

**Waseda University Global COE Program,
'Global Institute for Asian Regional Integration'
Investigative Research Assistance Achievement Report**

Affiliation GSAPS, GIARI RA **Year** D1 **Name** Ferdous Farazi Binti

Itinerary 02/09 /2010 / ~ 03 /18 /2010/ (Month/Date/Year)

Destination (Name of city and country)

Savar, Dhaka; Bangladesh

Research objectives

At this preliminary stage of my research, the objective of my field research was:

1. To visit the University of Dhaka, the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, and civil society think tanks; to learn more about the relevance of my research project and collect references that would give me food for thought and also collect data for further investigation on my topic, Asian Regional Integration: Paying Particular Attention to the Economic Regional Cooperation through Trade, involving South and East Asian Countries.
2. To discuss and build a network with scholars and researchers of Bangladesh who have similar research interests, and to write a paper including a case study of Bangladesh.

Research project

- ✚ In my research I will try to find out the role of South Asian countries, including Bangladesh, in the process of economic integration among the East and South Asian regions through proper solutions and strategies, and to build a level playing field for trade and economic partners. The study will discuss the context of East Asian integration which is trying to include India as a member (ASEAN+6), and argue that if India be a member, this would mean that the whole region of South Asia cannot be left behind. Thus, to understand the broader concept of Asian regional integration and regional cooperation, further research on South Asian economies is inevitable to realize the full economic cooperation and benefits within the region in a sustainable manner.
- ✚ Moreover, I intend to learn about the problems and prospects of export diversification of Bangladeshi products in the international market and to find new markets for further penetration; considering existing FTAs in the region and involvement of Bangladesh and neighboring countries in the regional FTAs.

Achievement

- ✚ Visit of the University of Dhaka and interviews with faculty members of the Department of Economics. They gave me useful information, references and ideas for further research.
- ✚ Meetings with research fellows of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), discussion of my project and collection of important references.
- ✚ Collection of latest published statistical data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).
- ✚ Interviews and discussions with (a) senior research fellow of the Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD), a civil society think tank, including collection of references related to Bangladesh in the Global Trade Regime, and on international trade and regional economic integration.
- ✚ Interviews and discussions about Asian Regional Integration with the executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), where I obtained useful information about the topic of Asian Regional Integration and also collected important references.
- ✚ Visit of a few export oriented garments factories and buying houses gave me practical knowledge on the current situation. Interviews with the owner and officials about potential markets for diversified goods and trade prospects of Bangladeshi products. Additionally, collecting data on their products and markets. Interviews with trade entrepreneurs of Bangladesh on the topic of potential markets for Bangladeshi goods and constraints they are facing on their business.
- ✚ A Visit of the Aarong export section, which is an enterprise of Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee ([BRAC](#)), the largest non-governmental development organization in the world, gave me the opportunity to collect data and information about the current situation of exportable goods other than garments and textiles of Bangladesh.

Confirmed by person in charge of project promotion (signature and seal)

Academic Adviser

Sub Adviser



(Note: please write within a length of two A4 pages. Space for each item can be changed to suit.)