources in South Asia, that would be targeted to the South Asian region as a whole, could help increase the level of energy security in the region. Discussants urged the governments to take a more proactive stance in order to stimulate energy cooperation in the region.



AL lawmaker Mr Tofail Ahmed speaks during a working session of the SACEPS dialogue while former Finance Minister Mr M Syeduzzaman and former Chairman of Privatisation Board Mr Kazi Zafarullah look on. Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka HE Veena Sikri, EU Ambassador HE Esko Kentrschynskyj, CEO of Pran Group Major General (Rtd.) Amjad Khan Chowdhury, former Chairman of PDB Nuruddin Mahmud Kamal, Chairman of SUMMIT Group of Industries Muhammad Aziz Khan, Deputy Chief of Bangladesh Tariff Commission Mustafa Abid Khan, and CPD Executive Director Debapriya Bhattacharya were among those who took part in discussions during various sessions.

CPD's New Website Launched

As a continuation of its commitment towards meeting the growing demand for its activities, CPD redesigned its existing website and upgraded the site to make it more user friendly (the site address remains unchanged : www.cpd-bangladesh.org). The site now provides the visitors with more options for surfing through and contains detailed information about CPD's research and dialogue outputs, upcoming events and details of policy analysis activities.

The newly added dimensions of the CPD website provide for better accessibility to CPD's publications through online procurement. CPD publications may now be procured through pre-paid cards, either by mail order or from the offices of CPD or D.Net, which is CPD's partner organisation for the purpose of online procurement.



National Consensus Must for Poverty Alleviation

Discussants voice at CPD dialogue on poverty mapping



Professor Rehman Sobhan makes his note at the dialogue on poverty mapping. Also seen in the picture are (from right to left) Dr Noel P Magor, Mr Mushfiqur Rahman, MP, Dr Abdur Razzaque, MP, Dr Mahabub Hossain, and Dr S P Kam.

CPD, in association with IRRI, organised a dialogue on Mapping Poverty for Rural Bangladesh: Implications for Pro-poor Development at the BRAC Centre INN Auditorium on May 26, 2004. Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Finance and Planning Mushfiqur Rahman, MP attended the dialogue as the Chief Guest while Agriculture Secretary of the Awami League Abdur

Razzaque, MP was the Special Guest. CPD Chairman Professor Rehman Sobhan chaired the dialogue.

In his keynote presentation on Geographical Concentration of Rural Poverty in Bangladesh Mahabub Hossain, Head of Social Sciences Division, IRRI, identified Sunamganj, Habiganj, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Nawabganj, Cox's Bazar and the costal islands of Bhola, Hatia and Sandweep as areas with highest concentration of poverty. "Determinant factors causing high level of poverty in these regions include poor human, financial and physical capital, and lack of accessibility to natural resources", he noted.

Taking cue from findings of the study, participants at the dialogue spoke strongly in favour of a better education system, especially targeting the poor, decentralisation of administration, empowerment of local government and expansion of non-farm activities to realise objectives of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). They also urged the government to pay special attention to ultra-poor pockets. Discussants also suggested a number of measures including massive reform in the land administration and providing more subsidy to the farm sector.

Among others Binayak Sen and Rushidan Islam Rahman of BIDS, former Finance Minister A M A Muhith, PETRRA Manager Noel P. Magor, NGO leader Zafrullah Chowdhury, and politicians Hasanul Huq Inu and Nur-e-Alam Ziku participated in the discussion.

From Research Division

Trade Policy Analysis Programme

Study on MFA Phase-out

CPD is currently undertaking a study on the Implications of Post MFA Regime for Bangladesh's Apparel Export. The study is being conducted by a team led by Research Director Professor Mustafizur Rahman. The study seeks to explore potential impacts of the MFA phase-out for Bangladesh's export-oriented RMG sector. The study will look at such areas as Bangladesh's potential competitors and price competitiveness, dynamics of global demand for apparels, supply-side capacity, and compliance issues, etc. and will be based on both primary and secondary data.

Policy Briefs

Under the TPA programme, CPD has prepared two policy briefs as inputs to the policymakers:

- (a) Capacity Building in the Context of SAFTA Negotiations: Some Proposed Areas Where Bangladesh Could Seek Technical Assistance
- (b) Designing Rules of Origin for the SAFTA: Some Possible Options for Bangladesh.

Liberalisation of Trade in Services

CPD has completed a study titled Opportunities and Risks of Liberalising Trade in Services: Country Study on Bangladesh. The research was conducted by Ananya Raihan, Research Fellow, CPD, and Mr Mabroor Mahmood, Research Associate, CPD. The study focused on the implications of the GATS on a number of service sectors of Bangladesh's interests i.e. education, telecommunication, and temporary movement of natural persons. The study also put forward some suggestions as regards Bangladesh's stance with respect to future WTO negotiations on trade in services.

Fish Trade Liberalisation in Bangladesh

CPD has prepared a study on Fish Trade Liberalisation in Bangladesh: Implications of SPS Measures and Eco-Labeling for the

Export-Oriented Shrimp Sector. The study was implemented as part of the FAO commissioned study on Policy Research Implications of Fish Trade Liberalisation for Developing Countries in collaboration with the Natural Resources Institute (NRI), the University of Greenwich, UK. The broad objective of the study, conducted by CPD Research Fellow Fahmida Khatun, was to examine possible impacts of SPS measures and eco-labeling on shrimp exports from Bangladesh.

Trade Related Capacity Building (TRCB) in Bangladesh

CPD is implementing a study on Evaluation of DFID Support to Trade Related Capacity Building (TRCB) in Bangladesh in collaboration with the North-South Institute, Ottawa, Canada. The study is part of a cross-country study. The objective of the evaluation is to assess some selected TRCB programmes in order to identify areas of improvement in the design and approach of such programmes and promote best practices.

Study for SANEI IV Research Programme

CPD is in the process of finalising a study titled Trade Liberalisation and Bangladesh Agriculture: Impacts on Cropping Pattern, Resource Use Efficiency and Effective Incentives. The study is being conducted by a CPD team under the supervision of CPD Research Fellow Uttam K Deb. This study is a part of the Research Programme under the South Asia Network of Economic Research Institutes (SANEI) Fourth Round Study Programme.

Dynamics of Rural Livelihood Systems (PETRRA Project)

CPD has successfully completed its partnership with the Dynamics of Livelihood Systems sub-project in implementing the Poverty Elimination Through Rice Research Assistance (PETRRA) Project. CPD held two national level dialogues during this quarter and published three Policy Briefs as part of CPD-IRRI advocacy programme. These were (1) Sustainable Agricultural Growth in Bangladesh: Should We Go for Biotechnology for Rice Improvement? (2) Mapping Poverty for Rural Bangladesh: Implications for Pro-poor Development, and (3) Nature and Impact of Women's Participation in Economic Activities in Rural Bangladesh.



City-centric Growth Increases Income Disparity

Says CPD's interim report on Bangladesh economy

"Though this year's GDP growth is likely to be a little higher than the growth registered in the previous year, its translation in terms of higher standards of living will be limited since benefits of growth is not reaching the poor to the extent that is desirable", observed Debapriya Bhattacharya, Executive Director, CPD, while presenting the Second Interim Report on the State of Bangladesh Economy in FY2003-04. This interim-IRBD was presented at a press briefing on June 3, 2004 held at the CPD Dialogue Room.

Bhattacharya remarked that economic performance during fiscal year 2004 gave mixed signals. Major positive features of FY04 had been stability in export growth recovery, buoyancy in remittance flows and the steady state in agricultural production. Positive movements had also taken place in the cases of import growth, industrial loans and agricultural credit disbursement. These positive trends were somewhat eclipsed by sluggish

growth in manufacturing sector, insignificant foreign direct investment inflow, transitory bubbles in the capital market and rise in prices of essentials. Bhattacharya expressed his doubts over full implementation of the ADP, as only 45 per cent of it was implemented in the first nine months, with the rest 55 per cent left for the remaining three months of the fiscal year. Bhattacharya argued in favour of setting up an independent commission on national statistics to improve the state of understanding as regards macro-economy and quality of policy making.

Among others, CPD Research Director Mustafizur Rahman, Research Fellows Ananya Raihan, Uttam Kumar Deb and Fahmida Khatun, and Dialogue and Communication Head Anisatul Fatema Yousuf were present at the press briefing. A large number of representatives from both the print and electronic media attended the briefing.

Appropriate Utilisation of Resources is the Prime Challenge

CPD's immediate reaction to budget FY05

"A full delivery of the resource package as well as a faithful delivery of the development outlay will be the yardstick for judging the success of the budget", CPD Executive Director Debapriya Bhattacharya noted while sharing his initial analysis of the budget for FY 2004-05 with the media at the CPD Dialogue Room on June 11, 2004. "The finance minister has set a challenge for himself by proposing a relatively large budget, and it is now his turn to ensure generation and effective utilisation of the resources", he added referring to the Tk. 57,248 crore budget for FY 2004-05.

Looking at the proposed budget from an analytical point of view, Dr Bhattacharya mentioned that the budget had attempted to satisfy a diverse electoral constituency through symbolic allocations and fiscal breaks. The CPD analysis also noted that the budget did not give any indication about reduction of malgovernance or strengthening of local

Although reduction in the tariff system from four-tier to three-tier was a positive step, the highest slab being at 25 percent might have an adverse affect on import substituting industries as well as on the country's bargaining power in various ongoing negotiations. Bhattacharya was strongly critical of the new income tax structure which he thought would be a blow to the lower income groups. CPD noted that the reporting system of the budget has improved since it brought more transparency to government documents. Bhattacharya expressed cautious optimism regarding the efficacy of expansion of the VAT net to cover several services sector.

The press briefing was also attended by Head of CPD's Dialogue and Communication Division Anisatul Fatema Yousuf and Research Fellows Ananya Raihan and Uttam K Deb, and a large number of media personnel representing both print and electronic media.

Young Scholars' Seminar Series (YSSS)

During the period, two presentations were made by CPD researchers under the CPD's Young Scholars' Seminar Series (YSSS)

Urban Planning in Bangladesh
Masum Billah, Programme Associate, made a presentation titled Prospect of 3D Visualisation in Urban Planning in Bangladesh. The objective was to give a demonstration of a tool for urban planners and policymakers, proper use of which could resolve some of the prevailing urban problems. The focus of the paper was to develop a modern web based system for management and real time monitoring of urban development process using 3 Dimensional Geographic Information System (3D GIS) and Virtual Reality Technique. Mr Billah identified three types of areas viz. planned, unplanned and mixed-use urban areas for his empirical study. He demonstrated 3D visualisation of these three areas by using the technique of 3D GIS and virtual reality. He also described the interactive interface from which a user can easily extract information for the purpose of urban planning.

Export Demand Function for Tea
Programme Associate Narayan Chandra Das presented a paper on Export Demand Function for Bangladesh's Tea: An Application of Cointegration and Phillips-Hansen Fully Modified OLS on June 26, 2004 at the seventh Seminar under CPD's YSSS. By applying two-step Engle-Granger procedure, it was shown that a long-run equilibrium relationship exists among such variables as quantity of exports of tea, export price of tea, international price of tea and income of the partner countries. The paper came out with some policy suggestions to increase Bangladesh's production and export of tea.



CPD Professionals Overseas

CPD professionals were involved in the following overseas activities during the second quarter of 2004.

Professor Rehman Sobhan

Chairman

Participated in a Workshop on Orientation and Preparation Discussion for the Regional Trade Policy Course in Hong Kong, China. Organised by the WTO and University of Hong Kong, the workshop was held during May 10-12, 2004 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Participated as a resource person in Centenary Programme-Investor's Conference organised by MCCI in Singapore on May 20, 2004. Dr Bhattacharya presented a paper on Bangladesh's Macroeconomic Scenario at the conference.

Presented a paper titled Bangladesh's Experience with Foreign Direct Investment at the Workshop on Foreign Investors as Development Assistants held in Berlin, Germany during June 18-19, 2004. The workshop was organised by the BLUE 21.

Presented a paper on Least Developed Countries in Trade Negotiations: Policy Process and Information Needs during the Ad Hoc Group Meeting on Enhancing Access to Information Sources for Negotiating under the Doha Development Agenda. Organised by the UNESCAP, the event was held during June 23-25, 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Presented a paper on Moving beyond Islamabad: Towards A South Asian Economic Union during a public lecture organised by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka on June 17, 2004.

Participation as Chief Guest at the seminar on Human Development in a Knowledge-based Society held at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall in Sri Lanka during June 18-19, 2004. Professor Sobhan also presented a paper on Challenging the Injustice of Poverty in South Asia.

Participation in the SACEPS-IPS Seminar in Colombo, Sri Lanka on June 21, 2004.

Participation at the GTI Scoping Meeting in Boston during June 25-27, 2004.

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya

Executive Director

Presented a paper on Poverty as Injustice at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, USA. Professor Sobhan visited the university during April 23-24, 2004.

Presented a paper titled Bangladesh's Experience with Foreign Direct Investment at the Workshop on Foreign Investors as Development Assistants held in Berlin, Germany during June 18-19, 2004. The workshop was organised by the BLUE 21.

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Participation in the SACEPS-IPS Seminar in Colombo, Sri Lanka on June 21, 2004.

Participation at the GTI Scoping Meeting in Boston during June 25-27, 2004.

Professor Mustafizur Rahman

Research Director

Presented a paper on Fisheries Subsidies and Marine Resource Management: Lessons from Bangladesh at the Workshop on Fisheries Subsidies and the Environment held in Geneva, and organised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) during 25-27 April 2004.

Presented a paper on Temporary Movement of Natural Persons: Making Liberalisation in Services Trade Work for Poor at the 6th Annual Bankers' Conference on Development

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Head (Dialogue & Communication Division)

Dr Ananya Raihan

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Publications

(From Page-8)

This research paper examines Bangladesh's opportunities as regards GATS Mode 4, particularly in the area of export of manpower, and provides a negotiating strategy that would be helpful for the policymakers. Evaluating the demographic trends in the European countries, the authors argue that Bangladesh can generate significant gains through TMNP by utilising the special treatment that has been accorded to LDCs in the recent WTO meetings. The distinguishing feature of the article is that it mapped the classes of manpower with various ISCO-88 categories, and classified Bangladesh's export interests

under three broad groups. Such an approach, first ever used in Bangladesh, is believed to assist the policymakers to identify Bangladesh's areas of interests and articulate their stance accordingly to ensure maximum gains from future negotiations

SACEPS Paper

A SACEPS Dialogue on Follow up of SAARC Summit Decisions Concerning the SAARC Social Charter

Paper No.5 (June 2004)

Price: Tk. 75.00

This SACEPS paper is a resume of the dialogue held in February, 2004 in

Dhaka with a view to discuss issues and features of the SAARC Social Charter (SSC). The SSC was signed by the SAARC leaders in the summit held in Islamabad in January 2004. The paper also presents a comparative analysis of the Citizens' Social Charter (CSC), prepared by the SACEPS, and the SSC. The document also contains recommendations by regional experts as regards implementation of various provisions in both the CSC and the SSC with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).



Budget Lacks Clear Roadmap as Regards Implementation

CPD dialogue on budget 2004-5



Professor Rehman Sobhan looks on while Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya makes his presentation at the dialogue on Budget 2004-05. AL lawmaker Dr Abdur Razzaque, MP, Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, and former Finance Ministers Mr M Syeduzzaman and Mr A M A Muhith are also seen.

Speakers at a post-budget discussion organised by CPD at the CIRDAP auditorium on June 15, 2004 observed that though the budget for the next fiscal year recommended some pro-poor programmes, it would not be easy to implement them.

Bhattacharya made the keynote presentation on the Budget FY 05 in the dialogue chaired by CPD Chairman

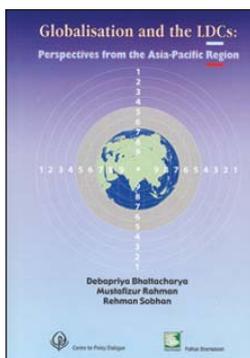
Professor Rehman Sobhan. In his presentation Bhattacharya expressed his concerns about growing income disparity, stalled privatisation of loss making state-owned enterprises, tariff rationalisation, and law and order situation that were not adequately addressed in the budget. The chief guest, Governor of Bangladesh Bank Fakhruddin Ahmed, argued in favour of government's decision to reduce interest rates. He observed that proper

implementation of the budget would lead to the achievement of the desired economic growth required for a poverty-free society, and that the government would do the needful towards this.

Discussants expressed their concerns as regards expansion of the value added tax which they thought would adversely affect the country's small and medium enterprises. They were also critical of the reduction in duty on sugar import as it might have serious negative impact on the local sugar industry. The government was urged to take initiatives to make the garment sector competitive after the MFA phase-out in January 2005. Decentralisation of administration was another issue raised by the speakers. Former Finance Minister M Syeduzzaman termed the proposed budget as bold and daring, as the targets seemed to be on the high side in relation to previous level of performance in respective areas.

Former Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, MP, Former Finance Minister A M A Muhith, Former ERD Secretary Mosihur Rahman, Business Leader Rouf Chowdhury, President of ICC Mahbubur Rahman, President of MCCI Kutubuddin Ahmed, President of the BGMEA Anisul Haque, Chairman of the Bangladesh Shilpa Bank Prof Abu Ahmed, World Bank Country Director Christine Wallich, Resident Representative of the Asian Development Bank Toru Shibuichi, and First Secretary of European Commission Anne Marchal also spoke on the occasion.

Publications



Globalisation and the LDCs: Perspectives from the Asia-Pacific Region
 Publisher: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and Pathak Shamabesh
 Published in: April, 2004
 Price: Tk. 495.00

Globalisation and the LDCs: Perspectives from the Asia-Pacific Region is a compendium of six articles which examines the nature of interface between the ongoing process of globalisation and

the economies of Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

The articles in the volume were written during the run up to the Seattle Ministerial Meeting of the WTO in 1999, and as inputs to the preparatory process of the third UN Conference on the LDCs in 2001. They cover a wide spectrum of issues which concern the interests of the LDCs in the context of the challenges and opportunities emanating from globalisation. These include market access, foreign direct investment, foreign aid flow, supply-side constraints and trade related capacity building in the LDCs. Each article presents an indepth analysis of the relevant issues from the perspective of strengthened integration of the LDCs into global economy and comes up with a number of important suggestions with respect to policy measures and initiatives to address the attendant challenges.

Although the analysis presented in this volume relates particularly to LDCs belonging to the Asia-Pacific region, the discussion in the volume remains relevant

and pertinent for all LDCs as they strive to address the challenges of globalisation in the face of increasing marginalisation of their economies.

Contributors: Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Professor Mustafizur Rahman, and Professor Rehman Sobhan.

Dialogue Reports

Promoting Rural Non-Farm Economy: Is Bangladesh Doing Enough?
 Report No.66 (June 2004)

Sustaining Agricultural Growth in Bangladesh: Should We Go for Biotechnology for Rice Improvement?
 Report No.67 (June 2004)

Occasional Paper

Trade Negotiations on Temporary Movement of Natural Persons: A Strategy Paper for Bangladesh
 Paper No. 36 (April 2004)

Authors: Ananya Raihan, Reseach Fellow, and Mabroor Mahmood, Research Associate, CPD.

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