

# **GHP 540 Field Trip to Bangladesh**

## **January 5 – 23, 2015**

### Focus on Climate Change

#### **INSTITUTIONS**

Students will have the opportunity to study public health issues at three different institutions: Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), the James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) at BRAC University, and the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research (ICDDR,B). All these institutions have had an excellent record of innovative, cutting edge public health research and practice. BRAC is the world's largest NGO (and ranked #1) and the ICDDR,B is one of the premier research institutions in the developing world renowned for its demographic surveillance system in Matlab and applied research including the development of ORT.

In Bangladesh there will also be a comprehensive orientation to introduce students to health and development in the Bangladesh context conducted by Professor Omar Rahman, former Associate Professor of Epidemiology at HSPH and currently Vice Chancellor and Dean of the School of Public Health at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB). Based at IUB, the International Centre for Climate Change and Development's (ICCCD) aim is to develop a world-class institution that is closely related to local experience, knowledge, and research in one of the countries that is most affected by climate change. ICCCD has had approximately 60 students from a wide range of countries and institutions including the US, UK, France, Sweden, and Germany. ICCCD has developed a web portal (The Communications and Knowledge Management Programme) for research on climate change in Bangladesh, with frequent updates including blogs and articles. The website has a large network of alumni from courses and programs, coordinates the Asia Pacific Forum (L&D) hosted on Asia Pacific Adaptation Network, and publishes articles, policy briefs, and papers.

The Centre has designed and established a field program in the south of Bangladesh through which researchers and interested individuals can visit climate change affected sites. They can learn about how local communities are trying to adapt to the detrimental changes brought on by climate change. The impacts of climate change are varied and as a result affect people's livelihoods and health, amongst other things.

#### **PROGRAM**

- 1) Didactics including attending the annual Climate Change Research Conference at IUB, sponsored by ICCCAD (one week);
- 2) Field visit to Khulna in the Southwest coast of Bangladesh engaging with several climate change community adaptation research sites associated with ICCCAD (one week);
- 3) Visit to BRAC/ICDDR,B program sites and further follow up with ICCCAD (one week);
- 4) For those students wanted to do a practicum, this could be arranged in the final week(s).

#### **LOGISTICS**

The estimated total cost of the trip per person is approximately US\$1,700/person more or less for 20 nights in Bangladesh.

- the cost of the hotel-19 nights (app \$570--\$30 for a shared double/day). Please note that the hotel rooms are US\$60/DAY for a twin same gender share;
- the cost of one night stay in Matlab (\$15/day for a shared double/day);
- the cost of food for 20 days (app \$240 or \$12/day);
- the cost of transport--an eight-seater van (app \$366 for 20 days or \$18.3/day);
- the cost of Institutional Admin expenses for each of the Participating Institutions (\$500 or \$25/day).

Students are responsible for paying for the hotel either in Bangladeshi Taka or by Credit Card. Similarly, food costs are the individual student's responsibility as individuals may choose to spend more or less--the above estimate of \$12/day is doable but not expansive.

**MONEY:** The easiest option is to bring US dollars in cash. Students can change Dollars in Dhaka and pay all vendors including IUB which will handle all expenses except for the hotel and food budget. The other alternative

is to remit the money for all expenses other than hotel costs (\$570) and food costs (\$240) electronically to IUB's account in Bangladesh (app \$881). If anyone is interested in electronically remitting money to IUB, the relevant account details will be provided. ATM withdrawals are possible but there is a daily limit of app Tk. 25,000 equivalent to \$333.

**VISAS:** It's suggested that participants have a tourist visa.

**PARTICIPANT DROPOFF:** (IUB) will arrange to pick up students from the airport on arrival and drop them back on departure. The van will be available to the students for a total of 20 days.

**On Site Course Leader**

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