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CPD

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FROM the editor's desk

CPD's 21st anniversary celebration through a special public lecture was very well received by a distinguished audience. This journey undertaken over last two decades embodies an exceptional experience in terms of bridging research and policymaking by blending research outputs with targeted policy activism. By pioneering a tradition of dialogue and constructive engagement among key stakeholders in Bangladesh's development, CPD has tried to promote a culture of informed debate and discussion between non-state actors and the policymakers.

In these years, CPD emerged as a leading civil society think tank that takes pride in its *local roots and global reach*, championing the cause of the underprivileged and the marginalised in Bangladesh, and articulating the demands of the low-income countries in regional and global fora.

Much experience has been gained and many lessons have been learnt in the last two decades: that evidence-based knowledge empowers civil society; that an informed and empowered civil society is a major force to advance the cause of good governance, transparency and accountability; and that partnerships and coalition building are important if civic activism is to be successful.

CPD's achievements are reflected in the wide-ranging research including CPD's flagship *Independent Review of Bangladesh's Development (IRBD)* programme, its work on inclusive growth and distributive justice, research focused on mainstreaming gender issues and environmental concerns in development, studies on productivity enhancement, economic diversification, reduction of vulnerabilities, economic reforms, improving macroeconomic management and political governance.

A number of initiatives stand out in the above context: *Developing a Policy Agenda for Bangladesh: Civil Society's Task Force Reports in 2001; Monitoring the Implementation of Bangladesh's Development Policies: Civil Society's Review Reports in 2003; Citizen's Committee* which prepared the *Bangladesh Vision 2021 in 2006; Post-Rana Plaza Monitoring Initiative in 2013; Citizen's Forum for Inclusive Elections* in January 2014.

In the recent past, through programmes such as *LDC IV Monitor* and *Southern Voice on Post-MDG International Development Goals*, CPD has extended its reach by carrying the voice of low-income countries and the developing South to inform and influence global discourse on issues of concern and interest to our countries.

In the days to come, CPD aspires to remain actively engaged in its pursuit of inclusive governance and a society built on notions of justice, equity and fairness which are its founding mandate. CPD will endeavour servicing this mandate through the research, public policy, agenda building and effective outreach.



Anniversary Speaker Louka Katseli with Debapriya Bhattacharya, Rehman Sobhan and Mustafizur Rahman

CPD Anniversary Lecture 2014

New global financial architecture could safeguard low-income countries

Designing a new global financial structure could shield the interest of low-income countries from the economic and financial crises that afflicted Eurozone countries, observed *Dr Louka Katseli* while addressing the CPD Anniversary Lecture 2014.

Referring to the consequences of Greek economic crisis, *Dr Katseli* observed that policymaking in the times of crises is shaped by the interests of a global financial system which caters to its narrow financial interests as opposed to the national interest in the absence of regulation, appropriate incentives and effective oversight.

Concerted action by few financial speculators can produce an unprecedented crisis for a national government, she added.

Dr Katseli, Professor of Economics at the National Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece, was addressing the CPD Anniversary Lecture 2014 on "Recent Fiscal and Labour Market Adjustment Experiences in Europe and Lessons for the Low-Income Countries," held on 18 November 2014 at Lakeshore Hotel. The event was chaired by *Professor Rehman Sobhan*, Chairman, CPD.

CPD Distinguished Fellow *Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya* introduced *Dr Katseli*, an expert on international economics and development policy, who has served as Director, OECD Development Centre; as member and vice president of UN's Committee for Development Policy. Head of the Social Pact Party, *Dr Katseli* has held positions such as Greece's Minister of Labour and Social Security and Minister of Economy, Competitiveness and Shipping.

In the opening, *Professor Mustafizur Rahman*, Executive Director, CPD said that *Dr Katseli* was invited to share her reflections on the Eurozone crisis in the context of globalising economies, her assessment on

crisis management and her insights on lessons for our own policymaking.

Drawing on experiences from Greece, *Dr Katseli* posited common policy challenges for the Eurozone, similar to that of the developing countries, including Bangladesh.

Bangladesh needs a vision for its future and a transformative strategy for its implementation shaped by its own history, endowments and culture. Such a strategy would focus on promoting structural change and productivity-enhancing reforms to upgrade the productive base, develop new sectors, products and services and invest on powerful enablers such as governance, infrastructure, human capital or local, regional and global networks, she observed.

According to *Dr Katseli*, Bangladesh would require diversifying its economy beyond textiles, pursuing active industrial policies, undertaking governance and institutional reforms and building PPP for development, mobilising development assistance, trade and domestic taxes to finance infrastructure and other specific enablers.

Developing countries, including Bangladesh and even many emerging economies are in a better position to reap the benefit of low labour cost, she added.

In her presentation on "Beyond Austerity Policies: Mapping a Sustainable Transformative Agenda," *Dr Katseli* focused on the Eurozone crisis. Pointing at unemployment, she noted that combination of credit crunch and austerity policies result in dramatic reduction of aggregate demand, firm closure and surge in unemployment. She further mentioned that excessive labour market flexibility increases unemployment due to adverse income and productivity effects.

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VAT and SD Act 2012

New act questioned on grounds of equity, SME interest

The new Value Added Tax and Supplementary Duty Act must be informed by equity concerns, strengthened institutional capacity, and its implementation should benefit government and ensure tax justice for entrepreneurs and consumers.

In addition to revenue generation, the new reform agenda should safeguard the welfare of certain sectors with a view to supporting investment, growth and employment, and promoting social equity and economic justice by expanding the social safety net programmes.

The observation emerged from the roundtable discussion on "VAT and SD Act 2012: Concerns and Implementation Challenges" held on 10 December 2014 where CPD Research Fellow *Mr Towfiqul Islam Khan* presented the issue paper, co-authored by Senior Research Associate *Mr Zafar Sadique*.

Chair of the session, CPD Executive Director *Professor Mustafizur Rahman* said that entrepreneurs are willing to pay tax because infrastructure cannot develop without revenue collection, which increases cost of doing business, and in turn, hampers entrepreneurs. He stressed use of ICT, training and automation for enhancing revenue collection and noted that successful implementation of new reforms will remain doubtful without institutional capacity building.

Barrister Jahangir Hossain, Member, VAT Policy, NBR informed that the government, based on a number of stakeholder consultations, drafted the new law that aimed for a taxpayer-friendly VAT law system which would make all resources accessible from online. Including input tax credit and excluding truncated base would make the law account-based and audit-based, he added.

Dr Ahsan Habib Mansur, Executive Director, Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh was for redrafting the new law as he felt that political and business expediencies complicated the existing law to an extent that was hard to amend. He advocated getting rid of value declaration by tax officials and package VAT which bore no useful outcome. He added that modernised revenue collection mechanism is crucial to elevate the country to middle-income status.

On revenue collection, *Dr A B Mirza Azizul Islam*, Former Advisor to the



(left) Towfiqul Islam Khan, M A Mannan, Mustafizur Rahman Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed and Fahmida Khatun

Caretaker Government, Ministries of Finance and Planning laid emphasis on expanding the tax net and reducing VAT rate from 15 per cent to 10 per cent as in most countries.

Dr Zahid Hussain, Lead Economist, World Bank, proposed a single VAT rate at 15 per cent. He said that it was not very unusual given the average rate at 15-20 per cent in the world.

As opposed to *Dr Hussain*, *Ms Ferdous Ara Begum*, CEO, BUILD Project, DCCI noted that single

VAT rate at 15 per cent is high for Bangladesh against rates such as 5-8 per cent in Japan, 6-12 per cent in Belgium, 6-12.5 per cent in Sweden, etc. She also pointed out that according to the new VAT act, untimely VAT pay must be accompanied with 2 per cent interest which is not much of an opportunity.

Accountability problem persists in the VAT collection system, noted *Mr Md Aminur Rahman*, Former Member, Income Tax Policy, NBR adding that only 15,000 of 1,20,000 companies in Bangladesh have VAT payment records, according to Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Mr M S Siddiqui, CEO, Bangla Chemical said that VAT collection and exemption remains at the sole discretion of the VAT officer which keeps potential opportunities for bribery and corruption.

Real value addition should be put in place instead of 4 per cent VAT, said *Mr Ali Zaman*, President, SME Ownership Association, because it is collected every time a good changes hands. He added that SME entrepreneurs still pay VAT for imported raw materials because they cannot directly import.

Chief Guest *Mr M A Mannan*, MP, Hon'ble State Minister for Finance and Planning felt that the new act is more transparent than the previous one but he urged the NBR to simplify the rules and make it more comprehensive for people.

Mr Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed, President, FBCCI; *Dr Muhammad Abdul Mazid*, Former Chairman, NBR; *Mr Shahabuddin*, Consultant, VAT and Customs and Ex-member, NBR; *Md. Ahsanul Karim*, Coordinator, Tax Justice Network, EquityBD; *Mr Alison Subrata Baroi*, Director, Shushashoner Jonno Procharavizan also addressed the discussion among others.

Bangladesh's graduation from the LDC status

Reduce economic vulnerability, enhance human assets to rise above LDC status

Bangladesh should pursue economic and human development simultaneously to graduate from the Least Developed Country (LDC) status as well as to meet requirements of the post-2015 development agenda.

Income and employment generation, good governance, structural transformation through increased industrial productivity need greater emphasis to reduce economic vulnerability that persistently hold back LDCs including Bangladesh from generating enough momentum to graduate.

The observations emerged from a media briefing at the global launch of UNCTAD's LDCs Report 2014 subtitled "Growth with Structural Transformation: A Post-2015 Development Agenda" at CIRDAP Auditorium on 27 November 2014.

CPD Research Fellow *Mr Towfiqul Islam Khan* presented the report that recommended LDCs to prioritise resource mobilisation for public and private investment, industrial and sectoral policies to channel resources into most productive sectors, activities and macroeconomic policies which foster economic growth.

He mentioned that despite the LDCs excelled in economic growth during the last decades, quality of livelihood did not significantly improve which, in turn, undermined progress towards achieving the MDG targets.



Graduation from LDCs group requires improving on both economic and social indicators

The international community must learn from this failure called 'the LDC paradox', noted *Mr Khan* quoting the report that considers the LDCs as battlegrounds for the post-2015 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Explaining the LDCs' drawbacks, CPD Distinguished Fellow *Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya* said that Bangladesh's development amongst the LDCs is remarkable due to improved growth, remittance influx, enhanced food security and

resilience to environmental disaster, etc. But the country lags behind in income and employment generation, diversification of existing exportable items, low per capita income due to large population, etc. As a result, Bangladesh cannot go beyond the low wage-low productivity-low income cycle.

He added that becoming a middle-income country also does not mean graduating from the LDCs group because it also requires improving on social indicators which many LDCs failed to achieve despite generating high income and growth through exporting natural resources and tourism promotion.

In this regard, *Professor Mustafizur Rahman*, Executive Director, CPD underscored that Bangladesh cannot meet the post-2015 goals without addressing both human and economic development together because development in the 21st century is not linear, there are qualitative changes in the age of globalisation.

Dialogue on WTO post-Bali process

New thinking, new approaches needed for completion of Doha Round

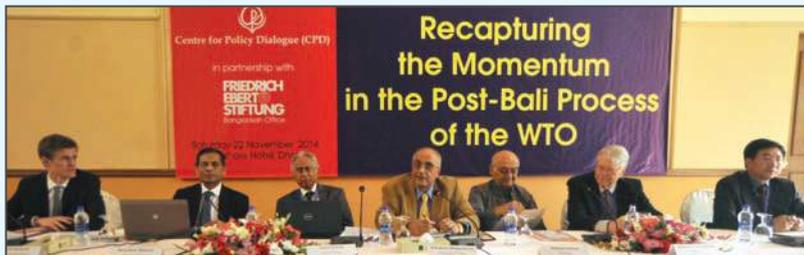
LDCs including Bangladesh need reforms in domestic regulations to uphold their interest in the multilateral trading system in the upcoming WTO Geneva negotiation.

With quick completion of Doha Development Round (DDR), new discussions could set off to address emerging issues as regards investment and services sector due to major changes in the trade systems across the world, noted CPD Distinguished Fellow *Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya* during the dialogue on "Recapturing the Momentum in the Post-Bali Process of the WTO".

The dialogue, organised by CPD and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Bangladesh Country Office at Lakeshore Hotel on 22 November 2014, preceded the Dhaka Roundtable on "Reviving the Multilateral Trading System: Post-Bali Issues."

Keynote presenter *Professor Mustafizur Rahman*, Executive Director, CPD noted that LDCs have been taking advantage of the multilateral trading system but their concerns and interests were hardly being reflected in the WTO.

He regretted that one year since Bali, there is hardly anything to show for as regards the 10 decision points adopted in Bali on the LDC package comprising duty-free and quota-free (DF-QF) market access, preferential rules of origins (RoO), operationalisation of the services waiver and monitoring mechanism on special and differential treatment.



(left) Henrik Maihack, Mustafizur Rahman, Anwarul Hoda, Debapriya Bhattacharya, Rehman Sobhan, Richard O Cunningham and Longyue Zhao

Rehman Sobhan noted that new players since the initiation of WTO were causing substantive changes in the global economy, demography and trading system, which enhanced competitiveness in the services sector. He proposed LDCs to move away from multilateral systems to bilateralisation and regionalisation because countries were repositioning themselves in the international system by depreciating the previously affluent countries.

Another Panellist *Mr Richard O Cunningham*, Chairman of Cordell Hull Institute, Washington, D.C. felt that LDCs should look for emerging markets excluding the EU and US. Alternative trading patterns in global trade scenario, such as involvement in global value chain (GVC) and exporting services are opportunities for the LDCs to seize, he added.

LDCs put disproportionately high importance on DF-QF access and were not focused on their collective interest, which has been diverged by developed countries in various ways, observed

Panellist *Professor Longyue Zhao*, Director, China Center for International Development, Nankai University stressed that developing countries need to reevaluate their priorities in new global trade regime. They should focus beyond agriculture, adopt new strategies by reevaluating domestic policies and improve investment situations to participate in multilateral trading.

CPD Chairman *Professor*

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Reviving the Multilateral Trading System: Post-Bali Issues

The roundtable discussions on "Reviving the Multilateral Trading System: Post-Bali Issues," during 23-24 November 2014 brought together experts, negotiators and policymakers to discuss pertinent issues and the way forward in the context of Bali package.

Distinguished experts also deliberated on the subsequent developments in the negotiations in Geneva and the resulting implications for multilateral trading system and the package itself.



The roundtable was attended by over 20 experts including from Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, South Africa, Thailand and USA

Organised by CPD and South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), the discussion was held on WTO in Post-Bali Phase: Whither LDC Issues; Plurilaterals, Systemic Concerns and Interests of LDCs; Public Stockholding in the WTO; Mega Trade-Blocs: Implications and Coping Strategies for the Excluded; Participating in the Global Value Chain: How Low-Income Countries can Maximise the Potential Benefits and Post-2015 Agenda and Multilateral Trading System.

Korea-Bangladesh economic partnership

Lessons for economic transformation, export and investment promotion urged

Through encouraging foreign direct investment and regional cooperation, Bangladesh can follow on the footsteps of Korea's agrarian to industrial transformation over four decades into becoming a development partner to many LDCs.

A comprehensive economic partnership agreement between the two countries should further improve bilateral cooperation through promotion of FTAs, investment and services, observed discussants at a dialogue on "Korean Development Experience: Lessons for Bangladesh." co-organised by CPD and Embassy of Republic of Korea, at the Westin Hotel, Dhaka on 23 December 2014.

In his presentation, *Dr Moonsung Kang*, Professor of International Studies at Korea University, shared how Korea's foreign economic policies in the era of East Asian integration 40 years ago turned the country into an industrialised nation from an agrarian economy.

H E Mr Lee Yun-young, Ambassador of Republic of Korea in Bangladesh underscored that apart from emphasising FDI and regional cooperation for development, Bangladesh should focus on skill development and schooling in factories for young workers.

Bangladeshi clothes or other exports should have at least 40 per cent local contents, according to Korean RoO. With this pre-condition, Bangladesh made



(left) Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Moonsung Kang, H E Lee Yun-young, Tofail Ahmed, MP, Mustafizur Rahman, Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed, Jaemin Lee and Kihak Sung

an export of USD 345 million during FY2014 in contrast to the total export amounting to USD 30 billion, according to EPB.

Chief Guest *Mr Tofail Ahmed* MP, Minister of Commerce, indicated of opportunities for pressing the Korean government for reducing the RoO level for further bolstering the regional value chain between East Asia and South Asia, where Bangladesh can play an effective role.

At the session "Korea's Experience of Regional Cooperation: Lessons for Bangladesh," *Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem*, Additional Director, CPD observed that Korean investment in Bangladesh would be accelerated if a regional value chain operated between countries of East Asia and South Asia while the scope for enhancing temporary migration to Korea particularly for skilled workers, he added.

Mr Hedayetullah Al Mamoon, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Commerce was the Chief Guest at the session on "Global Best Practices of CSR: Implications for Bangladesh." *Dr Jaemin Lee*, Associate Professor of Law at Seoul National University and *Ms Shahamin S Zaman*, CEO, CSR Centre in their presentations shared the latest CSR trends and implications for Bangladesh and desirable CSR activities from the perspective of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh should promote good CSR practice that will ultimately contribute towards its socio-economic development, observed *Ambassador Farooq Sobhan*, President, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI).

Appreciation Course on Current National and Global Issues

Journalists to accentuate reporting on MDGs, post-2015 development agenda

The role of journalists is very important in raising awareness on Bangladesh's status and progress regarding the Post-2015 International Development Agenda that follows the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), observed eminent economist *Professor Rehman Sobhan*.

Professor Sobhan was addressing a session on "Post-MDGs: Concepts, Processes and Bangladesh Context" on 16 November 2014 as part of an Appreciation Course titled "Current National and Global Issues" organised by CPD for the journalists of print, electronic and online media.

Around 50 young and mid-level journalists, engaged in economic, business, financial and diplomatic reporting, were selected through a competitive process to receive training on contemporary macroeconomic management issues and issues related to the MDGs and post-2015 agenda.

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow, CPD and Chair, Southern Voice on Post-2015 International Development Goals facilitated the participants to understand Bangladesh's context and progress in relation to the MDGs, post-2015 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Professor Rehman Sobhan expected that this course would enable the participants to have a deeper understanding of the issues discussed and reflect that understanding in their reporting on the MDG and post-2015 agenda.

The journalists' job is to investigate the facts behind numbers and follow-up on their work, which *Professor Sobhan* considered crucial in a democratic



Rehman Sobhan handed over the certificates to the participants

society. He hoped that CPD would assess such news reports for one year and give recognition to the reporters who will have demonstrated excellent journalistic contribution.

Earlier on 28 and 29 October 2014 at BRAC-CDM in Rajendrapur, Gazipur, CPD Executive Director *Professor Mustafizur Rahman* and Research Fellow *Mr Towfiqul Islam Khan* conducted two other sessions titled "Structural Shifts of and Emerging Challenges for

Bangladesh Economy" and "Data on Macroeconomic Management and Interpretation".



(centre) Professor Mustafizur Rahman and (centre left) Mr Towfiqul Islam Khan with the participants at BRAC-CDM Rajendrapur, Gazipur

CPD In-house Seminar

How was India Lok Sabha Elections 2014 different?

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and media influence on voters strongly contributed to the triumph of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over others in the 16th India Lok Sabha Elections, according to an Indian researcher.

Rising dissatisfaction with preceding government United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and general displeasure over issues like corruption and price hike of essential commodities were also defeating factors for the UPA but gains for the BJP, noted *Professor Sanjay Kumar*, Director of Centre for the Study of Developing Society (CSDS) in New Delhi.

Professor Kumar was addressing the CPD in-house seminar on "Election with a Difference: Analysing the Verdict of Indian Elections in 2014" at CPD Office on 11 December 2014. Chaired by *Professor Rehman Sobhan*, the discussion with distinguished academics, politicians and CPD researchers was moderated by *Professor Rounaq Jahan*, Distinguished Fellow, CPD.

Professor Kumar identified that the turnout in Lok Sabha election reached an



(second left/table) Sanjay Kumar has several publications on Indian elections since 1998

all-time high in 2014 and BJP was the first Non-Congress party to get a majority ever. It was also the first single party majority government in 30 years while all previous governments during this period were coalitions of various parties. BJP also registered highest ever vote share increase for a national party between two elections and had high average victory margins.

Indian Election Commission survey research results and

CSDS survey findings revealed that Prime Minister Modi's popularity kept rising while public dissatisfaction against the UPA was building up.

As the cause of landslide victory, the research found that major voting blocs such as the upper castes, other backward classes, Dalits and tribals except the Muslims preferred BJP over the Congress whilst an additional support was mobilised from young voters, of which most were first-time voters.

The research on the nature of BJP's election campaign also revealed that Prime Minister Modi's aggressive campaigning in the media translated into mobilising more voters in favour of the party.

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CPD Anniversary Lecture 2014

It was also observed that sharp reduction in wages does not necessarily enhance final price competitiveness due to fall in productivity and increases in non-wage cost components.

Dr Katseli observed that the secular stagnation in Europe was not the outcome of the crisis itself, but of the way the crisis has been handled. Austerity policies guided by the overarching objective of policymakers to support, at all costs, the European

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Dialogue on WTO Post-Bali process

Mr Amitava Chakraborty, Director General of WTO Cell, Ministry of Commerce.

Panelist *Professor Anwarul Hoda*, Chair Professor, Trade Policy and WTO Research

financial system as opposed to its real economies, have brought Europe to an impasse.

Among the useful lesson that emerged from the analysis was the observation that primacy of fiscal goals as the backbone of a policy strategy that aims to improve financial stability, competitiveness and growth is self-defeating. It was learnt from experience that government is likely to lose credibility if living standards deteriorate.

Dr Katseli urged the importance of shaping and

Programme, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) said that some of the substantive DDR negotiations can be salvaged by looking into its broader aspect and notes should be taken of new global

implementing a domestic transformative strategy by facilitating structural change, investing on enablers (e.g. governance, infrastructure, human capital, networks), promoting active trade, investment and industrial policies, introducing appropriate incentives for private sector mobilisation, designing effective and efficient social protection systems and ensuring policy coherence. Building partnerships for change at national, regional and global levels was another standalone recommendation.

developments in terms of emerging players such as China.

In this regard, *Dr Bhattacharya*, also the event's Chair, called for much stronger preparation of LDCs at home to succeed in the Geneva negotiations.

LDC IV Monitor Report Launch

Global support sought to fulfil commitments: IPoA

The global community should extend all possible support towards smooth graduation of the LDCs from its status by delivering on all the commitments of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA).

LDCs' graduation should be deemed an accomplishment rather than an eventuality that ought to be avoided, observed Guest of Honour *H E Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu*, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Turkey at the launch of an LDC IV Monitor report.

The report titled "Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs (2011-2020): Monitoring Deliverables, Tracking Progress," was launched on 15 October 2014 in New York. It looks at the state of implementation of IPoA adopted at the Fourth UN Conference on LDCs in 2011. Split in two parts, the segments subtitled 'Synthesis Report' and 'Analytical Perspectives' were respectively published by the LDC IV monitor and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

LDC IV Monitor is an initiative of eight international institutions of which CPD is the Secretariat. The initiative was set up in the wake of the UN LDC IV aiming to work on LDC issues and provide independent assessment of the state of IPoA implementation.



(centre) H E Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu with Debapriya Bhattacharya and representatives of international development community and members of the LDC IV Monitor

The speakers appreciated the initiative in keeping the LDCs' concerns and interests alive in global and national platforms. The event was jointly organised by UNF, Permanent Missions of Turkey and Benin (LDC Coordinator in the UN) and LDC IV Monitor partners.

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Chair of LDC IV Monitor, introduced the publication to an audience including Ambassadors, UN officials, representatives of international development community and members of the LDC IV Monitor. LDC IV Monitor will continue its work by contributing to the upcoming mid-term official review of the IPoA to take place in 2015, noted *Dr Bhattacharya*.

The launching ceremony was also addressed by *H E Mr Jean-François Régis Zinsou*, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Benin to the United Nations and Coordinator of the LDC Group in the UN System, New York, *Ms Hiedi Schroderus-Fox*, Director, Office of the High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS (UN-OHRLLS), *Ms Susan Myers*, Vice President, UN Relations, UN Foundation and *Ms Min-Thu Pham*, Senior Director of Policy, UN Foundation.

Post-2015 Data Test

Presentation of Initial Findings from Country Level

The Post-2015 Data Test team convened two workshops on 14 and 15 October 2014 to bring country-level perspectives to discussions on the post-2015 agenda by assessing the implications of implementing the new agenda at the national level.

The initiative is led by CPD and the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA), in association with Southern Voice on Post-MDGs and with the UN Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

The Data Test team presented their findings to a wide range of stakeholders engaged in the post-2015 discussions and negotiations, including the UN Secretary General's Independent



(left) Hosena Lunogelo, Andrea Ordóñez, Debapriya Bhattacharya, Rita Dihal and H E Gustavo Meza-Cuadra Minh-Thu Pham during one of the sessions

society in the New York policy community, and to explore implications for the data revolution and for the post-2015 agenda more broadly.

Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution, diplomats from UN Missions in New York and UN staff.

On 17 October 2014, the Data Test team also presented their initial findings at another workshop titled "Challenges of Implementing SDGs at Country Level: Data Issues and Beyond," hosted by Center for Global Development (CGD), in Washington, D.C.

The workshops provided an opportunity for experts from seven countries to share their experience and research findings with member states, think tanks, UN and civil

7th South Asia Economic Summit (SAES VII)

Hopes for structural transformation in SAARC region

The summit engendered great expectations regarding rapid economic growth in many Asian countries amidst various political changes across the SAARC region through democratic processes, said *Professor Rehman Sobhan*.

The CPD Chairman was referring to the newly elected Indian and Afghan governments of *Prime Minister Narendra Modi* and *President Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai* respectively and how large economies like India could facilitate its growth and dynamism and as a result, leverage growth and structural transformation in reintegrating the South Asian community.

Professor Sobhan was addressing the 7th South Asia Economic Summit



(left) Indian Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari addresses the inauguration with *Rehman Sobhan* (second right)

Research Director *Dr Fahmida Khatun*, *Khondaker Golam Moazzem* and Research Fellow *Mr Towfiqul Islam Khan*.

held under the theme "Towards South Asian Economic Union," hosted by Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), during 5-7 November 2014 in New Delhi, India.

CPD being a core SAES partner, a high-level team headed by *Professor Sobhan* participated at the summit. The team was comprised of *Mr M Syeduzzaman*, Member of CPD Board of Trustees, Executive Director *Professor Mustafizur Rahman*, Distinguished Fellows *Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya* and *Professor Rounaq Jahan*, Additional Research Director *Dr*

Young Scholars' Seminar Series (YSSS)

Wage policy, compliance measure somewhat responsible for RMG factory closure

Findings of a CPD field study showed inconsistency with the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association's (BGMEA) claim that 176 RMG factories were shut down due to recent reforms in the sector.

Government's minimum wage policy and other compliance-related issues such as inspections by Accord, Alliance and BUET were only partly responsible for the closure of these factories, found the survey "Shut-Down Rule vs Closure: Which One is Relevant for Closed Garment Factories of Bangladesh."

Drawing on the backdrop, *Ms Kashfi Rayan* mentioned that BGMEA recently published a list of 176 factories (the latest list included 238 factories), claiming that recent reform measures have resulted in the shut-down of these apparel units and asked the government for a comprehensive exit plan for the non-compliant units.

CPD's field study on 159 closed factories examined whether there was a



(second left/table) CPD Research Associate Ms Kashfi Rayan presented the survey at CPD office on 13 November 2014

link between the 'closure' and recent inspection for buyer's stringent stand on putting orders to certain types of factories. It found that most factories were already shut down before 2013. Only 19 factories were found to be shut down in 2013 and 2014 and most of the closed factories were established after 2001 operating in shared premises and were small or medium manufacturers.

It appeared that the 'closed factories' were already operating before a threshold point for shut down because of lack of entrepreneurial skills, good relationship with foreign buyers and understanding of the RMG market.

The findings could not establish any 'strong' relationship between the recent factory inspections regarding compliance and the closure of the surveyed factories, noted *Ms Rayan*, adding that most of them were already closed before even Rana Plaza tragedy occurred.

In recommendation, the government was advised to look into the matter of closed apparel units only after gathering rigorous information behind their 'closure'.

Research Division Report**Estimating Women's Contribution to the Economy:****The Case of Bangladesh**

The study was based on a comprehensive survey of 13,640 individuals aged 15 years and above, of which 8,320 female and 5,320 male residing in 5,670 households (HHs) located in 378 primary sampling units across 64 districts of the country. Major findings of the study revealed that time spent by a female (aged 15 and above) on non-SNA works is about three times higher compared to a male (aged 15 and above). On an average, a female of a HH undertakes 12.1 non-SNA activities on a typical day – the corresponding figure for a male of a HH is only 2.7. Based on replacement cost method, the estimated value of women's unpaid non-SNA (household) works was equivalent to 76.8 per cent of GDP (of FY2014). According to the willingness to accept method, the corresponding estimate was equivalent to 87.2 per cent of FY2013-14 GDP. The study was led by *Fahmida Khatun, Towfiqul Islam Khan, Hosna Jahan* and *Ms Shahida Pervin*.

Post-2015 Data Test:**Unpacking the Data Revolution at the Country Level**

Southern Voice on Post-MDGs (SV) with CPD and Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA) has undertaken the study which seeks to assess the adequacy of data available for measuring post-2015 progress at the country level, in order to inform debates and decisions on the architecture and priorities of the 'data revolution'. The paper has identified opportunities and challenges that may arise from a universal, country-relevant post-2015

framework. The objective is also to enhance the capacity of Southern think tanks to contribute to the global policy processes shaping the post-2015 agenda, while also ensuring that the global processes are informed by country-level realities. Team members of the study are *Debapriya Bhattacharya, Mustafizur Rahman, Towfiqul Islam Khan, Md. Zafar Sadique, Mostafa Amir Sabbih, Mahenaw Ummul Wara* and *Umme Shefa Rezbana*.

Post-MDG International Development Goals:**Perspective from Southern Think Tanks**

Eleven research grants on topics including social, governance and economic and environmental areas were provided during the second phase and some of the research papers have already been published under the Southern Voice Occasional Paper series while the rest are awaiting publication.

Recent Developments in Myanmar and Opportunities for Sub-Regional Cooperation

This paper reviewed the state of the affairs in Myanmar and analyses its emerging role from the global and regional perspectives. Bangladesh and Myanmar shares similar interests in the BCIM sub-region as the paper highlights economic integration between the two countries. On the other hand, China and India shares similar geo-political interests. The main challenge before the BCIM is promoting sub-regional cooperation and leading the way through cooperation, not isolation. The study was conducted by *Debapriya Bhattacharya* and *Mashfiqul Ibne Akbar*.

(from page 8) Estimating women's contribution to GDP

The recommendations covered issues such as eliminating wage discrimination and facilitating women's formal work, for which think tanks, academia, NGOs, women organisations, media and the private sector were considered instrumental.

Commenting on the background, *Ms Shaheen Anam*, Executive Director, MJF, said the study set out to assess the actual contribution women were making towards the society. CPD Executive Director *Professor Mustafizur Rahman* felt that MJF shared views with CPD in envisaging an equitable and socially justifiable society in Bangladesh.

Chief Guest *Mr A H M Mustafa Kamal*, MP, Hon'ble Minister for Planning, mentioned that constitutional provision ensures no difference between men and women in terms of economic emancipation which is a step towards women empowerment in Bangladesh.

Such studies should enable women's participation in the formal sector and empower them with education and training, observed Guest of Honour *Dr A B Mirza Azizul Islam*, Former

Advisor to the Caretaker Government.

Distinguished Discussants *Dr Mustafa K Mujeri*, Director General, BIDS and *Dr Sayema H Bidisha*, Associate Professor of Economics, Dhaka University provided recommendations on the methodological framework of the study and survey methods.

Acknowledging the need for policy reforms, *Mr A E M Golam Kibria*, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs added that the government should enhance services to ease household workload and ensure access to resources such as pure drinking water to reduce women's burden.

The policymakers should further support women in utilising policy spaces such as refinancing schemes, said *Ms Ferdous Ara Begum*, CEO, BUILD Project, DCCI. *Dr Faustina Pereira*, Director, Human Rights and Legal Services, BRAC voiced a note of caution that the study should not reinforce only household work as women's work.

Ambassador Munshi Faiz Ahmad, Chairman, BISS and *Ms Tania Haque*, Associate Professor

and Chairperson of Women and Gender Studies, Dhaka University shared views that ascribing value to some unaccounted work, like the role of women in childbearing, is very difficult.

In this relation, *Mr Aminur Rahman*, Head of Economics, Independent University Bangladesh said the study could incorporate "benefit transfer method" to estimate how husbands can work better and children can perform better for the housewives' unpaid work.

Valuable observations during the floor discussion also came from *Dr Hameeda Hossain*, Former Chairperson, ASK; *Dr Kazi Saleh Ahmed*, Former Vice Chancellor, Jahangirnagar University; *Ms Luna Shamsuddoha*, President, Bangladesh Women in Technology; *Ambassador Salma Khan*, President, NGO Coalition on CEDAW and Beijing Process; *Dr Maleka Begum*, Professor, Central Womens' University; *Ms Ayesha Khanam*, President, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad; *Ms Rokeya Kabir*, Executive Director, Bangladesh Nari Progoti Sangha; and *Dr Ashikur Rahman*, Senior Economist, PRI among others.



CPD Professionals in International Fora

Rehman Sobhan, Chairman

- Made a presentation on “Rana Plaza and the Lessons from the Political Economy of Globalization” at *Development, Thought and Policy Lecture Seminar* at the New School, on 8 October 2014, in New York, USA.
- Attended the *2014 IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings* during 10-12 October 2014, in Washington, D.C., USA.
- Attended Panel Discussion on “Women, Work and Structural Transformation in South Asia” organised by Institute for Human Development, ILO, UN-ESCAP and IDRC, hosted by SARNET, on 17 December 2014, in Ranchi, India.
- Attended the 56th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Labour Economics (ISLE), on 18 December 2014, in Ranchi, India.
- Made a presentation on “Existing Models of SOE Governance Lessons from Bangladesh Experience” at the international workshop *Performance Evaluation and Management of State Owned Enterprises*, organised by Department of Public Enterprises, Performance Management Division, Cabinet Secretariat during 14-15 January 2015, in New Delhi, India.
- Led a discussion on “Environmental Crisis, Interstate Tensions, and Extremism” at the regional dialogue *Development, Democracy and Peace*, organised by Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD), on 20 December 2014, in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director

- Made a presentation “Implications for Data Revolution and the Post-2015 Framework,” at *Challenges of Implementing SDGs at Country Level: Data Issues and Beyond*, hosted by Center for Global Development (CGD) and organised by Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA), Southern Voice on Post-MDGs (SV) with UNF and William and Flora Hewlett Foundation (HF), on 17 October 2014, in Washington D.C., USA.
- Participated in the 2014 Global Think Tank Summit on *Think Tanks, Public Policy and Governance: National, Regional and Global Perspectives*, during 4-6 December 2014, in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Was a speaker at a session on “Regional Economic Cooperation and Connectivity in South Asia” at *17th Sustainable Development Conference (SDC)*, organised by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), during 9-11 December 2014, in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow

- Addressed the closing plenary on “Post-2015 Agenda and its Implementation Challenges,” at the *Annual Conference of Development Studies Association*, on 1 November 2014, in London, UK.
- Participated in UNESCAP EGM on *Data and Statistics for the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, during 9-10 December 2014, in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Presented “Synthesis of key findings from six ERD country illustrations” at OECD High Level Meeting *Financing and other Means of Implementation in a Post-2015 Context* on 15 December 2014, in Paris, France.
- Made a presentation on “The Role of Trade in the Post-2015 Development Agenda” at a session on “Coherence between the International Trade Agenda and the SDGs” at 8th meeting of the National Focal Points for Policy Coherence for Development, during 17-18 December 2014, in Paris, France.
- Made a presentation on “Main findings of the LDC IV Report and its Relevance in the Implementation of the IPoA by 2020” at *OECD Dev Talks Series*, on 18 December 2014, in Paris, France.

Rounaq Jahan, Distinguished Fellow

- Delivered a public lecture on “Gender Mainstreaming in Public Policy: An Elusive Agenda” at Institute for Research on Women, Gender and Sexuality at Columbia University, on 9 October 2014, in New York, USA.
- Made a presentation on “Reconstructing Democracy in South Asia” at the panel discussion on “Democracy & Development: Perspectives from South Asia,” at the regional dialogue *Development, Democracy and Peace*, organised by LEAD, on 20 December 2014, in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Fahmida Khatun, Research Director

- Attended a validation forum on “Gender, Trade, and Green Growth” and “Gender and Safe Mobility” hosted by UN Women, International Organization for

Migration and ADB, during 28-29 October 2014, in Manila, Philippines.

- Participated at a workshop on “Gender Responsive Budgeting Revisited: Sharing Regional Experiences,” organised by UN Women and ADB, during 27-28 November 2014, in New Delhi, India.

Mustafizur Rahman, Debapriya Bhattacharya and Fahmida Khatun

- Participated at a workshop on *Post-2015 Data Test: Unpacking the Post-2015 Data Revolution at the Country Level*, organised by CPD, NPSIA, SV with UNF and HF, on 14 October 2014, in New York, USA.
- Participated at a workshop on *View from the Field: How will the Post-2015 Agenda be delivered and implemented?* organised by CPD, NPSIA, SV with UNF and HF, on 15 October 2014, in New York, USA.
- Attended launch of LDC IV Monitor report “Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs (2011-2020)” organised by UNF, Permanent Missions of Turkey and Benin and LDC IV Monitor partners, on 15 October 2014, in New York, USA.
- Participated at the workshop *Challenges of Implementing SDGs at Country Level: Data Issues and Beyond*, hosted by CGD and organised by CPD, NPSIA, SV with UNF and HF, on 17 October 2014, in Washington D.C., USA.

Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Additional Research Director

- Participated at a view-exchange meeting organised by Yunnan Institute of Social Science, during 26 October - 2 November, in Kunming, China.
- Made a presentation on “Environmental Regulations and the Textile Industry in Bangladesh” at a session “Policies, Regulation and Environmental Compliance in Textile Industries in South Asia” at 17th SDC, organised by SDPI, during 9-11 December 2014, in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Towfiqul Islam Khan, Research Fellow and **Md Zafar Sadique**, Senior Research Associate

- Participated in meetings on Financial Transparency and Fiscal Policies in Developing Countries, organised by Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA), during 16-17 December 2014, in New Delhi, India.

Md Zafar Sadique

- Was a panellist at the seminar *Trade, Transport and Transit Facilitation in South Asia: Imperative of Bridging Macro-Meso-Micro Gaps*, hosted by CUTS International, during 29-30 October 2014, in Kolkata, India.

Kishore Kumer Basak, Senior Research Associate

- Was a discussant at a regional consultation *Deepening Economic Cooperation in South Asia: Expectations from 18th SAARC Summit*, organised by SAWTEE, GIZ, Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, CUTS International and ICRIER, during 23-24 November 2014, in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Mashfique Ibne Akbar, Senior Research Associate

- Presented “Evaluating Prospects of Monetary Integration in ASEAN” at the conference *Towards the 2015 Asean Economic Community: Progress and Prospects*, at University Pelita Harapan, on 22 October 2014, in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Shahida Pervin, Research Associate

- Participated in *7th South Asian Training Programme on CGE Modelling*, organised by SAWTEE, SANEM and Centre for WTO Studies (CWS), during 20-24 November 2014, in Kathmandu, Nepal.

CPD High-level Team attended 7th South Asia Economic Summit, where

- **Rehman Sobhan** addressed the inaugural and chaired the session “Summary, Conclusions and Way Forward”
- **M Syeduzzaman** chaired the session “Financial and Monetary Cooperation”
- **Mustafizur Rahman** was a panellist at the session “Regional Cooperation for Food Security in South Asia” and extended concluding remarks at the session on “Summary, Conclusions and Way Forward”
- **Debapriya Bhattacharya** delivered lead presentation at the session on “Post-2015 Agenda: South Asian Perspectives”
- **Fahmida Khatun** was a panellist at the session “Macroeconomic Performance, Prospects and Policy Coordination”
- **Khondaker Golam Moazzem** was a panellist at the session “South Asia Connectivity: Regional Agenda for South Asia Economic Union” and made a presentation on “Financial Sector of South Asia Revisiting the Benchmark Condition” at the session “Financial and Monetary Cooperation”.
- **Rounaq Jahan** and **Towfiqul Islam Khan** participated at various sessions

CPD Professionals in National Fora

Rehman Sobhan, Chairman

- Chaired the event “Look East Policy: Bangladesh Perspectives,” organised by BIDS and Japan External Trade Organisation, on 1 December 2014.
- Chaired the international conference on *Political Economy, Accountability and Governance*, organised by BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) with TTI, IGC, LSE and ESID, on 11 December 2014.

Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director

- Addressed the session “The Role of Garments in the Development Process,” at the seminar *Gender Equality and Productivity in the Bangladesh Garment Industry*, organised by IGC, GIZ and BIGD, on 19 November 2014.
- Was a discussant on “Can RMG help Bangladesh become a Middle-Income Country?” at *Dhaka Apparel Summit 2014* of BGMEA, during 7-9 December 2014.
- Attended “বাংলাদেশ-ভারত সম্পর্ক” organised by Dhaka Forum, on 27 December 2014.

Mustafizur Rahman and Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow

- Were discussants at an international conference on *Global Economic*

Recovery: Asian Perspectives, organised by International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh (ICCB), during 25-26 October 2014.

Rounaq Jahan, Distinguished Fellow

- Was a discussant at the conference *Political Economy, Accountability and Governance*, organised by BIGD with TTI, IGC and LSE on 11 December 2014.
- Attended launching of “The State of Governance in Bangladesh 2013: Democracy and Party Politics,” prepared by BIGD on 20 December 2014.

Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Additional Research Director

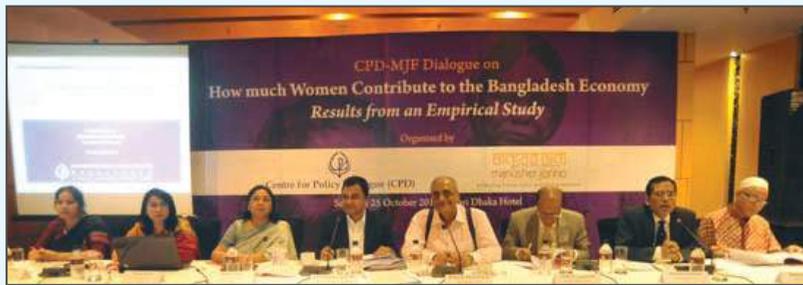
- Addressed a discussion on *Challenges to Private Sector Development in Bangladesh*, organised by Nordic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Royal Norwegian Embassy and Swedish Embassy, on 12 November 2014.
- Attended the conference *NRB Talent, Remittance and Investment for Development* arranged by Centre for NRB on 13 November 2014.
- Addressed a seminar on *Supply Chain Management and Army Logistic*, organised by Bangladesh University of Professionals on 2 December 2014.
- Participated at *Dhaka Apparel Summit 2014* during 7-9 December 2014.

Estimating women's contribution to GDP

Women's unaccounted labour significant, needs recognition

Women's unpaid activities outside the traditional framework of GDP estimation should be reevaluated and recognised as women's contribution towards the economy. More wage-based work opportunity in formal sector is key to making women's unaccounted contribution more visible in the society, which calls for reforms in policy space and changes in social perception towards women alongside amendments in traditional accounting method.

The views emerged from a dialogue on "How much Women Contribute to the Bangladesh Economy: Results from an Empirical Study," chaired by *Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya* and jointly organised by CPD and Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), at Amari Dhaka Hotel on 25 October 2014.



(left) Sayema Bidisha, Fahmida Khatun, Shaheen Anam, A H M Mustafa Kamal, Debapriya Bhattacharya, A B Mirza Azizul Islam, Mustafizur Rahman and Mustafa K Mujeer

CPD Research Director *Dr Fahmida Khatun* presented the study "Estimating Women's Contribution to the Economy: The Case of Bangladesh."

Dr Khatun drew on research findings that estimated the value of women's unpaid household work in Bangladesh to be equivalent to 76 or 87 per cent of the monetary value of the GDP of FY2014, according to two independently deployed methods. This value is unaccounted for and

would have added up to the GDP growth if recognised, she added. The study recommended undertaking policy reforms and urged Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) to use comprehensive methods to include women's unaccounted activities. (Continued on page 6)

Publications



Book

Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs (2011-2020): Monitoring Deliverables, Tracking Progress - Synthesis Report. Istanbul: LDC IV Monitor.

Book Chapters

In *Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs (2011-2020): Monitoring Deliverables, Tracking Progress - Analytical Perspectives.* London: Commonwealth Secretariat.

- Bhattacharya, D. and Khan, T.I. 2014. "The Challenges of Structural Transformation and Progress towards the MDGs and LDCs."
- Rahman, M. and Sadique, M.Z. 2014. "Leveraging Migration and Remittance towards Graduation of the LDCs."
- Bhattacharya, D. and Akbar, M.I. 2014. "Domestic Resource Mobilisation in the LDCs: Trends, Determinants, and Challenges."
- Khatun, F. and Ahamad, M.G. 2014. "ODA to and External Debt in LDCs: Recent Trends."
- Moazzem, K.G. and Raz, S. 2014. "Foreign Direct Investment for Development and Productive Capacity Building in LDCs."



In *India's Economic Growth: Opportunities and Challenges for the Region* Joseph, M. and Jacob, H. (Eds.) [Australia India Institute Foreign Policy Series 5]. New Delhi: Australia India Institute (University of Melbourne), Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (Colombo) and Manohar Publishers.

- Khatun, F. and Hossain, S. 2014. "India's Economic Rise: Implications for Bangladesh."

Journal Article

Bhattacharya, D. Khan, T. I. and Salma, U. 2014. "A Commentary on the Final Outcome Document of the Open Working Group on SDGs." *SAIS Review of International Affairs*. 34(2): 165-177, Summer-Fall 2014. DOI: 10.1353/sais.2014.0034

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Eberechukwu Uneze and Adedeji Adeniran

FAO Proceedings of Regional Consultation on Sustainable Intensification of Aquaculture in Asia and the Pacific

Role of Trade, Markets and Value Chain Management in the Substantive Intensification of Agriculture: The Case of Bangladesh, October 2014
Fahmida Khatun

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Working Paper

Absorbing innovative financial flows: Looking at Asia, October 2014
Rehman Sobhan

UNDP Human Development Report Office Occasional Paper

Vulnerability Traps: Effects on Human Development, November 2014
Rehman Sobhan

Blog Posts

- Bhattacharya, D. 2014. Evolution of the Civil Society in Bangladesh and a Few Debates. Published in *Alalodulal.org*, 1 October. Available at <http://alalodulal.org/2014/10/01/civil-society-part-1/>
- Khatun, F. 2014. "Implementing Post-2015 Agenda in Bangladesh through Domestic Resource Mobilisation." *Post2015.org*, 10 December. Available at: <http://post2015.org/2014/12/10/implementing-post-2015-agenda-in-bangladesh-through-domestic-resource-mobilisation/>

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- Bhattacharya, D. 2014. রাজনীতিক ও সুশীল সমাজ প্রতিপক্ষ নয়. *Prothom Alo*, 2 October.
- Jahan, R. 2014. রাজনৈতিক দল: তখন ও এখন. *Prothom Alo*, 6 November.
- Moazzem, K.G. 2014. রানা প্লাজা ধস ও পোশাকশিল্পের ভবিষ্যৎ. *Prothom Alo*, 6 November.
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- Khatun, F. 2014. Middle income vs LDCs. *The Daily Star*, 15 December.
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- Khatun, F. 2014. নারীর কাজের যথার্থ মূল্যায়ন হোক. *Samakal*, 29 October.
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- Moazzem, K.G. 2014. সুনির্দিষ্ট কর্মকৌশল ঠিক করতে হবে. *Shokaler Khobor*, 14 December.
- Moazzem, K.G. 2014. চ্যালেঞ্জ নিয়েই এগোতে হবে. *Manabzamin*, 22 December.
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- Bhattacharya, D. 2014. নেতৃত্বের সৃজনশীলতা ও মধ্যবিত্তের উদ্যম সময়ের দাবি. *Samakal*, 31 December.

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- Khatun, F. 2014. মর্যাদায় গড়ি সমতা. *Radio Today 89.6 FM*, 22 November.