

General Economics Division
A Report for the Research and Publication Committee Meeting of BIDS
(Activities during January-July 2003)

Name of the Researchers	Designation	Reporting Status	Publication	Work Completed	On-going Work	Seminar/ Workshop	Others
Omar Haider Chowdhury	RD	Reported	1	3	-	1	-
K.A.S. Murshid	RD	On Leave					
Binayak Sen	SRF	Reported	2	2	2	2	9
Chowdhury Anwaruzzaman	RF	Reported	-	1	1	-	-
Dilip Kumar Roy	RF	Reported	1	2	1	-	-
Kazi Ali Toufique	RF	Reported	1	3	1	1	1
Wajid Hasan Shah	RA	Reported	-	1	1	1	3
Subrata Sarker	RA	Reported	-	2	3	2	-
Division Summary			5	14	9	7	13

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Omar Haider Chowdhury

Research Director

I. Publication:

1. In collaboration with Mark M. Pitt, Shahidur R. Khandker, Omar Haider Chowdhury, and Daniel L. Millmet (2003), Credit Programs for the Poor and the Health Status of Children in Rural Bangladesh, International Economics Review, February 2003, Vol. 44, No. 1.

II. Completed Work:

1. Human Rights and Right to Development in Bangladesh – Right to Health, sponsored by FXB Centre at the Harvard School of Public Health.
2. “Domestic Resource Mobilization and Public Expenditure” position paper for the 6th Five Year Plan, Commissioned by Planning Commission, GOB.
3. Trade Cooperation and Economic Policy Reform in South Asia (TRACE), Project Director (P.D.).

III. On-Going Work: None

IV. Workshop/Seminar:

1. Presented Bangladesh Country Study as the P.D. TRACE Project in Country Studies Workshop on ‘Trade Cooperation and Economic Policy Reform in South Asia’ organized by BIDS, March 29-30, 2003.

V. Other Involvement: None

Binayak Sen

Senior Research Fellow

I. Publication:

(1) “Drivers of Escape and Descent: Changing Household Fortunes in Rural Bangladesh”, *World Development*, Vol. 31, No. 3, March 2003, pp. 513-534.

(2) “Markets and Long-Term Economic Growth in South Asia 1950-97” in I.J. Ahluwalia and J. Williamson (eds.), *The South Asian Experience with Growth*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2003, pp. 146-218. (With Suresh D. Tendulkar)

II. Completed work:

(1) **Pro-Poor Macro Policies in Bangladesh**, Paper prepared for the *Asia-Pacific Regional Programme on Macroeconomics of Poverty Reduction*, Dhaka, UNDP 25 April 2003 (with S.R. Osmani, Wahiduddin Mahmud, Hulya Dagdeviren, and Anuradha Seth).

(2) **Linkages between Growth, Poverty Reduction and Social MDGs in Asia and the Pacific: Evidence and Policy**, Paper prepared for the “UN ESCAP/ UNDP Initiative for the Achievement of Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific. State of Progress 2002”, Bangkok, March 2003.

III. On-going Work:

(1) **Spatial Inequality in Social Progress**, Background paper prepared for the Programme for Research on Chronic Poverty in Bangladesh (PRCPB) Project, BIDS (with Zulfikar Ali).

(2) **Health Shocks and Poverty: Case Study of the Rickshaw Pullers in Dhaka City** (with Sharifs Begum)

IV. Seminar/ Workshop:

Anti-Poverty: Which Way Now? Presentation made at the Seminar organized by World Bank and the Bureau of Economic Research, Dhaka University, Dhaka, June 2003.

Made two presentations at the *Annual Conference on Chronic Poverty* organized by CPRC/ IDPM, University of Manchester, Manchester, April 2003.

V. Other Professional Works

A National Strategy for Economic Growth, Poverty Reduction, and Social Development, Economic Relations Department, Ministry of Finance, GoB, June 2003 (along with M. K. Mujeri with inputs from Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission). The report, widely known as IPRSP, has been accepted by the Joint Staff Assessment of the IMF and the World Bank.

VI. Other Professional Activities

1. Member, *Public Expenditure Review Commission* (PERC).
2. Part-Time Teacher, North-South University (gave a course on “Economic Development” for the Master of Development Studies Programme during February-May 2003).
3. Part-Time Teacher, BRAC University (gave a course on “Poverty: Concept, Measurement, and Policy” for the Master of Development Studies Programme during February-May 2003).
4. Gave two lectures at the National Defense College on “PRSP” and “Foreign Aid” in June 2003.
5. Member, Governing Body, *Social Development Foundation* (SDF).

VII. Other BIDS Activities

Chairman, Library Committee, BIDS.
Coordinator, Seminar Committee, BIDS.
Member, Board of Trustees, BIDS.

Chowdhury Anwaruzzaman

Research Fellow

I. Publication: Nil

II. Completed work: Exchange rate system, Policy and External Competitiveness of Bangladesh Economy. (As a part of my joint contribution in TRACE Project with Dr. Zaid Bakht)

III. On-Going Work: Some updating work of the aforesaid work is going on.

IV. Other Involvement: Nil

Dilip Kumar Roy

Research Fellow

I. Publication:

1. “Labour Market Characteristics in Rural Bangladesh after the 1998 Flood” *Bangladesh Journal of Agricultural Economics*, July 2003.

II. Work Completed:

1. Involved in some chapters of Country Study of Bangladesh: Trade Cooperation and Economic policy reform in South Asia
2. Revised my pieces of the TRACE Report on Bangladesh based on the comments.

III. On-Going Work:

A Research Proposal: Globalization, Intra-Industry Trade and Foreign Direct Investment.

III. Workshop/Seminars:

None

IV. Other Activities:

Nil

Kazi Ali Toufique

Research Fellow

I. Publication:

1. “A Ten year retrospective study of Suicide cases reported at the Sir Salimullah Medical College Mortuary, Bangladesh”, *Bangladesh Medical Journal*, 31 (3&4), July-October, 2002, pp. 36-40. (with Muhammad Nurul Islam and Md. Nasimul Islam).

II. Work Completed:

1. **CRED** (Community Response to Environmental Degradation): Final Report of BIDS-UNDP research project on “Community Responses to Environmental Degradation due to Shrimp Culture in the Coastal Region in Bangladesh” (with Zulfiqar Ali).
2. **RLBB** (Rural Livelihoods in Bangladesh Book): The Book on rural livelihoods in Bangladesh has been published and all disbursements received from the sponsor (DFIDB)
3. **LDSA** (Livelihoods Diversification in South Asia): All contracted outputs delivered and accepted.

III. On-Going Work:

1. Project Director, Beneficiary Impact Monitoring of Fourth Fisheries Open Water Component (BIM). (from May 2003).

IV. Seminar/Workshop:

1. “Fisheries Development and Poverty Reduction”, a background paper presented at the National Workshop on Fisheries Research organised by the World Fish Center (ICLARM) and the Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, held at Dhaka on 2-5 April 2003.

V. Other Involvements:

1. Associate Editor, Bangladesh Development Studies.

Wajid Hasan Shah

Research Associate
General Economics Division

I. Work Completed

1. Chapter on Aggregate Foreign Direct Investment for the TRACE Project

II. On-Going Work

1. Revising article for publication on Foreign Direct Investment

III. Seminar/Workshop

Attended the “Research Proposal Writing Workshop” organized by SANDEE (held in Rajendrapur from April 11—15)

IV. Publication

nil

V. Other Involvements

1. Helped organize and manage the TRACE Country Study Workshop
2. Prepared the first TRACE Newsletter
3. Preparing the final TRACE Newsletter

4. Outgoing Associate Coordinator, R&P
5. Completed MBA in Development Management from IBA

Subrata Sarker

Research Associate

I. Publication:

Nil

II. Work Completed:

1. 'A critical look into input-output table 2000: Suggestions on revising coefficients' (with Sajjad Zohir and Sharif. M Hossain).
2. 'Free Trade Agreements; Alternative Options for Bangladesh' Jointly done with the Bangladesh and the WTO project's research team.

III. On-Going Work:

1. 'A Critical Look into SAM Household Classification' (with Sajjad Zohir).
2. 'An Overview of Bangladesh Economy: Explaining the Macro Performances' (with Sajjad Zohir).
3. A review of the literature on informal trade between India and Bangladesh and an analysis of the factors that balances the huge gap in informal trade (with Sajjad Zohir).

IV. Seminar/Workshop:

1. Presented a seminar at BIDS in April 2003 on the jointly written paper on input-output table 2000.
2. Made a presentation at BIDS on the CGE Modelling exercises in the Bangladesh and the WTO Project in June 2003

V. Other Involvements:

Nil