Volume 3
Issue 1
June 1, 2016

SANEM Thinking Aloud

Editor's Desk

After successfully completing two years of Thinking Aloud, SANEM is happy to present Volume 3, Issue 1 on "Trade and Trade Policy". The first article "Why do some countries trade more than others?" emphasizes on factors affecting trade-orientation. From a cross-country fixed effect model consisting 128 countries over the period between 1981 and 2014, the study finds that improvements in human capital, cut in tariff rates, increased inflow of FDI, and better institutional environment help promote trade-orientation. The panel regression results also show that, smaller countries as well as countries with higher per capita income are more trade-oriented than their counterparts. Also, geographical status, like landlockedness or being an island, greatly affects trade-orientation. The second article "Unearthing Bangladesh's comparative advantage" constructs a Revealed Comparative Advantage (RCA) index to find out and analyze dynamics of comparative advantage of Bangladesh at 6 digit level of HS code for the periods between 2001 and 2013. The analyses show that, over time, Bangladesh's comparative advantage has been concentrated around unskilled labor intensive garment products. Using a panel regression the study also shows that, domestic tariff liberalization has a significant positive impact on Bangladesh's comparative advantage. For this issue, SANEM interviews Dr. Zaidi Sattar, the Chairman of Policy Research institute of Bangladesh, who talks on trade policy concerns and challenges for Bangladesh in international trade, and highlights on shortcoming in trade policy in Bangladesh that causes non-readymade garment exports to lag far behind the export success of the readymade garment sector. In addition, as a regular section, the event updates of SANEM has occupied the fourth page of our Thinking Aloud.

Inside this issue

Why do some countries trade more than others?

Selim Raihan

Theoretically, trade liberalization results in productivity gains through increased competition, efficiency, innovation and acquisition of new technology. In particular, the changing relative prices induced by trade liberalization cause a re-allocation of resources from less efficient to more efficient uses. Trade liberalization is also thought to expand the set of economic opportunities by enlarging the market size and increasing knowledge spill over effects. Empirical research on international trade also shows that, in general, larger trade-orientation and freer trade, with supporting policies and institutions, can lead to higher welfare for a country than otherwise.

However, a major question remains some way unclear – why do some countries trade more than others? More specifically, does country size matter? How does differences in per capita income affect trade-orientation among countries? Does human capital make any difference? How does tariff liberalization promote trade-orientation? Moreover, does foreign direct investment (FDI) affect trade performance? Furthermore, does geographical location have a bearing, i.e., being an island country or a landlocked country? Also, does membership of the GATT/WTO raise trade-orientation? Finally, does institution matter in trade-orientation?

A higher level of human capital is likely to have a positive impact on the perception of the people, as well as on the policy making of the government, in integrating their economy with the world market.

In order to answer these questions, fixed effect panel regressions using a database covering the period between 1981 and 2014 for 128 countries were conducted. We have defined country's trade to GDP ratio as the country's trade-orientation. We want to explain why some countries have higher trade-GDP ratio than others. The explanatory variables are the size of population (to represent country size), per capita real GDP, an index of human capital, domestic average applied tariff rate, and FDI to GDP ratio. Data for all these variables, except human capital, are taken from the World Bank's WDI, and the data of the human capital is taken from the PWT-8.1. All variables are expressed in natural logarithm. The regression results show that all explanatory variables are statistically significant.

The negative coefficient estimate of the size of population reveals that larger countries tend to be less trade-oriented than their counterparts, as 1% rise in the size of the population is associated with 0.2% fall in the trade-GDP ratio. The reason is that countries with a large population find a ready domestic market and can substitute imports by producing for the internal market. The positive coefficient of the per capita GDP shows that a rise in the real GDP per capita by 10% is associated with a rise in the trade-GDP ratio by 2.2%. The reason behind such an association could be related to domestic producers, with the rise in per capita GDP, becoming more efficient in competing and integrating with their foreign counterparts in the world market. As expected, domestic tariff liberalization is positively associated with higher trade-GDP ratio, as a cut in tariff rate by 10% is associated with a rise in trade-GDP ratio by 0.7%.

The positive coefficient of the FDI-GDP ratio suggests that greater FDI orientation is positively associated with greater trade orientation, and a rise in the FDI-GDP ratio by 10% is positively associated with a rise in the trade-GDP ratio by 0.3%. FDI is assumed to have a positive impact on the export-orientation of any economy, as much of FDI is directed towards the export-oriented sectors. The success stories of East and South East Asian countries have suggested that FDI is a powerful tool of export promotion because multinational companies, through which most FDI is undertaken, have established-contacts and up-to-date information about foreign markets. FDI may also lead to increasing imports in the recipient country as foreign owners tend to have a higher propensity to obtain their inputs from abroad than do their domestically owned counterparts.

Finally, in the case of human capital variable, a rise in the index of human capital by 10% is associated with a rise in the trade-GDP ratio by 9%. This is not surprising! A higher level of human capital is likely to have a positive impact on the perception of the people, as well as on the policy making of the government, in integrating their economy with the world market.

The findings of the LSDV models, show that landlocked countries and island countries are 194% and 284% respectively more trade oriented than their counterparts. Both for island and landlocked countries, international trade plays a crucial role in their economic lives as most of these countries are dependent, to an unusual degree, on imported goods and services, including foodstuffs, fuel, equipment and industrial material as well as a wide range of manufactured products. However, interestingly, being a member of the GATT/WTO doesn't make any difference in terms of trade-orientation.

We have also explored the association between trade-orientation and different institutional variables. The data of these institutional variables are derived from the ICRG database. The fixed effect regression results suggest that countries with better bureaucracy quality, larger democratic accountability, and sounder investment profile are associated with higher trade-orientation. These results are also consistent with findings from studies on the determinants of trade flows which argue distortions or costs placed on firms under inefficient institutions and poor governance can negatively affect trade flows.

Dr. Selim Raihan. Email: selim.raihan@gmail.com

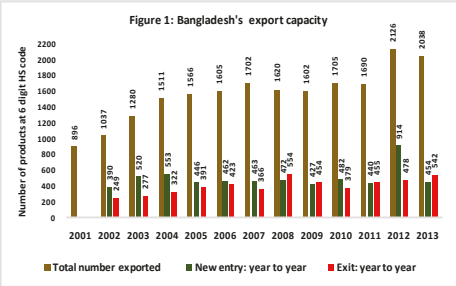
Volume 3 Issue 1 June 1, 2016

Unearthing Bangladesh's comparative advantages

Selim Raihan and Md. Jillur Rahman

The analysis of comparative advantage is important from the policy perspective. Trade policies of a country should be tuned to promote export items where the country has comparative advantage. The Revealed Comparative Advantage (RCA) analysis, suggested by Bela Balassa in 1965, is an ex post analysis of comparative advantage and has been used in many studies. RCA index is used to calculate the relative advantage, disadvantage and trade potential of a certain product in a country.

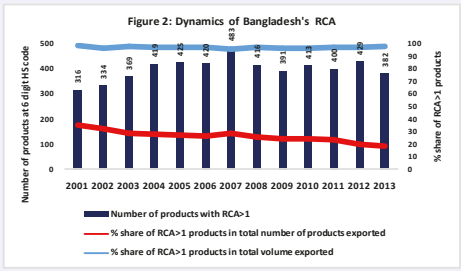
The RCA index is measured as the ratio of a product's share in the country's total export relative to its share in the world's total export. The formula for the RCA is equal to $(X_{ij}/X_{it})/(X_{wj}/X_{wt})$ where, X_{ij} and X_{wj} are country i's export and world export of product j respectively, while X_{it} and X_{wt} are country i's total export and world total export respectively. If RCA is greater than unity, the country is said to have comparative advantage in that product; and if RCA is less than unity, the country has comparative disadvantage in that product. The RCA index is popular because of its simplicity, availability of data and for cross-country comparisons. The index is consistent with country's factor endowment and productivity.



In this article, we are interested to know in which products Bangladesh has comparative advantage, and the dynamic changes of its comparative advantage. We have calculated RCA at 6-digit level of the harmonized system (HS) of classification for the periods between 2001 and 2013. RCA indices for Bangladesh are calculated using the data of export volumes of Bangladesh and the world from the Trade Map database.

Before going into the RCA analysis, let's first explore how many products Bangladesh exports. At the 6-digit HS code level, there are approximately 5300 products. Figure 1 shows that in 2001, Bangladesh exported 896 products, which, by 2013, increased to a number of 2038. In 2012, Bangladesh exported 2126 products which was the highest among the years under consideration. This suggests that, not only in terms of volume but also in terms of number of products, Bangladesh's export capacity increased by more than double during 2001 and 2013. On a year-to-year basis, some new products were added to the export basket and some were ceased to be exported. However, there were 375 common products which Bangladesh exported all the years under consideration.

Figure 2 presents the numbers of products at 6-digit HS code where Bangladesh had comparative advantage during 2001 and 2013. In 2001, the number of products with RCA>1 was 316, which, with some

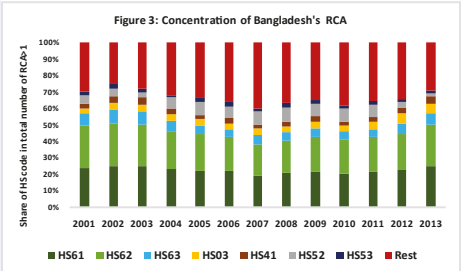


year-to-year fluctuations, increased to 382 by 2013. The highest number of RCA>1 was observed in 2007 consisting 483 products. Figure 2 also suggests that the percentage share of RCA>1 products in total number of products declined over time: from 35% in 2001 to 19% in 2013. However, as a percentage of total exports, throughout those years, Bangladesh enjoyed comparative advantage in more than 97% of its total export. Furthermore, over those years, comparative advantage had been consistent for 130 products at the 6-digit level among which 115 products were from readymade garment industries. All these suggest that although Bangladesh was able to expand its export basket during 2001 and 2013, the number of products it had comparative advantage didn't increase proportionately, which indicates escalated concentration of RCA in certain products.

The escalated concentration of RCA in certain products during the period under consideration is manifested by the fact that Bangladesh's RCAs had been concentrated around the products in the HS codes 03 (fish and shrimp), 41 (raw hides and skins and leather), 52 (cotton yarn), 53 (raw jute), 61 (knitted readymade garments), 62 (woven readymade garments) and 63 (home textile and jute hessian bags). However, a close look at Figure 3 suggests that Bangladesh's comparative advantage has been highly concentrated around the readymade garments sector. In 2013, number of products with RCA>1 under the HS codes 61, 62 and 63 accounted for 57% of the total number of products with RCA>1. In 2007, such number was 43%. It should also be mentioned here that, readymade garments account for more than 80% of total export earnings of Bangladesh in recent years.

Although RCA had been concentrated around the readymade garments sector, the average value of RCA declined. The maximum value of RCA in the readymade garments was 495 in 2001, which declined to 184 by 2013. Bangladesh had also been losing the very high comparative advantage it had in garments exports. Figure 4 suggests that, in 2001, Bangladesh enjoyed very high RCA (RCA>100) in 18 garments products, which declined to only 3 in 2013. In contrast, the number of products with RCA less than or equal to 30 increased over time: from 142 in 2001 to 181 in 2013.

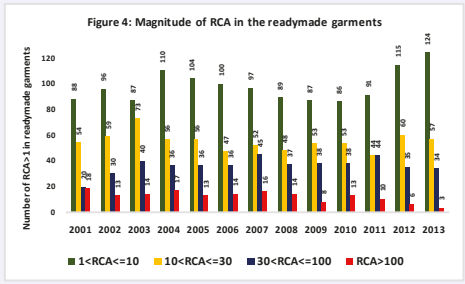
Similar analysis, with respect to the leather and leather goods, suggests that there had not been much



variations in the number of products having RCA in this sector. And, as in readymade garments sector, Bangladesh had been losing very high comparative advantage it had in this sector. In contrast, Bangladesh had been enjoying consistently very high comparative advantage in jute and jute products, where, in all of 6 products, RCA ranged between 53 and 1068.

The aforementioned analysis shows that during the period under consideration, Bangladesh's comparative advantage had been concentrated around low-skilled labor intensive readymade garments exports. However, in recent years, compared to early 2000s, there had been some products where Bangladesh gained comparative advantage. These include edible fruits, animal and vegetable fats and oil, preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk and pastry cooks' products, preparation of vegetable, fruits, nuts, residues from food industries, rubber and rubber products, copper and copper products, and furniture. However, Bangladesh lost comparative advantage in fertilizers, printing industry's products, articles of iron and steel, and miscellaneous manufactured articles.

Finally, we are interested to know how tariff rates, both at home and partner country, affect Bangladesh's revealed comparative advantage at the sectoral level. For this exercise, we have constructed a panel data at 6-digit HS code level for the period between 2001 and 2013. The dependent variable is the RCA which is a



binary variable, where it takes a value of 1 if RCA is greater than unity and zero otherwise. The first explanatory variable is the domestic tariff rate at 6-digit HS code level, which is the effectively applied tariff rate and its data is taken from the WITS database. The second explanatory variable is the partner country's tariff rate, which is calculated as the weighted average of simple tariff rates imposed by top export destination partners of Bangladesh namely USA, EU, Canada and India. Data of partner countries' tariff rates are taken from the WITS and OECD-WTO database. The fixed effect panel logit regression results suggest that domestic tariff rate is negatively associated with RCA and the coefficient is statistically significant. This suggests that a cut in domestic tariff raises the likelihood of RCA greater than unity among the sectors. In contrast, the coefficient of the partner countries' weighted tariff rate is not statistically significant. The reason behind the non-association between the RCA and partner countries' tariff rate could be because of the fact that the large part of Bangladesh's export to its major partner countries are under different preferences schemes; for example, Bangladesh's exports enjoy duty free and quota free market access in the EU market.

Dr. Selim Raihan. Email: selim.raihan@gmail.com
Md. Jillur Rahman. Research Associate, SANEM.
Email: jillurrahman@econdu.ac.bd

Featured Article

Volume 3 Issue 1 June 1, 2016

...incentives given to domestic producers and exporters have to be balanced...

Dr. Zaidi Sattar is the founder Chairman of Policy Research Institute (PRI). He started his career as a lecturer of Economics, University of Dhaka. Later he served civil service of Bangladesh in various positions. He joined the World Bank in 1996, where he served as Senior Economist of South Asia Region until his retirement in September 2007. Dr. Sattar has many publications in international and national journals and numerous papers presented on trade policy, private sector development and growth issues at national and international conferences.

SANEM: What are the burning issues of trade policy in Bangladesh?

ZS: Trade policy has to be considered in two parts - external measures and internal policy reforms. The external part consists of initiatives regarding market access and export expansion, utilization of Bangladesh's LDC status, getting preferential treatment within the WTO rules, getting involved in bilateral or regional trade pacts and of course with the multilateral trading system of the WTO. Our government is taking a lot of initiatives on the external front.

The burning issue in trade policy lies in the internal or domestic side of trade policy, namely, the trade protection regime which creates an imbalance of incentives provided to the exporters versus producers for the domestic market. There appears to be a lack of understanding about the distinction between trade policy and industrial policy, which are too integrated to be considered separate. It's a matter of concern to have industrial policy that is only focused on promoting X, Y, or Z sectors, rather than creating the right policy environment to improve productivity and competitiveness. Not to be ignored are the trade facilitation (trade infrastructure) components, the so-called supply-side constraints, that impede productivity growth and competitiveness of exports.

SANEM: How do you evaluate the contribution of trade policy so far in the success of Bangladesh's RMG sector?

ZS: RMG is a success story – no ifs or buts. The debate about the contribution of trade liberalization in making RMG sector a success is misplaced. RMG did not graduate out of an import substitution regime. Rather, it flourished within a free trade channel that was created from the very start. The Multi-fiber Arrangement (MFA) of 1974 opened up markets for apparels made in Bangladesh. The garments sector took advantage of this opportunity but this was not the only reason behind its success. During that time Bangladesh had a very high tariff regime for all kinds of imports, including inputs for the apparel industry (e.g. yarn, fabrics, and accessories). Policymakers of Bangladesh were quick to realize the need for ensuring world priced imported inputs (i.e. duty-free) for making our apparel exports competitive in the world market. Special Bonded Warehouse (SBW) system and the back-to-back LC system were the policy innovations. That's why countries like South Korea saw huge opportunity of producing apparels here. Without these policies, RMG wouldn't have reached its present state. Later, there was an incentive to develop backward linkage industries, driven by RMG export success. Thanks to the adoption of right policies, the labor-intensive RMG industry was able to exploit Bangladesh's comparative advantage based on low cost labor.

SANEM: What is the shortcoming in trade policy that causes non-RMG exports to lag far behind the export success of RMG sector?

ZS: We are exporting a wide range of products, such as footwear, leather products, agro-processed products, tableware, but in relatively small volume. The reason behind slow growth of non-RMG exports lies in the inherent conflict within our trade policy of providing high protection to import substituting industries (ISI). Our policies of protecting domestic ISI and promoting exports are in conflict. Why? Today, ISIs catering to the domestic market are highly profitable not because of efficiency but high protective tariffs maintained through strong producer lobbies. In the past 20 years, tariffs on all kind of inputs (basic raw materials, intermediate and capital goods), have trended downward. But those on consumer goods produced domestically have remained high. Moreover, tariff escalation ratio has been too high. Whereas input tariffs are bunched within 1-10%, output tariffs on domestically produced consumer goods are at 87%+! No other developing country has such a wide dispersion between input and output tariffs. What we are not realizing is that incentive given to both groups, domestic producers and exporters, have to be balanced.

That is not the case in Bangladesh. Firm level surveys reveal that, in case of goods produced and sold in the domestic market, average profits as percentage of sales revenue is 15 to 20%. On the other hand, in the competitive export market, profit margins are very small for exporters. Net profits as a percentage of sales are about 5% - 7% for exporters. In addition, exporters must maintain international standards of quality. Political lobbies don't work in export as goods must be sold at a given price in the international market. Firms that produce for the domestic market and also export face a choice: to export or sell in the domestic market? If profitability is the determinant, the answer is obvious. This gives rise to the classic case of anti-export bias. Nominal Protection Rate (NPR) for most consumer goods produced locally is 87%, compared to zero protection for exports. Since RMG is 100% export oriented, they do not face the choice just mentioned. Footwear, agro-processed products, and the like, all face the choice. The incentive for good exporters lies in generating profits from large volume in limitless export markets.

The only way to reduce or eliminate anti-export bias is to scale down protection levels which happen to be too high compared to Bangladesh's comparators. However, political lobby is the potential barrier to decrease protection level. There is a theory of Professor Mancur Olson which says that, the larger the group, the weaker its capacity for collective action. Small groups can form association and lobby their own interest. Consumers, who actually pay the protection tax, are too large to organize. ISIs are organized in many chambers of different associations. Pre-budget consultations are organized with them, not with consumers.

SANEM: What other issues should we contemplate?

ZS: We must divert attention from our highly but artificially profitable domestic market. I'm using the term "artificially profitable" because domestic producers see higher profits from domestic sales but that is because of high protective tariffs. Reduce those tariffs and profits will fall or disappear. Then they will find exports relatively more profitable. There are four types of duties- duty on consumer goods, intermediate goods, capital goods and basic raw materials. Duties on intermediate goods, capital goods and basic raw materials have been declining over time. We should ask the question: how come duties on consumer goods are not coming down? How long should ISIs (e.g. biscuit manufacturers) continue to receive protection? and consumers continue to pay the protection tax?

SANEM: What are the prospects and challenges for Bangladesh in international trade?

ZS: In the next 10 years our competitiveness will be defined by low cost labor. Wages will rise slowly, like in China. China is less competitive now and has a large domestic market. They have grown 10-12% in the last 30 years, have pulled 500 million people out of poverty, on the back of export growth. India has a vast market of 1.2 billion people, and a market of 2.5 trillion dollars. Both countries are still harping on increasing export. It doesn't take long to realize that domestic market is not enough to create necessary jobs. Exporters must be given opportunity so that they can export in high volumes and create jobs. We have to encourage FDI – as we cannot exploit our export potential without it. In today's market, we have to be technologically sound - not just for bringing capital, but also for seizing external markets for our products and integrating with the global market.

SANEM: Can Bangladesh embark in International market using "made in Bangladesh" brand?

ZS: All the top global buyers are using "Made in Bangladesh" products. Buyers in Europe and North America are attracted by global brands (e.g. Levis, Gap, Calvin Klein) regardless of where the apparel is made. Vietnam, our major competitor, is aggressively capturing the USA market and will soon gain further advantage once the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) is launched. To be more competitive, our quality must improve, and we must ensure compliance of standards related to workplace safety. Our goal must be to capture more of the global market in RMG and non-RMG exports. The size of world market is 65-70 trillion dollars; 35 trillion dollars in the markets of Europe and America. We should be breaking into these markets with more labor-intensive products in order to create good jobs at home. Presently, some 50% of manufacturing output and employment are in export industries. Our exports should be employment intensive because our comparative advantage lies in labor intensive export.

SANEM: What would be your suggestions about our current tariff regime?

ZS: We need to significantly restructure our tariffs. The extreme position is a low and uniform tariff, which isn't feasible. We should not increase the number of tariff slabs, and there should be one tariff rate in each of the HS-4 digit tariff heading because each heading represents similar product. PRI research has shown that Supplementary duty (SD) is predominantly a protective instrument. It's not yielding revenue, except from automobile imports. Since they are applied mainly to protect domestic consumer goods industries, lowering or eliminating SD would yield higher revenue through some import penetration. A modest degree of tariff liberalization on consumer goods would not hurt our balance of payments but ease the pressure on the exchange rate at a time when Bangladesh Bank is accumulating foreign exchange reserves and fighting appreciation pressure.

SANEM: Thank you so much for your time.

ZS: My pleasure.

Volume 3 Issue 1 June 1, 2016

First SANEM Training Program on Cutting Edge Methods in Applied International Trade to be held in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Organized by SANEM, a Training Program on Cutting Edge Methods in Applied International Trade is going to be held at Hotel Sea Crown, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh from 8-11 August, 2016. The training module will consist of lectures and hands-on sessions on advanced issues of international trade and tools to analyze trade flows with a focus on gravity modeling for trade policy analysis.

- Early Bird registration fee (before 10th June, 2016): USD 350
- Late registration fee (before 30th June, 2016): USD 500

The registration fee includes course fee, training materials, travel cost between Dhaka and Cox's Bazar by air-conditioned bus, accommodation on a twin sharing basis, and meals during the training program. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply soon, as seats will be occupied on 'first come first serve' basis upon payment of registration fee.

A waiver (up to USD 150) on the registration fee will be provided to deserving candidates.

Instructors: Dr. Selim Raihan (Executive Director, SANEM) and SANEM's Research Associates.

For further queries and application process, visit our website at www.sanemnet.org.

SANEM celebrated 2 years of Thinking Aloud

SANEM team celebrated 2 years of Thinking Aloud on 29th May 2016 at SANEM Office, Gulshan-2, Dhaka. It was attended by honorable guests, ex-research associates, SANEM employees and their family members. Dr. Selim Raihan (Executive Director, SANEM) provided special remarks at the beginning of the ceremony. Amongst the well-wishers, Dr. Taiabur Rahman (Professor, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka), Dr. Abu Eusuf (Professor, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka), Dr. Kazi Maruful Islam (Associate Professor, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka) and Dr. Sayema Haque Bidisha (Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka) were present. The celebration began with cutting a cake and it was followed by dinner.

Copenhagen Consensus Centre held presentations at BRAC Centre, Dhaka

Copenhagen Consensus Centre and BRAC organized a series of Academic Presentations in front of an eminent panel, which was held at BRAC Centre, Dhaka during 9th-11th May, 2016. The objective of the panel was to discuss research papers for the project "Smarter Solutions for Bangladesh" which aims to identify the best policies for Bangladesh. From SANEM, Dr. Bazlul Haque Khondker (Chairman) gave presentations on "Infrastructure (Transport): Padma Bridge" and "Reform VAT and automate collection". Dr. Farazi Binti Ferdous (Research Fellow) also gave a presentation on "Trade liberalization and Trade facilitation".

NTA Training Workshop held in Malaysia

Organized by East West Centre (EWC), the National Transfer Accounts (NTA) Training Workshop on 'Increasing Technical Capacity' was held during 23rd-27th May, 2016 hosted by Malaysian Research Institute on Aging, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). The aim of the workshop was to produce complete NTA and launch the next round of NTA research for all countries. On behalf of Bangladesh, Muhammad Moshiur Rahman (Senior Research Associate, SANEM) and Md. Mahedi Hassan (Research Associate, SANEM) participated in this workshop and completed the NTA, the public and private transfers, public and private asset-based reallocations and Second Demographic Dividend using NTA methods. Bangladesh Team's progress was greatly appreciated by other member countries.

Other Events

Discussion held at BIDS: A validation discussion on a study titled "Governance of International Supply Chains towards Sustainable and Inclusive Garment Industry" was held on 4th May 2016 at BIDS, Dhaka. Introductory remarks were provided by the team leader for the study Professor Yoshiteru Uramoto (Centre for Global Discovery, Japan). Md. Mahedi Hassan (Research Associate, SANEM) attended the discussion.

Discussion on budget held at MCCI, Dhaka: Organized by MCCI and Massranga Television, a dialogue on "Budget 2016-2017: Our Expectations" was held on 13th May 2016 at Chamber Building, Dhaka. Mr. A. M. A. Muhith (Minister of Finance) was chief guest of this event. Mr. Md. Jillur Rahman (Research Associate, SANEM) attended the event.

Meeting held at FBCCI, Dhaka

First Meeting of the Policy Advocacy Group in Bangladesh formed by FBCCI, was held on 16th May, 2016 at Federation Bhaban, Dhaka. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the Policy Advocacy Strategy Paper of SAARC Promotion Network for dealing with Non-Tariff Measures and other regional trade facilitation issues for trade promotion in South Asia. The convener of the group, Mr. Mahbubul Alam (Vice President, FBCCI and SAARCCCI) was the chair of the meeting. Dr. Selim Raihan (Executive Director, SANEM), one of the members of the Policy Advocacy Group, gave a speech on his contributions and findings on the paper. Discussions were also held on Terms of reference and future course of action of the Policy Advocacy Group. Also present were Mr. Shafquat Haider (Director, FBCCI) and Mr. Manzur Ahmed (Advisor, FBCCI). From SANEM, Mahtab Uddin (Research Associate) attended the meeting.

Workshop at BRAC University, Dhaka

A workshop was organized by BIGD on 17th May, 2016 at BRAC University, Dhaka. In this workshop, the measurement of attitudes and how it matters to the work-participation of women in rural India were explored. Dr. Wendy Olsen (Professor, University of Manchester) carried out the workshop. The workshop consisted of a factor analysis of attitudes to work, followed by a logistic regression of female labour-force participation and finally these were linked via models that allow the two equations to be interlinked. From SANEM, Research Associates Md. Mahedi Hassan, Rubaiya Murshed and Md. Wahid Ferdous Ibon attended the workshop.

Dr. Selim Raihan made a presentation at University of Dhaka

Dr. Selim Raihan made a presentation at the Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka on 7th May, 2016 on "Political Economy Approach to Deal with NTMs in South Asia". The presentation looked at the issues related to the political economy approach to regional integration, the current status and prospects in South Asia in terms of market integration, trade restrictiveness of NTMs in South Asia and how to deal with NTMs using the political economy framework. Some faculty members and students from the Department of Development Studies were present in the event.

Events

e-version: http://sanemnet.org/thinking-aloud/

SANEM Publications: Flat K-5, House 1/B, Road 35, Gulsan-2, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh, Phone: +88-02-58813075, E-mail: sanemnet@yahoo.com, Web: www.sanemnet.org