
Training workshop on the Trade Issues for the Journalists

Dhaka, 29 – 30 June 2008

A training workshop on the trade related issues was organized on 29 – 30 June 2008 for the journalists. The workshop was attended by 26 journalists (some would be journalists) representing various print and electronic media (attached full participants list). Dr. Selim Raihan, Associate Professor, Department Of Economics, University of Dhaka and M. Abu Eusuf, Associate Professor, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka and TDP project coordinator, Unnayan Shamannay facilitated the workshop. Dr. Raihan covered WTO and Regional trade related issues while Mr. Eusuf covered the basic trade related concepts (Trade Made Easy) including an overview of Bangladesh trade policy. A copy of each presentation is attached herewith. After completion of the workshop, Dr. Atiur Rahman, Chairman, Unnayan Shamunnay distributed certificates among the participants.

The state of the knowledge of journalists is extremely important as they deal with very delicate issues for the society and economy as a whole. However, the state of the knowledge of the journalists in Bangladesh is widely recognized to be not satisfactory. Investigative journalism on economic and trade-related issues by the media professionals is rarely undertaken. Similarly, in the conducted interviews, both the journalists and the electronic media professionals appear to be passive in the presence of any effective interaction. On matters related to such issues as WTO agreements, preferential schemes, regional cooperation, etc. useful and informative economic features are generally absent. Because of these limitations, the newspapers and electronic media cannot facilitate the formation of public knowledge base. In this backdrop, Unnayan Shamannay organized training workshop for the journalists under the TDP project.

The overall objectives of the training workshop were to enhance the quality of the economic reporting by the journalists in Bangladesh so that the people could get correct, appropriate, and useful information particularly on trade issues. The specific objectives of the workshop were as follows:

- i) to upgrade the level of understanding of the journalists on trade related issues
- ii) to enhance capacity with regard to producing quality trade reports
- iii) to enhance capacity to follow-up trade report significantly
- iv) to understand the best sources of information on trade issues
- v) to gather knowledge on some specific external economic issues, such as WTO agreements, EU GSP schemes, regional trading arrangements, etc

The workshop was designed in a manner keeping the needs of the journalists in mind in order to enhance their capacity for producing quality trade reports. There is no denying the fact that the workshop had positive spill-over effects by generating expertise among the participants. At the end of the workshop, the participants expressed that through participation in the training workshop they were benefited immensely in various ways such as,

- i) Almost all the participants found the workshop very useful and the topics covered in the training were also very relevant to them.
- ii) The participants expressed that they would be able to disseminate their training outcome among their fellow colleagues on different trade issues such as WTO agreements, MFA, preferential schemes, regional cooperation, etc.
- iii) They would present their trade reporting user-friendly for non-technical readers.
- iv) They could raise follow-up questions more sharply with the policy makers on trade related issues.
- v) They would acquaint about the sources of information and database necessary for undertaking sound trade reporting.

The workshop tried to make a balance between male and female participants. Out of 26 participants, 9 were female. The workshop had a profound multiplier effect in the society by creating huge demand (particularly who were left out because of the limited scope in the training workshop) from other journalists to continue such event in future.

Some recommendations also came from the participants. Some suggested that this sort of workshop should be arranged on a regular basis. A few participants stressed on the possibility of more accommodation in the future workshop. They also opted for a nation-wide training camp where journalists from all parts of the country would receive similar training. Some emphasized to organize similar workshop for editors so that they could realize the importance of such workshop and would encourage organizing similar workshop for their employees. Moreover, since we had very limited option for the students (would be journalists), they pleaded for more such training workshop so that they could participate in the workshop in a great number.

Finally, a good number of enthusiastic journalists, contributors, and prospective journalists ecstasically enjoyed the training workshop, brilliantly interacted with our facilitators and left an ever lasting impact on Unnayan Shamannay for continuing such a workshop. A good deal of social capital in the form of a well cemented network has also been generated through this workshop. Unnayan Shamannay would be in regular contact with the participants. The participants will be invited with their other colleagues to participate in the trade and economic related seminar/conference being organized by Unnayan Shamannay.

List of Participants

TDP Training Workshop for the Journalists

29-30 June 2008

Venue: US Training Room

Sl	Name	Designation	Organization	Phone
01	Edward Apurba Singha	Reporter	Daily Star	01720959602
02	Md. Mostafizur Rahman	Sub Editor	Ajker Kagoj	01716196227
03	Ruhul Amin Rasel	Staff Reporter	Ekota	01190255966
04	Arifur Rahman	Desk Reporter	Ekota	01913440955
05	Md. Mosharaf Hossain	Contributor	Prothom Alo	01816278704
06	Amena Khatun	Student	Journalism	01712656983
07	Jinat Pervin	Student	Economics	01912962910
08	Snigdha Madhuri	Student	Journalism	01716618887
09	Altafur Rahman Masud	Staff Reporter	Bhorer Dak	01191085105
10	Sahadat Hossain	Contributor	Jugantar	01552344169
11	Atanu Sharma	Contributor	Jugantar	01711457696
12	Mustafa Mahbub Hassan	Contributor	Prothom Alo	01912141581
13	Nahida Nujhath Lisa	Student	Pol. Sciense	01712710494
14	Fahmida Rahman	Student	Journalism	01717476372
15	Syeda Farhana	Writer	Priyo Bangla	01716190414
16	Feroze Ahmed	Assist. Editor	Finan. Magazine	01718798991
17	Farah Hassan	Student	Marketing	01716249732
18	Mohosena Khanom Munna	Journalist	Radio Today	01552425947
19	Mahmuda Shaolin	Contributor	Sangbad	01716118061
20	Md. Saiful Islam	Student	Accounting	01717573626
21	Horolal Roy Sagor	Journalist	Janata	01552476284
22	Shahajahan Mia	Journalist	Ittefaq	01711103481
23	Hasan Arif	Journalist	Jai jai Din	01712194712
24	Shamsul Huda	Journalist	Holiday	01715863912
25	Ferdous Mubarak	Journalist	Daily Star	01730057881
26.	Safiqul Islam	Journalist	Bhorer Kagoj	01197041830