



Economic Research Group

Extending the Frontiers of Knowledge on Developing Economics

Meeting of the Governing Body

Meeting No: 2014/1

Date: Friday, 10th January, 2014

Venue: ERG Conference Room, New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Attended by

Wahiduddin Mahmud
Sajjad Zohir
Siddiqur Rahman Osmani
Mohammed Helal Uddin
Minhaj Mahmud
Atonu Rabbani

The meeting of the Governing Body of ERG held at ERG conference room, New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206 on Friday 10th January, 2014, at 4.00 pm. The session was chaired by Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, Chairman, ERG.

Agenda 1: Follow up of the minutes of the meeting No. 2013/4

Resolution 1: The minutes of the Governing Body meeting no. 2013/4 followed up again and no changes has been made.

Agenda 2a: A study on '**Identifying the Casual Links between Local Political Leadership & Sanitation**' has been signed with SANDEE. The PI of the study is Dr. Atonu Rabbani. Total value of the contract is BDT 1,648,148.00 and ERG will receive 10% overhead on pre-overhead expenditure.

Resolution 2a: The Governing body approved the study on '**Identifying the Casual Links between Local Political Leadership & Sanitation**' which has been signed with SANDEE and the PI is Dr. Atonu Rabbani. The contract value of the study is BDT 1,648,148 and ERG will be received 10% overhead on pre-overhead expenditure. **(Approved post facto)**

Agenda 2b: ERG signed a contract with the WFP on study titled '**Estimating & Mapping of Poverty and Undernutrition in Bangladesh**'. The led researcher of the study is Dr. Sajjad Zohir. Total value of the study is Tk. 2,387,000.00 and ERG will get 10% overhead on pre-overhead expenditure.

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Resolution 2b: The Governing body approved the study titled **‘Estimating & Mapping of Poverty and Undernutrition in Bangladesh’** with the WFP and the led researcher of Dr. Sajjad Zohir. The contract value of the study is BDT 2,387,000 and ERG will be received 10% overhead on pre-overhead expenditure. The GB also approved a No-Cost extension of the contract upto 31 May 2014, bearing no additional financial obligation on the part of WFP.

(Approved post facto)

Agenda 2c: ERG signed a sub-contract with the Monash University, Australia on a study titled **‘Improving educational outcomes for female and disadvantage primary school students (Bangladesh)’**. The Principal Investigator of the BD part is Dr. Mohammed Helal Uddin. The value of the contract is AUD \$195,000.00 and ERG will receive 7.5% as overhead on total value.

Resolution 2c: The Governing Body approved the study titled **‘Improving educational outcomes for female and disadvantage primary school students (Bangladesh)’** with the Monash University, Australia. The governing body also nominated Dr. Mohamed Helal Uddin as a Principal Investigator of the Study. The total contract value of the sub-contract is AUD 195,000 and ERG will received 7.5% on total value.

(Approved post facto)



Agenda 3: Nominated Principal Investigator of the Sub-Contract with the Monash University. Though email based consent was taken that Mohammed Helal Uddin is nominated as a PI of the Sub-Contract signed with the Monash University, Australia and he will be responsible to manage overall activities of the study during the contract period.

Resolution 3: The governing body approved that Dr. Mohammed Helal Uddin is a Principal Investigator of the Sub-Contract signed with the Monash University, Australia and he will be responsible to coordinate all the activities of the study during the contract period.

Agenda 4: Dr. Sajjad Zohir will present an assessment report of ERG and he will also discuss regarding some topic related to ERG for the upcoming AGM of 2014.

Resolution 4: Dr. Zohir raised several issues following which the GB discussed and requested him to initiate exchanges prior to finalizing agenda for the year 2014.

Agenda 5: Brief financial review



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Meeting of the Governing Body

Meeting No: 2014-15/1

Date: Saturday, 24th May, 2014

Venue: ERG Conference Room, New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Attended by

Sajjad Zohir

Mohammed Helal Uddin

Atonu Rabbani

Minhaj Mahmud

The meeting of the Governing Body was held at ERG premises, New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206 on Saturday 24th May, 2014, at 4.00 pm.



Agenda 1: Choose a chairman for the meeting (in case ERG chairman is absent)

Resolution 1: Since Dr. Wahiduddin Mahmud, Chairman, ERG was absent on account of being outside of the country, the Governing Body nominated Dr. Sajjad Zohir to chair the meeting under the clause 38b of the Article of Association.

Agenda 2: Follow up on the minutes of the meeting No. 2013-14/5, held on Friday, 10th January, 2014.

Resolution 2: The minutes of the Governing Body meeting no. 2013-15/5 is reconfirmed with no changes.

Agenda 3a: A study titled 'The agricultural Value Chain Survey' has been signed with The World Bank. The lead researcher of the study is Dr. Mohammed Helal Uddin. Total value contract value is Tk. 3,619,000.00. ERG will receive 10% overhead on pre-overhead expenditure.


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Resolution 3a: The Governing body approved the study titled “The Agricultural Value Chain Survey” with the World Bank. The lead researcher of the study is Dr. Mohammed Helal Uddin. Total contract value of the study is Tk. 3,619,000, and ERG will receive 10% overhead on pre-overhead expenditure.

(Project Approved post facto)

Agenda 3b: ERG has signed a contract with the IFPRI to undertake the study titled ‘The Decomposition of Rural Poverty Reduction in Bangladesh: The Recent Trend.’ Dr. Mohammed Helal Uddin is the lead researcher. Total value of the study is US\$18,975.00 and ERG will get 10% overhead on pre-overhead expenditure

Resolution 3b: The Governing body approved (ex-facto) undertaking of the study titled “The Decomposition of Rural Poverty Reduction in Bangladesh: The Recent Trend”, which was signed with IFPRI. The lead researcher of the study is Dr. Mohammed Helal Uddin. Total contract value is US\$18,975 and ERG will receive 10% overhead on pre-overhead expenditure.

Agenda 4: Finalize the agenda and date for 2014 AGM.

Resolution 4: The next AGM (No. 10) will be held on October 2nd, 2014. The Governing body approved the following agenda for the AGM.

1. Follow up of the 9th Annual General Meeting.
2. Presentation of the Report by Executive Director.
3. Presentation of the Audit report and future financial plan.
4. Renewal of membership in the General Body.
5. Appointment of the audit firm for the financial year 2014-15.
6. Discussion on issues relating reorganization of ERG, change in Article of Association and election of executives.
7. Miscellaneous.






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Meeting of the Governing Body

Meeting No: 2014-15/2

Date: Saturday, 15th November, 2014

Venue: ERG Conference Room, New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Attended by

Wahiduddin Mahmud

Sajjad Zohir

Ainun Nishat

A K Enamul Haque

Mohammed Helal Uddin

Atonu Rabbani

The meeting of the Governing Body was held at ERG premise on Saturday 15th November, 2014, at 3.30 pm. The session was chaired by Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, Chairman, ERG and the meeting adopted the following resolution.

Agenda 1: Confirmation of the minutes of previous governing body meeting

Resolution 1: The minutes of the Governing Body meeting no. 2014-15/1 is reconfirmed without changes.

Agenda 2: Future activities of ERG

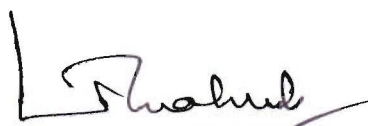

Resolution 2: The meeting noted the need for several changes in ERG's Article of Association. Upon discussing various aspects, the meeting requested Dr. Sajjad Zohir to initiate the process by sending a draft amendment for in-house exchanges, to be followed up subsequently by formal adoption in a general meeting.

Agenda 3: Reorganization of ERG

Resolution 3:

3.a: The meeting discussed Dr. Mohammed Helal Uddin's request to step down from his current position at ERG, and elected Dr. Sajjad Zohir as the Executive Director for the term of this Governing Body (Till July 10, 2016)

3.b: Dr. Mohammed Helal Uddin agreed to take the responsibility as a Treasurer for the term of the Governing Body (Till July 10, 2016)



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- 3.c: In the light of suggestion put forward by Dr. A K Enamul Haque the Governing Body agreed in principle that ERG may take initiative to participate in competitive bidding and join undertakings with internationally reputed research and educational institution.

Agenda 4: Miscellaneous

Resolution 4: The meeting urged all researchers to circulate project briefs/abstracts, seeking approval from the Governing Body.



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Meeting of the Governing Body

Meeting No: 2014-15/3

Date: Tuesday, 27th January, 2015

Attended by (Emails sent to):

Wahiduddin Mahmud
Sajjad Zohir
Ainun Nishat
Fahad Khalil
Siddiqur Rahman Osmani
A.K. Enamul Haque
Mohammed Helal Uddin
Atonu Rabbani

The meeting of the Governing Body was held via email exchange due to difficulties caused by prolong period of road blockade. The following resolutions were made with no dissent from any of the participants.

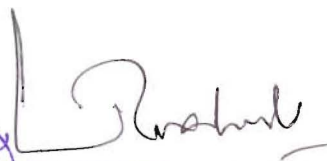

Agenda 1: Updates on resolutions taken during the previous Governing Body meeting (No. 2014-15/2, November 15th, 2014).

Resolution 2 with regards to amendment of the Article of Association was discussed. The ED informed the meeting of the feedback received from A.K. Enamul Haque.

Resolution 1: The Governing Body resolved that Sajjad Zohir will send a draft amendment of AOA for exchanges and discussion in the next Governing Body meeting.

Agenda 2: Projects for approval:

Agenda 2a: Post-facto approval sought for an ILO (Dhaka)-sponsored study titled 'Improving Labour Law Compliance and Building Sound Labour Practices in the Export Oriented Shrimp Sector in Bangladesh'. The lead researcher of the project is Mohammed Helal Uddin. Total contract value is Tk. 44, 85,800 (Taka Forty Four Lacs Eighty Five Thousand Eight Hundred only) and ERG will receive 10% on pre-overhead expenditure. The contract was signed by Mohammed Helal Uddin.

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Resolution 2a: The Governing Body approved post facto the study titled 'Improving Labour Law Compliance and Building Sound Labour Practices in the Export Oriented Shrimp Sector in Bangladesh' with the ILO. The lead researcher of the study is Mohammed Helal Uddin. Total contract value is Tk. 44, 85,800 and ERG will receive 10% on pre-overhead expenditure. The contract was signed by Dr. Mohammed Helal Uddin.

Agenda 2b: (i) Submit proposal for an evaluation of Concern Universal's project on "Cross-border transfer of technology, Institutions and Market Development" in Jamalpur and six districts in Assam, India; and (ii) post-facto approval to collaborate with the Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development to undertake the survey in the Assam segment. The Chairperson was briefed about the undertaking.

Resolutions 2b:

2b (i): The Governing Body approved post-facto Sajjad Zohir's submission of proposal for an evaluation of Concern Universal's project on "Cross-border transfer of technology, Institutions and Market Development".

2b (ii): The Governing Body approved post-facto ERG's collaboration with OKDISCD, Assam, for an evaluation of Concern Universal's project on "Cross-border transfer of technology, Institutions and Market Development".

Agenda 2c: Short (3-days) training workshop on poverty measurement /HIES and National Income Accounting with UNDP and for GED, to be coordinated by Dr. Sajjad Zohir, Executive Director, ERG

Resolution 2c: The Governing Body agreed in principle that Sajjad Zohir will negotiate with the sponsor and coordinate the training programs, Depending on availability, efforts should be made to engage resource persons from the ERG net.

Agenda 2d: (i) Submission of EOI for Integrated Food Policy Research Program (IFPRP) under the MFSFP, DG Food/FPMU and the World Bank. (ii) Collaboration with international institutes, Kansas State University (KSU), Institute of Development Studies (IDS) and Natural Resources Institute (NRI); and with national institutes, icddr'b and Org-Quest; (iii) MOU with a local market research/survey agency Org-Quest Research Ltd.; (iv) listing willing individuals within the ERG net.




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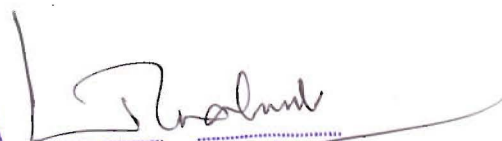

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On the side:

Sajjad needs consent from Wahiduddin Mahmud (food policy in general), SR Osmani (foodgrain trade), Ainun Nishat (climate change), Enamul Haque (resource economics, climate change and storage), Fahad Khalil (auction of storage facility and stock disposal), M Helal Uddin (foodgrain market studies), Atonu Rabbani (social protection, nutrition) - on submitting short CVs.

Resolution 2d:

- 2d (i): The Governing Body approved in principle ERG's participation in the bidding under the leadership of Sajjad Zohir. The latter is also authorized to partner with the international agencies and submit the EOI for Integrated Food Policy Research Program (IFPRP) under the MFSFP, DG Food/FPMU and the World Bank.
- 2d (ii): The Governing Body also agreed in principle that ERG may collaborate with international institutes (Kansas State University, Institutes of Development Studies and Natural Resources Institute) and with national institutes (icddr'b and Org-Quest Research Ltd.) for submission the EOI on Integrated Food Policy Research Program (IFPRP) under the MFSFP, DG Food/FPMU and the World Bank
- 2d (iii): The Governing Body appreciated the proposal to sign an MOU with Org-Quest Research Ltd. with the understanding that the latter will provide necessary support to survey undertakings whenever such activities are called for and the terms of service are acceptable.
- 2d (iv). Several members of the Governing Body gave consent in having their names included in the bidding for Integrated Food Policy Research Program (IFPRP) under the MFSFP, DG Food/FPMU and the World Bank. The members are: Wahiduddin Mahmud (food policy in general), Ainun Nishat (climate change), Enamul Haque (resource economics, climate change and storage), Fahad Khalil (auction of storage facility and stock disposal), M Helal Uddin (foodgrain market studies), Atonu Rabbani (social protection, nutrition). Their short CVs may be submitted for EOI on Integrated Food Policy Research Program (IFPRP) under the MFSFP, DG Food/FPMU and the World Bank.



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Agenda 3: Nomination of Research Fellow:

- a. Dr. Wahid Abdallah, Assistant Professor, Brac University.
- b. Dr. Asad Khan Priyo, PhD Candidate, University of Toronto
- c. Dr. Madan Dey of Arkansas University
- d. Dr. Shaheen Akhter, currently working for Oxford University on an EU project.

Resolution 3: The Governing Body approved the proposal to induct the following persons as Research Fellows for the next three years (till 26th January 2018).

- a. Dr. Wahid Abdallah, Assistant Professor, Brac University.
- b. Dr. Asad Khan Priyo, Assistant Professor, North South University.
- c. Dr. Madan Dey of Arkansas University
- d. Dr. Shaheen Akhter, currently working for Oxford University on an EU project.

Agenda 4: Proposal to increase 15% ERG overhead on **total** contract value

Resolution 4: The Governing Body decided that henceforth, unless decided otherwise, ERG overhead on sponsored project will be 15% of gross contract value of respective project.

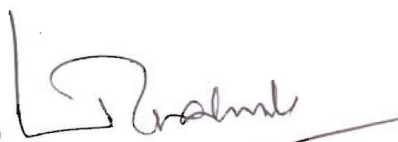
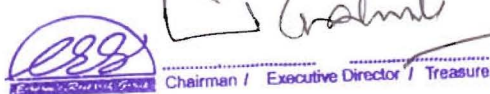
Agenda 5: A Summer Conference on Economic Research:

Sajjad Zohir has approached several individuals working in Dhaka, who have agreed to submit research papers in a July workshop similar to the one we had in winter. It is the success of the former; and the various lessons from it, which were to be discussed in a meeting.

Resolution 5: The Governing Body appreciated the initiative to hold a summer conference at ERG and the meeting requested Sajjad Zohir to coordinate this conference.

Agenda 6: Updates on Tax

While we have tax clearance certificate for the most recent year, in one of the early one, with a high amount imposed arbitrarily, the appeal was only marginally heeded to. The files will move to tribunal stage next week and ERG will have to pay Tk. 35,000 as advance income tax for this petition. It is unfortunate that we chose to go by the "rules"!

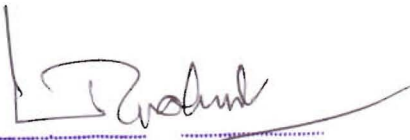



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Resolution 6: The Governing Body appreciated the initiative to resolve this matter and approved payment Tk. 35,000 for this petition.

The meeting via email exchanges was concluded with a summary from the Chairperson, and a note of thanks from the Executive Director.



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Meeting of the Governing Body

Economic Research Group

Meeting No: 2014-15/4

Date: Saturday, 28th February, 2015

Venue: ERG Conference Room, New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206, Bangladesh

Attended by

Wahiduddin Mahmud
Sajjad Zohir
A. K. Enamul Haque
Atonu Rabbani

The meeting of the Governing Body was held at ERG premise on Saturday 28th February, 2015, at 3.30 pm. The session was chaired by Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, Chairman, ERG.

Agenda:

Agenda 1: Updates on resolutions taken during the previous Governing Body meeting taken via email exchange (No. 2014-15/3, January 27th, 2015).

- Res 1: Sajjad Zohir will present a draft amendment of AOA for discussion.
- Res 2a: Project approved post facto
- Improving Labour Law Compliance and Building Sound Labour Practices in the Export Oriented Shrimp Sector in Bangladesh
- Res 2b was submitted an RFP collaborated with OKDISCD, Assam to Concern Universal on "Cross-border transfer of technology, Institutions and Market Development"
- Res 2c: The GB agreed in principle that Sajjad Zohir will negotiate with the sponsor and coordinate a training program of UNDP.
- Res 2d: On submission of an EOI for Integrated Food Policy Research Program (IFPRP) under the MFSFP, DG Food/FPMU and the World Bank with the International Agencies.
- Res 3: nominated four Research Fellows of ERG for the next three years.
- Res 4: approved 15% overhead on gross contract value.
- Res 5: Sajjad Zohir to initiate hosting of a summer conference.
- Res 6: Taka 35,000 paid to DCT for the petition of Tax Tribunal for the assessment year of 2011-12.



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- Agenda 2: Discussion on draft amendment of AOA
- Agenda 3: Date and agenda for the *Annual General Meeting* 2015.
- Agenda 4: Partnership with the OKDISCD in the research undertaking on Economic Growth, Institutions and Aspects of Women's Agency: Evidences from India, Bangladesh and Nepal, a proposal submitted to.
- Agenda 5: EOI submission for conducting a 'Training Workshop', called by the General Economic Division, Planning Commission, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh under a donor funded project named "Support to Sustainable & inclusive Planning (SSIP)". The last date of the EOI is March 1st, 2015.
- Agenda 6: Nomination of Research Fellow: Professor Farida Chowdhury Khan, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Kenosha, WI.. 2002.
- Agenda 7: Miscellaneous:

Resolution:

The meeting adopted the following resolution:

- Resolution 1: The minutes of the Governing Body meeting no. 2014-15/2, conducted through email exchanges, is reconfirmed without changes.
- Resolution 2: The meeting agreed to postpone the discussion on amendment of AoA till the next meeting, prior to which, Sajjad Zohir will circulate a note tying in three related items: future make of ERG, compatible governance structure, and financing modality.
- Resolution 3: Wahiduddin Mahmud, Chairman, ERG informed the meeting that he will not be present in the country from 20th March 2015 for about three months. The AGM 2015 will be held in early July 2015. There will however be at least one more Governing Body meeting prior to that, where the agenda for AGM will be finalized.
- Resolution 4: The meeting approved *post facto* ERG's Partnership with the OKDISCD in the research undertaking on *Economic Growth, Institutions and Aspects of Women's Agency: Evidences from India, Bangladesh and Nepal*, on which a proposal has been submitted to IDRC. ERG will be represented by Sajjad Zohir; Professor Farida Khan (U of Wisconsin) and Ms. Abantee Harun (ULAB), in the event the proposal is approved.



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Resolution 5: The meeting approved *post-facto* submission of an EOI for conducting a 'Training Workshop', called by the General Economic Division, Planning Commission, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh under a UNDP-funded project named "Support to Sustainable & inclusive Planning (SSIP)". The 'Training Workshop' will be coordinated by Sajjad Zohir.

Resolution 6: The Governing Body approved to induct Professor Farida Chowdhury Khan, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Kenosha, as *Research Fellow* for the next three years (till 27th February 2018). She had been an ERG Fellow during 2004-2010 previously.

Resolution 7:

- 7a. A proposal to meet few selected expenses of three key persons in ERG management was raised by Sajjad Zohir (see attachment). The meeting decided to continue the discussion on the structure and functions of ERG; and decide on the subject at a later date.
- 7b. Following up an Resolution in the previous meeting, A.K. Enamul Haque suggested that SANDEE may be willing to contribute if a session includes presentations from SANDEE research work, the prospect will be pursued by Enamul Haque and Sajjad Zohir.
- 7c. Sajjad Zohir informed the meeting about the newly designed brochure, on which comments are welcome; and of the web postings on (a) 4th annual winter conference, and (ii) for individual profile.



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