Link Programmes and Collaborative Research

The department has successfully carried out a number of research works on issues of national interests in collaboration with different international agencies and universities. The study on *Optimization of Benefits from the Haors of Sylhet and Mymensingh* was carried out jointly with the Environmental Research Institute of Michigan, USA under the financial assistance of USAID in the 1970s. It has completed a research on the vital issue of river bank erosion in collaboration with the University of Manitoba, Canada in the late 1980s. This project *River Bank Erosion Impact Study* was sponsored by IDRC, Canada and was of a multidisciplinary nature in which geographers of this department contributed their considerable research efforts, and involved researchers from other disciplines.

The University of Durham, UK, the British Council and the Overseas Development Agency (ODA), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal are the international institutions and agencies that have come into agreement in recent years for collaborative research and training. These link programmes have played a vital role in building institutional capacity on GIS through higher training of faculty members and laboratory development. The technical assistance received from these programmes has enabled the department to modernize its academic curricula and to introduce GIS related courses both at undergraduate and graduate level. The department has signed an MoU for academic collaboration with Salzburg University, Austria recently. This agreement facilitates the department in integrating itself with virtual campus. An e-learning platform-based MSc and Advanced Diploma-level courses in GIScience will be offered soon.

From the very beginning, academic programmes of the department are planned and executed in a manner to produce graduates capable of rendering services to the social needs of a developing country. The performance of the graduates placed in different jobs at home and abroad reflects the efficacy of the academic programmes of the department. The relentless efforts of its faculty members towards academic excellence have made possible for the Department of Geography and Environment to be in the forefront of higher learning institutions of the Country.