

ICAAP12 Held in Bangladesh for the First Time – The Light House

The danger as rain makes people aware to come together under the same umbrella. While HIV has been taking place as a threat in the whole world thousands of representatives from 56 countries took part in the three-day conference at the Bashundhara City Convention Centre, Dhaka for taking prevention against it. This was jointly organized by Health and Family Welfare Ministry, Bangladesh and Partners in Population and Development (PPD) on last March 12-14, 2016. Before inauguration of the ceremony there was a program arranged for the community people and making registration for the ICAAP12 on the last March 11, 2016. Beginning of the ceremony some resource persons delivered their speeches on the importance of the program. They were Harun Or Rashid, the Executive Director of Light House, Jamiruddin, the vice-chancellor of Rangpur Rokea University, Habiba, the Executive Director of Light of Hope, Joe Thomas, the Executive Director of Icaap12, Bangladesh



From left, Mohammed Nasim, Hon'ble minister of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of People's of Republic Bangladesh, Harun Or Rashid, CE of Light House, Ziauddin Ahmed, Director of Monitoring and Evaluation, Light House while visiting stall of Light House.

Harun Or Rashid, CE, Light House (3rd from the left) among the visitors and staffs at the Stall of Light House.

Mohammed Nasim, Hon'ble minister of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of People's of Republic Bangladesh (4th from the left) at the stall with the staffs of Light House.

delivered their speeches. Harun Or Rashid, the Executive Director of Light House said that community people needs the support from the people of civil society. All must cooperate them as their friends and work hard to reduce HIV completely by 2030. Including this Joya, the representative of Transgender, Hena from the behalf of the Sex Worker and one from the MSM community delivered their speeches, too. Following tea break sharing sessions starts in 9 groups from the different communities.

Following day, on the first day of ICAAP12 Abdul Hamid, the President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh inaugurated the 12th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP). In his inaugural speech he said, "People must be aware that AIDS is not a curse, rather it is a serious public health issue, underscoring the need for changing public perception about AIDS patients." Including him Mohammed Nasim, Honourable Health and Family Welfare Minister, Zahid Maleque, the Honourable State Minister Health and Family, secretary Sayed Monjurul Islam and Executive Director of PPD and Joe Thomas, the Secretary-General of ICAAP12 spoke on the views of HIV. Then plenary, symposia and oral presentations were presented on different topics.



Mr. Abdus Sobhan Nipun, Staff of Light House delivering his presentation in front of the audience.



Mr. Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, Hon'ble Minister of Finance, (1st from the right), Mohammed Nasim, Hon'ble minister of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of People's of Republic Bangladesh (1st from the left).

Mr. Abdus Sobhan Nipun from behalf of the Light House delivered his prepared speech on "Peer Lead Micro planning Improves the Service Delivery Model". There was a stall exhibition arranged by the Light House. Translators, volunteers and staffs from the Light House were directly involved in the program, too. At the end awards were given by Mr. Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, Hon'ble Minister of Finance, and Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to different people. H.E. Mr. Mouly leng, Senior Minister, National AIDS Authority, Kingdom of Cambodia was presented the "Asia Pacific Health Leadership Award and Leadership Excellence Award was presented to H.E. Mr. Mohammed Nasim, Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Thousands of people from different communities and countries attended the program. Awareness on HIV and respect to the affected people were increased a lot through this whole program.

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Honorable Land Minister at the Seminar on Justice for All at Pabna organized by Light House with DLAC, UZLAC and UPLAC: Like other social problem justice for all especially for the helpless people are a major challenge of social security. In our constitution it has remarked that all people of Bangladesh are equal under law and everyone has the rights to get equal justice. Government of Bangladesh has ratified Legal aid service act- 2000 to ensure the rights of helpless people. Most of the time the message of Government service does not reach in the root level properly. So to strengthen legal aid services in the formal justice sector, to involve judicial service delivering to the public and increase legal literacy among target population Light House has been implementing Justice for all Pabna project funded by USAID's justice for all program



covering 9 upazilla of pabna district from October, 2015. According to this project Light House Justice for all Pabna organized a seminar with the supporting of District legal aid office Pabna and Iswardi Upazilla with DLAC, UZLAC and UPLAC on March 4, 2016 at Sugar Crop Research Institute, Iswardi Pabna. Md Abdul Kuddus Mia, Session Judge Senior district presided over the seminar and Samsur Rahman Sarif, the Honorable Land Minister as well as Parliament member of Bangladesh government was present as the chief guest. Upazilla Nirbahi Officer Sakil Mahmud conduct the program and District legal aid officer Nahidur Rahman Nahid made a power point presentation focusing national and international information on legal aid support. He said that More than 3 million cases are pending in the lower court and upper court in Bangladesh which is a big challenge for the government to ensure justice for all. So Light House and other non government organization have come to support government legal aid program. Coordinating between government and non government effort legal aid services can be provided to the deprived people. He also presented a Legal aid Service delivery Scenario of Pabna district legal aid office. After his speech the coming audience took part a discussion session. End of the discussion, Samsur Rahman Sarif, the Honorable Land Minister delivered his speech to ensure justice in every sector where the policy maker of government service provider's effort is not enough. However about two hundred participants including some honorable guests were present in that seminar. Through this seminar people were benefitted much being aware on justice for all.



Observation of International Women's Day on March 8, 2016: The main theme of International Women's Day on March 8, 2016 was "Adhikar Marjadai Nari-Purush Samane Saman". By marking the main theme of International Women's Day the Light House-JFA program observed this day at district level and 5 upazilas of Bogra district along with the concerned government stakeholders including administration, judiciaries, LEB and LEA and community people. For this purpose Light House took different programs on March 8, 2016 for effective and successful observation and achievement goal objective of International Women's Day with association of local gov. administration. These program is implemented with the inauguration and presided over by the Deputy Commissioner, District Judge, Upazila Chairman and Upazila Nirbahi

Officer. Some of them played a vital role as chief guest in this event. District and Upazila level departmental head of different Government Offices and member of district, upazila and union legal aid committee, NGO official, press club/media representatives and civil society members, community people, teachers and students took part in the different programs (Human chain, rally, discussion session and cultural event and legal aid clinic, courtyard meeting, micking campaign) of International Women's Day observation of upazila and district level.

Discussion Meeting with Judicial Officer and Panel Lawyers: Discussion meeting with Judicial Officer and panel lawyers is organized by district legal aid committee and Light House under USAID's Justice for All (JFA) Program held on 08/03/2016 at the venue of District judge's conference room, Bogra. The meeting was inaugurated and chaired by Mr. A M Md. Sayed, DLAC Chairman and senior district judge, Bogra where district Judicial Officer and DLAC panel lawyer were present. Among them 37 were males and 13 were females. Mrs. Mamataz Parvin, Honorable Judge Women and Children Tribunal and Mrs. Sufia Nazim, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Education and Information Technology, Bogra and other judges played a vital role as member secretary in the meeting. Mr. Harun or Rashid, Chief Executive, Light House was present and provided his valuable opinion in the meeting.



Active Citizens Regional Achiever Summit- 2016: Active Citizens Regional Achieve Summit was held on March 30, 2016 at Green Plaza of City Bhaban in Rajshahi under the initiative of CCD and other organizations in assistance with British Council. The summit started at 09:30 am in the morning. At the summit, Democracy Watch, Light House, including Center for Communication and Development (CCD), Wave Foundation, The Hunger Project and SIL International presented a variety of social initiatives taken by Youth leaders, explaining the present condition, achievement and challenges of the initiatives through displaying their stalls. Light House has displayed social action project (SAP) through the exhibition Stalls titled 'Healthy Campaign with BCC materials and HIV/AIDS awareness among the key population (Young MSM and Hijra)' at 'Active Citizens Regional Achievers' Summit. Hundreds of youth volunteers came from different education institute and respective organization and raised their voice for our community. Youth Leasers, other partner organizations and representative of British Council Abdus Sabur has visited our stalls.

Former Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, acting mayor Nizam-Ul Azim, former Vice-chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof Saidur Rahman Khan, Principal of Rajshahi College Prof Habibur Rahman, Additional Commissioner of RMP Sarder Tamij Uddin, Imam Ahsan and CCD Director Golam Mourtouza have delivered their important speech on the occasion. Project Coordinator of British Council Abdus Sabur has also presented the summit and spoke some important words for active citizens and discussed the role of Youth in Peace Building, Youth in Action for Social Change and Youth Engagement in Social Change.