

MoU Signing between SEQAEP and MIDAS

An Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Mr. Md. Shahid Bakhtiar Alam, Joint Secretary and SEQAEP Project Director (PD), and Ishtiaque A Zaman, PhD, the Managing Director, MIDAS. Under the MoU, SEQAEP and MIDAS have agreed to work towards providing training of trainer' (ToT), orientation and basic training to teachers and Thana Secondary Education officials. MIDAS will also be training on procurement procedure for project officials and provide entrepreneurship development training for students under

SEQAEP programme. Futhermore, MIDAS will carry out studies on impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation, validation and compliance surveys, under this World Bank funded project.

Mr. S.M. Al-Husainy, Chairman, MIDAS, Mr. Arastoo Khan, Additional Secretary, ERD, Ministry of Finance, Ms. Ayesha Y. Vawda, Senior Education Specialist, The World Bank, and MIDAS Board Members such as Prof. Hafiz G.A. Siddiqi and Mr. Bazlur Rahman Khan along with SEQAEP Project Officials were present on the occasion.



MoU signing ceremony between SEQAEP and MIDAS



Mr. Alam, PD, SEQAEP project is handing over Tk. One crore cheque to Dr. Zaman, MD, MIDAS.

Monitoring Structural and Non-Structural Interventions of UNDP's CDMP (Phase II)

The Comprehensive Disaster Management Program (Phase II) is the main vehicle for institutional reform, capacity building and reducing disaster and climate risks in vulnerable communities in Bangladesh. The program is currently working across 12 ministries, 40 districts, 9 city corporations and multiple sectoral partners, including 16 universities and 8 training institutes. Around 50% of total resources are laid with the Local Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (LDRRF), a pooled funds instituted

in CDMP, to finance small to medium scale structural and non-structural interventions at the local level.

Till date, CDMP supported 330 unions of 28 districts with 2,000 risk reduction interventions/schemes. However, CDMP will be reaching out with new risk reduction interventions/schemes in 500 unions of 40 districts by the end of the project in 2015.

To ensure quality of such huge number of schemes implemented across the country, CDMP

engaged MIDAS as a third party for independently monitoring whether the project schemes are up to the acceptable standard in terms of results, process, effectiveness, quality, and accountability of the LDRRF-supported interventions.

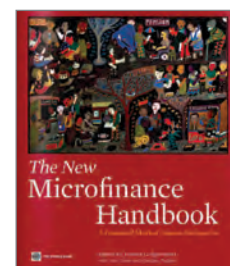
For this UNDP signed a professional Service contract for consultancy service with MIDAS. The outcome of the monitoring results will facilitate to design the upcoming CDPM III project more beneficial for the community people.

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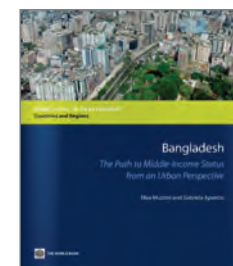
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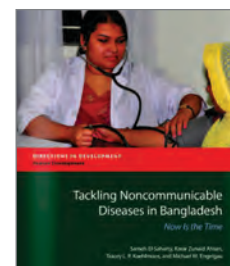
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Study & Research

Quantitative Electricity Distribution Load Studies for USAID's CCEB



USAID's Catalyzing Clean Energy in Bangladesh (CCEB) focuses on strengthening the energy regulatory environment, increasing energy efficiency and promoting clean energy development. The project aims at providing technical assistance to the targeted organizations, small project grants as incentives to promote industrial energy efficiency adoption and training individuals or groups. These efforts will help build institutional and human capacity in regulatory practices and energy business operations to strengthen Bangladesh's ability to make decisions relating to clean energy and reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.

MIDAS signed a contract with Deloitte Consulting Overseas Projects, LLP, USA for

conducting Quantitative Electricity Distribution Load Studies for USAID's Catalyzing Clean Energy Bangladesh (CCEB). During July to August 2013, the study found the present quantitative load and tariff design status of two electric utilities i.e. Paribagh Division of Dhaka Power Distribution Company (DPDC) and Gulshan Division of Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited (DESCO) of Dhaka City. A questionnaire was jointly developed by CCEB and MIDAS. Twelve Field Enumerators monitored by four Supervisors collected responses from various households, markets, industrial establishments and educational institutions in Paribagh and Gulshan areas. The data collected was uploaded in software for generating statistical tables and parameter calculations. The result of the study is to help USAID's CCEB project to shift the electricity load from peak to off-peak hour by creating awareness among the consumers about the financial benefits of peak and off-peak hour to save energy nationally.



Ishtiaque A Zaman, PhD is the newly appointed MD of MIDAS

MIDAS Appoints New Managing Director

The MIDAS Board of Directors announces the appointment of Ishtiaque A Zaman, PhD as the new Managing Director effective from 1 September 2013. Mr. S.M. Al-Husainy, Chairman, MIDAS said, "I am delighted to welcome Ishtiaque on board. He brings with himself years of exceptional experience of working with government, development partners, corporate and international organizations."

Prior to joining MIDAS, Ishtiaque A Zaman, PhD worked as an international professional at ICDDR,B. He was the Project Director of a collaborative research project involving ICDDR,B and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW). Previously, Dr. Zaman worked in PKSF and also in the Administrative Cadre of the Bangladesh Civil Service. Recently, he held the prestigious position of the District Governor of Rotary International in Bangladesh. Dr. Zaman earned his Ph.D. from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA.



Field Enumerators meet at MIDAS Centre to discuss CCEB study.

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Pearl Paper & Board Mills



Pearl Paper & Board Mills is a concern of Bangladesh Development Group (BDG) with diversified businesses in knit, textile, ICT and construction. Located in Dhamrai district, Pearl Paper & Board Mills Ltd produces 7,500 metric tons of paper per annum with about 200 employees. Mr. J.W.J. Merx, a production and quality control expert on papers from PUM-Netherlands advised Pearl Paper & Board Mills on establishing standard operating procedures (SOPs) of the plant beginning with process, machineries maintenance and marketing management. He also trained the production and quality control personnel.



Mr. J.W.J. Merx advised Pearl Paper & Board Mills on standard operating procedures (SOPs).

Global Agro based Food Products Ltd.

Global Agro based Food Products Ltd was established in 2004 under Joint Stock Company Act. Fishery project of this company is located in Sonaimuri, Noakhali. This fishery project harvests about 100 metric tons of adult and juvenile fish annually. Main products of this project are carp fish and catfish. A total of eighteen people are engaged in this project. Mr. W.G. Cazemier is an expert of fish culture from PUM-Netherlands. Mr. Cazemier helped Global Agro based Food Products by sharing his expertise on fish production technology and maintaining quality while marketing.



Mr. W.G. Cazemier is shaking hand with Mr. Abdul Kayum, MD of Global Agro based Food Products Ltd.

TMSS Nursing College

TMSS Nursing College is Located in Bogra, northern part of Bangladesh. This Nursing College is an initiative of the national level NGO, TMSS. The TMSS Nursing College wanted to strengthen their existing human resources management for improved services and providing quality teaching for student nurses. Mrs. C.A.H. Leijdekkers, a senior PUM trainer on nursing and health education, helped TMSS Nursing College by developing Nursing School Management System by improving educational curriculum, academic management, teaching methodology and facility management.



Mrs. C.A.H. Leijdekkers receives gifts from TMSS Nursing College authority.

Training

Refresher Training for SEQAEP's English and Math Resource Teachers

The Secondary Education Quality and Access Enhancement Project (SEQAEP), under the Ministry of Education of Bangladesh Government, is being implemented to enhance the quality of education at the secondary education level nationwide by facilitating access to information through quality teaching materials and audio-visual demo in classes for the teachers and students. The goal is to bring in the Upazilas covered by the project under internet accessibility to improve performances of various activities of SEQAEP.

For SEQAEP, MIDAS arranged five batches of one-day Refreshers Training Courses for 393 English and Mathematics Resource Teachers in September 2013.



3rd Batch: Chief Guest Mr. Tapon Kumar Karmoker, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance, who has been with the project from beginning, mentioned that SEQAEP's Refreshers Training courses make the project outstanding.



3rd Batch: Special Guest Mr. Sifullah Mokbul Morshed, Director, Compulsory Primary Education, DSHE said that existing problems in the field level could be solved by Refreshers Training courses.



1st Batch: Chief Guest Mr. Istiak Ahmed, Additional Secretary (Cabinet Division) said, "SEQAEP project is like the social security railing for our education system." Additional classes of English and Mathematics under the project has brought positive change in lives of the students.



1st Batch: Special Guest Mr. Mohammad Ahsanul Jabbar, Joint Secretary (College), Education Ministry mentioned that the performance of SEQAEP project increased the interest of children in education.



4th Batch: Chief Guest Mr. Sohrab Hossain, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration said that SEQAEP is a successful project and the World Bank appreciates its initiatives.



4th Batch: Special Guest Mr. Manik Chandra Dey, PD, Establishment of 11 Model schools and 6 Govt. Colleges in Dhaka City, appreciated that the dropout of the students has dramatically slowed down because SEQAEP has skilled and knowledgeable teachers



2nd Batch: Chief Guest Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs emphasized that the two way communication between students and teachers is one of the major reasons for SEQAEP being able to increase secondary level education.



2nd Batch: Special Guest Mr. Abual Hossain, Project Director Stipend Program for Higher Secondary Level, DSHE, MoE was impressed on the overall performance of the Resources Teachers.



5th Batch: Chief Guest Mr. Khandakar Rakibur Rahman, Director General, Bangladesh Institute of Management (BIM) said, "SEQAEP plays an important role on the advancement of poor students' continuing education."



5th Batch: Special Guest Mr. Ziauddin Ahmed, Director General, Anti-Corruption Commission said, "to be a world class student there is no alternative but to know English and Mathematics".