

MIDAS NEWS

Study & Research | Training | Technology Transfer | Dissemination

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Training

GoB approves the DYD-MIDAS Youth Development and Employment Linkage Project for Poverty Alleviation (DELP)

The Ministry of Youth and Sports has approved the joint project of MIDAS with the Department of Youth Development (DYD). The project has been identified as complementary project of government's *Skill for Employment Investment Programme*. The objective of the project is to create overseas as well as local employment and entrepreneur development by providing need-based training to the youth. The scope of the project includes making Sheikh Hasina National Youth Centre (SHNYC) at Savar, Dhaka as the central digital hub (CDH) of activities related to creation of youth employment. SHNYC will be digitally connected with other Divisional Headquarters. The Technical Project Proforma (TPP) has been submitted by DYD and MIDAS for donor funding. The duration of the project would be 5 years. The budget for the first 3 years would be BDT 49 crore (USD 6 million) reaching BDT 100 crore (USD 12.5 million) by the end of the project period.

About Six Hundred PTA Members Receive One-Day Refresher Training



Under the Ministry of Education, the Government of Bangladesh has been implementing the World Bank financed Secondary Education Quality and Access Enhancement Project (SEQAEP). The project aimed at creating educational opportunities in Bangladesh to ensure equitable access to quality education at the secondary level. During the second quarter of 2014, MIDAS has conducted one-day Refresher's Training for the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). In four batches, 599 members of PTA were trained on the scope of their work, responsibilities and functions. They were also able to discuss with SEQAEP officials directly and report any irregularities in their local schools and madrasahs.

Refresher Training - Parent Teacher Association (PTA) in April 2014



△ Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration



△ Mr. Istiaque Ahmed, Additional Secretary, Cabinet Division



△ Dr. Muhammed Sadique, Secretary, Ministry of Education



△ Mr. Quazi Akhtar Hossain, Secretary, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

Study and Research

Fifteen-Hundred Structural and Non-Structural Interventions of UNDP's CDMP Phase-II Monitored



△ CDMP intervention near Union Parishad Bhaban at Baishari village of Naikhyongchari Upazila in Bandarban district



△ FGD with Disaster Management Committee (DMC) of Cox's Bazar Municipality

The Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme Phase II is the main medium for institutional reform, capacity building and reducing disaster risk reduction and climate change impact on vulnerable communities in Bangladesh. Under the programme small to medium scale structural and non-structural interventions at the local level were financed. CDMP expects to reach out with new disaster risk reduction interventions/schemes to 500 unions of 40 districts by the end of the project in 2015. To ensure quality of such a large number of schemes implemented across the country, CDMP had engaged MIDAS as a third-party independent monitoring body to assess the standard of project schemes in terms of results, process, effectiveness, quality, and accountability. In August-December 2013, during the first phase, MIDAS Monitoring Team physically verified 832 interventions of UNDP and implemented by the Project Implementation Committee (PIC) of Union Parishads in 196 Unions of 73 Upazilas of 33 districts of Bangladesh. MIDAS Monitoring Team had developed and used seven different monitoring tools to collect relevant information from the field. MIDAS also conducted 46 Focus Group Discussions (FGD) in 302 Unions of 33 Districts with key stakeholders and informed persons having intensive knowledge and familiarity with the CDMP interventions at their respective localities. Furthermore, individual interviews were held with 756 experienced and knowledgeable people of the intervention areas. Based on the findings, MIDAS Study Team prepared and submitted Independent Monitoring Report-1 to the authority of CDMP II of UNDP.



△ Saline Water Purifier at Mithakhali Union, Mongla Upazila in Bagerhat district



△ Re-excitation at Koyra Upazila in Khulna district

In the second phase of the assignment in April to June 2014 period, MIDAS Monitoring Team physically verified about 1,500 interventions, conducted 488 Key Informants Interviews and 48 FGDs in 48 Upazilas of 28 districts. Data collection from the field is still on going and expected to be completed in August 2014. Based on the findings MIDAS Independent Monitoring Study Team will submit a Final Monitoring Report to CDMP II, UNDP in October 2014. The findings will facilitate CDMP II, UNDP in designing a plan of action for strengthening the current disaster risk reduction program and future advocacy possibilities to save the lives of human-beings, poultry and livestock.

Technology Transfer

PUM-Netherlands Assistance for Private Sector Development

PUM-Netherlands Senior Experts is a government-supported organization based in the Netherlands. It offers the services of volunteer experts, most of whom are former senior/top level professionals, to help industrial/commercial ventures and social organizations of developing countries. MIDAS has been acting as a local representative of PUM-Netherlands in Bangladesh since 1996.

Operation of Pearl Paper & Board Mills Improved

Pearl Paper & Board Mills Ltd was established in 2008. It is a project of Bangladesh Development Group (BGD) and is located in Sreerampur of Dhamrai Upazila under Dhaka district. There are more than 200 employees working in the mill. The factory has earned a good reputation among the customers for its standard and quality of manufactured paper products such as writing, printing papers, offset papers, cartridge papers and ledger papers. In April-May 2014, Mr J.W.J. Merkx, a PUM Senior Expert on paper quality development, visited Pearl Paper and Board Mills Ltd for the second time. Mr. Merkx had earlier advised on operations of the mills and training staff. In his second trip, he checked the implementation at factory level and provided refresher training. He also responded to the questions that had been raised and cleared confusion. The improvement in the operations in the paper mills increased its output.



△ Mr. Merkx, PUM-Senior Expert with staff members of Pearl Paper & Board Mills

Country Coordinator of PUM-Netherlands Visits MIDAS



△ Ms. Shefali, ED of Nari Uddog Kendra discusses prospect of working in RMG sector with Mr. Heugten, Country Coordinator of PUM-Netherlands

On April 30 2014, as part of regular activity Mr. Bertus Van Heugten, Country Coordinator of PUM-Netherlands, Bangladesh and Nepal visited MIDAS. He had a meeting with Dr. Ishtiaque A. Zaman, Managing Director, Dr. Mashur-Rahman, General Manager of MIDAS and Ms. Mashuda Khatun Shefali, Executive Director of Nari Uddog Kendra. In the meeting it was discussed that experts of PUM-Netherlands can help RMG sector especially by advising on worker's safety and better environment. Mr. Bertus said that PUM-Netherlands is willing to assist Bangladesh RMG sector and Government of the Netherlands has also

showed interest in this sector after Rana Plaza tragedy. Dr. Ishtiaque A. Zaman assured that MIDAS will continue to work with PUM to transfer technology for the well-being of Bangladesh in Micro and Medium Enterprises.

Sale of Publications

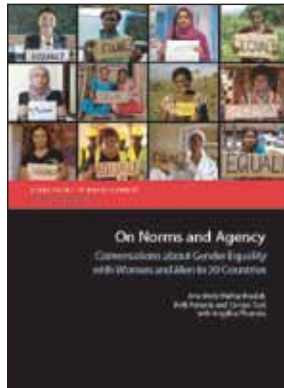
Fifteen Lac Taka Worth of WB, IMF, ADB and FAO Publications Sold

MIDAS is the sole distributor of the publications of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Bangladesh. It fulfils the need for these publications to the government, semi-government, educational institutions, NGOs, research organizations and individuals. The publications are sold in local currency and in most of the cases attractive discounts are offered to the buyers. In financial year 2013-2014, publications worth BDT 15 Lac were sold all over Bangladesh. The following is a list of selected recent publications for sale, at discounted price with VAT:

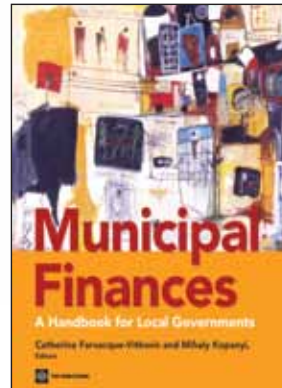
50% off on selected publications and many more.....



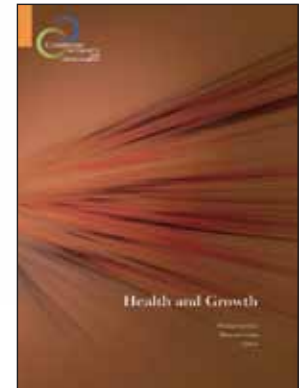
Net price US \$ 78.00



Net price US \$ 15.57



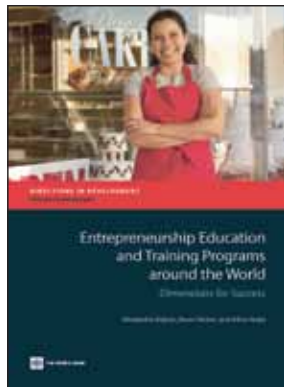
Net price US \$ 18.17



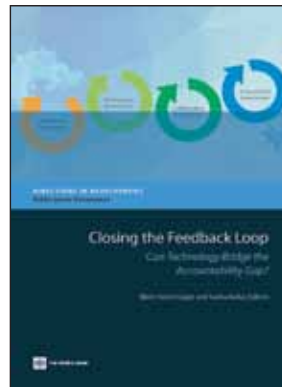
Net price US \$ 20.80



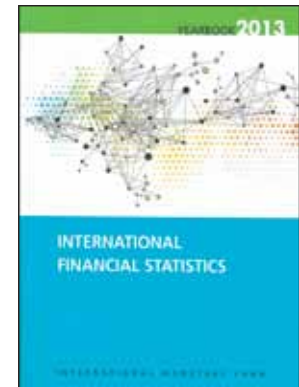
Net price US \$ 13.00



Net price US \$ 18.20



Net price US \$ 20.27



Net price US \$ 173.68

Call for Consultants

MIDAS is requesting for independent consultants, trainers and/or firms to send their names and share their professional profiles for possible short-term assignments in the following areas:

- Event management (firm/individual) with work experience in UAE and/or Malaysia
- Cloud-based Database Software Developer
- Plumbing & Pipe Fittings
- Tourism
- Fashion Design
- Men Beautification & Hair Cutting
- Meat Processing
- Welding & Fabrication
- Household Services
- Front-Desk Management
- Graphics Designer
- Printers

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