



**Office
of External
Affairs**

THE BRIDGE

The Official Newsletter of the Office Of External Affairs

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Editor's Message

A warm welcome to the third issue of The Bridge. With so many things happening in the Office of External Affairs, we feel excited to share this compilation of highlights from May and June. As I mentioned in the last issue, we decided to spread the news of the two big international trips between the last issue and this one. Herein you will read about the NSU delegation visit to Australia that took place in February. Details of the three MOUs signed in India are also included. As usual you will get a glimpse of some of the programs that were organized by the OEA as well as the Alumni, International Faculty and Student Features. In this issue we've also included a couple of shout outs. I hope you will enjoy reading the third issue of The Bridge.

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NSU Delegation Team's Visit to Australia

An NSU delegation team, led by members of the Board of Trustees, Mr. M A Kashem and Mr. Benjir Ahmed flew to Australia on 23 February 2018 to promote NSU to Australian universities. Other members of the NSU delegation team included the Vice-Chancellor of NSU, Professor Atiqul Islam, members of the Board of Trustees, Mrs. Rehana Rahman, Mrs. Yasmin Kamal, the Director of the Office of External Affairs, Dr. Katherine Li and the External Affairs Officer, Dr. Hasa-nuzzaman. The delegation team visited 13 universities for international collaboration. The universities were: University of South Australia (UniSA), Victoria University (VU), Monash University (MU), RMIT University (RMIT), Swinburne University of Technology (Swinburne), Deakin University (Deakin), Macquarie University (MQ), Western Sydney University (WesternSydneyU), Griffith University (Griffith), Southern Cross University (SCU), University of Queensland (UQ), Curtin University (Curtin), and Murdoch University (Murdoch).

On Friday, 23 February 2018, the Vice-Chancellor of NSU, Professor Atiqul Islam visited the University of South Australia (UniSA) where he, on behalf of NSU signed an MOU with UniSA. In the MOU signing ceremony included members of UniSA, Professor Lin Crase, Head of School of Commerce, Mr. Nigel Relph, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Dr. Gerard Stone, Program Director of the Bachelor of Commerce, Dr. Tony Cavoli, Program Director of School of Commerce, Mr Rishen Shekhar, Deputy Director of International Business Development, Mr. Jamil Ameen, Office for Academic Integrity Student Ambassador, Ms. Karena Rimmer, Project Support Officer, and Ms Julie Warnes, School Manager of the School of Commerce were present. After the MOU signing ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor and representatives of UniSA joined for a meeting. In the meeting, Prof. Lin Crase proposed a study tour to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal for students to learn about and experience rapidly developing markets, and to gain some insights into the geopolitics between South Asian nations. This international study tour is expected to enhance the reinvigorated relationship between NSU and UniSA.

On Monday, 26 February 2018, the NSU delegation team met with representatives of Victoria University (VU) to discuss the possibilities of research collaboration. Professor Yuan Miao, Head of the Information Technology, Professor Sam Fragomeni, Discipline Leader in Civil Engineering, Professor Stephen Gray, Director of Institute for Sustainability and Innovation (ISI), and Sebastian Kuntze, Regional Recruitment Manager were present in the meeting where they discussed Information Technology and research foci of VU with the NSU delegation team. In the meeting, 2+2 pathways for undergraduate programs and faculty/student exchange possibilities were also explored.



On Monday, 26 February 2018, the NSU delegation team met with representatives of Monash University (MU). The delegation team first met with COO of Monash Infrastructure, Mr. Shankar Cumarasamy and later on with Dr. Raqib Chowdhury, Faculty of Education, and Dr. Mahbub Sarkar, Faculty of Science, to discuss possible collaborations between NSU and MU. The possible areas of collaboration with Faculty of Education of MU and NSU that came to light are: sending MU's TESOL teachers to NSU, developing a Center on Teaching & Learning, and developing a certificate program on tertiary teaching.

On Tuesday, 27 February 2018, the NSU delegation team went to RMIT University to follow up on the 2017 visit and discuss various issues like the current MOU between NSU and RMIT, PhD by distance and possibilities of joint

research. The NSU delegation team met with the Deputy Pro Vice-Chancellor of Research, Professor Geoffrey Stokes, the Deputy Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), Ms. Louise Dunn, Professor of Supply Chain Management, Professor Shams Rahman, Deputy Head of Research and Innovation, Professor Karlheinz Kautz, Manager of International Development, Ms. Jennifer Lim, and Senior Project Officer of Collaborative Research Training Ms. Louise Ballard. Both universities are keen to develop a Student Exchange agreement, initially starting with 2-3 students on a semester exchange (going to RMIT).

On the same day, 27 February 2018, the NSU delegation team visited Swinburne University of Technology. While there, the delegation team met with Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), Professor Monica Kennedy, International Business Manager, Mr. Andrew Cram, and Senior Lecturer, Dr. Amirul Islam. After the formal introduction of the two universities, the delegation team discussed the possible areas where the two institutes could collaborate. It was suggested that Swinburne and NSU could cooperate for joint PhD supervision, joint research and joint grant application, faculty-led study tours (3 weeks) in the winter or summer, and teaching techniques for academics.

Also on 27 February 2018, the NSU delegation team met with Deakin University staff to explore opportunities for expanding the current partnership between the two universities. The delegation team joined in a meeting with Professor Gary Smith, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement), Mr. John Molony, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), Professor Mike Ewing, Executive Dean, Dr. Dilal Saundage, Director of Teaching, and others. In the meeting, Deakin University representatives showed great interest to elevate the partnership between the two institutes. Deakin representatives assured NSU delegates that they would actively encourage its staff to apply for research funding with NSU colleagues. Deakin University also ensured that their academics would be apprised of the option of visiting NSU for their academic study leave.

On Thursday, 1 March 2018, the NSU delegation team went to Macquarie University and had two meetings with its representatives. The first meeting was with the Macquarie Graduate School of Management (MGSM) and Faculty of Business and Economics, and the second meeting was with the Pro Vice-Chancellor of Learning and Teaching and Macquarie International (MI) and Faculty of Arts (FoA). Building upon the already existing MOU, Macquarie University is interested to encourage NSU academics to pursue joint projects and PhD opportunities at Macquarie through Endeavour Scholarship Award and Macquarie's various PhD scholarship schemes. In the spirit of the existing friendship, Macquarie University offered 20% scholarship for NSU graduates for their Master's degree at Macquarie. During this visit, the delegation team met with many members of Macquarie such as Prof. Sherman Young, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Learning and Teaching, Prof. Peter Wolnizer, Dean of MGSM, and Prof. Julian Knowles, Associate Dean of International, FoA.

On the following day, Friday, 2 March 2018, the NSU delegation team went to Western Sydney University to meet with its representatives. Professor Barney Glover, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Yi-Chen Lan, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Global Development, Dr. Masud-ul Haque, Convenor of Bangladesh Studies Circle, Ms. Marisa Furno, Associate Director of International Partnerships joined in a discussion session with the NSU delegation team. Professor Glover indicated his desire to travel to Bangladesh later in the year or early next year and would be happy to pay a visit to NSU to progress activities.



On Monday, 5 March 2018, the NSU delegation team visited Griffith University where they met with many of its representatives. At first, the delegation team joined for a meeting with the Director (International) of the Office of the Pro Vice Chancellor, Associate Professor Peter Woods, the Director of Policy Innovation Hub, Professor Brad Jackson, Discipline Head Accounting, Professor Reza Monem, and Senior Lecturer, Professor Tapan Sarker. Later on, the team met with the Director International Education, Professor Andrew Davey, the Pro Vice Chancellor (Health), Professor Sheena Reilly, Deputy Head (Research), Professor Nigel McMillan, the Director of International Education, Professor Andrew Davey, Program Convenor Public Health, Associate Professor Neil Harris, Public Health Academic Staff, Associate Professor Faruk Ahmed, and Senior Lecturer, Dr. Shannon Rutherford for a roundtable discussion. From the two discussions, the representatives of Griffith University learned that NSU has a rich pool of faculty members who are suitable for collaborative research projects.

On the same day, 5 March 2018, the NSU delegation team went to Southern Cross University for an introductory meeting with Don Whitford, Regional Manager-South Asia, Middle East, Africa. The team was given a campus tour and exchanged information regarding each other's institutes. Later on, the NSU delegation team met with Professor Ian Eddie, Professor of Accounting and Corporate Governance/School of Business and Tourism where he expressed his desire to deepen the relationship between the two universities.



On Tuesday, 6 March 2018, the NSU delegation team visited University of Queensland (UQ) where they met with the Director of Research in the School of Education, Associate Professor Kim Nichols, Associate Professor in Biostatistics, Dr. Asad Khan, Senior Lecturer, Dr. Obaid Hamid, ARC Future Fellow, Dr. Ian Hardy, and Lecturer, Dr. Vicente Reyes. From the meeting, some options of engagements between the two universities came to light. They are: joint work between NSU and UQ on existing projects, NSU internal grant application between the two universities and seminars/short training programs, especially in health research methods and epidemiology.

On Thursday, 8 March 2018, the NSU delegation team went to Curtin University where they joined in a meeting with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor International, Professor Seth Kunin, Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor International, Associate Professor Simon Leunig, Pro Vice Chancellor of the Faculty of Science & Engineering, Professor Andris Stelbovics, Deputy Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Faculty of Science & Engineering, Professor Moses Tade, Dean International of the Faculty of Science and Engineering, Professor Syed Islam, Dean India, Professor Abhijit Mukherjee, the Deputy Director of Transnational Education & Partnerships, Mr. Nigel de Silva, International Partnership Consultant Ms. Saba Amanuel, and International Recruitment Consultant, Mr. Alvin Cheong. Both institutes were interested to collaborate on Learning Innovation, Fashion Design & Research, Short-term student exchange (Curtin to NSU, NSU to Curtin), and co-creating new disciplines.

Lastly, on the same day, 8 March, 2018, the NSU delegation team visited Murdoch University where they met with the Dean of the Business School, Professor Grant O'Neill, Associate Dean of Engagement and International Development, Ms. Celia Cornwell, and Senior Lecturer, Dr. Ariful Hoque. Murdoch University representatives showed interest to send their staff to NSU for 6 months to mentor people who wish to compete for Australian scholarships. The NSU delegation team suggested running workshops for one week at NSU and to find suitable candidates from NSU for researchers with joint funding. After visiting Murdoch University, the NSU delegation team concluded their visits in Australia and flew back to Bangladesh.



NSU Signs 3 New Memorandom of Understandings (MOUs) in India



The Vice-Chancellor of North South University, Prof. Atiqul Islam and the External Affairs Officer from the Office of External Affairs, Dr. Hasanuzzaman visited India from 30 April to 05 May 2018 to sign Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with BML Munjal University, OP Jindal Global University, and Jadavpur University. During their visit, they also met with high executives of Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta to discuss and explore possibilities of future collaboration with North South University.

On 01 May 2018, Prof. Islam signed the MOU with BML Munjal University which will allow both universities to collaborate on joint research projects and student exchange programs. The Vice-Chancellor of NSU expressed his desire to welcome BMU academics and encouraged BMU staff to visit and see the NSU campus and the facilities. On 02 May 2018, Prof. Islam and Dr. Hasanuzzaman went to OP Jindal Global University for a collaborative meeting and to sign an MOU. The MOU was signed by the Vice-Chancellor of NSU, Prof. Islam and the Vice-Chancellor of OP Jindal Global University, Professor Dr. C. Raj Kumar. Both institutes are keen to organize a seminar on the “Future of Higher Education in South-Asia” where all the Vice-Chancellors of private and public universities of South and Southeast Asia would be invited to participate. Furthermore, students of both universities can avail semester exchange programs. Lastly, on 03 May 2018, the Vice-Chancellor and the External Affairs Officer along with international faculty member, Dr. Niladri Chatterjee, who was instrumental in setting up the visit, went to Jadavpur University to sign an MOU. Because of this newly formed friendship, both universities showed interest to implement faculty exchange for a semester where Jadavpur University students could experience the teaching styles of NSU and NSU students could experience the teaching methods of Jadavpur University.

International Faculty Member Feature



former U.K. Parliamentarian George Galloway, and with him, Dr. McKinney finally made it into Gaza. As a result of joining the Palestinians' struggle for recognition, Dr. McKinney is considered an expert on the Israel Lobby that operates inside the U.S. and many European countries today.

Dr. Cynthia McKinney is an international faculty member teaching at North South University. She is an international peace and human rights activist, noted for her inconvenient truth-telling about the U.S. war machine. She traveled to Libya during U.S. bombing and witnessed the crimes against humanity committed against that country's people. In addition to Libya, she has traveled to Cuba, Syria, Russia, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Lebanon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and as she puts it: "Wherever U.S. Bombs are dropping or U.S. sanctions are biting." In 1992, Dr. McKinney won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. She was the first African-American woman from Georgia in the U.S. Congress. She was the first Member of Congress to demand an investigation of the events of 9/11/2001. Dr. McKinney introduced legislation to release documents related to the murders of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Tupac Shakur. She was the first Member of Congress to file articles of impeachment against George W. Bush and voted against every war-funding bill put before her. In 2008, Dr. Cynthia McKinney won the Green Party nomination and ran for U.S. President. Dr. McKinney made international headlines when her boat was rammed by the Israeli military as she was attempting to deliver medical supplies to Gaza. She attempted to reach Gaza again with school supplies but her boat was overtaken in international waters by the Israeli military and was kidnapped to Israel where she spent 7 days in an Israeli prison. A few days later, Dr. McKinney joined Viva Palestina, USA, a group organized by

Interviewer: You have a pretty impressive bio. Let's start with your role in the U.S. Congress. Was it daunting to be the first African-American member of Congress?

Dr. McKinney : It was an extremely exciting time, not only for me, but mostly for my constituents, many of whom had never been to Washington, D.C. and visited their Member of Congress. They accompanied me on my first trip after the election and they held their hands up with me as I was sworn in. While in Congress, I discovered the many ways in which the interests and needs of the people of the U.S. have been subverted and the priorities of a narrow group of people have been become primary movers of U.S. domestic and military policy.

I: You went to Gaza and were imprisoned by the Israeli military. What made you so passionate to go to Gaza twice? Did your passion falter when you were imprisoned or did it reinforce it?

DM: Whatever suffering I have experienced at the hands of the Zionists inside the U.S. or the Israelis pales in comparison to the suffering of the Palestinians. Therefore, I don't complain. And my advocacy for justice in Palestine was merely the right thing to do. Now, the U.S. military is reproducing that same Palestinian pain all over the African Continent and in Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Sudan, and too many others. When I was confronted with the choice of living up to my professed values or

allowing others to entice me to compromise on my moral compass, I chose to stand up for justice and do what is right. Yes, I have made personal sacrifices for my convictions. I think we all must when we are confronted with "The Choice." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." I am a child of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement and can do nothing less.

I: What encouraged you to move from politics to education and why did you choose NSU?

DM: The late anti-apartheid leader, Steve Biko once said, "The biggest weapon in the hands of the oppressors is the minds of the oppressed." I think my most important role to play at NSU is to encourage the students to fall in love with justice, understanding the risks that come along when one attempts to correct historic or even contemporary wrongs. Very few people know what living a life of true freedom is like. Freedom of and freedom from. My autobiography is entitled, "Ain't Nothing Like Freedom" for this very reason. Therefore, an integral part of my teaching is to infuse a passion for freedom by steeping my students in postcolonial political thought; this means stripping away contemporary conditioning from Hollywood and other popular entertainment and understanding the historic conditioning that allowed the British to remain as colonizers in this land for over one hundred years. NSU provides me an opportunity to explore this fundamental concept with some of the best students in Bangladesh! That, for me, is soooo very exciting! I am thankful every morning for Azan. I challenge myself at Ramadan. I witness the unbounded giving and sharing of Eid. And, I'm blown away by the kindness of the Bangladeshi people. North South University represents something good in the world and I'm so very happy to be a part of its mission.



I: What are the differences that you notice in the teaching paradigm of NSU and other universities?

DM: The cornerstone of learning and knowledge is academic freedom. I enjoy watching my students take their ideas and questions all the way to their logical conclusions, which causes them to suddenly understand what was obscured for them before. That, for me, is like watching magic!

I: What is your advice for your future students?

DM: Embrace Learning. Question Everything. Question Everyone. Including Me. Especially Me.

Dr. McKinney is spending Summer 2018 semester abroad to begin work on two new book ideas and to participate in various activist projects in the world's hotspots. She returns to NSU in Fall 2018. The Office of External Affairs is grateful to Dr. McKinney for sharing a bit of her life with us.

Seminar on "Study, Research & Student Visa Requirements for Germany"

On 31 May 2018, members from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Goethe Institut, and the German Academic Exchange Service or DAAD came to NSU for the seminar titled, "Study, Research & Student Visa Requirements for Germany" to promote further education in Germany. The objective of this seminar was to provide accurate information regarding further studies in Germany and its scope. Also, the session aimed to provide information about the requirements of student visa for Germany so that students know how to start applying to their desired programs in Germany. The Information and Office Manager of DAAD, Ms. Rumana Kabir briefed the participants on the DAAD and its tasks and goals. She informed the audience that Germany is the third most popular destination for international students from all over the world and has approximately 2.7 million students whereby more than 12% are foreigners. Later on, the Culture & Education Officer of the German Embassy, Dhaka, Ms. Tamara Kabir took the floor to debunk some of the myths regarding the procedures for obtaining a student visa for Germany. She explained that if the guidelines are followed, then it only takes six weeks to acquire a student visa for Germany. Afterwards, the representative of German Language and Examination office, Goethe Institut, Dhaka, Mr. Golam Rasul took over the session to orient the participants about the requirements of German Language proficiency. He explained that the Goethe Institut, Dhaka offers state-of-the-art teaching, counseling, and support for German language learners. The Goethe Institut, Dhaka also provides information about the cultural, social and political life of Germany so that people who intend to move to Germany are aware of its practices and can adapt smoothly. Lastly, the program ended with testimonies from two faculty members of NSU who completed their degrees from Germany. Both faculty members encouraged students to go to Germany and assured that their decision to study in Germany was as one of the best decisions of their lives.



Alumni Feature



Dr. Rehnuma Karim joined the Department of Economics in the year 1993. During her time as a student at NSU- she was actively involved in bringing AIESEC International to Bangladesh and was among the founding members of AIESEC Bangladesh at NSU. After graduating from NSU, she joined UNICEF Bangladesh and was assigned to spearhead the first National Youth Forum in 1999 during which she initiated to involve 30 NSU students as active volunteers. She earned her Ph.D. from Penn State University's School of Health and Human Development. The title of her dissertation was "Learning to Live: A Qualitative Inquiry on the Female Victims of Acid Attack in Bangladesh". She started her career in academics at the State University of New York in the year 2008. During her 10-year tenure at the university, she piloted cross-cultural online learning experiences between students of IBA, Bangladesh and students of State University of New York at the College of Brockport. Her research interests vary but are mostly focused on cross-cultural studies emphasizing well-being, youth-at-risk, diversity in higher education, Leadership and civic engagement, and gender issues. Dr. Karim is also in the process of completing a documentary, "Becoming Me" based on the resilience of three acid attack survivors in Bangladesh. In 2016, she ventured into starting a Non Profit - "Heroes for All" with an aim to help the children and youth to become aware of their true potential to live a life of purpose. Heroes for All is now officially registered in the USA under the 501(c)3 tax-exempt status and also in Bangladesh under the Social Welfare Act. For the first time in

Bangladesh, under her leadership HFA successfully organized a 4-day sports educational camp -Camp Abilities Bangladesh- which became a local chapter of Camp Abilities USA under HFA.

Interviewer: For people who have no idea about AIESEC, can you explain it a bit? What drove you to have AIESEC as a student club in NSU?

Rehnuma Karim: AIESEC is a French acronym for the world's largest student-run organization and stands for International Student Association for Economics and Commerce. During our undergrad program- we became the 88th local chapter of the organization that focused on equipping young people with professional skills through internships at the global level and organizing workshops and seminars for professional and leadership skill development. We started AIESEC Bangladesh at NSU in 1996 along with 4 other alumni, which later branched out to Independent University, Bangladesh and BRAC University. The need to develop ourselves for the global workforce and to practice leadership through active participation beyond the text book drove my friends and me to start AIESEC at NSU.

I: You started first in academia. What made you move towards a non-academic profession?

RK: I experienced working in the development field while I got my first job with UNICEF Bangladesh and felt a need to build my understanding of the world around me which pushed me to academia. After more than 10 years of teaching, I realized the wide gap in learning among young people as I found most of them not at all equipped to face the real world challenges either at work or in their personal lives. Many are learning just to get good grades without understanding the application of knowledge or

studying a field which is not aligned with their skills and interests- thus leading them to frustration and anxiety later on in their lives. During my tenure as a faculty advisor and serving different committees with the students in the USA, I realized that I have skills that can better serve the community from starting a non-profit both in the USA and in Bangladesh in the area of helping children and young people. Observing how the life skills and the potential amidst the young people are not being properly explored through our traditional education system, I consciously made the choice to switch starting my Non-profit Heroes for All.

I: Last January, you came back to NSU for your Heroes for All events as well as the leadership event organized by the Office of External Affairs. What was it like to come back to NSU after so long?

RK: I always had a special connection with NSU as this was the institute that helped me to grow my interest in the area of serving others by creating scope to be involved in extracurricular activities and being inspired by amazing faculties who instilled the passion of learning in me. This is why, apart from the nostalgia of coming back home where I belong, I felt a sense of responsibility as an Alum to share my experience and my knowledge to the future generation of NSUers. Thanks to the Office of External Affairs and NSU for giving me this opportunity to come back and connect which was surely a rewarding feeling.

I: From your dissertation to your documentary, it is evident that you are passionate about acid attack survivors. What made you passionate about this cause?

RK: I spearheaded the National Youth Forum 1999 while I was working at UNICEF and met with some of the young girls who were survivors of acid attacks. I was inspired by their resilience and wanted to learn more about their stories. This is what led me to propose the topic to research and build an intervention focused on the survivors of acid attack during my Ph.D. at Penn State and was encouraged by my dissertation committee.

I: Heroes for All seems like an excellent platform for NSUers to get into voluntary work. In what ways do you think we can encourage our students for such charitable work?

RK: HFA's mission is to tap into the potential of each child and youth and provide opportunities that can help them to find their own interest, their sense of purpose and enhance their skills and knowledge through active civic engagement by having a chance to be mentored. NSU can, therefore, encourage initiatives that allow students to go into the community not limited to charitable activities but actually to implement philanthropic initiatives to help others in different ways. Even faculties can build outreach and experiential components into their courses that allow students to see how institutional learning can be applied in the real-world setting to build a stronger and dynamic community.

I: You are already one of the distinguished alumni of NSU. What else do you want to do for NSU?

RK: As an alumna, I would love to reach more young people and also create a platform for NSU Alum mentors. Besides, if there is a possibility we could start an HFA NSU chapter that could allow students and faculties to be part of different community initiatives. Also the upcoming apprenticeship program we want to initiate with different organizations would allow students to gain work experience during their breaks and understand which area of work suits them best.

Seminar on "Research with a Purpose: How Youth can Create a Healthier Bangladesh"

On 27 June 2018, the Office of External Affairs and USAID organized an event titled, "Research with a Purpose: How Youth can Create a Healthier Bangladesh". The event featured a panel discussion in which Dr. Iftekhar Rashid, Health Systems Strengthening Team Lead of USAID, Ms. Khadija Leena, Associate Professor of NSU, Dr. Shams Arifeen, Senior Director of the Maternal & Child Health of icddr, Ms. Yasmin Siddiqua, MEL Advisor of USAID's Ujjiban SBCC Activity, and Mr. Toufiq Maruf, Deputy Chief Reporter of Kaler Kontho and the President of Bangladesh Health Journalists' Forum joined as panelists. The discussion was moderated by Mr. Rushdie Ashique, a representative from the USAID. After the introduction of the topic, the panelists asked why it is necessary to conduct research. They used examples like malnutrition and child-marriage to give an idea of a problem. Then, they asked the causes for these problems to the audience members where they got many responses. Through that, they enlightened the audience members that all the mentioned causes were actually the findings of the research. They stressed that it is research that finds the causes as well as solutions to the problems. Later on, they talked about the different types of research such as, operational research, implementation research, population-based research, lab-based research, etc. These types of research help to improve the health and social practices of people. After discussing the importance of research, the moderator shifted the topic to the role of youth and the connection between research and youth. The panelists explained that the youth can easily adapt to frequent changes and that it is the youth that can bring changes at a large scale. Through interpersonal communication, capacity building, advocacy workshops, and awareness campaigns, the youth can participate and bring changes in various ways by conducting research. In the end, the panelists urged the audience members to bear in mind two significant points. They are: 1) Research requires a lot of persistence and patience. Without these, one cannot possibly carry out a research. 2) One must have the willingness to question. Even if one knows the answer, use your judgment and find out if it is right. If you can learn to question, then you can try to find whether or not your hypothesis is correct. Lastly, the panelists shared their gratitude toward NSU for training students to encourage and conduct research.



International Student Feature

Yoseop Kim is an undergraduate student from the Department of Economics. He likes music and plays the keyboard, guitar and bass. He also likes to play football and basketball.

Interviewer: Tell us something about yourself.

Yoseop Kim: Hello, I am Yoseop Kim. I am from South Korea and I'm 25 years old. Whenever people tell me to introduce myself, I usually tell them it's very difficult to do that in words. Generally, I describe myself as someone who is outgoing and enthusiastic. I like to hang out with strangers and learn about their lives and thinking. I hope this feature will give you an idea about me. If you wish to know more, we should meet up.

I: What made you choose NSU as your alma mater?

YK: I heard this a lot from my friends at NSU. They would be like "Why did you choose NSU?", "Aren't there better universities in South Korea than Bangladesh?" As a result, I am very good at answering this.

I did my high school (grade 9 to 12) in Bangladesh. And I graduated from Ebenezer International School which is very near to NSU. To finish high school here, I lived with my uncle's family. Before, I was determined to go back to South Korea for university. However, that determination started to falter while I was living here. I visited to rural areas of Bangladesh (Khulna and Natore) during the rainy season. I saw a boat school. It was established by an NGO for the kids who were not able to get proper education due to the flooding. I saw kids who were not in a school due to the lack of ability to maintain their subsistence. They actually had no plan for the future. They had work (either with their parents or elsewhere) to survive. While I was thinking about these kids, and I realized that education is the key to solving these problems. It can give them broader sight to see the world and also their dreams. The Boat School was trying to give them that. From that, I realized the importance of education and decided to stay in Bangladesh to help poor kids. After that I did research on the education, culture and economic standing of Bangladesh. From that, I learned about NSU and its excellence. So without any delay, in Fall 2011, I enrolled myself at NSU.

I: How is your experience with NSU so far?

YK: It wasn't tough adapting to NSU because I studied with Bangladeshi students before. Also, Bangladeshis are very friendly to foreigners. Studying at NSU is comfortable as all the professors speak fluent English in their lectures and their doors were always open during their office hours. Other than that, I joined the Diversity Club which is very welcoming to foreigners. I met many international students and local students who were really open to other cultures and diversity.



Before joining the Diversity Club, my days entailed coming to NSU, attending my classes and going straight home. But now, I have a place where I could hang out with my local friends. The friends that I met at my club were different from my friends in Korea. When I was shifting my house, they helped me to get cheaper furniture and solved conversation problems which I faced due to the language barrier. They invited me to weddings to experience Bangladeshi practices. Once my friend invited me for dinner and served it at 6 PM as South Koreans usually take dinner early. To open my heart, my friends tore down the wall of cultural differences. I am really grateful to have such wonderful friends. Because of them, I am having a really good experience with NSU.

I: NSU is known for its openness and diversity. As an international student, do you see cultural diversity in NSU?

YK: Yes, definitely and I think this sense of openness and diversity at NSU is growing more and more. I think NSU has changed a lot from back in 2011 when I first joined. As I have mentioned before, I am a member of the Diversity Club of NSU which gathers a group of people for more openness and diversity inside NSU. In the Diversity Club, there are 5 other international students from different nationalities and they are my friends. I haven't faced any racial or cultural discrimination. Rather than discrimination, I faced special positive attention by NSU students. Especially, the Office of International Affairs (OIA) and Diversity club were very friendly and open to all the international students. The OIA helps with visa processes and informs about upcoming events. I would like to thank NSU and especially, the OIA and the Diversity Club for being so open and embracing toward me and my cultural diversity at NSU.

I: What was it like when you came to Bangladesh for the first time? What were the differences you noticed here from South Korea?

YK: It was March 2008. When I landed at Bangladesh airport, the difference that I noticed was the weather. Bangladesh's weather was too hot for me and especially the humidity was too high. When I took my baggage to leave the airport, the electricity went out. It was very shocking to me when I came here. During 2008, blackouts occurred by an hourly gap. Also, the most inconvenient thing was the absence of convenience stores. It is very common in Korea to see 24-hour convenient stores in every place. When I first went downtown, I saw a lot of traffic due to rickshaws and CNGs which was an unfamiliar sight for me. When I rode in a car, people on the bus next said hello to me. In South Korea, people never say hi or hello when they don't know about them. I realized how familiar and open Bangladeshis are to foreigners. I haven't seen rickshaws in Korea, even on TV. I was really fascinated by rickshaws. So, riding one was like riding the rides at an amusement park. Eating food using just your hands was very strange at first, but now, I am very good at it.

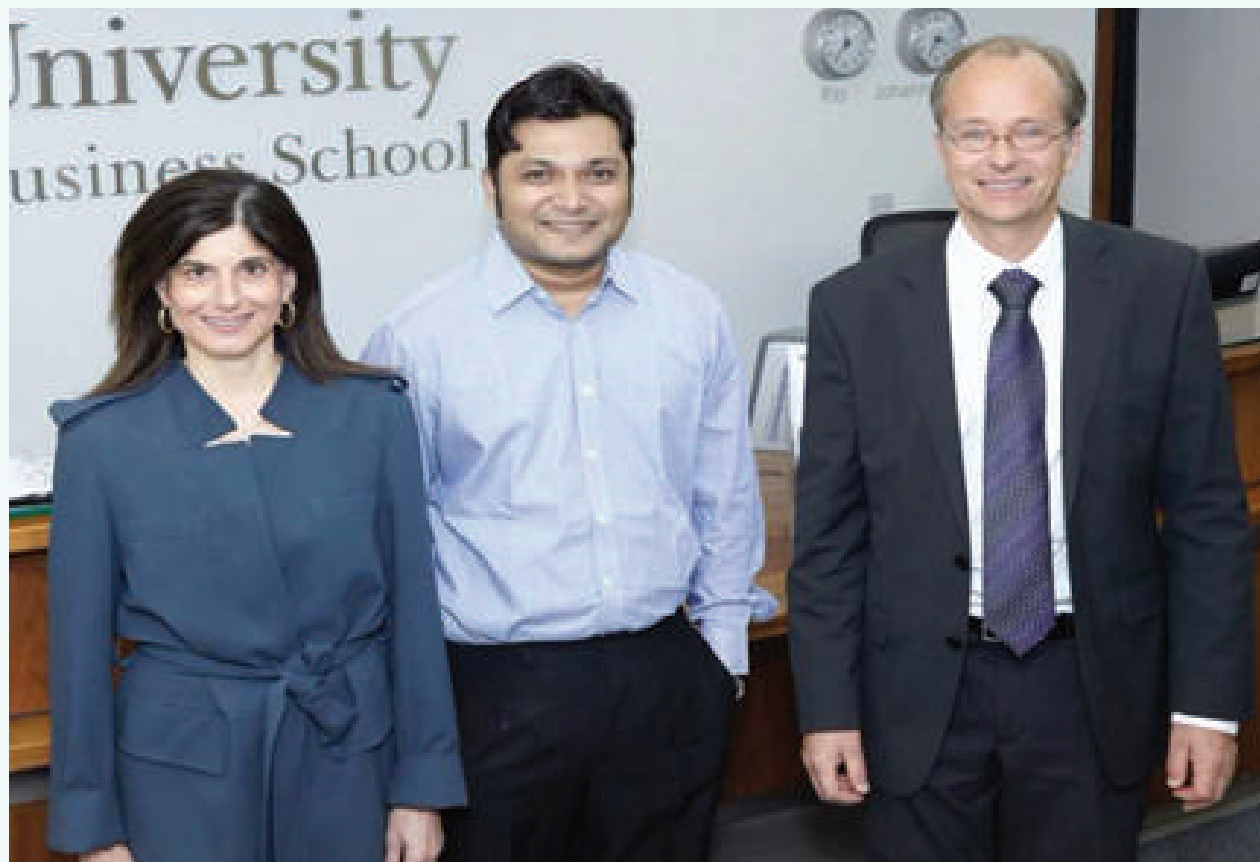
I: Anything you wish to tell the future applicants of NSU?

YK: I would like to recommend NSU to all, especially to international students. NSU is the first private university in Bangladesh that caters quality of education. NSU is very open to all the nations and ready to accept international students despite their differences through race, culture or religion. Furthermore, NSU has some clubs that are famous in Bangladesh such as, the Art Club and YEF club. If you are involved in these clubs you will get opportunities and gain experience in debates, conferences, etc. I would like to suggest every student to engage in club activities. Doing so gives you a chance to know many students and their thoughts.

NSU faculty, Dr. Sakib Bin Amin Receives Prestigious Commonwealth Fellowship

An avid researcher and Assistant Professor of the School of Business and Economics at North South University (NSU) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Dr. Sakib Bin Amin has recently been awarded the highly competitive Commonwealth Rutherford Fellowship 2017-2018 tenable at Durham University (United Kingdom) for one year. The Commonwealth Rutherford Fellowships are funded by the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) with the aim of attracting researchers who have the potential to generate wider impact beyond academia.

Dr. Sakib's research mainly focuses on electricity price reform and energy policy in developing countries. At Durham University Business School (DUBS), he works with Dr. Laura Marsiliani (Ph.D., London Business School) and Dr. Thomas Renström (Ph.D., Oxford University, under the supervision of Nobel Laureate Sir James Alexander Mirrlees) on the economic impact of electricity price reforms and the consequences for income distribution and poverty in Bangladesh. Dr. Sakib has a long-term research record with Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC). The outcome of their research will have the potential to influence the policy decisions of Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC), energy stakeholders and energy investors in Bangladesh and beyond.



NSU faculty, Dr. Md. Harisur Rahman Joins a Workshop at the University of California, Berkeley



An NSU faculty member, Dr. Md. Harisur Rahman, along with seven other faculty members from different universities were invited to participate in a week-long workshop on writing and publication organized and funded by the Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies at the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley). The seven other participants were mainly from renowned institutions of Bangladesh like Dhaka University (DU), Jahangirnagar University (JU), Chittagong University (CU), Rajshahi University (RU), BRAC and University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) and one participant was from Sri Lanka. The participants learned directly from renowned faculty members of UC Berkeley and other institutions such as the University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) and Boston University (BU) how to devise an article and publish in an international peer-reviewed journal. The participants were also able to get their papers reviewed and commented on during the workshop. Dr. Md. Harisur Rahman is an Associate Professor of the Department of Political Science and Sociology at NSU.