

Swedish ambassador visits icddr,b in Matlab and Dhaka

Dhaka, September 15, 2015 — A high-level delegation of the Government of Sweden, led by H.E. Mr. Johan Frisell, Ambassador of Sweden to Bangladesh, yesterday visited Matlab, a research surveillance site of icddr,b – a leading public health research organisation based in Bangladesh.

The visit was part of a series of site visits and meetings between icddr,b and the Swedish delegation that included Dr. Teresa Soop, Research Advisor to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

Sweden has been one of icddr,b's core donors for over 30 years, generously supporting the organisation's major interventions and innovations.

Remarking upon his visit H.E. Mr. Frisell says: "Bangladesh has made great progress with the basic health indicators, especially in the areas of nutrition, maternal and child health, and mortality – all of which have been subjects of clinical research and testing at icddr,b. What is unique about the organisation is that it not only researches solutions locally, but also clinically tests them here and then scales these solutions beyond Bangladesh. And it does so in the midst of Bangladesh's reality and in line with the country's health needs. The organisation's research team includes internationally acknowledged specialists, which makes us a proud partner."

The surveillance site visit on Monday offered an opportunity for the Swedish delegates to learn first-hand about a number of ongoing research interventions funded with Swedish funds, most notably the [health and demographic surveillance system](#) at Matlab, the longest continuously running longitudinal data resource in the developing world, covering more than 225,000 people. Matlab is a model for the global [INDEPTH Network](#), working to strengthen research capacity with surveillance systems to inform health policies in low- and middle-income countries.

The Swedish delegation also met icddr,b's Executive Director, Professor John D. Clemens, and the organisation's senior leadership and leading scientists.

Acknowledging Sida's commitment to support public health research infrastructure across developing countries including Bangladesh, Professor Clemens said: "Sweden-icddr,b partnership is an important example of North-South scientific collaboration, fit to address major health challenges that are trans-boundary and have global impact."

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Notes to the Editor:**About icddr,b**

icddr,b (International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh) is a not-for-profit international health research institution located in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Dedicated to saving lives through research and treatment, icddr,b addresses some of the most critical health concerns facing the world today, ranging from improving neonatal survival to HIV/AIDS. In collaboration with academic and research institutions throughout the world, icddr,b conducts research, training and extension activities, as well as programme-based activities, to develop and share knowledge for global lifesaving solutions.

About Sida

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is a government agency working on behalf of the Swedish government. It seeks to reduce poverty, improve public health, and address gender issues by working in partnerships with companies, organizations, universities and governments.

About Matlab

Matlab is a sub-district of Chandpur district in Bangladesh. Learn more about icddr,b's work at Matlab [here](#).