

## Economic Research Group

House No. 3, Road No.16, Gulshan -1, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh.  
Phone: 880-2-8820418 E-mail info@ergonline.org  
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### Meeting of the Governing Body Members 26 January 2008

**Wahiduddin****Mahmud (Chair)**

Professor of Economics  
Dhaka University

**Ainun Nishat**

Country Executive  
IUCN, Bangladesh

**Salim Rashid**

Professor of Economics  
University of Illinois in Urbana-  
Champaign

**Sajjad Zohir (Treasurer)**

Former Senior Research Fellow,  
BIDS

**S R Osmani**

Professor of Economics  
University of Ulster

**Fahad Khalily**

Professor of Economics  
University of Washington in  
Seattle

**A.K. Enamul Haque****(Executive Director)**

Professor of Economics  
East West University

**Syed Mainul Ahsan**

Professor of Economics  
Concordia University

**S.M.Ashiquzzaman**

Professor of Economics  
University of Dhaka

**Anis Chowdhury**

Professor of Economics  
University of Western Sydney

#### **Agenda 1: Post facto approval of Nasima Chowdhury's Study Grant on "Efficiency of Water Use in Agriculture"**

Ms Nasima Chowdhury received a study grant from SANDEE to support her PhD research work. The fund (US\$1000) was channeled through ERG in October, 2007. She has completed her assignment for now and follow up grant is also in the process of being approved by SANDEE

Need Approval of the Board.

#### **Agenda 2: Ph D Research Study of Sakib Mahmud, a PhD Candidate in the University of Wyoming**

Sakib Mahmud, a PhD Candidate in the University of Wyoming under supervision of Dr Ed Barbier is currently working on valuing the benefits of the mangroves in terms of protecting life and properties during cyclones. Dr. A.K. Enamul Haque will be his Co-supervisor and he will be working closely with Dr Ainun Nishat. SANDEE has formally approved the grant but the final contract is still in the process. Total grant will be around 15000US\$.

Needs approval.



### Agenda 3: Reporting

- a. BICF-IFC initially requested submission of Expression of Interest (EOI) on 7 different aspects of their work. Of them ERG finally submitted its interest to manage the SMALL GRANTS Program and Coordination with Academic Institutions in terms of promoting internship programs in selected universities in Bangladesh

ERG in collaboration with Mott MacDonald has submitted the bid to negotiation a framework agreement. This is still in the process. Dr. A.K. Enamul Haque is the Key person in the team while other ERG members will be involved in evaluating research grants, if selected.

- b. Dr Sajjad Zohir has submitted a research proposal to the Institute of Micro Finance on understanding the impact of microfinance on poverty in the south west region of Bangladesh. This is still in the process.
- c. ERG has joined with the Jadavpur University (Department of Economics) for a project with Research Into Use (RIU) partnership on "Eating safe food from street vendors in South Asian cities". The team has been shortlisted and the detailed proposal will be submitted shortly. Dr A.K. Enamul Haque from ERG and Dr Joyashree Roy from Jadavpur University are working on this with other partners from Nepal and possibly Sri Lanka.

AOB



Chairman / Executive Director / Treasurer



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## Meeting of the Governing Body

No 2008/3 Date: August 21, 2008

Venue: ERG Office

### A. Update on Research

#### A.1 Sponsored Studies

1. **Food Security for the Poor: Exploring Policy Options under Alternative Price Regimes** a new study awarded under the National Food Policy Strengthening Programme (NFPCSP) has been initiated. The study is being led by Rushad Faridi with Syed Naimul Wadood as co-researcher. The first & second phase reports have been submitted (both Technical and Financial report). The project value Tk.682, 000 (Taka six lac eighty two thousand) only. Budget Enclosed. Require formal approval of the meeting. The overhead charge receivable by ERG at 7% on pre-overhead project expenditure.
2. **Small Grants and Academic Partnership Program of IFC-BICF in collaboration with BMB Mott MacDonald, Netherlands** led by Dr. A.K. Enamul Haque. The team includes Dr. Wahiduddin Mahmud, Dr. Sajjad Zohir, Professor Salim Rashid, Professor Anis Chowdhury and Dr. Fahad Khalil. The initial phase of the project completed. Require formal approval of the meeting. ERG will get 10% overhead on the days of consultants plus reimbursable expenses. Total value of the contract is USD 57,143.
3. **Economic Valuation of the Storm Protection Values of Mangrove forests under the coastal ecosystems of the Sundarbans** Led By Sakib Mahmud. Advisors: Dr. Edward Barbier and Dr. A.K. Enamul Haque. Study supported by SANDEE. The total value of the project is USD 14,797.00 (Dollar fourteen thousand seven hundred ninety seven) only. Budget enclosed. Require formal approval of the meeting. The overhead charge receivable by ERG at 10% on the total budget.
4. **Measuring movement out of poverty** with supports from Microcredit Summit Campaign, Sajjad Zohir is undertaking an exercise to estimate the number of MFI clients moving out of \$1 a day threshold. The total estimate value of the project is USD 4950 (Dollar four thousand nine hundred fifty) only. Budget enclosed. Require formal approval of the meeting. The overhead charge receivable by ERG at 10% on the total budget.
5. **The Relative Efficiency of Water Use in Bangladesh Agriculture** A research grant has been offered to Nasima T. Chowdhury by SANDEE for to submit a revised proposal

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and work-plan and work-plan to SANDEE. The value of the amount is Tk. 83,333.33 (Taka eighty three thousand three hundred thirty three and thirty three paisa) only. The revised proposal and work-plan submitted to SANDEE. Require formal approval of the meeting. The overhead charge receivable by ERG at 10% on the total budget

6. **The Relative Efficiency of Water Use in Bangladesh Agriculture** A research grant has been offered to Nasima T. Chowdhury by SANDEE for the period March 2008 till April 2009. The estimated value of the amount is Tk. 593,895.94 (Taka five lac ninety three thousand eight hundred ninety five and ninety four paisa) only. Budget enclosed. Require formal approval of the meeting. The overhead charge receivable by ERG at 10% on the total budget
7. MC Book – the progress has been very slow- would like till end 2008 for completion.

## **Sponsored Studies in the Pipeline (endorsement in principle required)**

1. Counting movement out of poverty – a nation-wide survey on recall method, approximately US\$ 100,000, for a period between September 2008 and May 2009.
2. Training program on research methodology for FPMU and other government agencies.
3. Diploma course for 6 months or more covering, amongst other subjects, macroeconomics, planning, and hands-on tools for planning and budgeting exercises. To be sponsored by UNDP, with GED as the focal point, and for MOP, other GOB and other people.

## **Training, Workshop and Seminar**

- Certificate Course on **Applied Economics: theory and empirics** was held during 18-19 and 25-26 January 2008. Organized by Economic Research Group. The course instructor was Dr. Fahad Khalil & Dr. Sajjad Zohir
- A course on **Reporting on Economics, Development and Governance Issues**, for people in the media was held 29-31 May 2008, Brac, BCDM, Rajendrapur. The course organized by Economic Research Group with support from The World Bank Institute. The value of the course was Tk. 148,2951.00 (Taka fourteen lac eighty two thousand nine hundred fifty one only. The overhead charge received by ERG Tk. 128,952.30 (Taka one lac twenty eight thousand nine hundred fifty two and thirty paisa) only. The course Coordinator was Dr. Sajjad Zohir & the course instructor was Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, Nicholas George, Dr. Fahad Khalil, Dr. A.K. Enamul Haque, Wali-ul-Marroof & Dr. Sajjad Zohir. Budget Enclosed.



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## Publication

- Exclusion and Poverty: An analytical approach for understanding exclusion and assessing programmes targeting the very poor in Bangladesh have been published April 2008 with collaboration with Brac, Research & Evaluation Division.
- CBFM 2 – report will be published as a ERG occasional paper
- Arsenic Study – ECAC report publish as a ERG occasional paper
- Implementation of Pro-Poor Policy (posted as a Working Paper in the Chronic Poverty website)

## Administrative and others

- Shifting of ERG office to Ground Floor, 9/4, Block-D, Lalmatia, Dhaka-1207. The contract is for three years beginning 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008. The monthly rent is Tk. 25,000 per month for the first two years, and Tk. 30,000 per month during the third year. Security money for three months (Tk. 75,000) is advanced.
- The agreement of present office will be completed 30 September, 2008. The house rent of September 2008 and Utilities such as electricity bill of July, August & September will bear by ERG.
- The agreement of new office finalized from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008 till 31<sup>st</sup> July 2011. This is a lease agreement for three years. The lessor is Hosnara Islam, wife of late Mominul Islam, **Address 9/4, Block-D, Lalmatia, Dhaka-1207**. The office space is 2400 (Twenty four hundred) Sq. Ft. and the rent monthly Tk. 25,000 (Taka twenty five thousand) only for two years and the rest one year the house rent will be Tk. 30,000.00 (Taka thirty thousand) only. The AIT on house rent will be deducted at 2.50% monthly.

## Logistics

### New procurements:

- ⇒ Computer Hp brand one pieces
- ⇒ Three Midea air conditioner for new office
- ⇒ Conference room furniture (20 chairs and tables)
- ⇒ Networking cables and a WIFI station.

Chairman / Executive Director / Treasurer

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## Meeting of the Governing Body

No. 2008/4 Date: Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2008

The meeting was held at 1.00 pm, on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December at the ERG office in 9/4, Block-D, Lalmatia, Dhaka-1207. The following members of the Governing body presented in the meeting:

1. Wahiduddin Mahmud
2. Salim Rashid
3. Sajjad Zohir
4. A.K. Enamul Haque
5. Syed M. Ahsan
6. Fahad Khalil

### Agenda with Brief Descriptions:

#### A. Update on Research

##### A.1 Sponsored Studies

1. **Food Security for the Poor: Exploring Policy Options under Alternative Price Regimes** a new study awarded under the National Food Policy Strengthening Programme (NFPCSP) has been initiated. The study is being led by Rushad Faridi with Syed Naimul Wadood as a co-researcher. The final reports has submitted (both Technical and Financial report). Now the project is waiting for final installment. The project value Tk.691, 220.00 (Taka six lac ninety one thousand two hundred twenty) only. Budget Enclosed. Require formal approval of the meeting. The overhead charge receivable by ERG at 7% on pre-overhead project expenditure.
2. **Small Grants and Academic Partnership Program of IFC-BICF in collaboration with BMB Mott MacDonald, Netherlands** led by Dr. A.K. Enamul Haque. The team includes Dr. Wahiduddin Mahmud, Dr. Sajjad Zohir, Professor Salim Rashid, Professor Anis Chowdhury and Dr. Fahad Khalil. The initial phase of the project completed. Require formal approval of the meeting. ERG will get 10% overhead on the days of consultants plus reimbursable expenses. Total value of the contract is USD 57,143.
3. **Economic Valuation of the Storm Protection Values of Mangrove forests under the coastal ecosystems of the Sundarbans** Led By Sakib Mahmud. Advisors: Dr. Edward Barbier and Dr. A.K. Enamul Haque. Study supported by SANDEE. The first phase which is data collection of the project is properly completed & project is now going to write a report. The total value of the project is USD 14,797.00 (Dollar fourteen thousand seven hundred ninety seven) only. Budget enclosed. Require

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*[Signature]*  
Director / Treasurer





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formal approval of the meeting. The overhead charge receivable by ERG at 10% on pre-overhead Project expenditure.

4. **Measuring movement out of poverty** with supports from Microcredit Summit Campaign, Sajjad Zohir is undertaking an exercise to estimate the number of MFI clients moving out of \$1 a day threshold. The total estimate value of the project is USD 4,950 (Dollar four thousand nine hundred fifty) only. Budget enclosed. Require formal approval of the meeting. The overhead charge received by ERG at 10% on pre-overhead total budget. The project to be closed.
5. **Measuring movement out of poverty 2(Part 1)** with supports from Microcredit Summit Campaign, Sajjad Zohir is undertaking an exercise to estimate the number of MFI clients moving out of \$1 a day threshold. The activity was an intermediate phase from the main activities. The total estimate value of the project is USD 5,500 (Dollar five thousand five hundred) only. Budget enclosed. Require formal approval of the meeting. The overhead charge received by ERG at 10% on pre-overhead total budget. This part-1 phase to be closed.
6. **Measuring movement out of poverty 2 (Part 2)** with supports from Microcredit Summit Campaign, Sajjad Zohir is undertaking an exercise to estimate the number of MFI clients moving out of \$1 a day threshold. The total estimate value of the project is USD 116,280.00 (Dollar one hundred sixteen thousand two hundred eighty) only. Budget enclosed. Require formal approval of the meeting. The overhead charge receivable by ERG at 10% on pre-overhead total budget.
7. **The Relative Efficiency of Water Use in Bangladesh Agriculture** A research grant has been offered to Nasima T. Chowdhury by SANDEE for to submit a revised proposal and work-plan and work-plan to SANDEE. The value of the amount is Tk. 83,333.33 (Taka eighty three thousand three hundred thirty three and thirty three paisa) only. The revised proposal and work-plan submitted to SANDEE. SANDEE accepted the grant. Budget enclosed. Require formal approval of the meeting. The overhead charge received by ERG at 10% on pre-overhead total budget. The activities to be closed.
6. **The Relative Efficiency of Water Use in Bangladesh Agriculture** A research grant has been offered to Nasima T. Chowdhury by SANDEE for the period March 2008 till April 2009. The estimated value of the amount is Tk. 593,895.94 (Taka five lac ninety three thousand eight hundred ninety five and ninety four paisa) only. The project activities are on going. Budget enclosed. Require formal approval of the meeting. The overhead charge receivable by ERG at 10% on pre-overhead total budget
7. **Impact of Price Increase on Poor Households and Children Well being** with supports from Save the Children, UK. The study is being led by Dr. Mohammad Helal Uddin. The



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total estimate value of the project is Tk. 254, 811, 7.00 (Taka twenty five lac forty eight thousand one hundred seventeen only). The project activities are on going. Budget enclosed. Require formal approval of the meeting. The overhead charge receivable by ERG at 10% on pre-overhead of total budget.

8. MC Book – the progress has been very slow- would like till first 2009 for completion.
9. Exclusion to be closed

## Decisions:

- The new project approved
- Shaheen Akhter as a Research Fellow of ERG
- ERG symposium twice a year & training program once a year

## Accounts & Administration:

- ERG sponsor received on account of various project Tk. 1,209,601,0.94; total overhead received Tk. 105,724,7.55 (Details with attached # 1)
- When the office staffs draw their payment for a particular month from any project they could not draw their salary or honorarium from ERG Account except EID Bonus & other ERG service charges

## Sponsored Studies in the Pipeline (endorsement in principle required)

1. Training program on research methodology for FPMU and other government agencies.
2. Diploma course for 6 months or more covering, amongst other subjects, macroeconomics, planning, and hands-on tools for planning and budgeting exercises. To be sponsored by UNDP, with GED as the focal point, and for MOP, other GOB and other people.

## Publication

- CBFM 2 – report will be published as a ERG occasional paper
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