Roots and Routes

Monthly Newsletter of the Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism

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GRFDT
Global Research Forum on
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Roots and Routes **dessiminates latest information on research and policy developments in Diaspora and transnationalism**

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Editor's Message

Dear Friends,

This issue of the *Roots and Routes* covers a range of interesting as well as emerging issues on diaspora and transnationalism. Two major aspects are primarily highlighted in this issue. On one hand, it reflects on how culture works as a powerful medium linking both diaspora and homeland and thereby creating channels and platforms for other engagements. On the other, it highlights how development aspects are seriously advocated by the home countries, especially in case of developing countries. This issue contains film screening report, book reviews, interviews, seminar reports, etc. highlighting the complex webs of interrelationships very well.

Asa Nu Maan Watna Da a Punjabi movie was screened and discussed upon by the participants. The film touches upon issues such as gender, aspiration of the people in the diaspora and home country, contradictions of new generations etc. The review "Bollywood Travels..." highlights Bollywood's (the term popularly used for Hindi film industry based in Bombay) current status, connections and receptions across countries and communities, particularly amongst the South Asian diasporas. The book also encompasses several social, cultural, and economic aspects that seem to steer the trajectory of the global journey of Bollywood. Similarly, interview with Dr. Gabriela Tejada throws insights into how supportive environment back home can generate more meaningful diasporic engagements. We thank Dr. Tejada for sharing her research findings with GRFDT which would, I believe, pave the way for discourse on the issue of development amongst policy makers and academia.

The issue also contains reports of two international conferences. The papers briefly reported here would be very useful for the researchers and familiarize them to some of the emerging issues in the area of Diaspora.

GRFDT is working on a comprehensive bibliography on diaspora and transnationalism which will be getting ready and will be freely available online within few months. In addition to this, the database of the scholars and institutions working on diaspora is already available on our GRFDT website. Hope all these modest contributions of the newsletter and GRFDT activities would be useful to our readers now and in times to come. However, we express our sincere gratefulness to all the readers for continuously providing new ideas, insights and contributing articles, reviews and news items to enhance our newsletter as a valuable piece of R & D in the domain of diaspora and transnationalism. ■

Thanking You All.
Happy Reading!!

Sadananda Sahoo

GRFDT Activities

Diaspora Film Screening

Asa Nu Maan Watna Da

In Search of Roots

Asan nu maan watna da is a Punjabi movie directed by Manmohan Singh released in 2004 and starring Harbhajan Mann. It depicts story of those migrants who return home-country after a prolonged absence abroad. The film depicts conflicts between the ideal and real homeland. It also throws light on the conflicting value of West and East nicely interwoven in the love story.

Cinematography was by Mr. Harmeet Singh. This was the second movie of a Harbhajan Maan who delivered 4 consecutive hits after this movie. The movie was very successful in Punjab as well as in Overseas.

Language– Mix with Punjabi, Hindi, English.

Location– Canada

GRFDT organized a Film-screening titled "Asa Nu Mann Watan Da" on 22nd September, 2012 at Room No- 13, CSSS II, Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi. A welcome note and brief introduction about the film screening was given by Mr. Suraj Beri, Research Scholar of the Centre for the Study of Social System, JNU. A brief introduction by all the participants was given. Dr Sadananda Sahoo also introduced Prof. Vinod Khadria, who is an eminent scholar on diaspora and migration issue to the participants.

"Asa Nu Mann Watan Da" was a three hour long movie based on the social and psychological conflicts and trauma of a both families who are back home and who left home and settled in Canada. The diaspora, in this film, can be understood with two perspectives which is an opportunity for development as well as the problem of acculturation, homesickness and affiliation towards own people, culture and country. The film portrays the story of Kawaljeet Singh who moved to Canada leaving behind his mother, younger brother and village for a greener pasture. The film throws light on various economic issues such as remittances flow to the rural Punjab and its social impact.

Dr. Sadananda Sahoo (L) and Prof. Vinod Khadaria (R)

This film also looks at very serious issues such as "Kabutar-bazi" and how the innocent people get trapped into it while moving abroad. The longing for home is well depicted as the emotional trauma due to separation from home is deeply felt by families abroad. Though the emotional feelings vary across generation, yet there is a deep sense of comfort when it comes to home. Some people also get excited to go outside India and get settle there. Initially, people attract from western culture, development, economy and materialistic lifestyle but soon they realize the emotions, feelings and love for own people and nation.

On the opposite, the family-members have huge expectations from those who are living abroad. It also gives a kind of social prestige among the community people because they think them as rich and money-lenders. The irony is often felt when diaspora is considered as foreigner even though they get respect back home. They are denied the rights of property and rights of ownership by their own people. Even, the legal-administrative system creates hindrance to give their proper land-rights just because they live far from their home-country. When Kawaljeet went to judicial officer to get the property on his name, he took bribe from him and blamed him that he is an outsider (foreigner) and he himself responsible for the risk of the property.

The film also touched upon issues such as gender, youth aspiration, contradictions of new generation towards foreign land etc. The stereo type of gender is still visible. The father becomes suspicious when one male friend dropped

his daughter. After spending his major time in Canada, he is (Kawaljeet Singh) still having gender stereotype, which is evident when he witnessed his daughter dating with her male-friend. Even, Kawaljeet's wife is very traditional, sincere and house-wife who has her no personal wish against his husband's wish. It shows the burden of patriarchy followed the migrants in the new place of settlement.

The film also depicts how the family and cultural factor becomes important during marriages. The marriage is a social institution which precedes not only the relation between groom and bride but also transfers the social-cultural identity of family or a group. Mehar, son of Kawaljeet decided to get marry with a Punjabi village girl for the marriage after coming from Canada. He spent his childhood in Canada but he kept the family and culture at his priorities for selecting girl for the marriage. The diaspora people always have emotional attachment with their culture, festivals, life-style, family and their community people.

M. Suraj Beri

Ms. Maryam

The diasporic people faced many problems but still they wish to return back to their roots because they take it as their pride. It is thus, the title justifies the issues "Asa Nu Mann Watan Da" which means 'my country's pride is my pride'.

At last, the programme was ended with the discussion by Miss Kshipra Uke and then during the open-discussion, many issues and questions related to gender, second immigrant generation and cultural affiliation etc. has been discussed among the participants. The film shows that the homesickness and loneliness from the own culture called back the people who are living across the country towards their homeland. ■

Report By-
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Book Review

Dudrah, Rajinder. (2012). Bollywood Travels: Culture, diaspora and border crossings in popular Hindi cinema. Rutledge Publication. ISBN: 0415447402 . P– 144

This book is based on a research journey about a cinematic medium, i.e. Bollywood and its products; its audience and the context of reception. It is a product of years of research and writing by the author and some of its chapters have been published and presented in different scholarly domain in the past few years. The reason for saying this is Rajinder Dudrah is a familiar name for those interested in "cultural studies" and to be more specific "reception studies". From the reception studies perspective the present monograph can be placed within "the third generation audience studies" (Alasuutari 1999) as it pays equal attention to the texts, audiences and the context of consumption. To say it differently this is a very timely contribution to the growing body of literature on the analysis of popular culture and its reception.

As the title suggests Bollywood Travels indicates a globalized media phenomenon that crosses multiple geographical territories through distribution of the films to their intended markets and simultaneously through film form and language. The idea of Bollywood as a "culture industry" (Adorno and Horkheimer 1993) producing and reproducing popular culture has been claimed and preserved though out.

Through this scholarly endeavor the author seeks answers for three key objectives. First "What happens to issues of culture and diaspora in Bollywood cinema, especially as it develops as a cinema and popular culture in the era of globalization?" Second "How far, and to what extent, do some if its films and related products (i.e. starts and related film industry) travel across borders of various kinds (cultural, social, economic and actual nation-state boundaries)?" Last but not the least "How do audiences

take up some of these mediations and incorporate them into their lives beyond mere cinematic spectatorship?"

The book attempts to answer some of these questions by drawing on participant observation, textual analysis, and performance and cultural studies. The author attempts to make sense of the phenomena of Bollywood shows, especially from the viewpoint of the diaspora.

The author has developed on the existing body of works done by distinguished scholar on Bollywood, like Madhava Prasad (2003), Ashish Rajadhyakshya (2003, 2009), Vijay Mishra (2008) etc. These scholars mostly concentrated on the nomenclature of Bollywood, and how it has become the preferred term, replacing earlier descriptors such as Bombay Cinema, Indian Popular Cinema, and Hindi Cinema; its relationship with the hegemonic centre of Hollywood film production and distribution around the world. Moving ahead of these works Dudrah focuses on the changing representation of diaspora itself as Bollywood films, popular culture, and its cultural industries travel and interact with global cultures and ideas outside India. As Bollywood cinema partly relies on the Indian and wider South Asian diaspora for its monetary growth, it regularly seeks to depict this diaspora in its own special ways.

Through his journey in 'Bollywood Travels' the author examines some of Bollywood cinema's recent travels where part of its pleasure and tensions are about crossing borders of various imaginative and actual kinds. He does so through the textual analysis of some of the recent popular and successful Hindi films, their possible readings and uses by audiences in the diaspora as wider popular culture, and its 'cultural industry maneuvers' in the cotemporary moment of globalization. He says that "in crossing such socio-cultural borders in the production and uses of the films and popular culture by filmmakers and audiences, this allows the creation of border places and spaces" (p. 99).

Citing the scope for Bollywood travels in future the author says that we should pay attention to the various industrial, textual and socio-economic dynamics of the movements across Bollywood and its neighboring cinemas. This may include the travel of popular films from the south to the north of India and beyond, where one can focus on the translation of films into different languages, and also the recent phenomenon where some of India's industry personnel (like Mani Ratnam) who often work on regional and Bollywood films simultaneously.

The Book is divided into seven chapters. In the first chapter the author introduces his work and places it within the larger body of literature on Bollywood and diaspora. The second chapter takes up the issue of border and border crossing in the recent popular films like Main Hoon Na and Veer Zaara with a special focus on the troubled relationship between India and Pakistan. The third chapter analyzes and discusses the filmic text of Jhoom Barabar Jhoom as an interesting take on issues of the diaspora and homeland. The fourth chapter deals with the issues of queer gender and sexuality in the mainstream gay Bollywood film Dostana. These four chapters deal with the film form, content, plots and narratives and focus on how pleasure in the texts can be critically read and assessed. Moving ahead the fifth chapter in this book develops the theoretical framework of the 'haptic urban ethnoscape' which deals with the multi-sensory ways of interaction between the film text and the audience, in metropolitan locales. Differing from all others, the sixth chapter explores how the star-studded Bollywood shows and the culture industries perform an idea of Bollywood. The last and the concluding chapter (chapter 7) explore the future pathways for the continuation of this spirit of Bollywood through social networking sites like twitter.

One noticeable aspect of this book is, though its chapters vary in their scope, the common thread that binds them together is the concept/idea of Bollywood. The book is neatly written and the concepts/ideas are well developed for a better understanding of the reader. Through his writing the author takes the reader on a smooth journey of 'Bollywood in the foreign lands'.

More recent studies like Bollywood and Globalization (2011) edited by Mehta and Pandharipande, Tracing an Indian Diaspora (2008) edited by Raghuram et.al. mostly focus on the content of the filmic text and how they deal with the idea of diaspora whereas the present study by Dudrah looks beyond the text to understand the interaction between the text and the audience and the presence of Bollywood's culture industry in the life of the diasporic audience outside theatre.

This book is an excellent piece of work and a scholarly contribution to the emerging field of Sociology of Media and Communication. Anyone who is interested in the areas of sociology, diaspora, media and film studies will find it interesting and useful. ■

By
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GRFDT Interview

A supportive environment in India has shown to be necessary for triggering the development impact of diaspora engagement enabling a real brain gain, says Dr. Gabriela Tejada

Dr. Gabriela Tejada, scientific collaborator at the Cooperation and Development Center (CODEV) at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland. She shared some of her ideas on Scientific diaspora with **Jitendra D. Soni** of GRFDT.

- **You have been working on a very important issue called scientific diaspora. In what way this diaspora is important to the economy of the sending country? Are there any success stories where the sending countries have benefitted from their scientific diaspora?**

  The issue of scientific diasporas is part of the optimistic functionalist visions of migration and development which have gained prominence from 2000 onwards supporting the idea that the international mobility of human capital can lead to benefits for the home country. The well-known examples of India and China have shown that indeed scientists and skilled professionals abroad can contribute to a strengthening of the countries' scientific and technological capacities through knowledge and technology transfer as well as business and entrepreneurial investments and links. There are other cases in point that are more hidden but equally relevant. For example, the Romanian Ad-Astra Network created through the efforts of Romanian scientists abroad, achieved to enhance the research sector in that country. Another case is the Society for the Advancement of Science and Technology in the Arab World (SASTA) funded by Arab scientists around the world, who through their advisory work and cooperation with institutions in the home countries have contributed to the creation and strengthen of local scientific capacities and the impact of higher education in science.

- **Can you please differentiate the experiences of India and other countries such as South Africa, Mexico, Colombia and Moldova in reference to skilled mobility and engaging their scientific diaspora for development at home?**

  Those countries have considered various ways of capitalizing on the resources of their skilled people abroad and have accordingly implemented different strategies for knowledge transfer and cooperation. These case country examples show how the capitalizationof diasporas' resources could take different forms such as for instance: financial transfers, knowledge circulation and recovery through scientific diasporas' networks, temporary return or circular migration, or the encouragement of investment practices and policies. Colombia and South Africa are examples of efforts towards the involvement of scientific diasporas at a distance through the creation of pioneer scientific diaspora networks making use of the information and communication technologies.Moldova, which has been hard hit by brain drain, has implemented concrete innovative policies to cooperate with the scientific diaspora such as the Short Term Visit Programme for Scientists implemented in collaboration with IOM. Furthermore Moldova launched some years ago the pilot PARE 1+1 Programme which seeks to stimulate the transfer of remittances through official channels to create new private business with a special focus being placed in rural areas. This is a replication of the Programme 3 x 1 implemented by Mexico which channels collective remittances to community projects.These remittances programmes are however not focused on highly skilled. On that specific issue, Mexico has created the Network of Talent (Red de Telentos)with the aim of boosting the country's technological innovation and capacities to advance towardsa knowledge based economy through the creation of synergies between skilled Mexicans abroad and the Mexican public and private sectors.

- **Your work on India diaspora especially focusing on skilled diaspora, do you think India scenario is ready for brain circulation or brain gain? What are the experiences and what are the drawbacks?**

Transnational linkages are crucial for the transfer of skills and knowledge from the diaspora. Our study on skilled Indians abroad indicates that they cultivate strong transnational links with India. While their aspirations to contribute to the development of India depend on their length of stay and main activity in the host country, we have seen that scientists and researchers feel more strongly about being engaged and cooperate, and they also see possible avenues to link their research and scientific activity to societal needs. The potential is there because the scientific diaspora want to give back and is motivated. However, skilled Indians abroad have a lack of trust in the necessary enabling environment provided by the home country. Therefore, a supportive environment in India has shown to be necessary for triggering the development impact of diaspora engagement enabling a real brain gain.

I think that the importance of scientific diaspora will be highly recognized in the next decade, both for home country and for host country development.

- **How do you think about the return diaspora option in the Indian context? Are they promise better in terms of entrepreneurship and skill for economic development as compared to the people living outside home country?**

I have leaded research on Indian skilled mobility for the past two years, and the preliminary results of our empirical research indicate that return migration to India is indeed taking place. Our study shows that skilled Indians have strong expectations of their migration project for their career and academic progress. Their mobility plans, specifically regarding the decisions to stay in the host country, to return to India or to move to a third destination follow a combination of both professional and familiar factors. In the particular case of Indian students, we can see that many of them plan to return to their home country, but they wish to benefit from gaining international working experience before going back. The return plans confirm their belief of the economic and professional opportunities that India has to offer. The crucial issue is if they will indeed have the opportunity to transfer their skills gained abroad upon return. It is true that the return to the home country could be viewed as a feedback effect of skilled migration given that migrants' foreign exposure may bring improved levels of knowledge and technical skills, which could then help to generate employment and raise productivity in the home country. In fact, return migration could be very beneficial, depending on the nature of the skills flowing in and the type of opportunities available. However, research on the issue suggests that thriving returnees successfully combine access to productive employment, and an enabling environment, with the possibility of influencing the home country.

- **How do you visualize the role of scientific diaspora in next 10 years as most of the developed countries such as in the case of Europe and USA who are seriously trying to woo the entrepreneurs and high skilled professionals to boast their economy?**

I think that the importance of scientific diaspora will be highly recognized in the next decade, both for home country and for host country development. In the case of some European countries that we have studied (such as France, Germany, The Netherlands and Switzerland), we can see that they are ever more aware of the value of skilled persons from third countries as added talent that will help increase their competitiveness, and they are therefore introducing innovative immigration policies focused on foreign skilled persons as they are interested in meeting their industry requirements and alleviate skills gaps. Furthermore, the internationalization of higher education in such countries will certainly play a key role as well given that it might continue encouraging the flows of international students. Such European countries are also implementing policies enabling the transition of international students to the labour market. All in all, these countries are ever more implementing strategies for means of attracting and retaining foreign skilled people. And I think this tendency will remain in the following decade. **(Contd.)**

We invite Students, Researchers and Faculty Members to submit Stories, Reviews, Articles, Working papers and other academic notes to the editor. It will provide the scholars a platform to connect with peer groups working on themes related to Diaspora and Transnationalism. Information related to seminar/conferences/events can be sent to the Editor at: editor@grfdt.com

- **How GRFDT can bring vibrancy in research and policy making in the field of diaspora and transnationalism studies?**
  The creation of the GRFDT is very timely given the increasing importance of diasporas' contributions to the home countries, within the migration and development international agenda. GRFDT could function as a common platform for interfaces between researchers and policy makers to address these topics with the aim of jointly leveraging and optimize diasporas' engagement and scarce resources, to publicizeactivities and initiatives, to learn from each other and share effective practices.

Gabriela Tejada *is a scientific collaborator at the Cooperation and Development Center (CODEV) at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland, where she is Project Leader of research into scientific diasporas. She has undertaken research into skilled mobility and scientific diasporas, studying countries such as Colombia, South Africa, India, Mexico and Moldova. She obtained her primary degree in International Relations from Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico and holds a PhD in Political Science from the Autonomous University of Barcelona in Spain.*

Diaspora Conference Report

International Seminar

"Indian Transnationalism Online: Ethnographic Explorations"

26-27 March 2012

The two days International seminar on 'Indian Transnationalism Online: Ethnographic Explorations' was held successfully at the University of Hyderabad during 26-27 March 2012. The Seminar was jointly organized by the Centre for the Study of Indian Diaspora, University of Hyderabad, India and Department of Cultural Anthropology, Utrecht University, the Netherlands. Over 20 eminent scholars including academicians, policy makers, and lawyers working in the interdisciplinary field of Indian diaspora and transnationalism (7 international scholars from 5 different countries around the world and around 13 scholars from different parts India) participated in this seminar. The seminar was coordinated by Dr. Ajaya K. Sahoo, Faculty, Centre for Study of Indian Diaspora, University of Hyderabad.

Professor E. Haribabu, the honourable Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hyderabad inaugurated the two days international seminar on 26th March 2012 at 10.00am at the Conference Hall of the School of Social Sciences. Professor G. Nancharaiah, Dean, School of Social Sciences chaired the inaugural session. Dr. Ajaya K. Sahoo, Centre for Study of Indian Diaspora, University of Hyderabad, and Dr. J. G. Kruijf Hans, Department of Cultural Anthropology, Utrecht University, the Netherlands (the seminar coordinators) introduced the theme of the seminar. Professor Anand Mitra, Wake Forest University, USA delivered the keynote address of the seminar titled "Will the Real Indian please stand up?" The inaugural session of the seminar was closed with a vote of thanks by Dr. Amit K. Mishra, Faculty of the Centre for Study of Indian Diaspora, University of Hyderabad.

Delegates of the International Seminar

Workshop Report

Fostering Development through Diasporic Engagement

Workshop on South Asian Diaspora

Diasporas are gaining increasing space in the recent discourses on development, not just in developing countries but also in the global arena. As evident, the migration from one country to another is increasing despite various political and legal barriers. In many countries around the world substantial parts of their population live in diaspora. South Asian countries have a sizable diaspora population. In the recent year these sizable populations i.e. approximately 50 million, who are largely active economic and cultural players have drawn attention of scholars from academic and policy. One major areas of scholarship is related to the development issue, especially how diaspora engages in the development process of home and host countries. The impacts of diaspora are visible in the forms of remittance, films, literature and cultural events. Understanding the diaspora needs a holistic perspective as there are many factors interwoven in it. It is in this context the workshop on "Diaspora and Development: South Asian Diaspora Engagement in South Asia" during 27-28 September 2012 by the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore became significant. The two days workshop which was organized by Dr. Mizanur Rahman, Mamta Sachan Kumar and Hema Kripalini brought together researchers from diverse disciplines and experiences from across the globe to delve upon various issues of development in South Asia.

The workshop brought insight into diaspora engagement in the areas entrepreneurship, philanthropy, international relations, remittances, advocacy, peace building, trade such as in ethnic goods, political engagement, socio-cultural linkages and religious or spiritual movements, amongst many other categories.

The workshop had eight sessions comprising of 38 research papers. Prof. S. Narayan, Head (Research) and visiting Senior Research Fellow highlighted the importance of diasporic engagement in development of South Asia. He emphasized that the objective of the workshop was to provide innovative and fresh perspective to engage the diaspora in South Asia. First session gave an overview as well as critical assessment of various the state policies on engaging the South Asian Diaspora. There were comparative perspectives and analysis on various issues and country experiences. Moderator Prof. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury and speakers Nihal Rodrigo, Dr. Smita Tiwari and Dr. Constantino Xavier provided fresh perspectives on diaspora in the context of South Asian countries.

The second session had three papers which threw light on how diasporic and transnational networks operate and channelize the resources for the development, though there are nuances in every engagement. Moderator Prof. Riaz Hassan, Visiting Research Professor, ISAS and speakers Prof. Jeffrey Samuels, Prof. Virinder S Kalra and Prof. S. Akbar Zaidi highlighted the how diaspora influences the in different sectors including public policy and civil society organization. While Prof. Samuels and Prof. Kalra's focus was on diaspora networks in religious welfare in India and Sri Lanka respectively, Prof. Zaidi

(From L-R) Dr. Smita Tiwari, Ambassador Nihal Rodrigo, Prof. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury and Constantino Xavier

Session three on "Remittances and Development in South Asia" was moderated by Dr. Mizanur Rahman, Convenor of the workshop. Three papers by Dr. Rita Afsar, Dr. Shahadat Khan and Puja Guha had thrown light on country specific and local experiences in relation to gender, micro enterprises, poverty alleviation, and enterprise development.

"South Asian-South Asian Linkages through the Diaspora" was the theme of fourth session where papers by Shanthini Pillai, Mamta Sachan Kumar, Hema Kripalini, Jayati Bhattacharya were discussed. Interesting cases related to cultural, economic, community engagement within Asian countries were discussed. The session was moderated by Prof. Lian Kwen Fee, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, NUS.

(From L-R) Dr. Carolin Fischer, Dr. Manasi Ray, Dr. Amitendu Palit, Dr. Pierre Gottschlich and Ms. Kshipra Uke

The next two sessions were parallel sessions. In the session five, parallel I, titled "South Asian Labour Migration and Development" there were three papers by Dr. Hisaya Oda, Dr. Ajaya Kumar Sahoo, Dr. S.M. Hassan respectively. Impact of Gulf migration and its impact on rural people in both Pakistan and India were highlighted. Interesting results relating to the social development and structural changes in rural social and economic arena were shared.

The session six too had two parallel sessions. In Parallel I titled "South Asian-Western Linkages through Diasporas" there were four papers by Dr. Carolin Fischer, Dr. Manashi Ray, Dr. Pierre Gottschlich and Ms. Kshipra K. Uke respectively. How the linkages and networks mobilize resources in the context of Indian and Afghanistan diaspora in USA and Europe were critically highlighted. How diaspora networks are used and misused in various contexts were also discussed.

Parallel II of the session six on theme was extension of the same theme as in the third session on "Remittances and Development of South Asia". This was moderated by Prof. Ahsan Ullah, Associate Director, Centre for Migration and Refugee Studies, The American University in Cairo. Four papers by Dr. Md. Arshad, Md. Salahuddin, Anshul Pachouri (co-author) and Dr. Kazi Haque (co-author) provided insights into various dynamics of home and host countries that influence the remittances and diaspora engagement in development.

Session Seven titled "Diaspora Engagement: Models for Development" was moderated by Prof. Robin Jeffrey, Visiting Research Professor, ISAS. Four research papers had discussed the role and contribution of professional diasporas of India and Bangladesh in both home and host countries.

The last session titled "Philanthropic and Other Forms of Engagement" was moderated by Prof. S.D. Muni, Visiting Professor, ISAS. Various dynamics of diasporic giving and cultural politics were detailed discussed in the context of Punjab and Andhra Pradesh. How the virtual space is used by the diaspora network and its impact on the values and power relations at home was highlighted. The paper presenters were Dr. Kaveri Quereshi, Dr. V.J. Varghese, Dr. Sadananda Sahoo and Dr. Kiran Mirchandani.

The closing remarks were given by Dr. Mizanur Rahman, convenor of the workshop. He highlighted the importance of the workshop in providing the new insight in engaging South Asian Diaspora in the development of South Asia. He proposed the vote of thanks to all the participants, organizing committee and the University for making the workshop meaningful.

The evening had a special event of lunching a book on "Introduction to Kerala Studies" edited by Dr. Anthony Palackal. The event was graced by Mr. Hri Kumar Nair (Guest-of-Honour), Member of Parliament, Singapore, Ambassador Gopinath Pillai, Chairman, ISAS. There was threadbare discussion on the book by both Prof. Robin Jeffry and the editor Dr. Anthony Palackal. The event ended with a vote of thanks and evening refreshments.

In a nutshell, the workshop is one of its kinds where different stakeholders shared their perspective on engaging South Asian diaspora in the regional development. The outcome of the workshop will be brought out in the form of publication in the year 2013.

(Cont.…)

Highlights of the workshop

Despite the hard borders between India and Pakistan, though also with Bangladesh, it is often overlooked that certain organisations still manage to circumvent these state impediments and maintain flows of people and goods. Sites of spiritual significance play a particularly poignant role in this respect. Indeed, the most paradigmatic example of this is the shrine of Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, at Ajmer in India. This shrine links together the Northern countries of South Asia (Pakistan, India and Bangladesh) as well as their respective diasporas.

Prof. Virinder S Kalra, Senior Lecturer in Sociology, University of Manchester.

It is not just in official policy circles and institutions that diasporic Pakistani professionals have played a key role, but one look at Pakistan's print media will reveal that a significant number of prominent and highly respected interlocutors on Pakistan are also diasporic Pakistanis. Their influence is critical and cannot be denied.

S Akbar Zaidi, Visiting Professor, School of International Public Affairs (SIPA).

In the post September world that is marred with mistrust and partisan politics, donor agencies and legal advocates need to play proactive role to promote legal residence opportunity for immigrants and facilitate visa policy that allows easy entry and departure for members of diaspora between home and host countries.

Rita Afsar, Former Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Dhaka

Diaspora philanthropy has also significantly contributed towards the regional development. Thus the policy framework to motivate Diaspora engagements should not only focus on increasing the economic remittances and migrant investments, but should also promote Diaspora philanthropy as a source of development.

Puja Guha, Visiting Scientist, Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore

Most Hindu-Sindhis who were forced to flee their ancestral land of Sindh in the India-Pakistan partition of 1947 lost physical claim to their homeland. For them, Sindh as homeland is more symbolic, and somewhat fragmented in the fading memories of the elderly and vague childhood impressions of the generation that followed. With no physical stake in Sindh, religious tension present at the time and accessibility difficult and dangerous, Sindh and the Hindu-Sindhi diaspora have grown greatly distant over time.

Mamta Sachan Kumar, Research Associate, Institute of South Asian Studies

What anecdotal evidence as well as media reports suggests is that diaspora political linkages are often outpacing diaspora economic linkages in Bangladesh. A number of MPs from both the major political parties of AL and BNP were long term expatriates. Leaders of both the parties often make fund raising visits to key diaspora concentrations of UK, US and Saudi Arabia. Funding and participation of diaspora is frequent even in local government (i.e. Union Parishad) elections particularly in migrant prone regions of Sylhet and Comilla.

Kazi Haque, Senior Research Associate, Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Non Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) has catered service to the ageing people and also provided tangible resources to the ageing people in Nepal.

Huong Ha, University of Newcastle, Singapore

The Bangladeshi diaspora (along with the migrant workers) contributes to the development of the country in many ways. These include economic remittances (which account for 13.68 per cent of Bangladesh's GDP), homeland economic investment (FDI), knowledge /technology skills transfer, tourism development, entrepreneurship philanthropy and policy advocacy.

Taiabur Rahman, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Public Administration, Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research

Global Update

International tourists potential health risk, according to department of Immigration and Citizenship, Australia

According to recent study of Department of Immigration and Citizenship, Australia shows that more than 700 foreigners a month entering airports declare they are carriers of TB, a potentially deadly infectious disease. Travellers are not necessarily denied entry if they self-identify health concerns, such as TB, criminal convictions or hazardous items. They will be assessed by officials, however. If TB is spotted, a customs officer is required to contact local health professionals and tests are conducted to see if there is a risk to the community. The traveller may have to seek treatment while in Australia. Two of Australia's biggest tourist sources - China and India - are among the top nations globally when it comes to the number of TB carriers. However, the Department of Health and Ageing said they were not concerned tourists with TB may be slipping through the cracks at our airports. ■

Brain Gain for Ethiopia after Economic Growth

It is quite interesting to see the recent trend in Ethiopian diaspora towards homeland. Young members of the Ethiopian diaspora are returning in large numbers to their country of birth. The Ethiopian government welcomes the impact these returnees could have on the economy. There are about 3 million Ethiopians living abroad - mostly in North America and Europe. But in recent years, thousands of young professionals have come back to Ethiopia to look for business opportunities. Ethiopia is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Many returnees have already started new businesses. The total investment capital of the returnees is an estimated $1.1 billion. That's almost as much as the $1.4 billion Ethiopia received last year in remittances. About 3,000 members of Ethiopia's diaspora have returned for investment purposes. The first draft of Ethiopian diaspora policy will be sent to the federal government in the coming weeks for approval. ■

Migration and Development: Opportunities and Challenges

Call for Paper: Interdisciplinary National Seminar "Migration and Development: Opportunities and Challenges" 4-5 January 2013, Organised by International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai

Last date for receiving abstracts: November 25, 2012

Website: http://iipsindia.org/pdf/migration%20A3%20final%20for%20print.pdf

7th International Conference on Population Geographies, Groningen

The call for abstracts will open in September. Abstracts concerning all aspects of population geographies will be welcome. Furthermore, you can submit abstracts to special sessions on the following topics (provisional titles):

- Global population change and migration
- High-skilled migration

Deadline for abstracts expected January 2013

http://www.rug.nl/frw/onderzoek/icpg2013/index

University of Witwatersrand, Centre for Indian Studies in Africa, Faculty of Humanities
CISA Masters and Doctoral Fellowships

The Centre for Indian Studies in Africa (established in 2010) has two ongoing projects funded by the Mellon Foundation and the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India. The Centre for Indian Studies in Africa (established in 2010) has two ongoing projects funded by the Mellon Foundation and the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India.two MA Fellowships which will be tenable for one year starting January 2013 and will be of the value of R 100000. On the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs project we are calling for applications for one PhD fellowship tenable for three years commencing January 2013 leading towards a PhD from the University of Witwatersrand and will be of the value of R 150000 p.a. and one Masters fellowship for an MA by dissertation commencing January 2013 tenable for one year and will be of the value R 100000. Complete applications should be emailed to Merle.Govind@wits.ac.za on or before the 31st October 2012. or posted to the Centre for Indian Studies in Africa c/o African Literature Department University of Witwatersrand Private Bag 3 Wits 2050 Johannesburg South Africa. For further information contact Prof Dilip Menon (Dilip.menon@wits.ac.za). Website: http://www.cisa-wits.org.za/

We invite Students, Researchers and Faculty Members to submit Stories, Reviews, Articles, Working papers and other academic notes to the editor. It will provide the scholars a platform to connect with peer groups working on themes related to Diaspora and Transnationalism. Information related to seminar/conferences/events can be sent to the Editor at: editor@grfdt.com