



*Annual Report*

CPD

2008



CENTRE FOR POLICY DIALOGUE (CPD)  
*a civil society think - tank*



The graphic features a light teal rounded rectangle with a dark green curved shape on its right side, set against a larger dark teal background. The text is centered within the light teal area.

**CPD**  
Annual  
Report  
2008

# Annual Report



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**Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)**

*a civil society think-tank*

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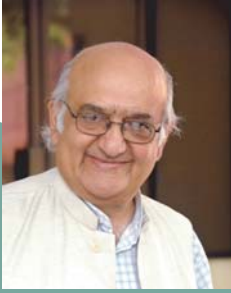
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## *CPD's Mission Statement*

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*To service the growing demand of the emerging civil society of Bangladesh for a demand-driven and accountable development process by stimulating informed debate, generating knowledge and influencing policy making through research, dissemination and policy advocacy.*



## Message from the Chairman

As the year 2008 came to end, CPD finds itself positioned at a point 15 years down the line from where it started its journey of civic activism in 1993. With the passage of time, CPD has continued to strive towards bridging the gap between empirical research and policy advocacy through sustained efforts in public policy analyses. Its record of having convened 417 dialogues at the in-house, national, regional and global levels, to discuss a variety of policy issues, has no parallel in Bangladesh and few within the region. CPD's dialogues, have, in the process, become part of the institutional memory of public policy debate over these 15 years covering the life span of four successive regimes in Bangladesh.

This review of CPD activities in 2008 presented in this Annual Report, captures the unique combination of policy research, dialogues, networking, publication and dissemination which has, over the years come to be recognised as the hallmark of the organisation. Through its work during 2008, CPD continued to engage with civil society in the design and oversight of public policy in order to promote a development and governance process which is more demand-driven, participatory and accountable. I am glad that my colleagues at CPD have been able to meaningfully discharge their responsibilities not only from an institutional perspective, but also as part of their responsibility in intellectually contributing towards the development of an equitable and just society in Bangladesh.

Finally, I would like to put on record my sincere appreciation for the enormous contribution of *Professor Mustafizur Rahman*, the current Executive Director of CPD in carrying forward the CPD programme during a period of transition in the country. I also take this opportunity to thank *Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya*, the immediate past Executive Director of CPD, who has played the leading role in steering the institution through good and bad times for over eight years since 1999. *Ms Anisatul Fatema Yousuf*, Director of CPD's Dialogue and Communication Division, also deserves to be complimented for the task she has been discharging in fulfilling CPD's primary mission of organising the dialogues and bringing out the publications which project the institution's public face. Lastly, I would like to register my deep appreciation to each and every member of the CPD family for their enormous effort and commitment invested by transforming CPD into one of the most visible civil society organisations in the country. In relation to its numbers CPD's output, both in terms of publication and dialogues, remains disproportionately high. This could only be possible because each and every member tends to perform over and above the call of duty, inspired by a strong *esprit de corp* as well as a vocation towards building a strong civil society.

(Rehman Sobhan)





## Message from the Desk of the Executive Director

The year 2008 witnessed some important changes in the life of CPD. With the departure of *Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya*, the long serving (1999-2007), immediate past Executive Director of the CPD, in October 2007, to take up the position as Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to UN Offices and WTO in Geneva, the CPD embarked on the fifteenth year of its journey at a challenging point in time. Thanks to the guidance of *Professor Rehman Sobhan*, Chairman, CPD and the esteemed members of the CPD Board of Trustees, and by dint of the dedicated and hard work of the resourceful and talented pool of staff belonging to the CPD family, it has been possible for CPD to meet the challenges, continue the good work and undertake an exciting journey in the year 2008.

Annual Report 2008 captures major achievements of the CPD which is manifested in the richness of its research portfolio and the broad range of its dialogue activities and policy influencing initiatives that the Centre had undertaken in the year. The Annual Report also provides an opportunity to appreciate the journey that CPD has taken over the past one and half decade, since its establishment in 1993, a road that led to the emergence of the CPD as a leading think tank of global repute. The year 2008 saw further consolidation of CPD's institutionalisation process and strengthening of its research and outreach programmes. New partnerships were built, new areas of research were undertaken, and new avenues of outreach were tested.

In the elapsed year, a substantial part of CPD's research was focused on tasks facing Bangladesh in the context of the ongoing financial crisis. The issue of food security in view of the rising prices of food items in domestic and global market occupied CPD's heightened attention. CPD continued to play a prominent role in bringing issues of importance and interest to Bangladesh civil society to the notice of policymakers by proactively engaging them in discussions and dialogues. We took special care to make our dissemination and outreach programmes more focused and effective. Indeed, policy engagement at regional and global levels, one of the distinguishing features of CPD, was also strengthened during this period.

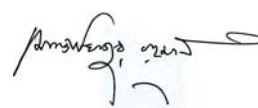
The CPD family was particularly happy to see recognition of the outstanding contribution of our Founder and Chairman *Professor Rehman Sobhan* who received *Swadhinata Padak 2008*, the highest civilian national award in Bangladesh.

It has been CPD's good fortune to have enjoyed active cooperation of various civil society and stakeholder groups and CPD's partners - local, regional and global - who have lent their support to different initiatives of the CPD over these past years. It is my privilege to take this opportunity to register our deep gratitude to all of them.

Finally, on behalf of the editorial board of the Annual Report 2008, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all my colleagues who have put in a great deal of effort to prepare this Report in a manner that does justice to the richness of CPD's multidimensional activities. In this connection, I would like to particularly mention the most valuable contribution of *Mr Syed Saifuddin Hossain*, Senior Research Associate, CPD who was tasked to prepare

the content of this report. *Mr Avra Bhattacharjee*, Senior Documentation and Publication Officer, *Ms Nazmatun Noor*, Senior Dialogue Associate, CPD, *Mr AHM Ashrafuzzaman*, Senior System Analyst, CPD and *Mr Fazley Rabbi Shakil*, Publication and Print Associate, CPD have worked exceptionally hard, with sincerity and dedication, to prepare the manuscript for publication within a short span of time and in such a presentable design and format. My sincere appreciation to all of them.

Indeed, to all members of the CPD family who have made it all happen in 2008, and who are so committed to attaining newer heights in everything they plan to do in the years to come, I owe a great debt of personal gratitude. It will be our endeavour to consolidate our accomplishments of the past years and coming days to build on what have been achieved in 2008.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mustafizur Rahman', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

(*Mustafizur Rahman*)

# Evolution of CPD

# 1

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) has arrived at this point in time through taking an exciting journey spanning over a decade and half now. Its focus of activity has changed and evolved with the passage of time. Starting from its concentration on organising dialogues on key issues of concern to the emerging civil society of Bangladesh, the Centre gradually widened its ambit of activism by going into research, and then advocacy and policy influencing in a number of core areas. Today, in all these three areas the CPD maintains a rich portfolio, and the present Annual Report 2008 is an attempt to capture these diverse activities by recalling some of the major endeavours of the past but focusing mainly on what has been achieved in the particular year of 2008.

As may be recalled, the CPD was established by a Deed of Trust on 16 November 1993. *Professor Rehman Sobhan*, an eminent economist and civil society leader in Bangladesh, took the initiative to establish the Centre in response to the growing need of the Bangladesh civil society for a platform of their own following return to democracy in early 1990s, after a decade-long military rule. It was a period when important policy reforms were being pursued in Bangladesh. He along with eight other leading citizens of the country, acted as founding members of the CPD Board of Trustees (BoT). The Board then included as members *Mr Fazle Hasan Abed*, Chairperson, BRAC; *Mr Qazi Faruque Ahmed*, President, PROSHIKA and President, ADAB; *Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed*, Eminent Jurist; *Mr Zahin Ahmed*, Executive Director,

Friends in Village Development in Bangladesh; *Ms Khushi Kabir*, Coordinator, Nijera Kori; *Syed Humayun Kabir*, Chairman, Renata Ltd.; *Dr FR Mahmood Hassan*, Chief Executive, Gonoshahajjo Sangstha; and *Mr Nurul Haq*, Former Member, Planning Commission. CPD was subsequently registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau under the Prime Minister's Office in 1995. Since then a number of eminent people have joined the Board as distinguished members. In this connection, CPD recalls the valuable contributions of *Late Barrister Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed* and *Late Ambassador Fakhruddin Ahmed*, Former Advisor to the Caretaker Government.

Indeed, *Professor Sobhan* had earlier taken an initiative, when he was an Advisor (Minister) in-charge of Planning in the Caretaker Government in 1991, to set up 29 Task Forces. National Experts assembled under these Task Forces were tasked to come up with policy recommendations in key areas of developmental challenges facing the country. These Task Force reports, with a wealth of knowledge, information, insights and policy suggestions, were published in four volumes under the titles: (i) *Policies for Development*, (ii) *Managing the Development Process*, (iii) *Developing the Infrastructure*, and (iv) *Environment Policy*. These reports were handed over to high level policymakers as policy inputs. The experience with this exercise underscored the need to give such efforts and initiatives an institutional backing, to be pursued in a sustained manner.

The setting up of the CPD as a civil society institution was, as a matter of fact, informed by this felt-need to institutionalise such efforts, in order for these to be more effective and policy relevant. It was perceived that the CPD would contribute to strengthening the process of democratisation in the country by promoting demand-driven developmental agendas and contributing to a process whereby stakeholders would have a say in the design, implementation and monitoring of the developmental policies. As stated in its *Trust* document, the activities of the CPD would focus on: (i) making citizens aware about policy issues that affect their lives and livelihoods and the future of their country, (ii) facilitating public discussion on those policy issues with a view to building a broad based support for policies that service the felt-needs of the common citizens of the country, and (iii) influencing the process and outcome of policymaking in Bangladesh through proactive policy advocacy.

During the first few years, the CPD concentrated its activities mainly in the area of organising dialogues and discussions around issues of macroeconomic management, governance and donor-recipient relationship. However, the need to bring in research was felt early on both as input to and outcome of the dialogue process whereby research themes that reflect felt-needs are identified. It is at this time that the proposal for CPD's flagship research programme, the *Independent Review of Bangladesh's Development* (IRBD) was developed as a study to provide home-grown development alternatives (to government and donors). With IRBD, CPD developed a tradition of preparing its own research proposals in areas that were perceived to be important from national perspective and where CPD had the relevant competencies. With the initiation of the IRBD programme, CPD consolidated its works on two pillars viz. Research and Dialogue.

CPD can take credit in the fact that it played an important role in creating the

tradition of multistakeholder consultations in Bangladesh. CPD dialogues provided a platform for all relevant stakeholders for constructive engagement around various issues. Even at times when opposition parties were boycotting the Parliament, CPD dialogues provided opportunities for all major political forces to come together and be engaged in informed debates. CPD research outputs helped making such discussions to be based on empirical evidence and reliable information and data. CPD gradually started to play an important role in showing the views of the emerging civil society of Bangladesh.

Four years after CPD was established, the CPD BoT constituted an independent *Review Committee* (RC) in January 1998 to evaluate the extent to which CPD had succeeded in realising its vision and objectives and whether there was a justification for institutionalisation of CPD as a civil society think tank. The three-member RC was headed by *Justice Kemaluddin Hossain*, Former Chief Justice of Bangladesh as the Convenor. *Mr M Mujibul Huq*, Former Cabinet Secretary, Government of Bangladesh (GoB) was a Member of the committee, while *Dr Rushidan Islam Rahman*, Senior Research Fellow at the time, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) acted as Member-Secretary.

The RC, having carried out an in-depth assessment of CPD's achievements, strengths, weaknesses and possibilities, recommended that CPD's activities should be continued and consolidated further, and that CPD should strengthen its institutional set-up by strengthening human resources, building the required research capacities and acquiring the logistics. It was felt by the RC that CPD had the potential to emerge as a think tank based on two core activities, research and dialogues. The RC put forward a number of recommendations towards this including creation of *Research, Dialogue and Communication*, and *Administration and Finance* Divisions at the CPD. RC also asked

for revisiting of the CPD organogram to provide CPD with a formal institutional structure, and putting in place CPD's Recruitment and Service Rules. Gradually, under the guidance of the Executive Chairman, *Professor Rehman Sobhan*, and CPD-BoT, several steps were taken to implement the recommendations of the RC. Following these recommendations, *Professor Mustafizur Rahman* was appointed as Research Director in November 1998. In May 1999, CPD's institutionalisation was consolidated through a Search Committee headed by CPD-BoT member *Mr M Syeduzzaman*, by way of appointing *Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya* as the Executive Director. *Professor Rehman Sobhan* ceased working as the Executive Chairman and assumed the position of Chairman of the Centre.

CPD experienced yet another leadership transition in November 2007, when *Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya* was appointed by the GoB as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations (UN) Offices, World Trade Organization (WTO) and other international organisations in Geneva, and *Professor Mustafizur Rahman* was appointed as the Executive Director of CPD. *Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya* has rejoined CPD as a Distinguished Fellow on his return from Geneva in April 2009. The Dialogue and Communication Division was strengthened through recruitment of dedicated staff. *Ms Anisatul Fatema Yousuf* joined in as Joint Director of the Division in July 2001. CPD's Administration and Finance Division was given appropriate shape through recruitment of the required human resources.

CPD's research capacities were strengthened on a continuing basis by attracting young, talented graduates who were interested to build a career in research and policy influencing. By providing these young professionals an opportunity to hone their skills through close association with senior CPD staff, by encouraging them to go for higher studies in

overseas centres of excellence, and by facilitating their training at home and abroad, CPD has been able to build a core group of research professionals who are capable of undertaking quality research on a broad spectrum of issues. CPD has also built up critical logistics and other facilities to support its various activities. Institutionalisation of CPD was also further consolidated through shift of office premise to a better location, further streamlining of management through application of improved and modern management tools and by putting in place a transparent and well-streamlined accounting practices overseen through internal audit and subjected regularly to external audit.

CPD moved to its current premise at Dhanmondi in September 2000, on a long-term lease. The five-storey building is currently the home to CPD, where all its core staff work and all its Divisions are housed. A spacious Dialogue Room, equipped with all modern facilities required to organise press briefings and in-house conferences, has also been built up by the CPD in this new premise; there is also a rooftop canteen where CPD staff take their lunch. CPD provides one person-one computer facility to its core professionals with adequate logistics support including high speed internet connection with e-mail server, printers, scanners, photocopiers and laptops. With a view to facilitating the day-to-day activities, CPD has also installed a high capacity stand-by electric generator.

Thanks to the aforesaid consolidation, CPD was able to gradually widen its ambit of work, both within and outside Bangladesh. Research activities started to cover such diverse areas as governance, international trade and WTO negotiations, environment, climate change, and food and energy security. Where in-house capacity proved to be inadequate, CPD experts collaborated with outside resource persons to carry out particular research. Whilst CPD dialogues tended to be organised more around

CPD's research works, increasingly the need was felt to organise events to discuss issues that required urgent attention. Thus, CPD dialogues started to provide platforms for frank and open discussions on such issues as labour unrest, addressing input needs of farmers and price hike of essentials. By taking advantage of its widening network and growing goodwill, CPD by drawing on its organisational strength, went beyond one-shot programmes, and got involved into sustained long-term activities. CPD initiatives in 2001 to design a set of policy proposals for the then upcoming government, review of what progress was made in the context of these proposals in 2003, and pre-election campaign for honest and capable candidates in 2006 testify CPD's ability to address broader issues of policy environment and governance in Bangladesh context. CPD's ability to bring on board a broad spectrum of stakeholders in these initiatives also speak about growing effectiveness of its outreach activities and the key role that CPD is able to play in coordinating such efforts implemented through broad based civil society participation.

CPD also gradually strengthened its networking activities and focused on strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the South Asia and on advancing Bangladesh's interest as a least developed country (LDC) in the various global fora including WTO and the UN system. Both

research and dialogues were deployed to this end. Through Indo-Bangladesh dialogues, and organisation of regional, international and LDC dialogues and forums, CPD further consolidated its activities as a leading civil society organisation in Bangladesh. CPD also

CPD strives to bridge the gap between empirical research and policy advocacy through sustained efforts in public policy analyses. CPD endeavours to create a national environment conducive to open public discussion and debate on important policy issues with a view to ensuring domestic ownership over the policy agenda and building a broad based support for such policies across stakeholder groups and political divide. The mission of CPD is to help build an inclusive society in Bangladesh based on equity, justice and fairness.

became part of global networks and actively participated in various global fora. CPD also worked closely with successive governments in certain areas where it had in-house human resources and capacities. CPD senior staffs were invited to be members of a number of national committees and negotiating delegations.

## Focus

CPD focuses on frontier issues which are critical to the development process of Bangladesh in the present context, and which are expected to shape and influence the country's development prospects over the mid-term horizon. CPD's current

programme portfolio includes research initiatives, holding of dialogues, publication and dissemination activities as well as networking related works. CPD aims to enhance national capacity for economy-wide policy analyses, foster regional cooperation in poverty alleviation, trade, trade facilitation, investment, transport and other key areas and addresses issues which concern Bangladesh's effective integration into the process of globalisation. Towards this, CPD undertakes research activities, builds networks, organises training

programmes, brings out publications, initiates dialogues, holds local, national, regional and international events to highlight Bangladesh's concerns and project her interests nationally, regionally and globally.

## Target Groups

CPD's target groups are diverse and include both policymakers as well as those for whom policies are designed in the first place. Thus, CPD seeks to involve all important cross-sections of the society including public representatives across political spectrum, government officials, business leaders, representatives of grassroots organisations including NGOs and trade unions, academics, development partners and other relevant interest groups. These broad groups of stakeholders are engaged in exchange of views in all the three phases of CPD activism, viz. identification of socially relevant issues, generating inputs for the purpose of policy analysis and validation of policy recommendations.

## Operational Modalities

CPD takes special interest in ensuring that all facets of its activities are blended in a manner that produces best result from the perspective of attaining its vision and mission objectives. CPD's activities are operationalised through four broad areas of initiatives. These are:

- **Knowledge generation** through research and analysis, and creation and management of data and information base.
- **Policy awareness raising** through dialogues, networking, information dissemination and mobilising support of the civil society.
- **Policy influencing** at national, regional and international levels, by involving policymakers in the dialogue process and by contributing to preparation of global policy documents and national policy briefs.
- **Capacity building** by way of strengthening in-house capacities and organising policy appreciation events for policymakers and other important stakeholder groups.

# Institutional Structure and Internal Management

## 2

CPD's governance framework is one of its key strengths, ensuring both the independence of its research and dialogue activities and relevance of the CPD initiatives to diverse stakeholders.

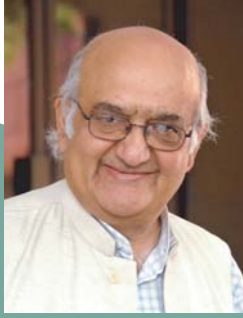
### BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BoT)

The highest body in CPD's governance framework is the BoT. Founding Members of the BoT numbered nine. Currently the BoT has 12 members. Members of the Board are all distinguished personalities of the Bangladesh civil society with diverse expertise and experienced professional background.

The BoT has broad decision making powers that include senior recruitments, approval of research and dialogue programmes, and annual budget of the institution. At the same time, the Board guarantees the independence of CPD's work. The BoT meets at least twice a year. The January meet reviews the progress of CPD activities undertaken during the preceding year, discusses and finalises the activity plan for the current year and approves the budget. The mid-year meeting takes stock of CPD activities carried out since the previous meeting and discusses the modalities for successful completion of the planned activities during the rest of the year. Two BoT meetings were held in 2008. The Board also has an Executive Committee (EC) comprising of the Member-Secretary, Treasurer and one designated member of the Board. EC meetings take place as and when needed, between the BoT meetings.



In order of  
Date of Inclusion to the Board



*Professor Rehman Sobhan*  
Chairman, CPD and  
Former Member  
President's Advisory Council



*Mr Fazle Hasan Abed*  
Chairperson  
BRAC



*Mr Qazi Faruque Ahmed*  
President, PROSHIKA and  
Former President, ADAB  
(He has since resigned from CPD-BoT)



*Ms Khushi Kabir*  
Coordinator, Nijera Kori and  
Former President, ADAB



*Syed Humayun Kabir*  
Former Chairman, TIB and  
Chairman, Renata Ltd.



*Mr Nurul Haq*  
Former Member  
Bangladesh Planning Commission

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Nobel Laureate  
*Professor Muhammad Yunus*  
Managing Director  
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*Syed Manzur Elahi*  
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Chairman, Apex Group



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Professor Emiretus  
Dhaka University  
Former DG, Bangla Academy



*Ms Laila Rahman Kabir*  
Managing Director  
Kedarpur Tea Company Ltd. and  
Former President, MCCI



*Professor Mustafizur Rahman*  
Executive Director, CPD

## Internal Management

Over the years, based on experience and felt-needs, CPD has developed a number of bodies which helps the top management with running the various activities of the organisation on a day-to-day basis.

### Management Implementation Committee (MIC)

MIC is CPD's top internal management body that ensures smooth functioning of the organisation's activities. In 2008, the Committee consisted of the following senior CPD staff:

- *Professor Mustafizur Rahman*, Executive Director
- *Ms Anisatul Fatema Yousuf*, Director, Dialogue and Communication
- *Mr Shafiqul Islam*, Additional Director, Administration and Finance
- *Dr Uttam Kumar Deb*, Head of Research
- *Dr Fahmida Khatun*, Additional Director, Research
- *Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem*, Senior Research Fellow

The MIC meets periodically and also on need basis to review the progress of research and dialogue activities and discuss about future plans. The committee also discusses and takes decision on day-to-day administrative and management issues. A total of 16 MIC meetings were held in 2008. Minutes of the MIC meetings are kept for monitoring the follow-up activities.

### Research Management Committee (RMC)

The RMC was formed in October 2008 to help the Head of Research in implementing the research agenda of the CPD. RMC is a team

of mid-to-senior level CPD researchers and is chaired by the Head of Research Division. The Committee is mandated to help design overall research strategy and prepare annual research plan, allocate research responsibilities among colleagues, ensure high quality implementation of research plan, help research capacity building at CPD, recommend future research areas, and collaborate with CPD's Dialogue and Communication Division towards ensuring effective policy advocacy, policy influencing and dissemination of CPD researches. Generally, the RMC meeting is held twice a month. Five RMC meetings took place during the reporting period.

### Review, Coordination and Planning (RECAP)

All CPD staffs are members of the RECAP body which is generally convened once a month. The purpose of the RECAP meeting is to learn about what each CPD staff is doing at the moment, identify where improvements are necessary and coordinate various individual activities. This also acts as an official platform where the general staff share their views and opinion with the MIC members on diverse range of issues pertaining to smooth functioning of the CPD as an institution. Major CPD decisions concerning general staff such as new recruitments, promotions, new facilities introduced, and new rules to be followed for better functioning are also announced in RECAP meetings. Minutes of the RECAP meetings are recorded and circulated for follow-up. Seven RECAP meetings were held in 2008.

# Research Activities

## 3

CPD maintains a rich research portfolio which is mandated to service two complementary demands: to sustain CPD's dialogue process with research based informed inputs, and to undertake research in key areas and on critical issues which are often prioritised through the dialogue process. In identifying its research agenda, CPD has tended to focus more on issues that are policy-tailored and has policy relevance. Both strategic themes and issues of immediate relevance are taken up. Where necessary, CPD also collaborates with experts from other research institutions and academic establishments.

CPD's research programmes cover a wide magnitude of issues: governance, economic reforms, environmental sustainability and financial sector analysis to trade-related issues in the WTO, with special emphasis on the areas of interest to the LDCs in general, and Bangladesh in particular. Issues of regional importance, particularly in such areas as trade, investment, connectivity and trade facilitation in South Asia have also been of research interest to the CPD.

CPD's research activities can be put under the following seven broad headings. The year 2008 witnessed an even more expanding active involvement of CPD in various research initiatives carried out under these programmes mentioned below:

1. Macroeconomic Performance Analysis
2. Agriculture and Rural Development

3. Trade, Regional Cooperation and Global Integration
4. Investment Promotion, Infrastructure and Enterprise Development
5. Climate Change and Environment
6. Human Development and Social Protection
7. Development Governance, Policies and Institutions

The remaining part of this Section provides a report on CPD's various research programmes during 2008, including a list of all CPD research works carried out during the reporting period.

### **Macroeconomic Performance Analysis**

CPD has been implementing the programme on Macroeconomic Performance Analysis through its flagship programme, i.e. IRBD which originated from the idea of producing a home-grown perspective on Bangladesh's economic performance, on an ongoing basis. The IRBDs were to provide the stakeholders with perspectives on both strategic and policy issues and current developments. The idea was to provide a civil society report card on performance of key macroeconomic parameters that would be distinct from the exercises carried out by donors and the government. It was decided at the very beginning that the underlying

#### Selected issues and themes addressed in the course of the IRBD exercise in 2008

##### Macro Issues

- State of the Bangladesh economy in FY2007-08 and outlook for FY2008-09
- National Budget FY2008-09
- State of the economy prior to National Election 2008
- Food security and agricultural policy

##### Strategic Theme

- Regional inequalities in Bangladesh
- Price inflation in Bangladesh
- Development of Bangladesh with Equity and Justice

##### Special Issue

- Restructuring of the jute sector
- Boro production and food security
- Business competitiveness environment in Bangladesh

vision, design and execution of the IRBD would remain, from beginning to end, a home-grown effort. CPD prepared the proposal for the IRBD programme and explored support from potential sources. The Like Minded Group (LMG) of countries comprising of Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden came forward to support the IRBD programme, the third phase of which is expected to continue till March 2009.

The first IRBD report was prepared in 1995. Since then, CPD has been continuing this flagship programme by way of preparing IRBD volumes every year. Studies conducted under the IRBD programme are of three distinct natures:

- *Macro Component* provides an analysis of the state of the Bangladesh economy by tracing

indicators during a fiscal year. This part has several interim outputs: a six-monthly review in January, state of the economy prior to budget in May, CPD budget proposals, review of the budget immediately after budget is placed, and a comprehensive analysis of the economy during the past fiscal year in September.

- *Thematic Component* deals with strategic issues of long-term importance by looking at the identified theme from various perspectives. Past themes have included governance, labour market, globalisation and regional cooperation in South Asia.
- *Special Issues* focuses on particular issues and developments that require immediate attention. Such volumes brought out in the past included flood cost estimation, analysis of the poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP), etc.

As in previous years, CPD maintained an impressive publications portfolio under the IRBD programme in 2008. This included five books, four Occasional Papers, four Dialogue

Reports, and several newspaper articles (a list of these publications is presented in Section 7).

## Agriculture and Rural Development

Agriculture has assumed central position in the policy discourse of present times particularly in view of the urgency of ensuring national food security of the country. Bangladesh's development with equity and

A CPD diagnostic study on recent inflation in Bangladesh estimated that as a consequence of high inflation, between January 2005 and March 2008, an additional 8.5 per cent of the total population, or 2.5 million new households (1.21 crore people) had fallen below the poverty line. The study argued that inflation mainly originated from a change in relative prices, indicating a cost-push type of inflation which was more of the nature of supply side-driven and product-specific one, rather than one related to weaknesses in the macroeconomic fundamentals.

justice hinges critically on development of agriculture and revitalisation of the rural economy. In 2008, CPD conducted several studies under this programme including the ones related to food production and food security, prices of food items, crop diversification and spatial pattern of Bangladesh agriculture. CPD conducted a study on poverty and income inequality in Bangladesh and carried out an in-depth study to identify the challenges and explore the opportunities related to rejuvenating the jute sector of the country. Four Occasional Papers were published in 2008 focusing on income inequality and regional disparities in the country.

A national target of producing at least 32 million tonnes of rice needs to be set for FY2008-09 to attain "comfort zone of food security" - CPD study on *Boro Procurement Strategy and Food Security* revealed.

## Trade, Regional Cooperation and Global Integration

In 1999, CPD designed a programme titled *Trade Policy Analysis* (TPA) with a view to carrying out research in areas related to Bangladesh's regional and global integration and to support Bangladesh's negotiations in the WTO. Major areas of focus of the TPA programme are: (a) trade-related research, (b) preparation of Policy Briefs in support of trade policy making, (c) organisation of dialogues, (d) holding of workshops and trainings, (e) strengthening of trade-related documentation, and (f) trade-related publication and networking. The

programme has received support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) with the second phase continuing now under the title *Trade Related Research and Policy Development* (TRRPD). Key objectives of the programme are as follows:

- Strengthening Bangladesh's capacity to address trade policy-related issues and design appropriate responses regarding emerging issues.
- Raising awareness on trade issues within the government, civil society and the private sector.
- Strengthening the capacity of Bangladeshi researchers and policymakers to analyse, formulate and implement appropriate trade policies in the context of the WTO-governed trade regime.
- Ensuring greater access by CPD, GoB, private sector organisations and civil society groups to WTO documents, analysis of topical trade issues and current trade-related information.
- Enhancing capacity of the GoB to negotiate on "new" trade issues at subsequent rounds of trade negotiations.

During the reporting period, CPD published one book, five research papers and six Policy Briefs under the TRRPD programme (details in Section 7).

CPD perceives Bangladesh's development to be critically dependent on effective regional and global integration of the country's economy. A large part of CPD's

A CPD study on Aid for Trade (AfT) Needs Assessment identified a total of 83 projects under the five pillars of AfT guided by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) parameters and assessed 12 priority projects (including establishment of power plants, Dhaka-Chittagong four-lane highway, modernisation of land ports, establishing effluent water treatment plant and modernisation of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) where *aid for trade* could be targeted.

research activities has thus, been devoted to exploring effective ways and means to further Bangladesh's interests and address Bangladesh's concerns from regional and global perspectives. In the past, CPD has undertaken a number of research works to examine various aspects of bilateral economic relations with India, preferential market access under South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), regional connectivity, trade facilitation in South Asia, and sub-regional cooperation in South Asia and among BCIM (Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar) countries.

CPD has been closely associated with the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS) since its inception having hosted SACEPS during 2002-2005. CPD has also continued to maintain close collaboration with SACEPS after the SACEPS Secretariat was shifted to Kathmandu, Nepal in 2005. Under the aegis of CPD-SACEPS partnership, CPD has conducted a number of researches, with participation of regional experts, on such areas as trade, investment, poverty reduction, energy, transport and communication, and also other areas of common interests to South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries. Two monographs were published in 2008 under the ongoing CPD-SACEPS project titled *Eradication of Poverty in South Asia Through Empowerment of the Poor*. Initiated in July 2003, the project is expected to be completed by August 2009.

## Investment Promotion, Infrastructure and Enterprise Development

The focus of this research component is to track the investment scenario in Bangladesh and analyse various incentives and policy measures that inform business environment in Bangladesh. Analysing the impact of public

sector reforms also remains a focus of continuing interest under this programme.

As part of the aforesaid programme, since 2001, CPD has been conducting "Executive Opinion Surveys" as inputs to the Global Competitiveness Report (GCR), an annual publication brought out by the World Economic Forum (WEF) (better known as the Davos Forum). A structured questionnaire that covers various aspects of business, commerce and investment in Bangladesh is administered among major entrepreneurs and key business people of the country to elicit the required information. In 2008, the survey was carried out during February-April period. Findings from the survey were presented to the media at a press briefing on 8 October 2008. CPD also launched the "Global Competitiveness Report 2008-2009" on this occasion.

CPD study on *Restructuring of the Jute Manufacturing Sector in Bangladesh at Cross Roads: Challenges and the Way Out* revealed that public sector jute mills were operating under severe structural weaknesses in terms of less capacity utilisation, poor management, excess workers, low productivity, and huge bad debt. To overcome these, the study suggested rationalisation of operation in terms of size of mills and number of workers, encouraging public-private partnership, clearing debts, and providing greater autonomy to the management in the decision making process.

## Climate Change and Environment

In view of the worldwide concern over climate change, CPD is giving increasingly more emphasis on environmental issues in its research work. One of the major initiatives taken in this regard was research undertaken in related areas as part of a three-year long research project on climate change in partnership with the International Crops Research for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) with support from the Asian Development

Bank (ADB). The project is scheduled to be completed by April 2011. CPD has also carried out a study on climate change and rice production in Bangladesh in 2008. The study presented a synthesis of projection on impact of climate change on agricultural production in Bangladesh and underscored the importance of strengthening research on drought, flood and saline-tolerant rice varieties to facilitate crop adaptation in future.

A CPD study on climate change revealed that in a "normal year," by 2030, rice production is likely to be reduced by 12.19 lakh tonnes (about 4.2 per cent of current annual rice production) due to the impact of climate change. The report suggested strengthening research on drought, flood and saline-tolerant rice varieties to facilitate adaptation in future.

## Human Development and Social Protection

Human development and social protection remain a core focus in CPD's research portfolio. CPD has been undertaking research on these themes both independently and in collaboration with other relevant organisations and development partners. CPD's major study in this area in 2008 focused on gender dimension of trade liberalisation in Bangladesh. The study, based on field level survey, explored various

CPD study on *Missing Dynamics of Spousal Violence Discourse: Measuring the Economic Costs* revealed that in Bangladesh, more than Tk. 13 thousand crore is spent every year in health expenditure to treat around 1.81 crore women who fall victim to spousal violence. The study also showed that about 40 per cent women in urban areas and 42 per cent in rural areas suffer from such violence and abuse.

aspects of apparels production from gender perspectives. The report was subsequently published as a monograph by the CPD. Besides, a study on macroeconomic implications of social safety nets was also conducted in 2008. The report was brought out as a CPD Occasional

Paper. CPD also completed a study on measuring economic impact of spousal violence during the reporting period.

## Development Governance, Policies and Institutions

Governance and policy reforms have been major areas of research as well as dialogue activities at the CPD. CPD views the related issues to be of critical importance from the perspective of strengthening democracy as well as equitable development in the context of Bangladesh. CPD has previously conducted a number of in-depth researches on such issues as macroeconomic policy reforms, quality of governance in various sectors, reforms of the tax administration, industrial policy reforms and electoral reforms. This was continued in 2008 when CPD carried out extensive research

A study on migrant labour and remittances in Bangladesh showed that inward remittances increased from USD 764 million in 1991 to USD 7.92 billion in 2008, and has contributed in terms of incremental employment generation and investment. However, number of workers going abroad has decreased in recent times. The study suggested that the government should explore new markets to boost movement of temporary workers.

on policy reforms related to development of agriculture and distribution of agricultural inputs, jute sector restructuring, addressing regional disparity and quality of macroeconomic governance in view of the ongoing global economic crisis. Indeed, CPD's IRBD programme is designed in a manner that state of economic governance and major policy reforms are monitored and examined on an ongoing basis. In 2008, CPD had also prepared a policy document prior to the Ninth Parliamentary Election in December which articulated 10 major challenges that the newly elected government was likely to face in ensuring good governance and implementing major policy reforms.



# Research Activities during 2008

CPD  
Annual  
Report  
2008

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Research Title	Researcher(s)	Status as of 31 December 2008
<b>Macroeconomic Performance Analysis</b>		
State of the Bangladesh Economy in FY2007-08 and Outlook for FY2008-09	<i>Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Dr Uttam Kumar Deb, Dr Fahmida Khatun, Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Mr Syeed Ahamed, Mr Kazi Mahmudur Rahman, Mr Syed Saifuddin Hossain, Mr Md Ashiq Iqbal, Mr Towfiqul Islam Khan, Mr Asif Anwar</i>	Completed
State of Bangladesh Economy and an Analysis of the National Budget for FY2008-09	<i>Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Dr Uttam Kumar Deb, Dr Fahmida Khatun, Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Mr Kazi Mahmudur Rahman, Mr Md Ashiq Iqbal</i>	Completed
A Set of Proposals for the National Budget FY2008-09	CPD	Completed
State of the Bangladesh Economy in the Run-up to the National Election 2008	<i>Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Dr Uttam Kumar Deb, Dr Fahmida Khatun, Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Mr Syeed Ahamed, Mr Kazi Mahmudur Rahman, Mr Syed Saifuddin Hossain, Mr Md Ashiq Iqbal, Mr Towfiqul Islam Khan, Mr Asif Anwar</i>	Completed
State of the Bangladesh Economy in FY2007-08 and Some Early Signals Regarding FY2008-09 (First Reading)	<i>Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Dr Uttam Kumar Deb, Dr Fahmida Khatun, Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Mr Kazi Mahmudur Rahman, Mr Md Ashiq Iqbal</i>	Completed
State of the Bangladesh Economy in FY2007-08: First Six Months of FY2007-08 (First Interim Report)	<i>Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Dr Uttam Kumar Deb, Dr Fahmida Khatun, Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Mr Md Ashiq Iqbal, Mr Towfiqul Islam Khan</i>	Completed

Research Title	Researcher(s)	Status as of 31 December 2008
<b>Agriculture and Rural Development</b>		
Input Delivery Strategy for Higher Boro Production	<i>Dr Uttam Kumar Deb, Mr Subir Kanti Bairagi, Ms Nafisa Khaled, Mr Ashiqun Nabi</i>	Completed
Boro Procurement Strategy and Food Security: An Actionable Agenda	<i>Dr Uttam Kumar Deb, Mr Subir Kanti Bairagi, Ms Nafisa Khaled, Mr Muhammad Al Amin, Ms Nusrat Jahan</i>	Completed
Growth, Income Inequality and Poverty in Bangladesh: A District Level Analysis	<i>Dr Uttam Kumar Deb, Mr Zobdul Hoque, Ms Nafisa Khaled, Mr Subir Kanti Bairagi</i>	Completed
Profitability and Marketing of Jute in Bangladesh	<i>Dr Uttam Kumar Deb, Mr Subir Kanti Bairagi</i>	Completed
Post-Sidr Agricultural Rehabilitation	<i>Dr Mahabub Hossain, Dr Uttam Kumar Deb</i>	Completed
<b>Trade, Regional Cooperation and Global Integration</b>		
The New Market Access Initiative of US Congress: Concerns and Interests of Bangladesh	<i>Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Mr Asif Anwar, Mr Hasanuzzaman</i>	Completed
Intra-regional Trade and Investment in South Asia: Case of Bangladesh	<i>Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Mr Md Tariqur Rahman</i>	Completed
Aid for Trade: Needs Assessment from the Perspective of Bangladesh	<i>Mr Kazi Mahmudur Rahman, Ms Suparna Hasan</i>	Completed
Current WTO Negotiations Under Doha Round: Insights from CPD's Geneva Tracking Mission	<i>Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Dr Uttam Kumar Deb, Dr Fahmida Khatun, Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem</i>	Completed
Revised Draft Modalities for Agriculture of February 2008: Implications for Bangladesh	<i>Dr Uttam Kumar Deb, Mr Muhammad Al Amin</i>	Completed
Impact of Information Technology (IT) in Trade Facilitation on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Bangladesh	<i>Mr Syed Saifuddin Hossain, Dr Uttam Kumar Deb, Mr Muhammad Al Amin</i>	Ongoing
International Production Network (IPN) and Trade Policy: With Special Reference to Textile and Clothing Sector of Bangladesh	<i>Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Mr Md Tariqur Rahman</i>	Ongoing
Environment Related Trade Barriers and the WTO	<i>Dr Fahmida Khatun, Ms Nusrat Jahan</i>	Ongoing
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) XII: Implications for Bangladesh and Other LDCs	<i>Mr Kazi Mahmudur Rahman, Mr Hasanuzzaman</i>	Completed
Accra High Level Forum 2008: Towards a Commonwealth Agenda on Aid Effectiveness	<i>Dr Fahmida Khatun</i>	Completed
Accra Conference on Aid Effectiveness: Perspectives from Bangladesh	<i>Dr Fahmida Khatun</i>	Completed

Research Title	Researcher(s)	Status as of 31 December 2008
<b>Investment Promotion, Infrastructure and Enterprise Development</b>		
Bangladesh Business Environment Study 2008	<i>Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Mr Kazi Mahmudur Rahman, Mr Abdus Sobhan</i>	Completed
Business Competitiveness Environment in Bangladesh: Perception and Reality	<i>Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Mr Kazi Mahmudur Rahman, Mr Abdus Sobhan</i>	Completed
Entrepreneurship and Trade Facilitation in Bangladesh: Unleashing the Potentials of SMEs in a Regional Context	<i>Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem</i>	Completed
In Search of a Future for the Jute Sector: Constraints, Opportunities and Policy Options	<i>Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Mr Md Tariqur Rahman, Mr Abdus Sobhan</i>	Completed
<b>Climate Change and Environment</b>		
Changes in General Climatic Characteristics in Bangladesh	<i>Dr Uttam Kumar Deb, Mr Ashiqun Nabi, Mr Muhammad Al Amin, Ms Nafisa Khaled, Mr Debi Narayan Rudra Paul</i>	Ongoing
Climate Change and Rice Production in Bangladesh: Implications for R&D Strategy	<i>Dr Uttam Kumar Deb, Ms Nafisa Khaled, Mr Muhammad Al Amin, Mr Ashiqun Nabi</i>	Completed
<b>Human Development and Social Protection</b>		
Poverty Reduction Strategy of the International Development Community: The Scope for Structural Change	<i>Professor Rehman Sobhan, Professor MM Akash</i>	Completed
Poverty Reduction Strategies in South Asia: A Comparative Study	<i>Professor Rehman Sobhan, Professor MM Akash</i>	Completed
Missing Dynamics of Spousal Violence Discourse in Bangladesh: Measuring the Economic Costs	<i>Dr Fahmida Khatun</i>	Completed
Gender and Trade Liberalisation in Bangladesh: The Case of Readymade Garments	<i>Dr Fahmida Khatun</i>	Completed
<b>Development Governance, Policies and Institutions</b>		
Bangladesh's Poverty Reduction Strategy: Case Study for <i>Creating Systemic Change</i>	<i>Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Dr Fahmida Khatun</i>	Initiated
Trade Liberalisation, Manufacturing Growth and Employment in Bangladesh	<i>Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Mr Wasel Bin Shadat, Dr Selim Raihan</i>	Completed
Migrant Labour and Remittances in Bangladesh	<i>Dr Fahmida Khatun</i>	Completed

## Research Collaboration and **Global Networking**

CPD is keen to draw synergies from collaboration with individuals and institutions which work in similar areas. As such, from the very beginning CPD has strived to partner with others in implementing its research and dialogue programmes. Such partnerships allow CPD to make use of expertise not available in-house, and also as a way of capacity building of CPD staff who get an opportunity to enrich themselves professionally through such collaborations, partnerships and joint research. Thus, in implementing CPD's IRBD, trade and other programmes, CPD has invited on board Bangladeshi scholars working in research and academic institutions in Bangladesh who have expertise in particular areas of research. CPD has also invited contributions from Bangladeshi experts working abroad in various international institutions and organisations. CPD has also partnered with international organisations and globally renowned think tanks in implementing joint surveys and research programmes. As a continuation of such partnership, CPD has collaborated with the following research and policy institutions in 2008.

## World Economic Forum (WEF)

CPD collaborated with the WEF in implementing the Executive Opinion Survey, an annual exercise that provides inputs to the preparation of the Bangladesh chapter of the GCR. CPD has partnered with WEF in this work since 2001. The 2008 survey was completed in April 2008. CPD organised a media briefing on 8 October 2008 to release the findings of the report.



## Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

CPD is a founding member of ARTNeT, a network of research institutions in the Asia-Pacific region. CPD regularly participates in capacity building events organised under the aegis of ARTNeT. Indeed, ARTNeT has requested CPD to be the ARTNeT focal point in Bangladesh. In 2008, CPD initiated two studies in collaboration with the ARTNeT. One of the studies focused on the impact of IT on trade facilitation, and the other one dealt with IPN and Trade Policy. Both the studies are expected to be completed in 2009.

## United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and International Crops Research for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)

CPD's collaboration with UNCTAD dates back several years. Senior CPD officials have worked as resource persons for various studies conducted by the UNCTAD at various period of time. On 17 July 2008 CPD, on behalf of the UNCTAD, launched the "Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Report 2008," for the third time in a row. CPD, in association with ADB and UNCTAD India, organised a seminar on "Regional Cooperation in South Asia: Benefits

from SAFTA and the Way Ahead" on 8 April 2008 in Dhaka. The seminar was organised to disseminate the results of and obtain feedbacks on a study titled *Quantification of Benefits from Regional Cooperation in South Asia*, conducted by the ADB and the UNCTAD India. Besides, CPD in 2008, completed a study on intra-regional trade

and investment in South Asia. The study was conducted in collaboration with the ADB.

During the reporting period, CPD initiated a three-year long project titled *Vulnerability to Climate Change: Adaptation Strategies and Layers of Resilience* to be implemented, with ADB support, in collaboration with the ICRISAT.

CPD has partnered with the GTDF in conducting a study titled *Entrepreneurship and Trade Facilitation in Bangladesh: Unleashing the Potentials of SMEs in a Regional Context*. The first phase of the study was completed in September 2008, and study findings were presented at an international Conference held in Crans-Montana, Switzerland.



## Global Trade and Development Forum (GTDF), Switzerland

## **International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) and African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)**

CPD collaborated with ICTSD, a leading Geneva-based think tank, and AERC in organising an international dialogue titled "Doha Development Round: LDCs in the End Game," at Hotel Suisse Majestic, Montreux, Switzerland, during 15-16 March 2008. CPD made a presentation on "NAMA February 2008 Draft: An LDC Perspective," in one of the six thematic sessions.

## **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

CPD, with support from the UNDP, implemented a programme titled *Pro-Poor Macroeconomic Policies* in 2008. A total of five research papers were produced as outputs of the programme. One of the distinctive features of this programme was that senior CPD researchers collaborated with promising academics from private universities on particular themes of mutual interest.

A two-week Training Programme on "WTO and Bangladesh Trade Policy" was organised by CPD during 30 January to 12 February 2008. CPD, as part of its programme for assisting capacity building in Bangladesh in trade-related research and academic works, implemented this course in collaboration with the UNDP. A compilation of the lecture materials used at the workshop was subsequently published under the title "Training Manual on WTO and Bangladesh Trade Policy."

## **International Labour Organization (ILO)**

Under a CPD-ILO joint programme, a study on trade liberalisation and employment was completed in early 2008. Findings of this study were presented at a dialogue in Dhaka. The study is now in the process of being published by Academic Publishers, New Delhi, India. Later on, CPD initiated another study in collaboration with ILO which focused on the impact of the global economic crisis on employment and labour market in Bangladesh. The study is expected to be completed by June 2009.

## Harvard Business School

Researchers at the Harvard Business School and at CPD are conducting a joint study titled "Creating Systemic Change," which will trace design and formulation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) process in six countries. This is a multicountry study and CPD is entrusted with undertaking the Bangladesh case study.

## South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS)

A two-day seminar on "Rethinking Poverty Eradication in South Asia: An Agenda for Inclusive Development" was organised by the CPD in October 2008, as part of CPD's joint programme with the SACEPS. The event was organised as part of the ongoing CPD-SACEPS joint research project on *Eradication of Poverty in South Asia Through Empowerment of the Poor*. Under the project, two research monographs were published in 2008 which dealt with poverty reduction strategies in the South Asian countries.



# Dialogue Activities

# 4

At the core of CPD's activities lies its dialogue programme. CPD designs the dialogue format in such a manner that it is just not mere exchange of rhetoric and opinion, rather promotes and stimulates constructive engagement and informed sharing of views. The dialogues are so designed as to come up with specific recommendations in terms of both redefining the policies as also for ensuring their effective implementation. These recommendations are then placed before current and prospective policymakers of the country as inputs to the policy making process. In practice, CPD brings together, on a regular basis, high government officials, senior agency executives, Members of the Parliament (MPs), the business community, professionals, academics, non-government organisation (NGO) activists and donor representatives to discuss specific policy issues in which they have involvement and relevant expertise.

CPD also seeks to initiate policy dialogues with public interest groups such as trade unions, peasant organisations, women's organisations, professional

associations and local community groups. Eventually, the idea is to take this dialogue process, in cooperation with other membership organisations, to grass-roots levels, where policymakers and academics can be exposed to audiences drawn from the public who actually have to face the consequences of particular policies and may have quite plausible ideas as well as concerns about the validity of such policies. Because of the importance of bringing together political parties to promote a consultative process for designing the reform process, it is CPD's policy to be non-partisan in its outlook and to retain independence in designing its dialogues. Such a stance has enabled CPD to bring together Cabinet Ministers and Opposition Leaders around the same table even at times

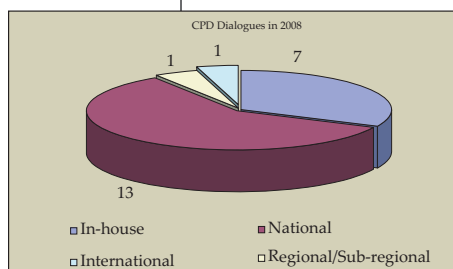
when these contending parties were not communicating with each other in the Parliament. CPD dialogues, thus, proceed in an environment where controversial issues may be discussed in a non-confrontational manner and constructive solutions can be jointly explored. These initiatives of CPD to bring political protagonists together have now extended over three successive political regimes.

**CPD designs the dialogue format in such a manner that it is just not mere exchange of rhetorics and opinion, rather promotes and stimulates constructive engagement and informed sharing of views. The dialogues are so designed as to come up with specific recommendations in terms of both redefining the policies as also for ensuring their effective implementation.**

## Dialogue Activities in 2008

CPD's Research and Dialogue activities complement each other. It is CPD's practice to subject its research work to public scrutiny through dialogues. Dialogues provide inputs for research work and also help CPD to identify research issues. One distinctive feature of CPD dialogues is that all dialogue proceedings are recorded and subsequently brought out as dialogue reports. CPD has earlier also brought out publications based on selected dialogue themes under the title *Bangladesh Development Debates: Perspective from Policy Dialogue*. Dialogues are also organised around issues that need urgent attention of policymakers. CPD also organises dialogues in district/divisional headquarters with a view to access the opinions of

stakeholders at grass-roots levels. Mention may be made here about CPD programme titled *Campaign for Honest and Competent Candidates* when CPD went to district levels in an effort to promoting the cause of good governance in the country.



CPD dialogues focus on issues of national importance and also those that concern regional and global interests of the country. As of end 2007, CPD has organised a total of 395 dialogues of which 38 were *International* dialogues, 157 *National* dialogues, 31 *Regional/Sub-regional* dialogues, 44 *Local/Sub-national* dialogues, and 125 *In-house* dialogues. Total number of dialogues organised in 2008 was 22 which were participated by 950 representatives from various stakeholder groups.



## In-house Dialogues

In-house dialogues are events at the CPD where a selected group of participants discusses a particular issue. Such discussions are held to contribute to CPD's ongoing research through discussion on methodology to be followed, intermediate outputs and validation of findings. Sometimes CPD also arranges such discussions to provide opportunities to visiting scholars to give talks on a certain topic. Six in-house dialogues held during 2008 dealt with such issues as entrepreneurship in SMEs, jute policy, Boro procurement and food security, rising food price, backward linkage textile sector and domestic violence. These are summarised below.

Title	Date	Keynote Speaker
Entrepreneurship and Trade Facilitation: Unleashing the Potentials of SMEs in Bangladesh	3 March 2008	<i>Dr KG Moazzem</i>
Boro Procurement Strategy and Food Security: An Actionable Agenda	19 April 2008	<i>Dr Uttam Kumar Deb</i>
In Search of a Future for the Jute Sector: Constraints, Opportunities and Policy Options	3 May 2008	<i>Dr KG Moazzem</i>
Dynamics and Changes in the Backward Linkage Textile Sector of Bangladesh	3 July 2008	<i>Dr KG Moazzem</i>
Rising Food Prices: Global Factors and Local Impacts	11 July 2008	<i>Dr Uttam Kumar Deb</i>
Costing of Domestic Violence	3 August 2008	<i>Dr Fahmida Khatun</i>



## National Dialogues

National level dialogues of the CPD concentrate on a broad spectrum of issues. In 2008, CPD has organised 13 national dialogues which have covered, among others, such topics as macroeconomic management, external sector performance, WTO-related issues, agricultural production and food security, energy security, development in the education sector, regional inequality, and economic implications of domestic violence. Glimpses of the dialogues are presented below.

## Input Delivery Strategy for Higher Boro Production



The dialogue was held on 9 February 2008, at the CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka. *Dr CS Karim* and *Dr AMM Shawkat Ali*, Advisors to the Ministries of Agriculture and Food & Disaster Management respectively to the Caretaker Government of Bangladesh were present as the Special Guests; *Dr Quazi Shahabuddin*, Director General, BIDS attended as the Guest of Honour; *Dr Uttam Kumar Deb*, Additional Director and Head of Research, CPD presented the keynote paper; and *Professor Rehman Sobhan*, Chairman, CPD chaired the session.

Government's ambitious target of producing 1.75 crore tonnes of rice in 45 lakh hectares of land in the current Boro season as against the production of 1.50 crore tonnes of the last year is achievable if timely availability of farm inputs are ensured and all the government agencies coordinate effectively with their full capacities

## The New Market Access Initiatives of US Congress Concerns and Interests of Bangladesh



Lobbying for duty-free access to US market in politically prudent way is urgent to garner benefits from the NPDA 2007 initiative

Attended by *Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman*, Advisor to the Ministry of Commerce to the Caretaker Government of Bangladesh as the Chief Guest, and *Mr Mahbubur Rahman*, President, International Chamber of Commerce - Bangladesh (ICC-B) as the Guest of Honour, the dialogue was held on 11 February 2008, at the CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka. *Professor Mustafizur Rahman*, Executive Director, CPD presented the keynote paper, while CPD Chairman *Professor Rehman Sobhan* chaired the session.

## Addressing Regional Inequalities Policy Options and Strategies

Government is keen to develop infrastructure to reduce regional inequality



CPD-UNDP jointly organised the dialogue on 28 February 2008 at the CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka. *Dr AB Mirza Azizul Islam*, Finance and Planning Advisor to the Caretaker Government of Bangladesh was present as the Chief Guest, and *Mr Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury*, Secretary, Planning Division was the Special Guest at the programme. *Dr Uttam Kumar Deb*, Head of Research, CPD and *Dr Chowdhury Shameem Mahmood*, Assistant Professor of Economics, North South University were the keynote speakers, with CPD Chairman *Professor Rehman Sobhan* chairing the session.

## Boro Procurement Strategy and Food Security An Actionable Agenda



Considering the hurdles of rice import as well as export bans by major rice exporting countries, Bangladesh must depend on its own production to meet up its foodgrain requirement

Held on 21 April 2008, at the CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka the dialogue had *Dr CS Karim*, Agriculture Advisor and *Dr AMM Shawkat Ali*, Food and Disaster Advisor to the Caretaker Government of Bangladesh present as the Special Guests, and *Dr Mahabub Hossain*, Executive Director of BRAC as the Guest of Honour. *Dr Uttam Kumar Deb*, Additional Director and Head of Research, CPD was the keynote speaker, and *Mr M Syeduzzaman*, Member, CPD Board of Trustees chaired the session.

## In Search of a Future for the Jute Sector Constraints, Opportunities and Policy Options

The government should form an independent jute board, a strong regulatory commission and proper jute policy and ensure fair price for producers to revive the potential jute sector



The dialogue was held on 10 May 2008, at the BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium, Dhaka. *Mr Abdur Rashid Sarker*, Secretary for the Ministry of Textiles and Jute was present as the Special Guest, where *Dr Uttam Kumar Deb* and *Dr KG Moazzem*, Head of Research and Senior Research Fellow of CPD respectively were the keynote speakers. CPD Chairman *Professor Rehman Sobhan* chaired the session.

## State of the Bangladesh Economy and Budget Responses 2008-09



Managing high deficit will be the major challenge in implementing the budget for FY2008-09

Attended by *Dr AB Mirza Azizul Islam*, Finance Advisor to the Caretaker Government, as the Chief Guest and *Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud*, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka as the Special Guest, this annual major event took place on 17 June 2008, at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka. The session was chaired by *Mr M Syeduzzaman*, CPD Board Member, where *Professor Mustafizur Rahman*, CPD Executive Director presented the keynote paper.

## Domestic Violence in Bangladesh

### *Cost Estimates and Measures to Address the Attendant Problems*

Setting up of special cells at police stations and enactment of an Anti-Domestic Violence Law may help reduce spousal violence in the country



The dialogue was held on 9 August 2008, at the CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka. *Ms Rasheda K Chowdhury*, Advisor for the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs to the Caretaker Government of Bangladesh was present as the Chief Guest, with *Advocate Sultana Kamal*, Former Advisor to the Caretaker Government as the Special Guest, and *Dr Dora Rappold*, Ambassador of Switzerland in Bangladesh as the Guest of Honour. The keynote paper was presented by *Dr Fahmida Khatun*, Additional Director, CPD. *Professor Rehman Sobhan*, Chairman, CPD chaired the session.

## Collapse of Recent WTO Talks and Bangladesh Experience and Options



Forming a strong coalition under SAARC and building up consensus with the African countries with a view to taking a common stand appear to be crucial with regard to reaping the benefits from the next round of the WTO negotiations

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the WTO and UN Offices in Geneva, *HE Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya*, was the keynote speaker of the dialogue, where *Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman*, Commerce Advisor was the Chief Guest, and *Mr Feroz Ahmed*, the Commerce Secretary was present as the Special Guest. The dialogue was held on 18 August 2008, at the CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka. *Professor Rehman Sobhan*, Chairman, CPD chaired the session.

## Accra Conference on Aid Effectiveness Perspectives from Bangladesh

In broader terms, the inflow of aid has considerably declined. However, it is still a critical component that helps the government in bearing public spending



The dialogue was hosted on 25 August 2008, at the BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium, Dhaka. *Dr AB Mirza Azizul Islam*, Finance and Planning Advisor was present as the Chief Guest, with *Mr Md Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan*, Additional Secretary, ERD as the Special Guest. *Dr Fahmida Khatun*, Additional Director of CPD presented the keynote paper, and *Professor Rehman Sobhan*, CPD Chairman facilitated the session as the Chair.



## The Global Financial Crisis and What it Means for Bangladesh



In view of the global financial crisis, the government needs to set up a competent Taskforce to assess the effects and impacts, and design an adjustment package with both short and medium-term policy and institutional measures

CPD organised the dialogue on 25 October 2008, at the CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka. *Dr Salehuddin Ahmed*, Bangladesh Bank Governor was the Chief Guest at the programme, where *HE Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya* presented the keynote paper. *Professor Rehman Sobhan*, Chairman, CPD chaired the session.

## Energy for Development Options and Strategies for Bangladesh

Quick and effective steps, as well as proper utilisation of energy resources, are necessary to avoid dire crisis in near future



This CPD and the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) dialogue was held on 28 October 2008, at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. *Professor M Tamim*, Special Assistant to the Chief Advisor in-charge of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources was the Chief Guest. *Dr M Fouzul Kabir Khan* and *Mr Mohammad Mohsin*, Secretaries for Power and Energy & Mineral Divisions respectively were the Special Guests. *Dr M Asaduzzaman*, Research Director, BIDS presented the keynote paper. *Professor Rehman Sobhan*, Chairman, CPD chaired the session.

## Achieving Universal Primary Education with Quality and Equity



Teachers' competency and their commitment are keys to achieving quality education

Held on 5 November 2008, at the BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium, Dhaka, this CPD and Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) dialogue was attended by *Ms Rasheda K Choudhury*, Primary and Mass Education Advisor to the Caretaker Government as the Chief Guest. *Mr Badrul Alam Tarafdar*, Secretary in-charge, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education was the Special Guest. Keynote speakers were *Dr Mahabub Hossain*, BRAC Executive Director and *Dr Manzoor Ahmed*, Senior Advisor, Institute of Educational Development, BRAC University. CPD Chairman *Professor Rehman Sobhan* chaired the session.

## Regional Disparity in Bangladesh An Emerging Concern

Policymakers should concentrate on growth effort for the less privileged areas and for those social groups who are excluded but have a lot to contribute to the growth process



*Dr AB Mirza Azizul Islam*, the Finance and Planning Advisor and *Dr Akbar Ali Khan*, Former Advisor to the Caretaker Government attended this dialogue as the Chief Guest and Special Guest respectively. *Dr Hassan Zaman* and *Dr Ambar Narayan*, Lead Economist and Senior Economist respectively at the World Bank jointly presented the keynote paper, *Professor Rehman Sobhan*, Chairman of CPD chaired the session that was held on 25 November 2008, at the BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium, Dhaka.

## Regional/Sub-regional Dialogues

Regional dialogues focus on issues of bilateral and regional interest, and are designed to enhance economic, trade and investment ties amongst the South Asian countries and to promote the concept of a regional identity in South Asia. CPD partners with like minded civil society organisations in organising such dialogues. During 2008, CPD organised one regional dialogue which dealt with the issue of poverty eradication and inclusive development in South Asia. The event was jointly organised with SACEPS.

## Rethinking Poverty Eradication in South Asia *An Agenda for Inclusive Development*



Budgetary policy needs to be redesigned for the public resources to reach the poor and capacity of the excluded needs to be strengthened to enable them compete in the market place

CPD hosted this two-day long programme, as part of its joint work programme with SACEPS, Kathmandu. The dialogue was held on 12-13 October 2008, at the BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium, Dhaka. The inaugural session was attended by Nobel Laureate *Professor Muhammad Yunus* and *Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman*, Commerce Advisor of the Caretaker Government, as the Special Guests. *Professor Rehman Sobhan*, the CPD Chairman presented the keynote paper at the inaugural session.

## International Dialogues

International dialogues draw upon participation of experts, academics and policymakers around the world who bring a global perspective to issues which are of interest and concern to Bangladesh. Such events are often carried out in partnership with renowned international organisations and development partners. In 2008, CPD organised one international dialogue in Montreux, Switzerland focusing on LDC interest in the context of the WTO Doha Development Round (DDR) negotiations.

## Doha Development Round *LDCs in the End Game*

**Implementation of the DF-QF decisions of the Hong-Kong Ministerial is critical for ensuring LDCs' true share from the Doha Development Round**

The CPD-ICTSD-AERC Dialogue was held on 15-16 March 2008, at the Hotel Suisse Majestic, in Montreux, Switzerland. A four-member delegation from CPD took part at the dialogue. Keynote papers were presented by *Professor Mustafizur Rahman*, Executive Director, CPD and *HE Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya*, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the WTO and UN Offices in Geneva.

## Workshops/Seminars

In addition to the dialogue activities, CPD has maintained an impressive track record in organising capacity building workshops and seminars on a wide range of issues. In the past, CPD has organised workshops for media representatives, young professionals, and university teachers on a number of issues including WTO, macroeconomic policies and regional cooperation. In 2008, CPD organised a training workshop on *WTO and Bangladesh Trade Policy* and a seminar on *Regional Cooperation in South Asia*. While the former was organised in partnership with the UNDP, the latter was jointly organised with ADB and UNCTAD, India.

## Regional Cooperation in South Asia

### *Benefits from SAFTA and the Way Ahead*



Strong political will from all the member countries of SAFTA is a pre-requisite to ensure significant impact of the regional grouping on intra-regional trade, cross border investment and freer movement of goods and services

CPD organised the seminar on 8 April 2008, at the BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium, Dhaka, in association with ADB and UNCTAD, India. The seminar was inaugurated by the Foreign Advisor to the Caretaker Government *Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury*. Chaired by *Mr Syed Manzur Elahi*, Member, CPD Board of Trustees and Former Advisor to the Caretaker Government, the inaugural session was also addressed by CPD Executive Director *Professor Mustafizur Rahman*, Commerce Secretary *Mr Feroz Ahmed* and FBCCI President *Mr Annisul Huq*.

## Media as a Strategic Partner

In the process of implementing policy influencing activities through a multistakeholder participatory process, CPD has developed strategic partnership with both print and electronic media in the country. CPD views media as an important conduit in extending outreach and disseminating its research and dialogue outputs, in building awareness on various policy issues, in policy advocacy, and in promoting informed policy debate among stakeholders.

CPD holds regular press briefings on topical issues to give comments, launch global reports of interest to Bangladeshi audience and prepares press releases on events organised by the Centre. CPD professionals take help from the print and electronic media as well, to provide comments through interviews and by writing short write-ups, and open editorials. Senior CPD staff also give interviews in international media including British Broadcasting Centre (BBC) and Voice of America (VOA). One of the senior CPD professionals hosted a regular Talk Show on development issues on one of the private TV channels in 2008. Since 2006, CPD's comments on the National Budget provided at media briefings have been telecast live on television in partnership with TV channels. While the 2006 event was telecast by *ntv*, the 2007 and 2008 media briefings were covered by *Channel i*.

## Interim IRBD 2008

Held on 10 January 2008, at CPD Dialogue Room, Dhaka



Next six months will be a critical period for Bangladesh as its economy will face rising pressure in the form of higher domestic prices, higher import payments, sluggish export performance, stalled investment growth and pressure on the balance of trade and payments

## Current WTO Negotiations Under Doha Round *Insights from CPD's Geneva Tracking Mission*

Held on 29 March 2008, at CPD Dialogue Room, Dhaka



Garnering meaningful benefits in the areas of agriculture, NAMA and GATS from the upcoming mid-June WTO Ministerial in Geneva would require meticulous homework by Bangladesh in the coming weeks

## State of the Bangladesh Economy in FY2008 and Outlook for FY2009

Held on 4 June 2008, at CPD Dialogue Room, Dhaka

Consecutive natural disasters, inflationary pressure and global economic slowdown were the underlying features of FY2007-08. A major challenge for FY2008-09 lies in the fact that the budget is to be implemented by two governments



## Review of National Budget 2008-2009

Held on 10 June 2008, at BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium, Dhaka



The proposed budget for FY2008-09 may be called a "pro-people welfare budget," but in view of the existing poor capacities of the government, implementation of this budget will be a major challenge



## Launching of UNCTAD's Least Developed Countries Report 2008

Held on 17 July 2008, at CPD Dialogue Room, Dhaka



LDCs should design and "own" policies in order to use development aid effectively

## Launching of Global Competitiveness Report (GCR) 2008-2009 and Bangladesh Business Environment Study 2008

Held on 8 October 2008, at CPD Dialogue Room, Dhaka

Corruption has once again been identified as the most important determining factor affecting the country's business environment followed by inefficiency in bureaucracy, government instability and creeping inflation



## State of the Bangladesh Economy in the Run-up to the National Election 2008

Held on 23 December 2008, at CPD Dialogue Room, Dhaka

Macroeconomic performance in FY2008-09 will depend on how the economic scenarios evolve in the second half of the fiscal year and how the global financial crisis impacts on export, remittance, domestic resource mobilisation, etc. Besides, the upcoming elected government should continue the institutional and regulatory reforms initiated by the caretaker government



# Policy Activism

# 5

## National Budget Related Activities

*Budget Proposal*  
*Review of the National Budget FY2008-09*  
*Post-Budget Dialogue*

## Governance Related Policy Activism

*Policy Briefs*  
*Activities during Run-up to the*  
*National Election 2008*

## WTO and Bangladesh

*Geneva Tracking Mission*  
*Research and Advocacy on WTO Issues*  
*Membership in Government Committees*

Policy influencing through various modalities and means remains a major area of continuing interest to CPD. CPD's research and dialogue activities are geared towards building public opinion around issues which are perceived to promote the cause of efficient macroeconomic management, inclusive development, good governance, and development with equity and justice. Such policy influencing and policy advocacy are carried out through dialogues, media briefings, consultations with key policymakers and CPD research outputs.

CPD endeavours to have close interactions with high level policymakers including Ministers and MPs. In the past, CPD has organised dedicated sessions with a number of Parliamentary Standing Committees to discuss relevant issues and share CPD's research outputs. Senior CPD professionals have also participated as keynote speakers at events organised by others. Relevant Ministers, key opposition leaders and many MPs regularly attend CPD events and dialogues. Since senior CPD researchers are also invited to be members of various Committees and Task Forces set up by the government, this provides them with a unique opportunity to give inputs to policymaking on important issues of national interest.

## National Budget Related Activities

**Budget Proposal** CPD prepared a set of proposals in April 2008 in view of the then upcoming budget for FY2008-09. CPD proposals were submitted to the Hon'ble Advisor for Finance, Government of Bangladesh. Accordingly, the document contained a large number of specific proposals in the areas of general fiscal measures, export promotion and import substitution, investment promotion, social sector and social protection schemes, price stabilisation/support, sectoral measures and regional development, and restructuring of the tax administration. Many of CPD proposals subsequently got reflected in the budget that was placed before the Parliament.

### **Review of the National Budget FY2008-09**

In view of the importance of the National Budget, CPD has maintained a tradition of providing its views on the budget proposals immediately after the budget is placed before the nation. CPD researchers prepare CPD's comments on the various aspects of the budget, on an immediate basis, and present these to the broader audience through media briefing, on the very next day. Thus, CPD organised a post-budget press briefing titled "Review of National Budget 2008-2009" on 10 June 2008 at BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium, Dhaka. The objective of the exercise was to present CPD's initial assessment of the proposed national budget and share its views with electronic and print media on fiscal proposals, incentives measures, allocation of resources in the annual development plan (ADP) and their

implications and other relevant proposals. It may also be mentioned that the 2008 event was telecast live through a private television channel, as was done on the previous two occasions. The underlying objective of the exercise was to inform a wider audience on how the proposed budget has dealt with the issues of national interest, and to draw the attention of the policy-makers towards strengths and weaknesses of the budget.

CPD has built up a tradition to provide a platform to all major stakeholders to discuss the budget proposals announced by successive Finance Ministers. The discussion is partaken by, in the presence of the Finance Minister, leaders of major political parties, Chamber and trade leaders, representation from major stakeholder groups. In line with this tradition CPD organised a Post-Budget Dialogue on 17 June 2008, in Dhaka with *Dr AB Mirza Azizul Islam*, Finance and Planning Advisor of the Caretaker Government present as the Chief Guest. The CPD analysis, presented at the dialogue, reviewed the various proposals made in the budget for FY2008-09 and analysed the implications of these proposals for growth and distribution. The dialogue was widely participated by political and business leaders, researchers, experts, representatives from NGOs, trade unions and diplomatic community who shared their perspectives on the budget and put forward suggestions with regard to many of the proposals.

## Post-Budget Dialogue

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## Governance Related Policy Activism

### Policy Briefs

The objective of this component of CPD activities is to provide policy inputs to different Ministries of the government, private sector and other relevant stakeholders on various issues based on CPD's research work. The Policy Briefs concentrate on particular issues and provide suggestions to address the relevant concerns in a succinct, focused and policy-tailored manner. In the past, such Policy Briefs have provided inputs to policymaking in a diverse array of issues including macroeconomic management, agriculture and trade related areas. In 2008, CPD prepared six Policy Briefs which focused on Bangladesh's possible stance in the WTO, regional issues and sectoral issues. A list of the Policy Briefs is presented in Section 7.

### Activities during Run-up to the National Election 2008

The CPD organised a press briefing on "State of the Bangladesh Economy in the Run-up to the National Election 2008," on 23 December 2008 at the CPD Dialogue Room. Evaluating macroeconomic performance during the first half of FY2008-09, the CPD analysis identified 10 major challenges that the new government would need to deal with. The analysis particularly focused on the possible impact of the global financial crisis on the globalising economy of Bangladesh and how the economic scenario was likely to evolve in the second half of the fiscal year through the transmission channels of export, remittance, and domestic resource mobilisation. CPD also urged that the newly elected government would need to put high emphasis on improving implementation of the ADP.

## WTO and Bangladesh

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Monitoring the developments in the context of the ongoing Doha Round negotiations has been a key component of CPD's trade policy programme over the past years. As part of this exercise, CPD undertakes a number of activities including sending Geneva Tracking Mission to learn about latest developments in the WTO through direct contact and interaction with key players at the WTO Secretariat and key negotiators from major participating countries. The impression and insights gained from this exercise are distilled in policy briefs which are then shared with government negotiators and relevant policymakers. Report prepared by the CPD team visiting Geneva is also shared with the wider public through press briefings organised by the Centre. As a continuation of this endeavour, a four-member CPD delegation visited Geneva during 14-20 March 2008. In addition to holding discussions with WTO officials, the team met representatives from China, Brazil, Canada, European Union (EU) and USA, and Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the WTO, *HE Debapriya Bhattacharya*. Key recommendations put forward by the 2008 Geneva Tracking Mission related to such policy areas as Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA), duty-free quota-free (DF-QF) market access, preference erosion, Aft, and General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).

### Geneva Tracking Mission



## Research and Advocacy on WTO Issues

In the context of the ongoing process of globalisation, greater access to WTO-related knowledge in particular, and trade policy related issues in general, is critically important in terms of designing appropriate policies by low-income countries such as Bangladesh. Through its research, dialogues, trainings and advocacy activities as part of its trade policy programme, CPD strives to contribute to trade-related policymaking in Bangladesh to help firm up its stance in the context of various negotiation agendas in the WTO. Related activities of the CPD in 2008 included organisation of one international and two national dialogues on WTO-related issues, a national training programme on WTO and Bangladesh trade policy, Geneva visit by the CPD Tracking Mission, and publication of a Training Manual on WTO and Bangladesh Trade Policy. Besides, CPD has also published a number of Occasional Papers on various WTO issues during the reporting period.





## Membership in Government Committees

Apart from providing policy support to the government through inputs generated from research and dialogue activities, CPD plays an important role in policy influencing by way of its membership on various Technical Committees set up by the GoB. CPD also participated in the government delegation to the Hong Kong Ministerial, July Council of 2007, and the Mini-Ministerial of 2008 of the WTO. In the past, CPD professionals have been members of National Committees including those that dealt with Gas Policy, Coal Policy, Financial Sector Reform, PRSPs, Fifth Five-year Plan, Industrial Policy, etc. In 2008, senior CPD officials were members of the following committees:

### Membership on Government Committees in 2008

- WTO Advisory Committee
- Working Group on NAMA and WTO Rules
- Working Group on Services Sector
- Working Group on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)
- Working Group on Market Access
- Working Group on Trade and Environment
- Working Group on Trade-related Technical Assistance (TRTA)
- Working Group on Trade Facilitation and Customs Valuation
- Committee on Poverty Reduction in the Lagging Regions of Bangladesh
- Working Group on Agriculture and SPS (Sanitary and Phytosanitary)
- Regulatory Reforms Commission
- National Coal Committee

# Capacity Building 6

## Programmes Targeting Various Stakeholder Groups

Conducting policy-related research and organising multistakeholder dialogues to ensure dissemination of knowledge are two key components of CPD's civic activism. In addition, CPD strongly feels about the need for Bangladesh's national capacity building in various areas so that stakeholders are better equipped to appreciate and understand the implications of various policies, and are able to have a more informed view and judgment about the efficacy of policies. In the past, CPD has organised various capacity building programmes for different stakeholder groups including media, business people, students and government officials. Some of the major capacity building programmes implemented by the CPD in 2008 are discussed below.

### Training Programme on WTO and Bangladesh Trade Policy



A two-week "Training Programme on WTO and Bangladesh Trade Policy" was organised by the CPD during 30 January and 12 February 2008 in collaboration with the UNDP. A total of 22 participants attended the programme of whom 14 were young teachers from various public and private universities, three were trainers from

public training institutes, four were researchers and one participant was from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The overall objective of the training programme was to enhance the knowledge and understanding of the participants with regard to the multilateral trading system, WTO architecture and decision making process, ongoing negotiations in the WTO, regional trading arrangements, Bangladesh's concerns and interests in the context of global and bilateral trading systems and Bangladesh's trade policy. Certificates of appreciation were distributed among the participants on the closing day of the workshop.

## Youth Leadership Programme (YLP)

With a view to promoting vision and policy awareness amongst the young people of the country, CPD has been implementing the YLP for about a decade now. The aim of the programme is to give exposure to the participants of the programme to CPD's activities, develop leadership qualities and promote civic responsibility amongst young people through internship, research involvement, dialogue participation and advanced lecture series especially organised for them.

## Research Internship

Under its *Research Internship* programme which was first introduced in 1999, CPD offers internship opportunities to young aspirants, current students or those who have just completed their studies in such disciplines as Economics, Statistics, Business Administration, International Relations, Public Administration and Sociology. Students coming from various educational institutions (from both home and abroad) participate in this programme. CPD internship provides an excellent opportunity to gain first-hand exposure to frontier developmental issues and critical development policy challenges confronting Bangladesh. CPD involves the interns in its ongoing research programmes, where they are required to provide supervised research inputs. The internship also provides a scope to participate in various in-house, national and international dialogues organised by the CPD on regular basis. Till December 2008, a total of 135 individuals have successfully completed Research Internship at the CPD. Number of Interns in 2008 (January-December) was nine. Seven of them were from reputed universities/colleges in the USA, and two were from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. CPD also had one Visiting Intern from USA in 2008. A list of Interns is provided in the Annex 1.

## Institutional Capacity Building

The YSSS programme has been in place in the CPD since 2006. The YSSS gives young CPD researchers an opportunity to present their research work to the CPD professional community. The programme helps them hone their skills in terms of presentation and articulation, and also allows them to get feedbacks on their research from their peers. A significant number of research papers, having been presented at the YSSS and subsequently revised, were published as Journal Articles. However, in 2008 only one such Seminar was held, where *Mr Syed Saifuddin Hossain*, Senior Research Associate, CPD made a presentation on *Bangladesh Customs: Managing Risk for Better Trade*.

As part of both networking and institutional capacity building, the CPD encourages its core professionals to participate in various regional and international forums, seminars, workshops and training programmes on a wide range of issues. While on most occasions the CPD professionals are supported by the organising institution(s), CPD also has a policy of providing financial support for such activities. CPD researchers are invited in these programmes as Session Chairs, Panelists, Distinguished Discussants, Keynote Speakers and participants. As can be seen from the following Table, CPD professionals participated in 63 international events during 2008 (details in Annex 2).

**CPD Professionals in International Events in 2008**

Category	Frequency
Public Forum/Summit	9
Seminar/Conference	40
Training/Workshop	7
Certificate Programme	1
Short Course	2
Academic Degree	4

### Young Scholars' Seminar Series (YSSS)

### CPD Professionals in International Events

**CPD Professionals Participating in National Capacity Building Training Workshops**

Participant	Training Attended	Organised by
<i>Mr Syed Saifuddin Hossain</i> Senior Research Associate	WTO National Training Workshop of TRIPS (11-13 November 2008)	Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute (BFTI) and the Ministry of Commerce, GoB
<i>Mr Ashiqun Nabi</i> Research Associate	Strengthening Skills on Commercial and Economic Diplomacy (17-19 November 2008)	BFTI, Bangladesh and Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) International, India
<i>Ms Nusrat Jahan</i> Research Associate	Third Residential Training Workshop on Social Science Research and Migration (29 November - 1 December 2008)	Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), Faculty of Social Science, University of Dhaka

## Publications by CPD Researchers

CPD's rich research portfolio is reflected in its wide-ranging publications that focus on a wide spectrum of issues including issues of national, regional and international importance. Such publications include Books, Monographs, Book Chapters, Occasional Papers, Journal Articles, and also popular Newspaper Articles. CPD researchers produced a significant number of research reports and papers in 2008. A complete list of the publications is presented in Section 7.

**Summary of CPD Publications in 2008**

Category	Frequency
Books	8
Monographs	3
Occasional Papers	12
Dialogue Reports	5
Policy Briefs	6

## Staff News

At the end of 2008 CPD had a staff strength numbering 53, of which 40 belonged to the professional category - 23 in Research, 5 in Dialogue and Communication, and 10 in Administration and Finance, while others were support staff (a detailed list is provided in Annex 1). In addition to core in-house professionals, at any point in time, about 10-15 outside resource persons are involved in various CPD research programmes.

CPD encourages promising young people, both in the country and among the diaspora, to work at the Centre. Applications for recruitment are sought through regular web posting and news papers advertisements. It may be noted that CPD is an equal opportunity employer. Recruitment is carried out through a competitive process involving written test, interviews and computer proficiency test. CPD takes special care to hone the skills of young recruits who work in a competitive environment and under the continuous monitoring and mentoring of senior researchers. In 2008, 15 individuals were appointed at CPD in various positions and a total of 16 staff were promoted to higher positions. CPD encourages initiative and dedication and allows for accelerated career growth to promising professionals.

Four CPD core professionals returned to the Centre after successful completion of overseas studies in 2008. It may be noted that all of them were recipients of prestigious international scholarships such as Chevening Scholarship, Australian Leadership Awards (ALA), and the Netherlands Government Fellowship.

### Staff Strength

### Appointment and Promotion

### Rejoining (after completion of overseas studies)

Degree	Host Institution	Duration of Study	Scholarship Obtained
<b>Mr Kazi Mahmudur Rahman, Senior Research Associate</b>			
MA in Development Studies	Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Netherlands	September 2006 - December 2007	Nuffic
<b>Mr Syed Saifuddin Hossain, Senior Research Associate</b>			
Master of International Customs Law and Administration	University of Canberra, Australia	January 2007 - July 2008	ALA
<b>Ms Suparna Hasan, Senior Research Associate</b>			
Hansard/Chevening Research Scholars Programme	London School of Economics, UK	16 May - 2 August 2008	Chevening
<b>Mr Towfiqul Islam Khan, Senior Research Associate</b>			
Master of Commerce (Economics)	University of Melbourne, Australia	January - December 2008	ALA

# Publication and Dissemination

# 7

CPD Publications in 2008

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Publications by  
CPD Researchers  
Outside CPD

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Reference and Documentation  
Unit

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Website

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CPD pursues an extensive programme for disseminating the research and dialogue outputs through regular publications and website postings. This programme is seen by CPD as an important means of extending its outreach, a key tool of policy influencing and advocacy, and an effective way of contributing to informed policy discussion in the country. At the end of 2008, CPD's publication list contained 287 titles including Books, Monographs, Occasional Papers and Dialogue Reports (regularly updated publication list can be accessed from the CPD website at [www.cpd.org.bd](http://www.cpd.org.bd)). CPD Dialogue Reports and Occasional Papers are available for sale at the Centre and can also be freely downloaded from the CPD website. Brief summaries of CPD books are also regularly posted on CPD's website. CPD publications are also listed in RePEc (Research Papers in Economics), a collaborative effort of hundreds of volunteers in 58 countries and 35 US states to enhance dissemination of research in economics. The heart of the RePEc project is a decentralised database of working papers, journal articles and software components. All RePEc materials are freely available. Some of CPD's trade-related publications are also documented by the ARTNeT, a regional network open to all trade research and academic institutions across the Asia-Pacific. Many other partner organisations have links to CPD website and helps CPD to maintain a wider outreach.

CPD Quarterly, published every three months provides CPD's partners and broader sections of the public an opportunity to get to know about major CPD initiatives including research, dialogue and publication related activities. The Quarterly is also sent via e-mail to a list of 2,500 individuals and organisations.



## CPD Publications in 2008

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### Emerging Issues in Bangladesh Economy

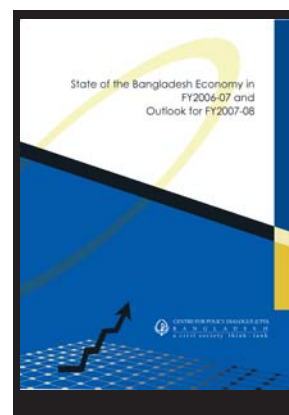
This volume of IRBD 2005-06 has identified fourteen strategic issues which are likely to have important medium-term implications on how Bangladesh develops over the coming years. These include pro-poor economic growth, agricultural diversification, biotechnology, industrial policy, SMEs, ICT, trade policy, manpower export, monetary policy, education, health, environment, and women and labour market. The fourteen chapters in the IRBD 2005-06 volume take an in-depth look into these areas, and present insights and analyses to meet the challenges that await Bangladesh in its journey towards a future with high growth and distributive justice.

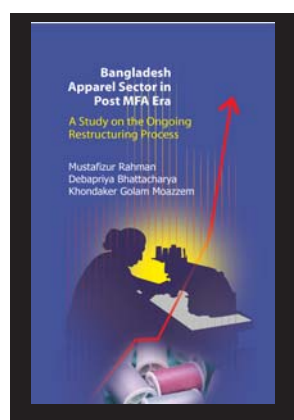
*Authors: Dr Sajeda Amin, Dr M Asaduzzaman, Dr Zaid Bakht, Ms Salma Begum, Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Dr AHM Mustain Billah, Dr Toufic Ahmad Choudhury, Dr Naeem Chowdhury, Dr Uttam Kumar Deb, Dr Mohammed Farashuddin, Dr Shah Md Ahsan Habib, Dr Mahabub Hossain, Mr Tawfiqul Islam Khan, Dr Fahmida Khatun, Ms Simeen Mahmud, Dr Muhammad Masum, Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Dr SR Osmani, Dr Selim Raihan, Dr MA Razzaque, Dr Zeba I Seraj and Dr Kaniz Siddique*



### State of the Bangladesh Economy in FY2006-07 and Outlook for FY2007-08

This volume of the IRBD 2007 analyses the performance of the economy in FY2007-08, and presents some of the likely outcomes in the following year. The Chapter One is an assessment of the state of the Bangladesh economy in FY2006-07. Chapter Two includes a set of proposals prepared by CPD for consideration of the Ministry of Finance during the preparation of the national budget for FY2007-08. An analysis of the national budget FY2007-08 is presented in Chapter Three, and Chapter Four includes an





interim report by CPD on recent trends of the Bangladesh economy during FY2007-08 and their implications for performance during the rest of the fiscal year. Chapter Five provides the summary of recommendations from the CPD study on "Price of Daily Essentials: A Diagnostic Study of Recent Trends," prepared for the Ministry of Commerce. The volume also includes a dialogue report on the "State of the Bangladesh Economy and Budget Responses FY2008," organised by CPD on 14 June 2007, and a chronology of the major economic events that occurred during the FY2006-07 and the period between July-November 2007 of FY2007-08.

## Bangladesh Apparel Sector in Post MFA Era: A Study on the Ongoing Restructuring Process

Based on in-depth analysis of detailed firm level data, generated through large sample surveys of RMG enterprises and workers, the volume throws important insights as regards how the RMG sector of Bangladesh is positioning itself in view of the changing global market scenario. Areas which have been dealt with in this volume include characteristic features of Bangladesh's RMG enterprises, background of RMG entrepreneurs and workers, nature of the ongoing restructuring process, production, cost structure, sourcing of raw materials, marketing strategies, dynamics of capital-output and labour-output ratios, product and market diversification, state of labour standards compliance, livelihood issues concerning RMG workers, skill upgradation, scaling up and consolidation, structural weaknesses and future challenges. The volume also puts forward a set of policy recommendations with a view to enabling strengthened participation of Bangladesh's RMG sector in the global market.

*Authors: Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya and Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem*



## বাংলাদেশের অর্থনীতি পর্যালোচনা ২০০৭-০৮

This volume is basically the Bangla version of the "State of the Bangladesh Economy in FY2006-07 and Outlook for FY2007-08." Two additional chapters on reviewing of post-flood and post-cyclone agricultural rehabilitation programme along with suggestions for some useful measure for consideration of the policymakers are included in this volume.

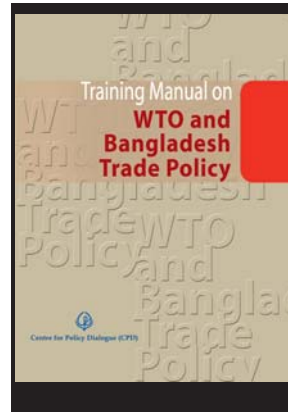
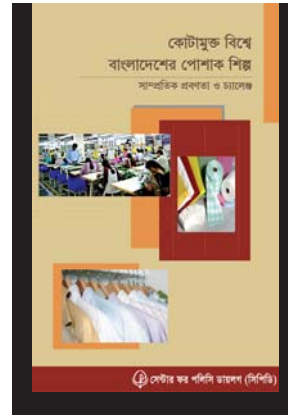
## কোটামুক্ত বিশ্বে বাংলাদেশের পোশাক শিল্প: সাম্প্রতিক প্রবণতা ও চ্যালেঞ্জ

Articles in this volume reflect the dynamics of RMG industry of Bangladesh as it strives to address the challenges faced in the quota-free world. The key issues which have been covered in this volume include technological restructuring, productivity, employment opportunity, minimum wage, gender dimension, workplace environment, duty-free quota-free market access and international competitive environment of the RMG sector. Each article has also provided concrete recommendations on those issues. The book also included three dialogue reports titled - শিল্পে কর্মপরিবেশের নিরাপত্তা: আমাদের কি কিছুই করণীয় নেই?; পোশাক শিল্পে সাম্প্রতিক অস্থিরতা: সমাধান কোন পথে?; and তৈরি পোশাক শিল্পে নারী শ্রমিকদের অবস্থা: সিপিডি'র সাম্প্রতিক সমীক্ষায় প্রাপ্ত ফলাফল.

*Authors: Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Dr Fahmida Khatun, Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Mr Md Ashiq Iqbal, Mr Towfiqul Islam Khan, Ms Tazeen Tahsina, Ms Debjani Sen Gupta and Mr Shuhash Ranjan Das Shimon*

## Training Manual on WTO and Bangladesh Trade Policy

This Training Manual intends to contribute to trade-related issues in areas such as agriculture, non-agriculture market access, services, intellectual property rights, trade facilitation, regional trading arrangements and environment, and Bangladesh's policy stance in view of these. It particularly draws on background materials prepared for a training programme organised for young university teachers, implemented jointly with UNDP. It provides a first hand knowledge on multilateral trading system, key negotiating areas in the WTO, and Bangladesh's interests in this view.



CPD  
Annual  
Report  
2008

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## Bangladesh Economy in FY2007-08: An Interim Review of Macroeconomic Performance

This publication presents an analysis of the performance of major macroeconomic indicators of Bangladesh during the first three quarters of FY2007-08 (and in some cases beyond), as well as an outlook for FY2008-09, in relation to some of the key emerging challenges which characterised this particular period. The overall economic analysis comprises of several burning issues including global trends and their implications, managing the fiscal deficit, high inflationary trend, increasing subsidy burden, food security and social safety net, sluggish beginning of the industrial sector, power and energy deficit, pressure on balance of payment and deteriorating terms of trade.



## Recent Inflation in Bangladesh: Trends, Determinants and Impact on Poverty

This volume captures the findings of two recent studies, completed under the IRBD programme by the CPD on inflation in Bangladesh. As is known, price hike of essential commodities has been a major concern in Bangladesh, both for policymakers and the public at large. In March-June period of 2007, CPD carried out a study titled *Price of Essential Commodities: A Diagnostic Study of Recent Trends*, to investigate the underlying factors contributing to inflation in Bangladesh which was gradually gaining momentum at that time. Based on the value chain analyses of a number of essential items, the CPD study identified the key reasons (both domestic and international) which fueled the inflationary pressure and put forward suggestions for the government. To examine the more recent developments, CPD conducted another study, as a follow-up of the aforesaid diagnostic study, which was titled: *Trends in Prices and Inflation: Impact of Real Income and Poverty in Bangladesh*. This study traced more recent trends in aggregate inflation levels and analysed movements in price levels of a number of essential items of consumption from a regional comparative perspective. Finally, various government interventions to address both causes and consequences of inflation were reviewed under this study.

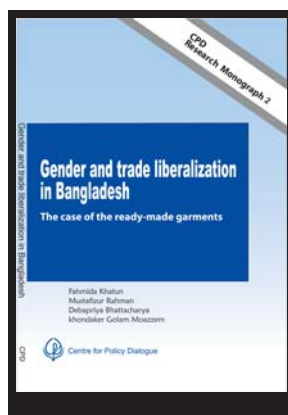
Authors: Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Mr Wasel Bin Shadat and Dr Uttam Deb

### CPD Monograph 2

## Gender and Trade Liberalisation in Bangladesh: The Case of Readymade Garments

The research monograph presents the findings of the CPD research project on *Gender and Trade Liberalisation in Bangladesh: The Case of Readymade Garments*. The study based on a field level survey, explores the gender-differentiated effect of trade liberalisation in the RMG sector. The monograph tried to investigate how adjustments occurred in the Bangladesh RMG sector in response to the new competitive global environment; analysed the changes in the cost of production, profitability, wages and employment during the post-Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) period; and examined the key trends that are expected to have short and medium-term impact on the sector. The monograph also tried to look at the impact of the MFA at the firm level, the nature and extent of gender-discriminatory consequences of the MFA phase-out, and factors related to their income earnings.

*Authors: Dr Fahmida Khatun, Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya and Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem*



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Report  
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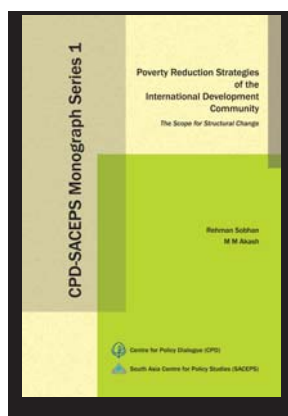
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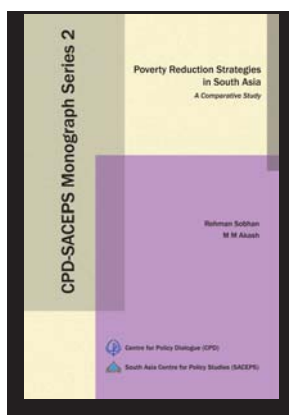
### CPD-SACEPS Monograph 1

## Poverty Reduction Strategy of the International Development Community: The Scope for Structural Change

This monograph is the first in the series of publications of the CPD-SACEPS joint research project on *Eradication of Poverty in South Asia Through the Empowerment of the Poor*. The monograph reviews the South Asian strategies within the wider global policy perspectives on poverty reduction by focusing on reports prepared by the World Bank, ADB, OECD, UNCTAD and IFAD.

*Authors: Professor Rehman Sobhan and Professor MM Akash*





### CPD-SACEPS Monograph 2

## Poverty Reduction Strategies in South Asia: A Comparative Study

The second monograph reviews the poverty reduction strategies of five countries of South Asia: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It examines the persistence of poverty in these countries and reveals how far governments in each of these countries designed their policies or aspired to build institutions that would address the structural injustices in society which lie at the source of poverty. The monograph also suggests ways to correct the structural injustices that create poverty.

Authors: Professor Rehman Sobhan and Professor MM Akash

## Occasional Papers

CPD. 2008. *State of the Bangladesh Economy in FY2008*. Occasional Paper No. 65. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Rahman, M., Deb, U.K., Khatun, F. and Moazzem, K.G. 2008. *Current WTO Negotiations Under Doha Round: Insights from CPD's Geneva Tracking Mission 2008*. Occasional Paper No. 66. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

CPD. 2008. *State of the Bangladesh Economy in FY2007-08: Second Interim*. Occasional Paper No. 67. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

CPD. 2008. *State of the Bangladesh Economy and An Analysis of the National Budget for FY2008-09*. Occasional Paper No. 68. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Rahman, K.M. and Hasanuzzaman. 2008. *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) XII: Implications for Bangladesh and Other LDCs*. Occasional Paper No. 69. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

CPD. 2008. *State of the Bangladesh Economy in FY2007-08 and Some Early Signals Regarding FY2008-09*. Occasional Paper No. 70. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Mahmoud, C.S., Wadood, S.N. and Ahmed, K.S. 2008. *Addressing Regional Inequality Issues in Bangladesh Public Expenditure*. Occasional Paper No. 71. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Hassan, G.M. 2008. *Public Expenditure, Employment and Poverty in Bangladesh: An Empirical Analysis*. Occasional Paper No. 72. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Khan, M.W.R. 2008. *The Micro Level Impact of Foreign Remittances on Incomes in Bangladesh: A Measurement Approach Using the Propensity Score*. Occasional Paper No. 73. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Chowdhury, M.E. and Ahmed, S.U. 2008. *Poverty-Environment Nexus: An Investigation of Linkage and Policy Implications*. Occasional Paper No. 74. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Iqbal, A., Khan, T.I. and Tahsina, T. 2008. *Macroeconomic Implications of Social Safety Nets in the Context of Bangladesh*. Occasional Paper No. 75. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Khatun, F. 2008. *Accra Conference on Aid Effectiveness: Perspectives from Bangladesh*. Occasional Paper No. 76. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

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## Policy Briefs

Rahman, M. and Khan, M.A. 2008. *New Partnership for Development Act of 2007: Possible Strategies and Negotiating Options for Bangladesh*. Policy Brief No. 31. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Rahman, M. and Hasanuzzaman. 2008. *Current Status of Doha Round Negotiations: Priorities and Challenges for Bangladesh*. Policy Brief No. 32. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Deb, U.K. and Amin, M.A. 2008. *Doha Round Negotiation of the WTO – Revised Draft Modalities for Agriculture (Rev. 1): Concerns and Strategies for Bangladesh*. Policy Brief No. 33. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Rahman, K.M. and Hasanuzzaman. 2008. *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) XII: Importance and Priorities for Bangladesh and Other LDCs*. Policy Brief No. 34. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Deb, U.K. and Amin, M.A. 2008. *Revised Draft Modalities on Agriculture (10 July 2008): Implications and Strategies for Bangladesh*. Policy Brief No. 35. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Deb, U.K. and Amin, M.A. 2008. *Market Access for Agricultural Products of Bangladesh: Identification at HS 4 Digit Level*. Policy Brief No. 36. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

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## Dialogue Reports

Rahman, H. 2008. *Resumption on Doha Negotiations and Challenges for Bangladesh*. Dialogue Report No. 88. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Tahsina, T. 2008. *Interpreting Recent Inflationary Trends in Bangladesh and Policy Options*. Dialogue Report No. 93. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Hasanuzzaman. 2008. *Future of Doha Round*. Dialogue Report No. 94. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Hasanuzzaman. 2008. *Accra Conferences on Aid Effectiveness: Perspectives from Bangladesh*. Dialogue Report No. 95. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Paul, T.K. 2008. *State of the Bangladesh Economy and an Analysis of the National Budget for FY2008-09*. Dialogue Report No. 96. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

## Publication by CPD Researchers Outside CPD

In addition to these, CPD researchers also publish their research outputs in referred Journals, Books, Professional Magazines, and as Working Papers published by collaborating institutes. CPD also encourages its professionals to write columns, articles, opinion pieces in newspapers and weeklies as a way of taking CPD's work to a broader audience. Following is a list of such publications by CPD professionals in 2008.

Category	Title of Publication	Author(s)
Book Chapter	"Regional Cooperation for Investment in South Asia: In Search of New Areas for Cooperation." In Panandiker, V.A.P. and Tripathi, R. (eds.) <i>Towards Freedom in South Asia: Democratisation, Peace and Regional Cooperation</i> . India: Konark Publishers.	Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem
Journal Article	Restructuring of Bangladesh's Apparel Sector in the Context of Quota Phase-out (in Bangla). <i>Bangladesh Unnayan Shamiksha</i> , Annual Issue (1414 April), Vol. 25.	Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Mr Suhash Ranjan Das Shiimon
	Competitiveness of Bangladesh's Export-oriented Apparels Sector in the Quota-Free World: Challenges and Suggested Measures (in Bangla). <i>Bangladesh Unnayan Shamiksha</i> , Golden Jubilee Issue (November 2008), Vol. 26.	Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem
	Revised Kyoto Convention: The Best Practice Guide for Customs. <i>Global Trade and Customs Journal</i> , 3 (11-12): 383-389.	Mr Syed Saifuddin Hossain
Magazine Article	Post-Sidr Agricultural Rehabilitation. <i>Forum</i> , January 2008.	Dr Mahabub Hossain, Dr Uttam Kumar Deb
	Performance of Jute Manufacturing Sector of Bangladesh: A Historical Account. <i>Bangladesh Textile Today</i> , October Issue, Dhaka.	Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem
Newspaper Article	Shamne Duti Challenge (in Bangla). <i>Prothom Alo</i> , 1 January 2008.	Professor Mustafizur Rahman
	2008 Shal Hok Krishi Khate Punorjagoroner Bochor (in Bangla). <i>Prothom Alo</i> , 1 January 2008.	Dr Uttam Kumar Deb
	State of the Bangladesh Economy in FY2007-08: A Review of First Six Months. <i>The Daily Star</i> , 19 January 2008.	CPD
	State of the Bangladesh Economy in FY2007-08: Challenges for Next Six Months. <i>The Daily Star</i> , 20 January 2008.	CPD
	RMG Sector of Bangladesh: Changes and Challenges. <i>The Daily Star</i> (Anniversary Issue), 17 February 2008.	Professor Mustafizur Rahman



Category	Title of Publication	Author(s)
	Are you being Served? <i>The Daily Star</i> , 18 March 2008.	<i>Dr Fahmida Khatun</i>
	Riceflation and Agflation. <i>The Daily Star</i> , 1 April 2008.	<i>Mr Kazi Mahmudur Rahman, Mr Md Ashiq Iqbal, Mr Hasanuzzaman</i>
	Challenges of Climate Change. <i>The Daily Star</i> , 24 April 2008.	<i>Dr Fahmida Khatun</i>
	Managing Food Crisis. <i>The Daily Star</i> , 30 April 2008.	<i>Dr Fahmida Khatun</i>
	Pat Chasher Arthoneeti: Bartaman Abostha, Samasya o Koronio (in Bangla). <i>Prothom Alo</i> , 12 May 2008.	<i>Dr Uttam Kumar Deb</i>
	The 15th SAARC Declaration: A Political Economy Perspective. <i>The Daily Star</i> , 13 August 2008.	<i>Mr Hasanuzzaman</i>
	Is There Any Trade Remedy to Riceflation? <i>The New Age</i> , 2 September 2008.	<i>Mr Hasanuzzaman</i>
	Fast Tracking SAARC Trade. <i>The Daily Star</i> , 24 September 2008.	<i>Mr Syed Saifuddin Hossain</i>
	View from the Bottom. <i>The Daily Star</i> , 10 October 2008.	<i>Dr Fahmida Khatun</i>
	Surviving the Meltdown. <i>The Daily Star</i> , 7 November 2008.	<i>Dr Fahmida Khatun, Mr AAM Mosfeq</i>
	Reviewing the Monterrey Consensus. <i>The New Age</i> , 6 December 2008.	<i>Mr Hasanuzzaman, Mr Kazi Mahmudur Rahman</i>

## Reference and Documentation Unit

CPD has established a *Reference and Documentation Unit (RDU)* which serves as a repository of books, monographs, journals, periodicals and newspaper-clippings on issues that are related to CPD's current and prospective works.

### CPD-RDU as of December 2008

Documentations	Number
Books and Documents	5476
Journals	478
Grey Materials	320
Seminar and Workshop Papers	70
Thesis Papers	21
Online Database Subscription	3
Online Magazine Subscription	4
Magazines and Newspapers	Last four months

## Website

CPD hosts its own website to expand its outreach, and facilitate easy access to its dialogue and research outputs. The website has enabled CPD to maintain regular contacts with stakeholders, partners and a broader audience of individuals and organisations who are interested to learn about issues on which CPD has worked. CPD website receives a large number of visitors everyday and some of the CPD publications are downloaded by a considerable array of interested readers. The address of the CPD website is [www.cpd.org.bd](http://www.cpd.org.bd)

The screenshot shows the CPD website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Press, Gallery, Feedback, Upcoming Events, and Search. Below this, a sidebar on the left lists various categories: Research, Budget Analysis, Capacity Building, and Training at CPD. The main content area features a list of publications, including 'Release of NEW WEF's Global Competitiveness Report 2009-2010 and CPD's Bangladesh Business Environment Study 2009', 'Delivering on Budget FY2009-10 A set of Implementation Issues', 'Recent Monetary Policy Statement of Bangladesh Bank (July 2009) An Analytical Commentary', 'An Analysis of the National Budget for FY2009-10', 'State of the Bangladesh Economy in FY2008-09 (Third Reading)', and 'A Set of Proposals for the National Budget FY2009-10'. Each entry includes a 'Download' link. On the right side, there is a section for 'Dialogue Insights' with a 'Web Mail' link and a 'Newsletter' link.

# Selected Highlights

# 8

## CPD Chairman Awarded Swadhinata Puraskar 2008

*(Independence Award 2008)*

CPD Chairman *Professor Rehman Sobhan* received the Swadhinata Puraskar 2008, the highest civilian national award in Bangladesh. *Professor Sobhan* was nominated for this honour in recognition of his outstanding contribution to research and training. Hon'ble Chief Advisor of the Caretaker Government *Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed* handed over the award at a state function at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka on 25 March 2008.



## CPD Hosts UNCTAD Secretary General

CPD hosted a lunch on 30 October 2008 to honour *Dr Supachai Panichpakdi*, Secretary General of the UNCTAD who was in Bangladesh at the time on an official visit. The lunch meeting was widely attended by eminent academics, political leaders, business and civil society leaders, and media editors. The lunch was also attended by *HE Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya*, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the WTO and UN Offices in Geneva and President, UNCTAD's Governing Board.



## Foreign Visitors

Eminent people, dignitaries and visiting scholars and teams visit CPD on a regular basis to interact with CPD researchers and to get to know about CPD activities. The year 2008 also saw a number of such visits by local and foreign guests.

## Ekushey Boi Mela 2008



CPD has been participating in the *Ekushey Boi Mela* (Book Fair) since 2001. The Boi Mela provides an opportunity to CPD to take its publications to a broad section of readership. This also acts as an inspiration for CPD to bring out more books and monographs in Bangla. CPD participated in the month-long "Boi Mela 2008" held at the Bangla Academy

premises. The stall was inaugurated by the CPD Executive Director *Professor Mustafizur Rahman* on 4 February 2008. The CPD stall at the Boi Mela serves as outlet where CPD publications are displayed for public viewing and buying. As in earlier years, CPD strived to bring out new publications on the occasion of the *Ekushey Boi Mela*. Accordingly, five new publications were launched in 2008 of which two were in Bangla.

## International Women's Day Observed at CPD



The International Women's Day was celebrated on 8 March 2008 at the CPD Dialogue Room. CPD Management honoured all female employees with flowers which was followed by a short discussion on women's role in Bangladesh society.

# Major Events of the Recent Past

## 9

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### **Pre-Election Activities**

*National Policy Forum 2001*  
*National Policy Review Forum 2003*  
*Nagorik Forum (Citizen's Forum) 2006*  
*and Vision 2021*

### **Advancing LDC**

### **Interests in the WTO**

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*Pre-Cancun Global Civil Society  
Meet 2003*  
*International  
Civil Society Forum 2005*

### **Promoting Regional**

### **Cooperation**

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*Indo-Bangladesh Dialogues*  
*BCIM Conference*

### **Globalisation and Poverty**

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*Towards an Inclusive  
Globalisation*

As discussed in the previous sections, the overarching goal of CPD activities is to provide policy inputs to the government and major stakeholders by promoting growth, equity, good governance and by contributing to Bangladesh's strengthened regional and global integration. Since 2008 coincides with the fifteenth anniversary of CPD's establishment, it will be pertinent to briefly recall some of the major activities undertaken by the CPD over the recent past years. This will enable the readership to appreciate the richness and diversity of CPD's activities undertaken during this period.

## Pre-Election Activities

Prior to the 2001 national elections, CPD undertook an initiative to prepare a set of Policy Briefs as an input to the national election campaign and with a view to making a set of proposals, prepared at the initiative of Bangladesh civil society and home-grown in its design, available to the newly elected government. CPD constituted 16 Task Forces - about 160 outstanding professionals of the country volunteered their services to prepare these policy briefs. It was hoped that ideas and policy suggestions articulated in those Policy Briefs would find a place in the manifestos of the political parties contesting the national election and that this would inform the policy debates during the election campaign. The recommendations of the draft reports of the Task Forces were validated through seven Regional Consultations and were finalised through a "National Policy Forum" held in August 2001. The influential national dailies *Prothom Alo* and *The Daily Star* joined hands with the CPD to broaden and widen the outreach of the Policy Briefs exercise. The briefs were handed over to Mr Shah AMS Kibria, Advisory Council Member of the Bangladesh Awami League (AL) and Mr Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Secretary General of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in the presence of the then President of the Caretaker Government Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed. The briefs were subsequently published for wider dissemination.

## National Policy Forum 2001



## National Policy Review Forum 2003

Once the election was held in 2001 and the newly elected government got on with the job of governing the country, CPD thought it to be appropriate to revisit the recommendations set out in the 16 Task Force Reports. The idea was to examine to what extent the recommendations of the Task Forces were implemented, what were the constraints, where policy focus and strategies needed to be changed, and what more could be done to raise the efficacy of implementation. In 2003, the 16 Task Forces were

reconvened and reconstituted into 17 Task Forces. As part of validating the recommendations of the newly formed Task Forces, CPD organised eight regional consultations in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Barisal, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Khulna and Chittagong. These consultations were attended by participants from general walks of life and a broad cross section of civil society organisations including NGOs, citizens' groups, professional bodies, MPs, government officials, members of the academia and development partners. The views and recommendations received during the regional dialogues were then incorporated into the reports of the various Task Forces. These were presented at a "National Policy Review Forum" held simultaneously in three different venues in Dhaka in June 2003. The Review Forum was attended by about 1,500 participants drawn from broad cross section of the Bangladesh civil society and international development partners. The compilation of the Task Force reports was published under the title *Monitoring the Implementation of Bangladesh's Development Policies: Civil Society's Review Reports 2003*, both in English and Bangla, and was handed over to Secretary Generals of the two major political parties at the Forum. As before, the Forum was organised by CPD in association with *Prothom Alo* and *The Daily Star*, two leading dailies of the country.





In March 2006, CPD initiated a Nagorik Forum (Citizen's Forum) titled *National Election 2007: Civil Society Initiative for Accountable Development*. The initiative was shared by a Nagorik Committee (Citizen's Committee) which brought together 27 eminent citizens of the country. Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, CPD was the Convener of the Forum and Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, the then Executive Director of the CPD, was the Member-Secretary. CPD's experience of 2001, when it prepared 16 Policy Briefs, and in 2003 when it took an initiative to review the progress of recommendations set out in those Policy Briefs, guided the work of this programme which was aimed at contributing to the then forthcoming elections to be held in 2007. The focus this time was mainly to promote the cause of good governance which was emerging as an issue of increasingly critical importance in the country. The initiative was to contribute to the 2007 election process by bringing the issue of honest and competent candidates at the core of the election debate in Bangladesh.

The work of the Forum was kicked-off at an event that was participated by about 1,200 individuals from various segments of the society. On the occasion, members of the *Nagorik Committee 2006* presented eight goals of *Bangladesh: Vision 2021* prepared under the aegis of the Committee through consultation with major stakeholders. As part of this initiative, CPD organised 15 Regional dialogues across the country, at various division/district levels. The objective of the exercise was to mobilise public opinion in support of accountable and transparent development process. Concern of the common citizens as regards the future of Bangladesh, their demand for a free and fair election to be participated by clean and competent candidates, their aspirations for a prosperous, peaceful and progressive Bangladesh, and their sincere desire to contribute to such a future was most tellingly visible in the course of this entire exercise. Based on the inputs from the dialogues and consultations, CPD prepared three documents namely *Citizen's Aspirations*, *Amendments to the Representation of People's Order 1972*, and *Bangladesh: Vision 2021*. These documents were handed over to the leaders of major political parties. CPD's media partners throughout this entire exercise were *Prothom Alo*, *The Daily Star* and *Channel i*. This initiative of the CPD remains a telling example of how civil society aspirations can be galvanised around certain issues, and how such initiatives can have profound impact on people's perceptions and can stimulate them to actions in favour of good governance.

## Nagorik Forum (Citizen's Forum) 2006 and Vision 2021



## Advancing LDC Interests in the WTO

### Pre-Cancun Global Civil Society Meet 2003



Prior to the Cancun Ministerial Meeting of the WTO, an *International Civil Society Forum: Advancing LDC Interest in the Fifth WTO Ministerial* was organised by the CPD during 29-30 May 2003. The idea was to design a common stand of the civil societies in the LDCs in the context of the agenda of discussion at the then forthcoming WTO Ministerial Meeting at Cancun. In organising the event, CPD partnered with five international organisations which had a wide-ranging track record in trade-related research and advocacy in support of LDCs. The event was aimed at creating a platform for LDCs with an objective to highlight their common interests as regards the Cancun Ministerial. The event concluded with the adoption of a 14-point Agenda of Priorities in view of the Cancun Ministerial and a Declaration on issues of interest to the LDCs. The meeting was attended by about 150 participants from 13 countries including Bangladesh. Twenty-three overseas participants from both co-organising institutions and leading international civil society organisations participated at this Forum. The Forum documents were later presented to the LDC Commerce Ministers at the Dhaka LDC Ministerial Meet that took place during 31 May to 2 June 2003.

## International Civil Society Forum 2005

In view of the then upcoming Hong Kong Ministerial meeting of the WTO, which was mandated to discuss a large number of issues that concerned interests of low-income countries and LDCs, CPD undertook an initiative to convene a Forum in Dhaka that would discuss the relevant issues and come up with appropriate solutions. This event, titled *International Civil Society Forum 2005: Advancing LDC Interests in the Sixth WTO Ministerial*, was held during 3-5 October 2005 in Dhaka. CPD collaborated with eight international and 25 national civil society organisations in holding the event. More than 500 participants including 46 participants from 25 countries of Asia, Africa, Europe and North America attended the Forum and participated in various working sessions on Agriculture, NAMA, Special and Differential Treatment, TRIPS, GATS, WTO Rules, Trade Facilitation, and Trade Related Capacity Building. The three-day event culminated in adoption of a 19-point document titled *Dhaka Declaration 2005* which articulated the various demands and recommendations of the forum participants. The documents were later sent to LDC Trade Ministers who were to lead their countries' delegations to the Hong Kong Ministerial, and the WTO Secretariat.

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## Promoting Regional Cooperation

### Indo-Bangladesh Dialogues



CPD, in collaboration with the Centre for Policy Research (CPR), New Delhi and later on India International Centre (IIC), organised a series of 17 dialogues between 1995 and 2008 which came to be known as Indo-Bangla Dialogues. Spanning over more than a decade, these dialogues were intended to bring together influential people from both countries to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern to the two countries. Over the years these dialogues were participated by a distinguished set of people who included Ministers, MPs, civil society leaders, eminent academicians and experts, business leaders and leaders of grass roots organisations. These dialogues dealt with a wide range of issues belonging to such diverse areas as, among others, economics, politics, connectivity, trade promotion, investment cooperation, water sharing, energy security, and media and cultures.

### BCIM Conference



BCIM is an initiative first floated in 1999 to foster closer cooperation among Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar. The idea was to explore opportunities for closer economic cooperation among the geographically contiguous regions of Southern China, particularly Yunan Province of China, North-eastern States of India, Bangladesh and Myanmar. CPD has been involved with this Forum from the very beginning. CPD organised the *Seventh International Forum on Regional Economic Cooperation among Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar (BCIM)* in Dhaka during 31 March to 1 April 2007. High level government officials and private sector representatives from the BCIM countries, including 32 participants from China, six from India and four from Myanmar took part in the Forum. The Forum focused on building stronger collaboration among the BCIM states in such areas as trade, transport connectivity and tourism.

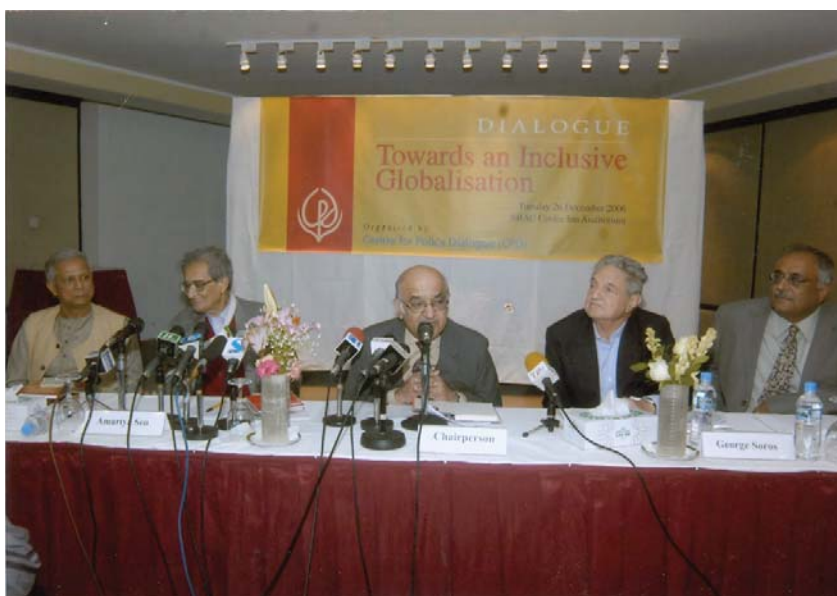
## Globalisation and Poverty

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### Towards an Inclusive Globalisation

A dialogue on "Towards an Inclusive Globalisation" was organised by CPD on 26 December 2006 in Dhaka. Nobel Laureates *Professor Amartya Sen* and *Professor Muhammad Yunus*, and Chairman of Open Society Institute *Mr George Soros* were present as distinguished speakers on the occasion. These globally renowned influential personalities urged world leaders to help the low-income countries and the poor to take advantage of the potential opportunities offered by globalisation, by allocating adequate resources and taking appropriate policy initiatives.



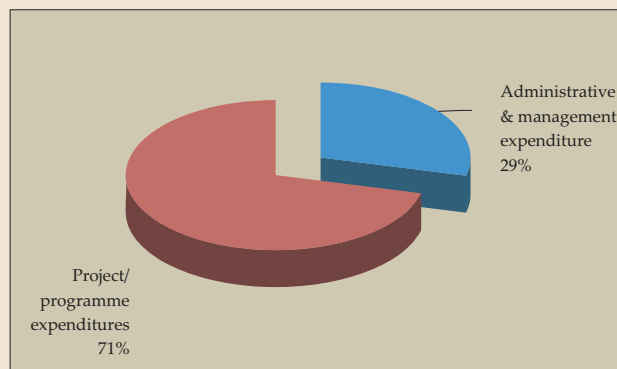
# Financial Affairs

# 10

CPD was launched with the initial contributions from a number of founding Trustees representing prominent national NGOs. Later it received grants for core financing from the Ford Foundation and the government of the Netherlands. As CPD believes in pursuing demand-driven programmes, subsequently it identified issues of urgent development concerns of Bangladesh, prepared research proposals and raised funds from prospective supporters. Thus, CPD has received support from the LMG of international development partners, viz. Canada, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden for implementing its flagship IRBD programme. CIDA played an important role by supporting CPD's multiyear trade policy analysis programme. At various point in time, CPD programmes and projects were underwritten by different organisations including Better World Forum, IDRC, DFID, EU, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNFPA, UNEP, FAO, ILO and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES). CPD has also received support from the local private sector. At present CPD is trying to generate an endowment fund for greater institutional sustainability and flexibility in its work.

Given CPD's activities relating to policy analysis and advocacy and with a view to avoid conflict of interest, CPD has refrained from taking funds from the government and institutions which play important role in reforms and policy design in Bangladesh. CPD tries to diversify sources of support that it receives so that it is not overwhelmingly dependent on a single source. It has a policy to identify research priorities in a demand-driven and consultative manner, and then raise funds for prioritised research activities rather than bidding for projects where fungible resources are readily available. CPD ensures transparent and accountable financial management, through internal auditing and independent external auditing, which are conducted on a regular basis. On financial matters CPD remains accountable to its BoT, NGO Affairs Bureau, National Board of Revenue (NBR) and its supporting agencies and institutions.

**Composition of Expenditures 2008**



Total Expenditure in Thousand Taka 95,413

The summary statement of financial activities and summary balance sheet provided below is taken from the *CPD Financial Statements* for the year ended 31 December 2008. These extracts provide an overview of the state of financial affairs of the Centre.

The financial statements were audited by G. Biswas & Co., Chartered Accountants. The auditor has given an unqualified opinion.

#### Summary Statement of Financial Activities

	Amount in Taka ('000)	
	Year ended 31 Dec 2008	Year ended 31 Dec 2007
<b>Incoming Resources</b>		
Fund and grants	85,189	91,920
Other receipts	13,761	9,244
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>98,950</b>	<b>101,164</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>		
Administrative & management expenditure	27,546	23,649
Project / programme expenditures	67,867	73,404
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>95,413</b>	<b>97,053</b>
Reserve	3,537	4,111

#### Summary Balance Sheet

	Amount in Taka ('000)	
	As on 31 Dec 2008	As on 31 Dec 2007
<b>Assets</b>		
Fixed Assets	7,892	7,113
Current Assets	229,474	218,314
Less: Current Liabilities	36,454	31,123
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>200,912</b>	<b>194,304</b>
<b>Represented by</b>		
Unrestricted Reserve	155,707	152,170
Restricted Reserve	45,205	42,134
	<b>200,912</b>	<b>194,304</b>

# Lessons Learnt and Major Challenges

# 11

Over the past 15 years, CPD has emerged as a leading think tank of Bangladesh. It has been able to establish its credibility through a diverse range of activities that include high quality research, dialogues, advocacy and policy influencing activisms, wide ranging publications and dissemination of its outputs, networking and outreach programmes. CPD has always tried to promote active engagement around issues of concern to citizens, based on its own initiative, and also by drawing synergies from building networks and partnerships. It has remained one of the very few platforms where stakeholders of different perceptions have agreed to come together and interact in an environment of constructive engagement.

However, CPD is fully aware about the challenges that it needs to overcome and address to realise its aspiration of being recognised as a leading regional and global think tank. Obviously, there are many areas where CPD will need to improve and be more proactive and effective to reach this goal. Future strategies of institution building will need to consolidate what CPD has achieved and build on this further. It is in this context that CPD strives to address the highlighted challenges in the days to come.

## Future Challenges

- Maintaining the perceived non-partisan professional position and concurrently sustaining a working relation with the government.
- Servicing the growing expectations of the stakeholders, at the same time remaining focused in the areas of core expertise.
- Translating the policy inputs into agendas for civic mobilisation through more effective outreach and alliance building.
- Continuously improving the in-house professional competences and quality of the outputs.
- Meeting the demands of growing regional and international networks.
- Challenge to be in touch with global frontier and adapting locally.
- Achieving financial autonomy and sustainability through long-term support and generation of an endowment fund.



# Annex

# 1

## CPD Staff in 2008

*Professor Rehman Sobhan*  
*Professor Mustafizur Rahman*

Chairman  
Executive Director

### **Research Division**

*Dr Uttam Kumar Deb*  
*Dr Fahmida Khatun*  
*Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem*  
*Mr Syeed Ahamed*  
*Mr Kazi Mahmudur Rahman*  
*Mr Wasel Bin Shadat*  
*Mr Syed Saifuddin Hossain*  
*Ms Mahjabeen Quader*  
*Mr Md Ashiq Iqbal*  
*Mr Asif Anwar*  
*Ms Suparna Hasan*  
*Ms Nafisa Khaled*  
*Mr Towfiqul Islam Khan*  
*Ms Khaleda Akhter*  
*Mr Syed Motahar Samnan*  
*Ms Tazeen Tahsina*  
*Mr Subir Kanti Bairagi*  
*Mr Hasanuzzaman*  
*Mr Md Tariqur Rahman*  
*Mr Muhammad Al Amin*

Additional Director & Head of Research  
Additional Director  
Senior Research Fellow  
Senior Research Associate (*on study leave*)  
Senior Research Associate  
Senior Research Associate (*on study leave*)  
Senior Research Associate  
Senior Research Associate (*Till January 2008*)  
Senior Research Associate  
Senior Research Associate  
Senior Research Associate  
Senior Research Associate  
Senior Research Associate  
Senior Research Associate  
Senior Research Associate  
Senior Research Associate  
Research Associate (*Study leave from February 2008*)  
Research Associate (*Till March 2008*)  
Research Associate  
Research Associate  
Research Associate  
Research Associate (*From March 2008*)

<i>Mr Faiz Ahmed Chowdhury</i>	Research Associate ( <i>Till April 2008</i> )
<i>Mr Abu Naim Muhammad Nazmul Bari</i>	Research Associate ( <i>From March-June 2008</i> )
<i>Mr Tapas Kumar Paul</i>	Research Associate
<i>Ms Sharmin Chowdhury</i>	Research Associate ( <i>From September 2008</i> )
<i>Mr Ashiqun Nabi</i>	Research Associate ( <i>From April 2008</i> )

### **Dialogue and Communication Division**

<i>Ms Anisatul Fatema Yousuf</i>	Director
<i>Mr Meer Ahsan Habib</i>	Senior Dialogue Associate
<i>Ms Nazmatun Noor</i>	Senior Dialogue Associate ( <i>From February 2008</i> )
<i>Mr Avra Bhattacharjee</i>	Senior Documentation & Publication Officer
<i>Ms Rony Akther</i>	Dialogue Associate

### **Administration and Finance Division**

<i>Mr M Shafiqul Islam</i>	Additional Director
<i>Mr Iqbal Hossain</i>	Deputy Director
<i>Mr M Humayun Kabir</i>	Senior Administrative Associate
<i>Mr AHM Ashrafuzzaman</i>	Senior System Analyst
<i>Mr Uttam Kumar Paul</i>	Senior Accounts Associate
<i>Mr Hamidul Hoque Mondal</i>	Senior Administrative Associate
<i>Mr Muhammad Moniruzzaman</i>	Senior Accounts Associate
<i>Mr Abdul Quddus</i>	Senior Administrative Associate
<i>Mr Kamalesh Chandra Mondal</i>	Accounts Associate
<i>Mr Md Hasanur Rahman</i>	Front Desk Officer
<i>Mr Shoeb Siddique</i>	Junior Administrative Associate
<i>Mr Harunur Rashid</i>	Junior Administrative Associate

### **Support Staff**

<i>Mr Anisuzzaman</i>	Driver
<i>Mr Mohammad Selim</i>	Driver
<i>Mr Mohammad Ali</i>	Driver
<i>Mr Abul Kashem</i>	Driver
<i>Mr Abdul Gafur</i>	Office Assistant
<i>Mr Abdul Quddus</i>	Office Assistant
<i>Mr Nazrul Islam</i>	Office Assistant
<i>Mr Babul Chandra Halder</i>	Office Assistant
<i>Ms Maleka Begum</i>	Cleaner
<i>Ms Rahila Khatun</i>	Cleaner
<i>Mr Liton Miah</i>	Cleaner

### **Programme Associates**

<i>Ms Debjani Sen Gupta</i>	Programme Associate ( <i>Till May 2008</i> )
<i>Mr Abdullah Al Mahmood Mosfeq</i>	Programme Associate ( <i>From February 2008</i> )

<i>Mr Md Abdus Sobhan</i>	Programme Associate ( <i>From February 2008</i> )
<i>Ms Nusrat Jahan</i>	Programme Associate ( <i>From March 2008</i> )
<i>Mr Molla Mursaleen Shiraj</i>	Programme Associate ( <i>From 1-21 June 2008</i> )
<i>Ms Rubaiya Zahura Zaman</i>	Programme Associate ( <i>From July - August 2008</i> )
<i>Ms Syeda Seama Mowri</i>	Programme Associate ( <i>From August - November 2008</i> )

#### **Research Interns at CPD in 2008**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Home Institution</b>	<b>Duration at CPD</b>
<i>Mr Molla Mursaleen Shiraj</i>	University of Dhaka, Bangladesh	08/01/2008 - 08/03/2008
<i>Mr Uday Tauheed Islam</i>	Colgate University, USA	18/05/2008 - 01/07/2008
<i>Mr Redwanul Hoque</i>	Austin College, USA	01/06/2008 - 16/07/2008
<i>Ms Afeefa Tasneem</i>	Wellesley College, USA	01/06/2008 - 16/07/2008
<i>Ms Maisha Chowdhury</i>	Bard College, USA	02/06/2008 - 16/07/2008
<i>Mr Saqib Huq</i>	Trinity College, USA	07/06/2008 - 16/07/2008
<i>Ms Joeta Jaria Chowdhury</i>	Mount Holyoke College, USA	13/07/2008 - 13/08/2008
<i>Ms Fida-e-Tashfia</i>	Williams College, USA	03/08/2008 - 29/08/2008
<i>Ms Kaniz Tasnima</i>	University of Dhaka, Bangladesh	07/12/2008 - 07/01/2009
<i>Mr Zebulun Kreiter</i>	Visiting Intern from USA	From 01/09/2008

# Annex

## 2

### CPD Professionals in International Events

#### **Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman**

- Attended the meeting on "Social Charter," organised by the Society for Democracy and Community Development, on 8-9 January 2008, in Amman, Jordan.
- Chaired a session at the Conference on "The Landscape of Asian Integration," organised by Association of ASIA Scholars, on 11-12 January 2008, in New Delhi, India.
- Attended the SACEPS Board and EC meetings, on 30 January-2 February 2008, in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Participated at the "Universal Health Entitlements on Kolkata Group Meeting," organised by Global Equity Initiative, Harvard University Pratichi Trust, India and UNICEF India, on 14-16 February 2008, in Kolkata, India.
- Participated as a Member of the Advisory Committee Meeting of Ash Institute at Harvard, on 31 March 2008, in Boston, USA.
- Attended the 2nd Global Network Conference on "The Innovations Imperative: Global, National, Local: Celebrating 20 Years of Innovations in Government," organised by the Harvard University on 31 March-2 April 2008, in Boston, USA.
- Attended the Seminar on "Moving Out of Poverty," jointly organised by the ICRIER and the World Bank, on 26 May 2008, in New Delhi, India. He was a panelist at session on "Moving Out of Poverty: Role of Private Sector and Civil Society."
- Participated at the South Asia Launching of "The Growth Report: Strategies for Sustained Growth and Inclusive Development," organised by the ICRIER on 27 May 2008, in New Delhi, India.
- Attended as the keynote speaker at the Seminar "Does South Asia Exist?" organised by the South Asia Initiative at the Shorenstein APARC, on 19-20 June 2008, Stanford University, San Francisco, USA.

- Attended the Wilton Park Conference on "Bangladesh: the Prospect and Means for Strengthening Democracy." Chaired the session on "Post Elections - Looking to the Medium Term: Policies to Meet the Challenges."
- Attended the "1st South Asian Economic Summit," and delivered the keynote titled *A Vision for South Asia: Combating Poverty Through Peoples' Empowerment*, organised by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), on 28-30 August 2008, in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- Attended the meeting of the "Senior Advisory Board of the WANA Forum," on 15 October 2008, in Amman, Jordan.
- Attended the Seminar on "Equitising Development: Agendas for Poverty Eradication in South Asia," organised by the UNDP, on 17-18 December 2008, in New Delhi, India.
- Participated at the Conference on "Development, Freedom and Welfare," jointly organised by Cornell University, USA and the Institute for Human Development, New Delhi, on 19-20 December 2008, in New Delhi, India.

#### **Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director**

- Participated at the International Conference on "SAARC: Towards Greater Connectivity," organised by India International Centre in collaboration with IPCS and Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAF), on 15-16 January 2008, in New Delhi, India.
- Attended the South Asian Regional Meeting of "The America's Role in Asia" project, organised by The Asia Foundation, on 13-15 February 2008, in New Delhi, India.
- Participated at a Workshop on organised by Forum on the Future of Aid, on 18-20 February 2008, in Uganda.
- Visited programmes of SAARC Think-Tanks and NGO's in Europe, organised by KAF New Delhi, on 2-9 March 2008, in Berlin and Brussels.
- Made a presentation in "Regional Trade Policy Course (RTPC)," organised by WTO and National University of Singapore, on 12-13 March 2008, in Singapore.
- Led the CPD Delegation for the *WTO Tracking Mission* to follow-up on the development of the Doha Round Negotiations on 15-21 March 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Presented a paper titled *NAMA February 2008 Draft: An LDC Perspective*, at the Seminar on "Doha Development Round: LDCs in the End Game," organised by CPD, ICTSD and AERC, on 15-16 March 2008, in Montreux, Switzerland.
- Attended as a panelist at the Seminar on "Micro-Economic Foundations of Economic Policy Performance and Economic Integration in South and East Asia," organised by the East Asian Bureau of Economic Research (EABER) at the Australian National University and National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), on 3-4 April 2008, in New Delhi, India.
- Participated at the Seminar on "Endowments for Think Tanks in Developing Countries: What Role for Private Foundations and Official Donors?" organised by the OECD Development Centre, on 28 April 2008, in Paris, France.

- Attended a brainstorming session of the Conference on "Geneva Trade and Development Forum," organised by the International Trade Development Economic Governance Advisory Services (iDEAS), on 27 June 2007, in Geneva, Switzerland
- Attended the WTO Mini-Ministerial Meeting as a member of Government Delegation of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh, on 21-24 July 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Attended the Conference on "Global Partnership for Development: Where Do We Stand and Where to Go?" jointly organised by Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS)-International, India and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), on 11-14 August, in New Delhi, India.
- Participated as a discussant and panelist at the "1st South Asian Economic Summit," organised by the IPS, on 27-30 August, in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- Attended the Technical Meeting of the "Better Regulation for Growth (BRGs) Advisory Panel," jointly organised by Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DFID, UK and FIAS/World Bank, on 9-15 November 2008, in Amsterdam, Hague, The Netherlands.
- Participated at the "International Regulatory Reform Conference (IRRC) 2008," and made a presentation on *Regulatory Reforms Commission (RRC) of Bangladesh: Experience and Way Forward*, organised by Bertelsmann Stiftung, on 16-19 November 2008, in Berlin, Germany.

#### **Ms Anisatul Fatema Yousuf, Director, Dialogue and Communication**

- Made a presentation on *Influencing Policies through Policy Dialogue: A Case Study of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)*, at the "International Symposium on Dialogue Process," organised by Women in Security Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP), on 15-17 March 2008, in New Delhi, India.
- Participated at the "Second International Meeting of the Global Network of Government Innovators," organised by ASH Institute, Harvard, on 31 March-2 April 2008, in Boston, USA.
- Attended the "WTO Public Forum," organised by the World Trade Organization (WTO), on 23-24 September 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland.

#### **Dr Uttam Kumar Deb, Additional Director and Head of Research**

- Presented a paper titled *Rice Policies in Bangladesh: Evolution and Impact* (jointly with *Dr Mahabub Hossain*), at the Forum on "Rice Policy Research: Key Issues from National Perspectives," organised by International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), on 18-19 February 2008, in Los Banos, Philippines.
- Participated in the *WTO Tracking Mission* to follow-up the development of the Doha Round Negotiations, on 13-21 March 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Participated at the Seminar on "Doha Development Round: LDCs in the End Game," organised by CPD, ICTSD and AERC, on 15-16 March 2008, in Montreux, Switzerland.
- Participated at the Project Inception Workshop on "Vulnerability to Climate Change: Adaptation Strategies and Layers of Resilience," organised by the ICRISAT, on 7-9 May 2008, India.

- Participated at the ARTNeT Research Team Meeting on "Impact of IT-based Trade Facilitation Measures," on 29-30 July 2008, in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Participated at the ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshop titled "Behind the Border - Gravity Modelling," on 15-19 December 2008, in Bangkok, Thailand.

#### **Dr Fahmida Khatun, Additional Director**

- Participated at the International Seminar on "Moving Towards Gender Sensitisation of Trade Policy," organised by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) India Programme, on 25-27 February 2008, in New Delhi, India.
- Participated in the *WTO Tracking Mission* to follow-up on the development of the Doha Round Negotiations, on 13-21 March 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Participated at the Seminar on "Doha Development Round: LDCs in the End Game," organised by CPD, ICTSD and AERC, on 15-16 March 2008, in Montreux, Switzerland.
- Presented a paper titled *Accra High Level Forum: Towards a Commonwealth Agenda on Aid Effectiveness*, at a Seminar organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat, on 23-24 June 2008, in London, United Kingdom.
- Participated at the 2nd Annual Plenary of the OECD Global Forum on "Development: Strengthening Country Ownership," organised by the OECD, on 20 May 2008, in Paris, France.
- Chaired the session on "Alignment" at the "Consultation on the 3rd High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness: South Asia," on 5-6 May 2008, in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Participated in the "Accra High Level Forum 3 on Aid Effectiveness," on 2-4 September 2008, in Accra, Ghana.
- Participated in the Seminar on "Global Partnership for Development: Where Do We Stand and Where to Go?" on 12-13 August 2008, in New Delhi, India.
- Participated at the Launching of the "Green Economy Initiative," organised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), on 1-3 December 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland.

#### **Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Senior Research Fellow**

- Participated in the *WTO Tracking Mission* to follow-up on the development of the Doha Round Negotiations, on 13-21 March 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Participated at the Seminar on "Doha Development Round: LDCs in the End Game," organised by ICTSD, CPD and AERC, on 15-16 March 2008, in Montreux, Switzerland.
- Participated in a meeting on "RTAs and Production Networks Linkages," jointly organised by the ARTNet and ESCAP, on 21-22 July 2008, in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Participated at the Research Team Meeting on titled "Linkages between Regional Trade Agreements and Production Networks in Asia-Pacific," organised by ARTNeT, UNESCAP, on 21-22 July 2008, in Bangkok.

- Attended a high-level Conference on "Trade as a Development Tool: Partnerships and Policies," organised by Geneva Trade and Development Forum (GTDF), on 17-20 September 2008, in Crans-Montana, Switzerland.
- Participated at a Workshop on "Financial and Macroeconomic Issues in Asian Economic Integration," jointly organised by the Indira Gandhi Institute for Development Research (IGIDR) in Mumbai, India with the East Asian Bureau of Economic Research (EABER) in the Crawford School of Economics and Government at the Australian National University (ANU), on 17 November 2008, in Mumbai, India.
- Participated at the "Intra-regional Trade and Investment in South Asia: Policy Workshop," organised by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), on 4-5 December 2008, in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Participated at a Capacity Building Workshop titled "Behind the Border - Gravity Modelling," organised by ARTNeT, UNESCAP, on 15-19 December 2008, in Bangkok, Thailand.

#### **Mr Kazi Mahmudur Rahman, Senior Research Associate**

- Chaired a session titled "Key Trade and Development Issues and the New Realities in the Geography of the World Economy," at a Seminar on "Pre-UNCTAD XII Civil Society Forum in Asia," organised by the CUTS-Hanoi Resource Centre, on 6-7 March 2008, in Hanoi, Vietnam.
- Presented a paper titled *Removal of Bottlenecks from Trade under SAFTA: Initiatives from Bangladesh*, at the Roundtable on "SAFTA: Efforts for Trade Liberalization in South Asia & Way Forward," organised by SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, on 28 November 2008, in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

#### **Mr Asif Anwar, Senior Research Associate**

- Participated at two specialised short courses on "Trade in Agriculture and International Trade Law & Development," organised by the Trade Policy Centre in Africa (TRAPCA), on 4-29 February 2008, in Arusha, Tanzania.

#### **Ms Khaleda Akhter, Senior Research Associate**

- Participated at two specialised short courses on "Trade in Agriculture and International Trade Law & Development," organised by the Trade Policy Centre in Africa (TRAPCA), on 4-29 February 2008, in Arusha, Tanzania.

#### **Mr Hasanuzzaman, Research Associate**

- Completed the Certificate Programme on "Trade Policy and Commercial Diplomacy," offered by the Centre for Trade Policy and Law (CTPL), Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, on 26 May-4 July 2008.



**Mr Subir Kanti Bairagi, Research Associate**

- Completed the Certificate Programme on "Trade Policy and Commercial Diplomacy," offered by the Centre for Trade Policy and Law (CTPL), Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, on 26 May- 4 July 2008.

**Mr Muhammad Al Amin, Research Associate**

- Participated at the "ARTNet Capacity Building Workshop for Trade Research," organised by UNESCAP and WTO, on 2-6 June 2008, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

**Mr Md Tariqur Rahman, Research Associate**

- Participated at the "ARTNet Capacity Building Workshop for Trade Research," organised by UNESCAP and WTO, on 2-6 June 2008, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

# Annex


# 3

## Chronology of CPD Activities in 2008

5 January	59th RECAP Meeting held
10 January	Press Briefing on <i>Interim IRBD 2008</i> arranged
29 January	29th BoT Meeting held
30 January -12 February	Training Workshop on <i>WTO and Bangladesh Trade Policy</i> arranged
31 January	Meeting of the NPDA Steering Committee held
4 February	CPD stall at the <i>Ekushey Boi Mela 2008</i> inaugurated
9 February	Dialogue on <i>Input Service Delivery for Higher Boro Production</i> organised
11 February	Dialogue on <i>The New Market Access Initiative of US Congress: Concerns and Interests of Bangladesh</i> organised
27 February	IRBD Review Meeting with Ambassadors of the LMG Members held
28 February	Dialogue on <i>Addressing Regional Inequality: Policy Options and Strategies</i> organised
3 March	Group Meeting on <i>Entrepreneurship and Trade and Facilitation</i> with the Evian Group at IMD held
5 March	Group Meeting with the Evian Group at IMD was held where a presentation on <i>Globalisation, Inclusive Growth and Implications for Bangladesh</i> was made
5 March	60th RECAP Meeting held
15-16 March	International Dialogue on <i>Doha Development Round: LDCs in the End Game</i> organised
29 March	Press Briefing on <i>Current WTO Negotiations Under Doha Round: Insights from CPD's Geneva Tracking Mission</i> organised
8 April	Seminar in association with the ADB and UNCTAD on <i>Regional Cooperation in South Asia: Benefits from SAFTA and the Way Ahead</i> organised
19 April	In-house dialogue on <i>Boro Procurement Strategy and Food Security: An Actionable Agenda</i> held
20 April	Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officials visited CPD
21 April	Dialogue on <i>Boro Procurement Strategy and Food Security: An Actionable Agenda</i> organised

30 April	Visit by Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) officials
3 May	Pre-dialogue consultation on <i>In Search of a Future for the Jute Sector: Constraints, Opportunities and Policy Options</i> held
4 May	Mr Christoph Sprung, Senior Manager, World Economic Forum, India and South Asia Region visited CPD
10 May	Dialogue on <i>In Search of a Future for the Jute Sector: Constraints, Opportunities and Policy Options</i> organised
13 May	61st RECAP Meeting held
1 June	Expert Group Meeting on <i>Interim IRBD 2008</i> held
4 June	Press Briefing on <i>State of the Bangladesh Economy in FY2008 and Outlook for FY2009</i> arranged
10 June	Press Briefing on <i>Review of National Budget 2008-09</i> arranged
17 June	Dialogue on <i>State of the Bangladesh Economy and Budget Responses 2008-09</i> arranged
18 June	62nd RECAP Meeting held
1 July	In-house dialogue on <i>Rising Food Prices - Global Factors and Local Impacts</i> held
3 July	Brainstorming Session on <i>Dynamics and Changes in the Backward Linkage Textile Sector of Bangladesh</i> held
10 July	International Monetary Fund (IMF) Article-IV Mission which included Mr Thomas R Rumbaugh, Advisor, Mr Joong Shik Kang, Economist, Mr Matt Davies, Senior Economist, Asia and Pacific Department and Mr Jonathan Dunn, IMF Representative in Bangladesh visited CPD
17 July	UNCTAD's <i>Least Developed Countries Report 2008</i> launched to the press
3 August	Pre-dialogue consultation on <i>Costing of Domestic Violence: Initial Findings</i> held
7 August	63rd RECAP Meeting held
9 August	Dialogue on <i>Domestic Violence in Bangladesh: Cost Estimates and Measures to Address the Attendant Problems</i> organised
10 August	30th BoT Meeting held
18 August	Dialogue on <i>Collapse of Recent WTO Talks and Bangladesh: Experience and Options</i> organised
20 August	IRBD (Thematic) Meeting on <i>Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)</i> held
25 August	Dialogue on <i>Accra Conference on Aid Effectiveness: Perspectives from Bangladesh</i> organised
26 August	NPDA Steering Committee meeting held
15 September	NPDA Steering Committee meeting held
8 October	<i>Global Competitiveness Report (GCR) 2008-2009 and Bangladesh Business Environment Study 2008</i> released to the press
12-13 October	CPD-SACEPS Seminar on <i>Rethinking Poverty eradication in South Asia: An Agenda for Inclusive Development</i> organised
16 October	Canadian High Commissioner HE Mr Robert Mcdougall visited CPD
23 October	64th RECAP Meeting held

25 October	Dialogue on <i>Global Financial Crisis and What it Means for Bangladesh</i> organised
28 October	CPD-FBCCI dialogue on <i>Energy for Development: Options and Strategies for Bangladesh</i> organised
30 October	Lunch in honour of <i>Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi</i> , Secretary General of UNCTAD hosted by CPD
2 November	YSSS on <i>Bangladesh Customs: Managing Risk for Better Trade</i> held
5 November	CPD-CAMPE dialogue on <i>Achieving Universal Primary Education with Quality and Equity</i> organised
24 November	Dialogue on <i>Regional Disparity in Bangladesh: An Emerging Concern</i> organised
25 November	Meeting on <i>NAMA Modalities</i> held
1 December	65th RECAP Meeting held
23 December	Press Briefing on <i>State of the Bangladesh Economy in the Run-up to the National Election 2008</i> arranged



*To service the growing demand of the emerging civil society of Bangladesh for a demand-driven and accountable development process by stimulating informed debate, generating knowledge and influencing policy making through research, dissemination and policy advocacy.*



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