



Alumni Seminar

Understanding and Addressing Poverty

**16-18 October 2009
Dhaka, Bangladesh**

**Venue
Sarina Hotel, Banani, Dhaka**

*Leave this chanting and singing and telling of beads!
Whom dost thou worship in this lonely dark corner of a temple with doors all shut?
Open thine eyes and see thy God is not before thee!
He is there where the tiller is tilling the hard ground and where the pathmaker is breaking stones.
He is with them in sun and in shower, and his garment is covered with dust.*

Rabindranath Tagore – Bengali poet

Friday 16th October 2009

9.00 am	Registration
9.30 am – 10.00 am	<i>Welcome and Objectives of the Programme</i> <i>Mr Shiraz Kabani, (Head, Department of Operations, Finance & Development, IIS)</i>
10.00 am – 11.30 am	<i>State of Poverty in the World (Overview & Q/A)</i> <i>Professor Syed Hashemi, (Director, BRAC Development Institute, Bangladesh)</i>
11.30 am – 12.00 pm	<i>Explorations – Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance (Presentation & Q/A)</i> <i>Adil Ahamed (Knowledge Management Officer, AKAM, Geneva)</i>
12.15 pm – 1.15 pm	Lunch
1.30 pm – 3.00 pm	<i>Representing Poverty in Literature (Presentation & Q/A)</i> <i>Professor Firdous Azim, (BRAC University, Bangladesh)</i>
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<i>Representing Poverty in Art (Presentation & Q/A)</i> <i>Mrs Zainul Abedin (wife of Zainul Abedin, 1914-1976) (Bengal gallery)</i>
4.00 pm – 4.20 pm	Break
4.30 pm – 6.00 pm	<i>Human Vistas in the Aga Khan Development Network Ethical Framework</i> <i>Dr. Aziz Esmail, (Governor, IIS) (via video conference)</i>
6.00 pm – 7.00 pm	<i>The Ethics of Poverty Alleviation and the Role of Faith Communities (Presentation & Q/A)</i> <i>Professor Parveen Hasanali, (Guildford College, USA)</i>
8.00 pm – 10.00 pm	<i>Dinner with Ismaili Community Leadership</i> <i>Keynote Address by Azim Manji, CEO, Shiree (DFID funded project)</i>

The ability of the poor to participate in economic growth depends on a variety of enabling social conditions. It is hard to participate in the expansionary process of the market mechanism (especially in a world of globalised trade) if one is illiterate and unschooled, or if one is bothered by undernourishment and ill health, or if social barriers (such as discrimination related to race or gender) excludes substantial parts of humanity from fair economic participation. Similarly, if one has no capital (not even a tiny plot of land in the absence of land reform), and no access to micro-credit (without the security of collateral ownership), it is not easy for a person to show much economic enterprise in the market economy.

(Global Doubts as Global Solutions)
Amartya Sen - Nobel prize for Economics in 1998

Saturday 17th October 2009

- 9.00 am – 10.00 am *Explorations - Madrasa Project, East Africa (w Q/A)*
Hanif Virani, (former East Africa Regional Coordinator, Madrasa Project)
- 10.00 am – 11.30 am *Understanding Poverty: Multidimensionality and Dynamic Perspectives on Poverty (Presentation & Q/A)*
Dr Martin Greeley, (Fellow, Institute of Development Studies, UK)
11. 30 am – 12.15 pm *Explorations – Building Resources Across Communities (BRAC), Bangladesh (Presentation & Q/A)*
Fazle Hasan Abed (Chairperson, BRAC)
- 12.15 pm – 1.30 pm Group Photo and Lunch
- 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm *Explorations – Education and its Relevance to Poverty in Pakistan (Presentation & Q/A)*
Professor Pervez Hoodbhoy, (Quaid-e-Azam University)
- 3.00 pm – 4.30 pm *Challenging the Injustice of Poverty in South Asia (Presentation & Q/A)*
Professor Rehman Sobhan, (Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh)
- 4.30 pm –5.00 pm Break
- 5.00 pm – 7.45 pm *The Ultra poverty project (Overview & Q/A)*
(This session is for Alumni only)
Dr Fariyal Ross-Sheriff, (Howard University, USA)
- Bengali Dinner (leave hotel at 8.15 pm)

The BRAC (Bangladesh) Vision:

A just, enlightened, healthy and democratic Bangladesh free from hunger, poverty, environmental degradation and all forms of exploitation based on age, sex, religion and ethnicity.

Sunday 18th October 2009 Full Day

6.45 am	Depart for hotel for field visit in Kishoregonj
10.00 am	Arrival at BRAC Area office
10.30 am – 11.30 am	Visit to the Targeting the Ultra-Poor Programme (Challenging the Frontiers of Poverty Reduction) - Household visit – new beneficiary intake
12.30 pm – 2.00 pm	Lunch at BRAC Area office – Kishoregonj
2.15 pm – 2.30 pm	Household visit – graduated TUP Members
2.30 pm	Depart Kishoregonj for Dhaka
6.00 pm	Arrival at Hotel Sarina
7.00 pm	Dinner at Dhaka Regency Hotel
	<i>Address by Luis Olivares, Human Resources Director at Aiglemont on 'Recent Opportunities within the AKDN'</i>
9.30 pm	<i>Closing/summary remarks by Alnoor Merchant (Head, Library, IIS)</i>