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Bangladesh has been assessed as one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the effects of climate change. The worsening intensity of extreme weather events are already being felt by Bangladesh's population, and will have an increasingly detrimental effect on socio-economic development, poverty reduction and security in the coming years. Keen to ensure that action is taken to shield climate finance from corruption or fraud, TI Bangladesh pioneered climate governance research in Bangladesh.

Developing a Campaign Plan and Member's Day

The quarterly Members Day was held on 26 November at Udoypodmo Conference Room of TIB following with a conversation meeting to develop a campaign plan against corruption. The meeting was chaired by the member of TIB Mr. Abul Hasnat and moderated by the Director (Outreach & Communication) Rezwana-ul-Alam. Executive director of TIB Dr. Iftekharuzzaman joined the closing session of the meeting and answer to the various questions of the members. In this meeting the members were divided in two groups and set a plan for a campaign against corruption.

TIB expressed concern over recommendation to enact indemnity laws for the development of ports

TIB expressed concern on the recommendation of the parliamentary standing committee to compile the initiative of indemnity bill to the ministry and the port authorities on the purchase processes of equipment of three ports to create an opportunity to violate existing government procurement law.

On 17 November in a statement TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said "According to the media and other reliable sources, TIB concerned with the impunity steeps to the ministry and the port authority suggested by the parliamentary standing committee in purchase of equipment for the development of the Chittagong, Mongla and Payra port. Because, it will ruin the transparency and accountability of the port authority and the ministry. 'Many barriers are made to work under the existing law' or 'impunity legislation is necessary to accomplish the job quickly' these types of logic are made for violation of public procurement law 2009. It could be vulnerable for the transparency, fair competition, quality and accountability of government procurement system. If this bill will pass there is acute risk of political influence, corruption and irregularities. Therefore, we argue to the parliament and the government to avoid proposed legislation by impunity."

After TIB's concern over this recommendation the minister withdrew the bill from the parliament.

National News

Say No to Loan, Yes to Grant as Compensation for Climate Change Adaptation

In solidarity with the global climate march that was taking place around the world, anti-corruption youth volunteers of TI-Bangladesh's Youth Engagement and Support (YES) group joined thousand other climate marchers in the capital Dhaka and in 29 locations around the country on 28 November demanding *Say No to Loan, Yes to Grant* as Compensation for Climate Change Adaptation.

Carrying placards and banners from Central Shahid Minar and parading streets through High Court, Shishu Park and Shahbagh, hundreds of YES volunteers urged the Bangladesh delegation to strongly put forward the above demand before the World leaders who are gathered in Paris for UN Climate Conference (COP-21) from 30 November. Youth includes YES volunteers in country's 29 locations also raised similar demand through rally and human chain.



Workshop on Strengthening effectiveness of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Asia and Pacific

A two-day training workshop involving researchers from six chapters of Transparency International (TI) commenced in Dhaka on 11 & 12 November to find ways for improving effectiveness of Anti-Corruption Agencies (ACAs) in the Asia and Pacific region. During the Dhaka workshop titled: Anti-corruption Agencies Assessment Tool and Project Kick-Off Workshop, researches from TI Chapters of Bangladesh, Indonesia, Maldives, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Taiwan were capacitated on techniques of using the ACA assessment tools, including research process and indicator framework; design work plan and advocacy strategies and form a practitioners' network to take this initiative forward in the region and beyond.

Some 40 ACAs exist in the Asia Pacific region, and the effectiveness of many ACAs is inhibited by constraints such as insufficient independence, weak capacity and limited mandates. This encouraged TI in developing an initiative aimed at strengthening ACAs utilizing its expertise, networks and capacity. The project combines biennial assessments of ACAs with sustained engagement, dialogue and advocacy at both national and regional levels.

On the concluding day, among other topics, potential research challenges and mitigation measures will also be identified during the Dhaka workshop, jointly organized by Asia Pacific Department of TI-Secretariat and TI Bangladesh.

On Monday 9 November, a number of participants visited Gazipur district, an outskirt of the Capital, to experience how TI-Bangladesh mobilizes the community using various social accountability tools. The team is pleased to see the power of mothers raising their voices before the school authorities at East Bhurulia Government Primary School. They also interacted with the authorities of Shahid Tajuddin Ahmed Medical College Hospital and were appraised about various advocacy and campaign tools used by Committees of concerned Citizens of Gazipur that is helping to improve the governance situation in the hospital.

Young volunteers of Youth Engagement and Support (YES) group also set up Advice and Information desk (AI-Desk) in front of the hospital, empowering patients and their relatives with necessary information to avoid harassment and making unauthorized payment.

TI-Bangladesh launches online “Report Corruption” Initiative

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) launched an online initiative called Report Corruption to facilitate greater people engagement in the social movement against corruption in Bangladesh. Through this platform the people will get an opportunity to proactively and directly report incidents and experiences of bribery in key areas of TIB's thematic interest of civic engagement - health, education, local government, land and climate finance.

TIB created this platform (www.ti-bangladesh.org/rc) will serve three main purposes: a) referral of specific cases to the concerned authorities, especially Anti-corruption Commission and relevant institutions including ministries and departments for action against acts of corruption; b) study of sector-wise corruption trends and implications based on experiences of victims and witnesses; and c) wider dissemination, communication and advocacy for positive change.

The Report Corruption platform is available on both Bangla and English language, with a provision of downloading Android apps from Google's play store. Apart from the website it is also applicable for mobile phone.

CCC News

CCCs initiatives ahead of COP-21: Raised voice demanding for grant rather loan

More than three thousands participants collectively raised voice demanding for grant rather loan to protect the effects of climate change ahead of COP-21, 29 CCCs through various activities e.g. human chain, rallies, discussion and press conference etc. CCC, Gazipur organized emblematic tree plantation program on the occasion. CCCs of different parts of the country disseminated messages through leaflet, posters, placards, banners and mass people became aware about Climate Finance Governance (CFG) issue including climate change, its causes & effects. Participants also received messages about upcoming COP-21 Paris summit and Climate Finance issues. Elected Representatives from constituencies were also participated in the march and showed their interests to work against the impact of climate change.

Most of the participants including youth, women, citizens and media representatives became aware through distribution of concise concept note and news reports and agreed with TIB's recommendations. A total number of 150 news reports covered by local and national media agencies proactively.

Commitment to disclose information of development projects

The authority of Madaripur Municipality will disclose the map of Shakuni Lake and its development budget immediately. Mr. Khalid Hossain Yead, the mayor of the municipality, made such commitment in response to the demand of participants while addressing as chief guest in an opinion sharing meeting organized by CCC, Madaripur. Mr. Khan Mohammad Shahid presided over the program held on 17 November 2015 at Madaripur Municipality meeting room.

A total of 54 participants including 9 marginalized people and 14 females demanded to display the name of Designated Information Officer, update the information display board timely, preserve the reservoirs and introduce 10 hotline telephone or mobile numbers to log complaints on services. They also demanded to display the signboard in front of the public toilets which are only for women. The mayor agreed to fulfill these demands accordingly. Among others, Ward counselors, government officials, CCC and YES members were present in the meeting.

DANISH Ambassador in a FtP; Emphasis on women's participation in education

Miss Hanne Fugl Eskjaer, the Danish Ambassador to Bangladesh, urged to ensure women's participation in education for sustainable development. She was addressing as chief guest at a Face the Public (FtP) program in 13 No. Boyra Union Parishad, Mymensingh Sadar on 25 November 2015.



Her Excellency also made importance to priorities service provision especially for women. The participants of the meeting raised voice to ensure transparency on distributing Social Safety Net scheme and accountability in structural development works. Md. Abdul Malek, the Chairman of Union Parishad responded to various questions of the local citizens in the program. He assured to fulfill the demands with assistance from Upazilla Parishad in this regard.

The UP Secretary, other elected members of the parishad, CCC, Swajan, YES and YES Friends members were attended in the program while CCC Vice President Mrs Ferdous Ara Mahmuda Helen presided over the program. Besides the FtP, YES members organized the Satellite Advice and Information Desk to provide various service related information to local citizens.

Proactive disclosure of information by Patiya Upazilla Health Complex

An Information Display Board was set up and unveiled at Patiya Upazilla Health Complex in November 2015. Dr. Shishir Kumar Roy, Upazilla Health and Family Planning Officer, disclosed the Information Display Board on 18 November 2015 for citizens. The board contains various service related information e.g. name and fees of various services of the health complex, Doctor's visiting hours etc.

On the occasion of setting the Information Board, an opinion sharing meeting was held at Patiya Upazilla Health Complex in where Area Manager of local TIB office shared the Baseline Report on services of the Health Complex. The report indicates some irregularities on providing services. Dr. Shishir Kumar Roy, the UHFPO, informed in the meeting that the health complex provides services to 400 people on average daily. He said, "Though there are some limitations, the health complex tries to provide better services to the citizens. We will try to solve the problems accordingly."

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