

MAHANIRBAN CALCUTTA RESEARCH GROUP

Annual Report for 2010-2011

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1. Action Taken Report

- 1.1. The Memorial Lecture in honour of Jayanta Dasgupta was held on 17 March 2011, at Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata. Professor Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, the then Chairman of ICHR, delivered the lecture. The title of the lecture was *"Mill Strikes in Bombay, 1928-29, and Munshi Premchand as Filmmaker"*
- 1.2. We have discussed with IDRC the idea of research collaboration with China. The suggested theme is "Development and Grassroots Democracy in China and India: A contemporary study". Besides, we have invited two Chinese scholars to the 4th Critical Studies Conference. It will be held in Kolkata on 8-10 September 2011.
- 1.3. The Resource Centre on Forced Migration Studies has started functioning. Some of the primary material relating to development studies and migration studies has been uploaded. It also contains primary material on Rajarhat, New Town Project. We are also waiting for Kumar Rana's help. In the last AGM he had kindly offered to organize some important archival documents for the Resource Centre.
- 1.4. As per the decision of the last AGM the following persons were invited to become members of the CRG and they kindly accepted it :
 1. Ishita Dey
 2. Manabir Majumdar
 3. Mandira Sen
 4. Manish Kumar Jha
 5. Rajesh Kharat
- 1.5. This year on the occasion of the AGM no academic programme could be organized. The reason is that the academic programme schedule was decided earlier while the date for the AGM could be decided much later.
- 1.6. As reported to the preceding AGM an International Advisory Committee has been set up and the Committee has been formally notified. The list of members (along with short bio-notes and photographs) is on our website. The Kolkata based Advisory Committee meet from time to time and give their valuable advice to the Director.

2. Programmes of the CRG

2.1 Programme on Forced Migration

(a) The Winter Course

On 15 December 2010 the Eighth Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration came to an end. Preparation for the Eighth Annual Winter Course commenced on 14 December 2009, a day before the Seventh Winter Course formally ended. By that time, the members of CRG and its partners had realized that the Winter Course has grown into a full-fledged programme with components of research, publications, networking, particularly partnership between Indian and Finnish institutions, and training under innovative and different formats. This was later accepted and endorsed by the advisors during the advisory committee meeting on 8 May 2011 in New Delhi. Representatives from the UNHCR, the Embassy of Finland, our colleagues and members of the course committee and former course participants attended the day-long deliberation to discuss selection procedure, participants profile, module structure of the course, media segment, field-visit and follow up segment. Like the Eighth Annual Winter Course this year also the course was built around eight modules comprising five compulsory modules and three optional modules.

Twenty-one participants were selected for the course, of which seventeen attended the 15 day workshop at Kolkata. Two Pakistani participants, while successfully completing the distance education segment of the course were unable to attend the workshop due to visa problems. This year for the first time we had participants from Sikkim, one of the eastern Himalayan states of India and from Brazil. We had human right activists working at the camp like Jhapa, Nepal, who brought with them wider experiences of victimhood of internally displaced persons and of rehabilitation and care. We had media practitioner and filmmaker from New Delhi, India and a Consultant for conflict transformation and peace-building from Sri Lanka as participants. Besides we had participants such as an Assistant professor, a retired engineer, social workers, and researchers from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan and Canada. Resource persons from various universities and institutions across South Asia, South East Asia and outside South Asia were invited to join as faculty members of the Eighth Winter Course on Forced Migration. The faculty was drawn from people with recognized backgrounds in refugee studies, studies on internal displacement, university teaching and research, humanitarian work in NGOs, journalism, legal studies, UN functionaries, particularly UNHCR functionaries; public policy analysis, journalism, and concerned human rights activism and humanitarian work. This year, with the help of the Department of Refugee, Relief and Rehabilitation, Government of West Bengal CRG arranged a field visit to the Cooper's Camp, located at Ranaghat subdivision of Nadia district, West Bengal. The aim was to help the participants interact with the camp-dwellers, the victims of the partition of India 1947, who have been surviving within the camp as the Permanent Liability (PL members) of the Government of West Bengal since 1950.

The programme had special lectures and interactive components. There was also a panel discussion on "War and Refugee Women in South Asia" with which the programme opened in Kolkata. It ended with the third distinguished lecture delivered by Walter Kaelin on the theme of International Law and Climate Induced Displacement."

There were two significant follow up programmes - one was a media workshop held in January 2011 on the theme of media and displacement in the Northeast. The aim was to bring out a media reader. This is now in print. The second was a students' workshop on forced migration held in March in collaboration with Jadavpur University.

As part of the Winter Course follow up exercise Arpita Das, a participant was selected to go to Dhaka to study the situation of internal displacement there due to disaster like flood. Another participant Fatima Azmiya Badrudeen from Sri Lanka was given short duration fellowship to work at CRG and to write a report on internal displacement in Sri Lanka. She also presented her views in a seminar at CRG. Her report has been

published. Juha Rudanko of Finland was also awarded a short-term writing fellowship under the winter course programme. He in his study on, "What is the Finnish Immigration debate really about?" aimed to sketch some of the central challenges for Finland, as it faces both rising numbers of immigrants and a rise in anti-immigrant sentiment. Under the South Asia Exchange Programme, Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury of CRG visited Sri Lanka in February-March 2011 for her research on *States and Stateless in South Asia: Plantation workers of Sri Lanka*.

(b) Journal Refugee Watch :

There was a meeting to strengthen the journal Refugee Watch which has proved to be an indispensable part of the CRG's programme on forced migration studies.

(c) Study on Statelessness :

Besides all these CRG also produced a detailed research report on the Statelessness of Chakmas in Arunachal Pradesh. UNHCR, India, supported this programme. CRG produced an extensive report which was sent to UNHCR. UNHCR has requested certain modification in the report which are now being done. When published this will be possibly the first of such a detailed report on a group of victims of statelessness in India. Samir Kumar Das and Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury prepared the report. Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury and Sucharita Sengupta undertook intensive field work in Arunachal Pradesh. CRG also organized a half-day workshop on statelessness as part of the winter course. We now plan to carry forward our research work on Statelessness.

(d) Other Workshops :

There was also a workshop in Kathmandu in November 2010 in collaboration with the Nepal UNHCR for refugee rights activists of Nepal. Besides Nepal UNHCR the RSC, Oxford University, also supported the programme. Kathmandu workshop produced three study papers on refugees and IDPs in Nepal. These study papers were subsequently revised and then published under CRG's research paper series Policies and Practices and in Refugee Watch.

(e) Fellowships under the segment of Resource Centre

Resource Centre facilitates inter-country researches through exchange visits in South Asia, provides short term scholarships/fellowships to young researchers and documents the myriad aspects of forced migration. CRG wants to initiate more exchanges of scholars from other South Asian countries to work on the theme of forced migration and displacement. The main objective is to develop first-hand knowledge and experiences about forced migration and displacement in the neighbouring countries of South Asia. CRG publicizes its research outputs as widely as possible and organizes short term training programmes for dissemination of knowledge thus accumulated.

For 2010-11, we provided writing fellowships to four researchers. The list is given below:

- **Anuradha Gunarathne**, National Project Coordinator in National Protection and Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons Project, Human Rights Commission, Sri Lanka
Research Topic: *Post conflict and Creative Avenues of Reconciling Adolescence: Realising Protection (Legal and Institutional Challenges) in contemporary Sri Lanka.*
- **Surendra Kumar**, Lecturer, Political Science, Bangalore University
Research Topic: *Conflict and Internal Displacement in Sri Lanka: Concerns and Obstacles to Durable Solutions* (published as ***Policies and Practices No: 41***)
- **Roopshree Joshi**, Project Manager, Lutheran World Federation, Nepal
Research Topic: *For the Tibetans living in Nepal*
- **Anita Ghimire**, Project Co-leader and Post Doctoral Fellow, Migration Revisited; NCCR-North and South.

Research Topic: *Rethinking Women in forced displacement.*

The reports by Roopshree and Anita have been selected for *Refugee Watch* Journal.

Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury handled the desk. Ishita Dey managed the Kathmandu programme. Paula Banerjee and Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury advised the desk. Nilanjan Dutta coordinated the work of the media workshop. He has edited the media volume.

The Government of Finland, UNHCR India, and the Brookings Institution helped the main component of the programme. Our thanks go to these institutions.

2.2. Research and Dialogues on *“Development, Democracy and Governance: Lessons and Policy Implications, 2010-2011*

In its second year, the programme on **“Development, Democracy, and Governance- Lessons and Policy Implications”** continued the work of research, publications, and workshops. Two companion volumes titled *Political Transition in India and the Imperatives of Development* and *New Subjects, New Governance* based on the research clusters are in the process of publication. Ranabir Samaddar and Suhit Sen are the co-editors of the two volumes.

Two issues of *Policies and Practices* titled *Between Ecology and Economy: Environmental Governance in India* by Sutirtha Bedajna and *Place of Poor in Urban Space* by Manish Jha were also published in the year under consideration.

Dialogues, conferences, workshops and public lectures were organized as part of the programme. A two-day research workshop on “Development, Democracy and Governance- Lessons and Policy Implications” was held on 14-15 May 2010. Issues like nationalism, developmentalism, elections, role of technology in governance, education and state and governance were discussed in the workshop.

A one and half day symposium on “The Biopolitics of Development: Life, Welfare, and Unruly Populations” was organized on 9-10 September 2010 in collaboration with University of Lapland and the Finnish Academy. The symposium sought to address the issue of development and security in underdeveloped countries and the responses of people.

A Two Day Workshop on “Understanding Collective Action, Violence, and Post-Colonial Democracy” was organized on 19-20 March 2011 in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla. The workshop sought to engage with the issue of violence in contexts of elections, democratic institutions, gender and claim making in post-colonial democracies.

On 23-25 March 2011 CRG organized a special panel discussion on the theme of social justice and governance in the University of Hyderabad. It was part of a conference organized by the Centre for Exclusion Studies, Hyderabad University. CRG was a collaborator in this programme. Large number of students, Dalit activists and scholars, and other scholars attended the conference.

Three public lectures were held as part of the programme. They were:

1. **Ranabir Samaddar**, "Michel Foucault and our Post Colonial Time", May 4, 2010.
2. **Suhit K. Sen**, "Party and Government: Sources of Legitimacy", November 10, 2010.
3. **Sekhar Bandyopadhyay**, "Decolonisation and Indian Experience ", January 5, 2010.

The web segment of the program is being updated regularly and now includes primary sources used by the researchers and the draft research papers.

As a result of the dialogue, workshops and public lecture segment of the programme, a strong research collective of around 50 scholars, journalists, lawyers and activists has been formed now.

The programme desk was earlier handled by Sutirtha Bedajna. It is now handled by Mithilesh Kumar. There is a special web page on the programme. All reports are online. Suhit Sen as senior researcher advises him. Ranabir Samaddar is the coordinator of the programme. We are grateful to Ford Foundation for its continuing support to the programme. We also thank Sutirtha for his commendable work in administrating the desk work.

2.3. EURASIA-Net project on Regional Instruments for Protection of Minority Rights

CRG was among the South Asian partners in the Eurasia Net programme on Regional Instruments for Protection of minority Rights – an EU-South Asia collaborative programme. Last year's annual report described in details the achievements of the programme. CRG was primarily responsible for setting up a Trans-regional Platform for the Protection of Minority Rights. The Trans-regional Platform (WP4) is a forum for the exchange of knowledge and best practices between all stakeholders (scholars, universities, media, decision makers, activists) and coordinate the dissemination of results and prepare the ground for joint research activities. With this objective, CRG completed the tasks of publications, organising study visits, holding conference, organising research activities, and preparing recommendations.

The project has generated a formidable corpus of research material. CRG was the lead partner of WP4 in the frame of which SAFHR also prepared and disseminated a set of material for South Asian NGOs and UniDh prepares a set of material on South Asian and regional cooperation for higher education institutions.

a) *"Text Book Reader"* - Borhanuddin Khan and Muhammad Mahbubur Rahman from University of Dhaka have coauthored the text on *Protection of Minorities: A South Asian Discourse*. As it is meant to be a text book targeted at the University level, and given the diversity of situations across South Asia, the volume was organised around country specific chapters.

b) *Readings on Minority Rights in South Asia: New Challenges*. Rita Mnchanda edited the volume – which is planned as a 2nd generational volume, beyond the task of simply mapping the status of minorities. This came out from SAFHR.

c) *"Scientific" Volume: CRG* - Samir Kumar Das edited the volume on *Minorities in South Asia and Europe: A New Agenda*. The volume was structured in two segments, one focusing on South Asia and the other on Europe. While country-specific researches on minorities of South Asia are by no means rare, study of minorities on a regional scale and their comparisons with the European experience are not.

Details of publications are given below:

d) Samir Kumar Das and Ranabir Samaddar, *Assessment of Research Policies and Resources*, (MCRG, Kolkata 2008).

e) Subir Bhaumik & Sumon K. Chakrabarti, *View from India: Media and Minorities in Europe*, Policies and Practices 27 (MCRG, Kolkata 2010).

f) Amarjeet Singh Narang, *Nation-Building and Minority Alienation in India*, Policies and Practices 29 (MCRG, Kolkata 2010).

g) Paula Banerjee, 'Mapping the Minorities in India' (delivered to Uni-Frankfurt)

h. Samir Kumar Das, 'Minorities within Minorities' (delivered to Eurac for publication in EYMI, October 2010).

i. Subir Bhaumik, *Counter-Gaze: Minorities, Media and Migration in Europe and India* (December 2010)

CRG also organized the final conference. The three-day final conference on Trans Regional Platform and Joint Research Agenda on Protection of Minority Rights in the Framework of Eurasia-Net project took place on 18-20 March, 2010 in Rang Durbar, Swabhumi, Kolkata (India). The conference was organized by CRG in partnership with other institutions of Europe and South Asia. The Conference was the final culminating point of the EURASIA-Net project that had taken off with the kickoff meeting held in London on 18 February, 2008. The Conference was meant to bring forth the overall outcome of the project spanning over more than two years and to bring out the recommendations for implementation in future. The report of the Conference was circulated amongst and ratified by the partners and associates in May 2010.

The Final Conference in order to bring the lessons of the current programme together, build up a platform that cut across nations and regions across Europe and South Asia and most importantly make it sustainable.

Inputs to Joint Research Agenda: Although Brunel was responsible for preparing the Joint Research Agenda, MCRG was under the obligation to provide inputs as per the discussion held during the Final Conference. Detailed inputs were provided to Brunel with a copy to Eurac and the draft was discussed extensively in the PSG meeting held in London on 9 June 2010.

The draft 'Conclusions and Recommendations' was circulated amongst the partners and associates. Eurac responded to it and offered its comments on the draft. The draft will be finalized soon as per Eurac's comments.

MCRG sent and received a host of very eminent study visitors. The study visitors were recommended carefully (a) keeping in mind the overall architecture of the project and (b) in consultation with other Partners and Associates. Study visitors sent by CRG include: Samir Kumar Das to Italy on "Immigrants and Minority Rights in Bolzano"; Stephen Wright to Nepal on "Visible minorities, invisible citizens: the representation of minorities in the French media (and lack thereof)"; Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury to UK on "Multiculturalism and Conflict Resolution: A Comparative Study"; Subir Bhaumik to Germany on "Media, Migration and Minority Issues in a European Setting"; Suman Chakraborty to France on "minorities, Politics of Integration and Media in France"; and Sanjoy Barborra to UK on "Trajectories of Minority Discourse". The significant results of these visits were:

1. CRG was successful in bringing the lessons of the current programme together; build up a platform that cuts across nations and regions across Europe and South Asia and most importantly make it sustainable.
2. Three of the major achievements of CRG were: (a) successful establishment of a network of partners on a sustainable basis; (b) comparative research and collective learning from each others' fund of knowledge and experience particularly in relation to the policies of minority protection and (c) orientation and training, dissemination and circulation of knowledge across national and regional boundaries.

A book edited by Subir Bhaumik summarizing the findings of the study visits were published under this programme and was released on 1 December 2010 by Dr. Angela Liberatore, a member of the Research Division of the European Commission. The title of the book is *Counter Gaze: Media, Migrants, and Minorities*. (Along with this another book published by CRG, titled *Essays on the Right to Food in West Bengal: Politics in Hunger-Regime*, co-edited by Sibaji Pratim Basu and Geetisha Dasgupta, was also released by an eminent social rights activist Dr. K. Suresh. This book was based on CRG's work under the Right to Food project which ended in 2009-2010 and was reported in the last year's AGM Report).

CRG took part in teaching also in the two summer schools held under the project. The final conference was held in Kolkata in March 20-21, 2010. The recommendations of the conference were reported and discussed widely in Europe and South Asia. They were discussed specifically in Brussels at the EU headquarters. Ranabir Samaddar and Samir Kumar Das participated in this on behalf of CRG. CRG's publications were appreciated there. The programme came to an end in June 2010. The reports and all other details of the programme are on the CRG website (archive section). Samir Kumar Das handled the desk work.

2.4. Transit Labour

In the year under consideration, CRG began work in a new area - research on labour in transit in the context of new spaces emerging as product of transnational flow of capital.

The transnational work spaces that have emerged in India as product of transnational flow of capital, goods and services have remained confined to Information Technology and its related services. The emergence of these workspaces has led to a new category of workforce - the knowledge professionals. They are the new workforce- the torchbearers of service oriented jobs in back offices of various multinational corporations. The studies documenting lives of these knowledge professionals have primarily focused on the shifting relationship between capital and labour. While peripheral countries like India have always been the source of cheap labour and the history of exploitation goes back to shipment of plantation labour to various parts of the

world, they still continue to be the site of such labour – in case of India, cheap “cyber-coolies” in the age of globalization. What is interesting in the second phase is that the workers were not shipped off but the “work” itself has been “outsourced” from the advanced capitalist countries to cheaper locations. These locations are characterized by catchments of English speaking, educated knowledge professionals who would work now in a transnational virtual space challenging the time-zone difference. A new work culture and work space has evolved over time, new work spaces have been created to train these workforce, acclimatize them to the “workspace” that is not here and then but that which is constantly shifting with demands of those at the “centre”. These service jobs are numerous and have become synonymous as fruits of globalization but it is significant to see how the “production of goods and services” is no more limited to the “shop-floor”, “factory” sites and how the division between the “domestic” and public has become reversible through various new working arrangements. In other words, not only there has been a role reversal but also the mutually constitutive forces and means of production have broken the limits of the “production” sites that could be managed through external limits – the law.

These new workspaces have become sites of production and consumption where the workspaces become not only production centres, but also leisure zones – facilitating circulation of economy. Some of these issues and concerns will be traced in the course of the study. Currently we are in the process of documenting the accounts of labouring lives in IT/ITes services to see and look into the shifting relation between capital and labour and how it has produced new spaces. The review essay plans to explore some of these issues that have emerged in the recent times with case studies from Eastern India to show into the complex nature of networking labour.

The fact that these new workspaces have become sites of consumption also (including dwelling) where workspace now combines with leisure zones resulting in an integrated new kind of space implies that a pure world of a particular kind of work does not emerge as a result of the destruction of old economy, patterns of occupation, and lives. New houses, recreation centres, cash distribution centres, hotels – all these that start co-habiting the work places must now also have dirt labour, the dirt labour that has been produced in the process of the creation of new work spaces through processes associated with the phenomenon of primitive accumulation. We need therefore new studies of the work place – place designed as space to produce and to consume. Such space also becomes the mark of destroyed life as well as always-unrealized possibilities and dreams of wealth. The current attempt by CRG to study Rajarhat and the accompanying review of earlier studies of special economic zones takes place in this context.

CRG's work on Rajarhat examines three aspects of this process - (a) the nature and process of destruction of old economy; (b) the nature of new labour in the new space; (c) and an examination of the remaking of space in the neo-liberal economic process.

The work is being coordinated by the Western Sydney University, and is part of a network and a research platform called Transit Labour. CRG is hosting the second leg of the study, the first being held in Shanghai 2010. As components of the Kolkata leg of the study CRG is organising intense field study of Rajarhat. It will hold a research platform in Kolkata on the theme of Transit Labour from 1-5 September 2011. This will be followed by a one day transit labour workshop on 6 September. A pre-workshop discussion took place on 11 July 2011. This will be followed by the Fourth Critical Studies Conference, which will bring together two themes and projects - development and governance, and second labour, logistics, and flows.

Next year we shall be able to report the outcome of the present efforts.

Suhit Sen, the senior researcher, is coordinating the programme. Ishita Dey, a honorary research associate, and CRG member and Ranabir Samaddar are also participating in the programme. The work is being supported by the Western Sydney University, Australia.

2.5. *Cultures of Governance and Conflicts Resolution in Europe and India (CORE)*

In 2011 CRG has joined a new international research collaboration programme. The theme is “Cultures and Governance and Conflicts Resolution in Europe and India (CORE)”. This is an EU project led by the Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO) and University of St. Andrews (UK). There are several European and Indian partners. CRG has the lead responsibility on organizing the research relating to Northeast of India. It is also involved in similar work in Bihar. The project will continue for three years. The preparatory meeting was

held in February 2011. CRG is involved in all the seven Work Packages. The names of the work packages are given below:

Work Packages of CORE Project

Work Package – 1	Scientific and administrative coordination
Work Package – 2	Theory and methodology
Work Package – 3	Analysis of Policy
Work Package – 4	Thematic Analysis
Work Package – 5	Systematic Case Surveys
Work Package – 6	An Assessment of Governance Initiatives
Work Package – 7	Dissemination and user feedback

The work on this project has just started. In the next AGM we shall be able to report our activities in details to our members.

Ranabir Samaddar is the chief coordinator of this project. Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, Paula Banerjee and Samir Kumar Das are other members of the research group involved in this project.

3. Publications, Seminars and Public Lectures

3.1 Books

- *Politics in Hunger Regime* - eds. Sibaji Pratim Basu and Geetisha Dasgupta (Frontpage, Kolkata, 2011)
- *Counter Gaze – Media, Minorities and Migrants in Europe and India* - ed. Subir Bhaumik (Frontpage, Kolkata, 2010)
- *'Euro-Asia' at the Crossroads: Geopolitics, Identities and Dialogues*
eds. Jyrki Kakonen, Sanjay Chaturvedi, Anita Sengupta
(Shipra Publications, Delhi, 2011)

3.2. Distinguished Lecture Series 3:

- *Climate Change Induced Displacement: A Challenge for International Law* - by Walter Kaelin (MCRG)

3.3. Research Paper Series (Policies and Practices)

- *Endangered Lives on The Border: Women in the Northeast* - by Anjuman Ara Begum, Chitra Ahanthem and Sahana Basavapatna (PP 33)
- *Globalisation and Labouring Lives*- by Swati Ghosh and Ishita Dey (PP 34)
- *Right to Information in A Globalising World*- by Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury and Sibaji Pratim Basu (PP 35)
- *Bengal-Bangladesh Border and Women*- by Paula Banerjee, Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury and Aditi Bhaduri (PP 36)
- *Between Ecology and Economy : Environmental Governance in India*- by Sutirtha Bedajna (PP 37)
- *Incomplete Citizenship, Statelessness and Human Trafficking : A Preliminary Analysis of the Current Situation in West Bengal, India* - by Pascale McLean (PP 38)
- *Place of the Poor in Urban Space*- by Manish K Jha (PP 39)
- *Law and Democratic Governance : Two Studies from Europe*- by Eva Pfostl and Jean-Louis Halperin (PP 40)

- Finding a Point of Return : Internally Displaced Persons in Sri Lanka- by S. Y. Surendra Kumar and Fathima Azmiya Badurdeenm (PP 41)

3.4. Reports

- Eighth Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration
- State of Research on Forced Migration in the East and North-East

3.5 Refugee Watch

- No. 35 (June 2010)
- No. 36 (December 2010)

Ranabir Samaddar is the editor. Ishita Dey has helped him in the editorial work. Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury helped the work in 2010 and Samir K. Das has been helping in 2011.

3.6. Public Lectures and Staff Seminars

Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, *Chairperson, Indian Council of Historical Research*, "The Mill Strikes in Bombay, 1928-29, and Munshi Premchand as Filmmaker ", 17 March, 2011

Paul Joseph, *Professor, Department of Sociology, Tufts University, USA*, "Antiwar Opposition in the Vietnam Era and Now ", 2 February, 2011

Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, *Deputy Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand*, "Decolonisation and Indian Experience", 5 January 2011.

Azmiya Badurdeen, *Consultant, Independent Evaluator / Trainer for conflict transformation and peace building projects in Sri Lanka, Participant of Eighth Annual Winter Course in Forced Migration & our short term visiting fellow*, "The Conditions of Return: The Case of Sri Lanka in the Post Conflict Context", 30 December, 2010

Walter Kaelin, *Professor of International Law, University of Berne*, "Climate Change Induced Displacement: A Challenge for International Law", Distinguished Lecture 3, 15 December 2010

Suhit K. Sen, *Centre for Studies in Social Sciences*, "Party and Government: Sources of Legitimacy", 10 November, 2010

Nasreen Chowdhory, *Assistant Professor in Asian University for Women, Chittagong, Bangladesh*, "Contesting Statelessness: Comparative Perspective of Tibetans and Rohingyas in India and Bangladesh", 13 August, 2010

Ranabir Samaddar, *Director of CRG*, "Michel Foucault and our Post Colonial Time", 4 May, 2010

4. Website, Resource Centre, Library and other Assets

4.1. Website & Resource Centre

The website has a significant interactive section for the distance education phase of the Winter Course. It has been also essential for presenting papers, abstracts, relevant documents, online registrations, notifications, and links while organizing conferences, dialogues, workshops and seminar. It has a document archive and a rudimentary photo archive section. It has an audio section, particularly related to the winter course participants. It has introduced the South Asia Resource Centre on Forced Migration Studies where it has provided a basic and advance search engine for searching books, documents, such as conference papers, course reading materials, different journals, reports, research papers, theses censuses reports audio, video and data CD. These documents are in the electronic and in the print form in our library resource centre. It has also the online archive section. It has a digital board where we inform our visitor of newly released books, journals, reports and research papers. In most of the cases it has full reports of our conference and research work, different articles of our Refugee Watch journal, and our research papers. It also contains details of our research programmes and conferences. It has also a secured section for some of our research work where the

website provides details such as previous related works, projected themes and possible questions, proposed activities, possible research papers, abstracts and papers, website links, news, views, and discussants' comments on research papers.

It has a special section called "Refugee Watch Online". Ishita Dey, Geetisha Dasgupta Sahana Basavapatna, Priyanca Mathur Velath, and Anuradha Gunarathne have as in the last year put in efforts towards improving "Refugee Watch Online". Sections such as news, view, comments, perspective, events, announcements, lecture/ discussion note and reviews are posted every month. Their collective efforts have met with some success. CRG has taken 6.6 GB hosting space and 150 MB mailing space from e-ICON ONLINE SERVICES PVT LTD, Hyderabad. Our domain mcrg.ac.in was registered from ERNET India, New Delhi.

Samaresh Guchhait is in charge of the website. He also works as system administrator. Rajat Kanti Sur and Samgbida Lahari are two research and programme assistant for managing the resource centre.

4.2. *Library*

The CRG library is now developing as a reference library, equipped with books, documents, journals, manuscripts, research papers, and CDs. The library has been a source of support to various research activities of this institution. Also it has supported various research scholars, students, faculty members of colleges, universities, research institutes and NGOs.

It contains 2067 books relating to mainly to law, gender studies, forced migration, food, environment, justice, autonomy, displacement, literary works, minority rights, media, advocacy material, child right, and human rights. Some of the books are gifts from institutions and individuals.

In the journals and documents section, besides documents CRG has journals and magazines also. The documents are in the following ten categories, namely, Northeast, gender, child right, minority rights, human rights, forced migration, law, advocacy series, media, and miscellaneous. We have an exclusive collection of newspaper clippings on northeast India. We have various reports of The Brooking Institution and copies of the Forced Migration Review and Economic and Political Weekly. It subscribes to news clipping service for the Northeast. The document section has gained from contributions by researchers in CRG research work. Some documents are on-line. CRG subscribes to JSTOR and EPW service also.

The CD section contains 10 audio CD, 55 video CD, and 76 data CD on human trafficking, gender, violence, migration, displacement, ethnic conflicts, and human rights. Some of the notable CDs are on Educational Material on Sustaining Rights, Burma Human Rights Yearbook 2006, 2008, World Investment Report 2005, World Refugee Survey 2003, Brookings materials on IDP, UN Human Rights System 1999, 2000, 2002, Nepal Human Rights Year Book 2004, Ensuring Food Secure Future, Right to Land, and Report on Human Trafficking etc.

CRG members are requested, if they like, to apply for accessing the Library resource centre please registered their name along with username and password. For any assistance please contact with webmaster or the library assistant to access the online resources. CRG appeals to its members to contribute relevant resource material to the resource centre and help it to grow in all possible ways.

4.3. *Other Assets*

CRG has other assets like computers, refrigerator, fax machine, Air Conditioners, etc. Though CRG has Fire Insurance but it was felt that some kind of emergency arrangements (like fire extinguisher) should be procured to encounter sudden accidental fire in the CRG. Therefore two ABC Type Fire Extinguishers (5 Kgs each) were purchased. *In addition to this* an external Hard Disk for data back-up to preserve documents and one printer were purchased in the year under consideration. The printer has been installed in the room where senior researchers are working to cope up with the printing tasks.

5. **Academic and Office Staff**

5.1. Academic staff

CRG has since 2003 a core group of Senior Researchers : Paula Banerjee, Samir Kumar Das and Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury. They are all honorary senior researchers. In the year 2010-2011 Dr. Suhit Kumar Sen joined as full time Senior Researcher. Besides Dr. Sen, Mithilesh Kumar joined as Research and Programme Associate in February 2011. Meanwhile Geetisha Dasgupta, Ishita Dey and Suthirtha Bedajna, three Research and Programme Associates, left the institution. The first two left for higher education and Suthirtha Bedajna for another job. CRG wishes to put on record its appreciation for their services as Research and Programme Associates. Agnibho Gangopadhyay and Sangbida Lahiri joined as Research and Programme Assistants in February 2011. We also have a part-time Library Assistant. The individual accomplishments and research plans of work of the members are enclosed separately.

5.2. Administrative and accounts staff:

The services of Ratan Chakraborty, M. Chatterji, Ashok Kumar Giri and Samaresh Guchhait were reconfirmed with a revision of their salary. The part time service of R. K. Mahato as Part-time Typist was retained. Together they combine the work of administration, accounts, library, internet, website, assets and computer management

5.3 Director:

The Director heads all academic and administrative activities.

5.4 Benefits:

The social benefit schemes for employees reported in the preceding annual report continue. Members of the regular office staff (academic and administrative) enjoy a ten per cent annual pay rise.

5.5. Problem

The problem of high turnover of research personnel remains.

6. Membership

The CRG's current roll of Members (31) is as follows :

- Krishna Banerjee (Vice-President)
- Paula Banerjee (Secretary)
- Sibaji Pratim Basu
- Subir Bhaumik
- Bharat Bhushan
- Pradip Kumar Bose
- Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty
- Sanjay Chaturvedi
- Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury (Treasurer)
- Nasreen Chowdhory
- Samir Kumar Das (President)
- Keya Dasgupta
- Dipankar Dasgupta
- Saumitra Dastidar
- Ishita Dey
- Ruchira Goswami
- Pallabh Goswami
- Asha Hans
- Mushirul Hasan
- Manish Kumar Jha

- Kalpana Kannabiran
- Rajesh Kharat
- Madhuresh Kumar
- Manabi Majumdar
- Ritu Menon
- V. Ramaswamy
- Kumar Rana
- Prasanta Ray
- Mandira Sen
- Anita Sengupta
- Ranabir Samaddar (Director)invitee

7. **Tasks for 2011-2012**

- CRG will have to find out ways to activate the international Advisory Committee.
- The year 2011-12 may experience a short fall in number of projects. Since CRG depends entirely on the projects, it may have to prune the research and programme staff. Efforts have been made for new research projects. However these efforts are still inadequate. Greater attention has to be given to fundraising, given the fact that two major projects of CRG will end soon.
- From the substantive angle CRG has to find out ways in which it can become more relevant to the changing situation in the state, country and the region.
- CRG has to make a special drive to host properly the coming conference of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) in Kolkata.