

Economic Research Group

9/4 Lalmatia, Block D

Dhaka

April 8, 2009

Minutes of the 5th Annual General Meeting

Members Present

Dr. Wahiduddin Mahmud, Chairman

Dr. S R Osmani, Member

Dr. Sajjad Zohir, Member and Treasurer

Dr. Fahad Khalil, Member

Dr. A.K. Enamul Haque, Member and Executive Director

1. Confirmation of the 4th AGM minutes
The meeting confirmed the minutes of the 4th AGM.
2. Report from the Chair

Economic Research Group has shifted from its Gulshan location to the Lalmatia premise in August-September 2008. The move has proven to be an effective one in the sense that it has allowed better interactions with the academic communities. A number of DU faculty members and also students are currently involved with the ERG activities in several projects.

Economic Research Group has received several research projects in 2008 and this year, these projects are:

- a. FAO funded project on Food Security for the Poor – Principal Investigator: Dr. Rushad Faridi, Fellow of ERG and Faculty of Dhaka University (co-researchers include Dr. Naimul Wadud, Fellow of ERG and Researcher at BIDS.
- b. SANDEE Grants for Sakib Mahmud and Nasima Tanvir Chowdhury – both of them are Associates of ERG and have received funding for completion of their research work for their PhD studies. Both of these projects are mentored by Dr.A.K. Enamul Haque. Sakib is working on *Valuation of the storm protection values of mangrove forests in the coastal ecosystem* and Nasima is working on *Relative efficiency of water use in Bangladesh Agriculture*.
- c. Small Grants and Academic Partnership Program – funded by IFC-BICF (in collaboration with BMB Mott MacDonald). Dr. A.K. Enamul Haque is coordinating this program. In this program, NSU, IUB, EWU, BRAC Univ, and AIUB are involved to set up curriculum and research programs on investment climate issues. Furthermore, 6 research grants (open competitive process) to researchers from Faruque and Associates (a law firm), MRDI, BIBM, RU, SUST, and KU.
- d. Measuring movement out of poverty – with support from Microcredit Summit Campaign. Dr Sajjad Zohir is undertaking this project. The project has several phases and Dr. Zohir is working on this project with his research team.
- e. Impact of price increase on poor households and children well-being – study by Dr. Mohammad Helal Uddin, Fellow of ERG and a faculty of DU. Funding for this project is received from Save the Children UK.

f. Child Labour Studies – with support from Save the Children UK. Study by Dr. Mohammad Helal Uddin, Fellow of ERG and a faculty of DU. Funding for this project is received from Save the Children UK.

3. Audit Report

The Treasurer of ERG, Dr Sajjad Zohir presented the report to the members. He has highlighted the following facts.

Total asset of ERG is 808,752 as on 31-1-09 (it was 197,557 on 31-1-08)
Number of projects 18 (eighteen).

4. Any Other Business

a. Selection of C/A firm for Audits.

The Chair thanked Ms. M A Quader Kabir and Co for their works in auditing the accounts of ERG for the past four years. It was at the same time discussed whether to change the audit firm since the Quader Kabir and Co has been doing audit of ERG accounts for the past four financial year. After discussion it was held that if there is no legal problem, we may continue to use Quader Kabir and Co but if there is a need for changing it then may consider the following two firms.

- a. Mssrs A Halim and Co
- b. Mssrs Pinaki and Co

It was held that if ERG GB decides to change audit firms for the next financial year for any obvious reason then Mssrs A Halim and Co will be asked to do the audit for the next year and if they do not agree then the Executive Director will request Pinaki and Co for this job.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the Chair.

Dr. A.K. Enamul Haque
Executive Director

Dr. Wahiduddin Mahmud
Chair