



**Office  
of External  
Affairs**

# THE BRIDGE

**The Official Newsletter of the Office Of External Affairs**

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## *Editor's Message*

Welcome back to The Bridge which covers events organized by the Office of External Affairs (OEA) including workshops, delegation visits with prospective new academic partners, as well as features of NSU alumni, international faculty and students. We hope the bi-monthly newsletter gives you food for thought and new inspiration! Thank you supporting the OEA!

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## **A Seminar on Theoretical & Methodological Issues in Migration Studies**



On 4 March 2019, a seminar on 'Theoretical & Methodological Issues in Migration Studies' was organized by the Office of External Affairs, NSU. The guest speaker was the Assistant Professor, North-western University in Qatar, Dr. Hasan Mahmud. It was a roundtable discussion attended by the Director of the Office of External Affairs, Dr. Katherine Li, the Director of the Office of Research, Professor Dr. Norman Swazo, Professor of Accounting, Dr. Frank Wade and many other distinguished guests. At first

the respected guest introduced himself and his educational background. He started with the Classical and Neo-classical theories. He also talked about "push and pull" factors, where he specified that pull factors result because of lack of opportunities, whereas push factors bear more opportunities for migration. He says these are the basic factors that researchers concentrate on while researching why people migrate from one country to another. After that he gave a brief on the "dual economy" concept which refers to two parallel economies running simultaneously in a country. One is traditional and other is advanced. In a traditional economy, labor reproduction is subsidized within the family and within local economic systems. So, the labor cost is zero in a traditional economy. An advanced economy is characterized by increasing expanse in the agricultural sector and other newly introduced economic sectors. Here the cost of labor reproduction is higher than in a traditional economy. Here he gave the example of the mining industry in South Africa which depends on its labor supply from the traditional economy. His talk also included topics like the role of the State, culture and social relations, imagination and aspiration, etc. Furthermore, he emphasized the need for a critical understanding of migration theories. The seminar resulted in several agreements and disagreements among the participants. Finally, the event ended by handing over a crest to the respective guest by the Director of Office of External Affairs, NSU, Dr. Katherine Li.



## Seminar on How to enter PGT and PGR Degree of a Top UK University

On 24 March 2019, a session on 'How to enter PGT and PGR degree of a top UK university' was organized by the Office of External Affairs, North South University. The guest speaker for the event serves as the Country Manager, University of Manchester, Mr. Andrew Reader who started his speech by introducing students to two different types of master degrees that UoM offers named PD and PGT. PD refers to a postgraduate diploma and is a popular option for students who do not have the time or finances to avail a full-time master's course. PGT refers to a typical master's degree. It is basically a one-year course in various subject areas. The MBA requires two years of work experience for entry into the UoM program. He said they also offer a master's program called the Masters of Research. Later he explained the admission process and said that students have to submit a few documents including two reference letters. Other skills required are: TOEFL, IELTS, etc. Afterwards, he talked about the PhD program of UoM. Then he discussed different types of PhD programs like the MPhil, PhD, and CDT. The MPhil refers to 'Master of Philosophy' which is a one year plus write-up program. The PhD refers to 'Doctor of Philosophy' which is basically a three-year program and the CDT refers to PhD via Doctoral Training Centre. This is a taught program for up to nine months and then PhD for 3.5 years. Later on, he provided some weblinks to the students present and gave them some advice. These include consideration of the deadlines first, thorough preparation and the importance of a research proposal. The seminar ended with a good Q/A session.



## Delegation Team from University of South Australia Visits NSU

On 25 March 2019, a delegation team visits NSU. The team included Professor of Accounting, School of Commerce, University of South Australia Business School, Dr. Carol A. Tilt and Associate Professor in Economics, Program Director, Dr. Tony Cavoli. At the event both the guests had two different presentations on two different topics. At first, Dr. Carol started her presentation introducing UniSA Business School by showing a brief video. Along with this she also shared that UniSA belongs to the top ten universities of Australia. From there she moved to her main presentation titled, 'Sustainability Reporting in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Indo-Pacific Region'. She said it is a research program she has been involved in.







Then she gave a talk on her related research questions and also said that they are interested in the link to poverty (LDCs, low income countries) and the agenda set by the UN SDGs, as this speaks to how bodies such as GRI can assist, or need to develop their framework for these contexts. After a broad discussion on her topic, she left the floor to Dr. Tony Cavoli for his presentation titled, 'Understanding the economic effects of financial inclusion in Asia'. For this topic, Dr. Tony talked about the importance of financial inclusion which means usage of formal financial services. Afterwards, he talked about financial inclusion's indicators and dimensions. Then he talked about Financial Inclusion and macro volatility which explores the nexus between financial stability and the volatility of macroeconomic variables such as output. The degree to which financial variables potentially moderate or amplify output volatility is an area of concern for policymakers who view macro volatility as a key policy objective. Then he gave a short informative speech on UniSA's Postgraduate Programs in Accounting and Finance. During this part he discussed the university's terms and definitions for the international students to get enrolled. His emphasis was on the program called Masters of Professional Accounting. Finally, there was a huge Q/A session between the guests and the students present. The program ended with a crest giving ceremony.

## Delegation Team from Griffith University Visits NSU



On 25 March 2019, a delegation team visits NSU for the purpose of exploring an MOU with Griffith University. The session was titled, 'Opportunity of Establishing an MOU Outlining PhD Scholarship Scheme'. The visiting team was composed of the Pro Vice Chancellor, Griffith Business School, Professor Dr. David Grant and the Director (International) and Associate Professor, Griffith Business School, Dr. Peter Woods. Dr. Woods is also a member of the Department of Business Strategy and Innovation at Griffith University. His award-winning research has been published in leading international academic journals including the Journal of Business Ethics and Information Technology and People. The event took place in the VC Conference Room, NSU and was organized by the Office of External Affairs, NSU. At the event the delegation team offered to have some faculty and student exchange programs between NSU and Griffith University. They also talked about possible joint research-based programs. The main agenda of their visit was to establish an MOU between the two universities. So, there is a pending MOU. The event ended with a good dinner at the Westin attended by the Director of the Office of External Affairs, Dr. Katherine Li.

## Victoria University of Wellington Representative Visits NSU



On 28 March 2019, the Director of Undergraduate Program, School of Accounting and Commercial Law, Victoria University of Wellington, Dr. Ainul Islam visits NSU. The meeting was organized by the Office of External Affairs, NSU. There was a formal meeting held in the Vice Chancellor's office, NSU. The other participants from NSU were the Vice Chancellor, NSU Professor Dr. Atiqul Islam, the Dean (acting), School of Business and Economics, NSU, Professor Dr. Jashim Uddin

Ahmed and the Director, Office of External Affairs, NSU, Dr. Katherine Li. It was an exploratory meeting between the two universities during which the parties talked about a possible collaboration and anticipated outcomes. Dr. Ainul showed his interest to sign an MOU soon with NSU which is now pending. The meeting ended with a crest giving ceremony to Dr. Ainul Islam by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Atiqul Islam.



## A Roundtable Talk on World Health Week 2019 at NSU

On 4 April 2019, a roundtable talk took place on a theme titled, 'Health Workers Count: Universal Health Coverage and Resilient Health Systems'. The session was organized by the Office of External Affairs, NSU. The distinguished guests included the Pro Vice Chancellor (D), NSU, Professor Dr. Gias U. Ahsan, the Deputy Country Representative, Save the Children, Dr. Ishtiaque Mannan, the National Professor Officer, WHO, Mohammad Nuruzzaman, the Deputy Director, Office of Population Health Nutrition and Education, USAID, the Chairman, Department of Public Health, School of Health and Life Sciences, NSU, Professor Dr. Dipak Mitra, the Deputy Director Training, National Institute of Population Research and Training, Mr. Abdul Hamid Moral, the Senior Technical Advisor, Human Resources for Health (HRH) and CB, Mr. Mahbubur Rashid, the Communications and Policy Analyst, USAID, Ms. Dorothy Brown Dixon, the POC, USAID, Ms.



Samina Choudhury, and the Director, Office of External Affairs, Dr. Katherine Li. The main objective of the session was to bring awareness to HRH issues and technical solutions in Bangladesh and to understand students' role as leaders in Public Health for addressing HRH issues/policies, etc. Dr. Ishtiaque Mannan was the program facilitator and the one who started the talk by introducing everyone. It was a huge collaborative talk where both students and guests participated in an active manner. They discussed how competency-based training approaches differ from traditional training methods. They also raised why this approach is required for developing competencies. Then they discussed how supportive supervision and mentoring can be functional in the local context to improve the quality of FP services. Afterwards, the USAID representatives described USAID approaches to addressing HRH issues in Bangladesh. Then they discussed the key policies regarding the supply and demand dynamics of the Health Labor Market. They also raised the topic of NIPORT's responsibilities about how it ensures the quality of training and also asked if NIPORT had any system in place to assess whether the training had any contribution toward the successful implementation of the sector program. It was a great talk where both the students and the respective guests participated actively with their own views and opinions. The talk ended with a Q/A session.

## Seminar on Identifying and Developing Global Leaders



On 22 April 2019, a seminar titled, 'Identifying and Developing Global Leaders' was organized jointly by the Office of External Affairs, NSU and the Career and Placement Center, NSU. The invited guest speaker of the seminar was the Darla and Frederick Brodsky Trustee Professor in D'amore – McKim School of Global Business, Northeastern University, USA, Dr. Allan W. Bird. The other distinguished guests from NSU were the Pro Vice Chancellor (D), Dr. G. U. Ahsan, the former Chairman and Member of BOT, Mr. Benajir Ahmed, the Professor of Economics and former Treasurer, Dr. Gour Gobinda Goswami, the Director, CPC, Dr. M. Khasro Miah, the Dean (acting), School of Business and Economics, Professor Dr. Jashim Uddin Ahmed, the Director, Office of Research, Dr. Norman Kenneth Swazo, the Chair, Department of English and Modern Languages, Dr. AQMA Rahman

Bhuiyan, the Chair, Department of Accounting and Finance, Dr. Arifur Rahman, the Chair, Department of Economics, Dr. M. Ismail Hossain, the Director, MBA and EMBA Program, Dr. Tamgid Ahmed Chowdhury and others.





The program was inaugurated by the Director, CPC, Dr. Khasro who introduced the audience to the invited guest and then left the stage for him. The invited speaker started his presentation by introducing Leadership. He said, “Leadership is almost as many definitions of leadership as there are persons who attempted to define the concept” (Stogdill, 1974, p. 2). Then he talked about the ‘Global Leader Deficit’ and exclaimed that every survey of global executives over the last 25 years has identified global leadership capacity as a key shortage in organizational capacity and as an inhibitor of global growth. Then he asked, what is global leadership? And who are global leaders? He offered that it includes the processes and actions through which an individual influences a range of internal and external constituents from multiple national cultures and jurisdictions in a global context characterized by significant levels of task and relationship complexity. Afterwards, he talked about several other things related to Global Leadership like the skills of a global leader, their competencies, and the tasks of a global leader, how their approaches should be, and the strategies of a global leader. It was overall a successful event and ended with a crest giving ceremony to Dr. Allan W. Bird.

## Meeting with CQ Delegate

On 28 April 2019, a delegate from CQ University Australia visits NSU to have a short meeting. The respective guest was Professor, International Business and Strategy, Higher Education Division, School of Business and Law, CQ University Australia, Dr. Quamrul Alam. In the meeting Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, NSU, Professor Rob Abdur Khan, Chair, PSS, Professor Tawfique Haque and SIPG, Research Coordinator, Dr. Mahfuzul Haque talked about various topics including: **1.** The Offshore PhD Program related to academics who want to do PhDs without scholarship; **2.** The Sandwich Model which is also a PhD program; and, **3.** Research programs with these four possible topics: (i.) the possibilities for public sector leadership, (ii.) the ICDDRDB village doctor program, (iii.) the Union Digital Centers (UDGs) of which there are 11,000 UDGs in Bangladesh, and (iv.) the One House One Farm Project. These are the four areas that were suggested for research collaboration. The final agenda item discussed was a possible 1-plus-1 master’s program that could be explored between NSU and CQ. The meeting ended with an agreement to sign an MOU between the two universities.



## Edith Cowan University Delegates Visit NSU



On 29 April 2019, a huge delegation team comprised of the Dean, International Business Operations, Edith Cowan University Australia, Dr. Jake German, the Director International, Edith Cowan University Australia, Dr. Danny Ng, the Acting Director International and the Discipline Coordinator – Petroleum Engineering, School of Engineering, Edith Cowan University Australia, Dr. Alireza Keshavarz, the Director International, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Edith Cowan University Australia, Ms. Tania Beament, the Director Education – South Asia, Government of Western Australia, Mr. Jamal Qureshi, the Director, ABDA CRCC 16th Bureau Consortium Ltd., Md. Iftekhar Hassan Tarek and the Co-Chairman, Gentium Solutions Group, Md. Ikthedar Hassan Murad. The event was organized by the Office of External Affairs. Among the distinguished guests there were the Vice

Chancellor, NSU, Professor Dr. Atiqul Islam, Professor of Economics and former Treasurer, NSU, Dr. Gour Gobinda Goswami, the Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, NSU, Professor Dr. Abdur Rob Khan and the Director, Office of External Affairs, NSU, Dr. Katherine Li. At the meeting the delegation team focused on action-based research and showed their interest in it. They suggested education-related research like childhood education at the daycare level known as pre-school. The next area in which they showed interest was Nanotechnology. The third set of areas included Environmental Science, Health Sciences and Engineering. They suggested some possible study abroad opportunities both ways. These were the main topics, but some of their conversation also included reminiscing, as the Edith Cowan University is where the Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Atiqul Islam spent some time in the past. The meeting participants showed interest in signing an MOU with NSU, which is now pending. The meeting ended with a crest giving ceremony to the invited guests by the Vice Chancellor.



## Meeting with Kabul Delegation Team

On 25 April, 2019 a delegation team that included officials from Kabul University, Afghanistan, the UGC, and the World Bank visited NSU. The Kabul University team was comprised of the Senior Advisor to the Afghan President and Chancellor, Kabul University, Professor Dr. Hamidullah Farooqi, faculty members, Kabul University, Mr. Ehasanullah Osmani and Ms. Tafseera Hashemi, and the Director, Higher Education Development Project, Afghanistan, Mr. Noor Ahmad Darwish. The UGC delegation team included the Addl. Director, UGC, Jesmin Parvin and the Assistant Secretary, UGC, Md. Mamun. Delegate from the World Bank was Consultant, Education Global Practice, the World Bank, M. Asahabur Rahman. The team visited NSU to support a proposed project named, 'Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT)'. Apart from



carrying out the follow-up activities of Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP), the proposed HEAT would establish a regional network of higher education institutions for women. The event was successfully hosted by the Office of External Affairs, NSU. On that day, the teams reached NSU and the OEA welcomed them nicely. The distinguished guests who attended the event other than the delegation team members were the Pro Vice Chancellor (D), NSU, Professor Dr. G. U. Ahsan, the Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, NSU, Professor Dr. Abdur Rob Khan, the Dean (acting), School of Business and Economics, NSU, Professor Dr. Jashim Uddin Ahmed, the Director, Office of Research, Professor Dr. Norman Kenneth Swazo and the Director, Office of External Affairs, NSU, Dr. Katherine Li. The session started with the NSU promotional video. After that a formal discussion ensued during which both parties explored a student and faculty exchange program between both the universities. There was also talk of joint research and publication. Moreover, they emphasized gender studies and women's empowerment issues. The Kabul University team said they would offer an undergraduate and master's program for Gender Studies and Women's Empowerment. They also talked about a focused research institute which would be a high-quality market-oriented research center. These were the main agenda items of the meeting. The meeting ended when the Pro Vice Chancellor (D), Dr. G. U. Ahsan handed over the crest to the guest and then both parties exchanged some souvenirs. Afterwards, the team had a short campus and laboratory tour. The event ended with a fine lunch served by Office of External Affairs, NSU.

## International Faculty Feature

*Dr. Shahnewaz Siddique is an assistant professor in the department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at North South University. Dr. Siddique was born in Canada and completed his undergraduate degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from McGill University in Montreal, Canada. After finishing his undergraduate degree Dr. Siddique moved to San Jose, California in the USA and worked as an engineer in a few companies. After a several worthwhile and highly informative years working in industry, Dr. Siddique returned to academia. He completed a master's in science degree in Computational Mathematics from Stanford University located in California, USA and also a master's in science degree in Aeronautics from the same institute. He also possesses a PhD in Aerospace Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology located in Atlanta, Georgia in the USA. Besides his academic interests, Dr. Siddique is a keen outdoors person spending considerable time camping, hiking and other outdoor activities. Another keen interest is amateur dark sky astronomy. Dr. Siddique is really enjoying his time at North South University where he gets to interact with great students and derives great joy in guiding them through their various senior year undergraduate projects.*





**Interviewer:** What is it like to be an international faculty member at NSU? Can you share some anecdotes?

**Shahnewaz Siddique:** Although I was born in Canada, my parents are from Bangladesh and I completed my high school, here. Right after high school I left Bangladesh and my subsequent education and employment was in either Canada or USA. To be honest, it is great to be back in Bangladesh. I believe I brought with me the “American can do, go getter” type mindset, which I am channeling into the courses I teach and research projects I am working on. I think this is evident from the responses and feedback that I am receiving from NSU students, our core constituency. Other than that, I speak the local language, which makes things easier for me.

**Interviewer:** From your bio, we can see that you worked as an engineer in various companies. What differences did you experience in each of the places? What influenced you to come to Bangladesh, specifically North South University?

**Shahnewaz Siddique:** I would say what I learned in those companies, and in general in the USA and Canada, is professionalism. There is a job that needs to be done by functioning in a group as part of a team. The United States, be it in academia or industry, is all about pushing boundaries; pushing science and research to the next level or totally reinventing the economy every few years. During my employment I learned to function in a fast-paced work environment with set deliverables and deadlines developing next generation technology. I am happy to say, that the professionalism that I witnessed in the USA can now be observed in a few organizations in Bangladesh. I have been pleasantly surprised to observe that North South University is one such organization in Bangladesh. This is one of the main reasons that influenced me to join North South University. I do think, given the substantial everyday challenges of operating in Bangladesh, that NSU is continuously pushing ahead and doing their part in contributing to the development of the country.

**Interviewer:** You did two master’s, one is a master's in science degree in Computational Mathematics from Stanford University, California, USA and another one is a master’s in science degree in Aeronautics from the same institute. Tell us about your experiences in achieving the degrees.

**Shahnewaz Siddique:** Undoubtedly, Stanford University has been the best experience in my life. Stanford gave me a true appreciation of how deep knowledge can be. At Stanford I was exposed to the cutting edge of knowledge in a variety of fields of Mathematics, Computer Science and Engineering. I didn’t even know these types of knowledge existed before I attended Stanford. Stanford taught me to understand things at the most basic and deepest levels. I can honestly say that Stanford changed my outlook on education and knowledge permanently.

**Interviewer:** What about your PhD that you possess in Aerospace Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia, USA?

**Shahnewaz Siddique:** For my PhD thesis at Georgia Institute of Technology, I was solving a complex problem. But my advisor, Dr. Vitali Volo-voi, always used to tell me that solution must be as simple and as fundamental as possible. He used to say if the solution is complex then I am not thinking about the problem correctly. He was right! It turns out many complex problems can be partitioned or broken down into fundamental mathematical and physical problems for which solutions exist.

**Interviewer:** Tell us something about your other areas of interest (e.g., amateur dark sky astronomy).

**Shahnewaz Siddique:** I love stargazing. Those who haven’t done it yet, please start with the North Star and the Big Dipper and see where it leads you.

**Interviewer:** What would be your advice for your future students?

**Shahnewaz Siddique:** My advice for current and future students is to study hard and think deeply on the courses you are taking and the degree you are completing. Figure out what is your passion is and what comes naturally to you. Follow that and you’ll see new paths will open; new ways and opportunities will present themselves.



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

**Shahnewaz Siddique:** I can only compare NSU to the North American universities I have attended. Unfortunately, there is a big difference. My current observation is that we are not tapping the full potential of our student body. I am very confident they are capable of great things but due to systemic reasons we are unable to tap this potential. One could say a large amount of excess capacity (in terms of student potential) remains unutilized. Capacity, that if properly directed, could do wonders for developing and growing the economy. North American universities make it their mission to ensure the full potential of their students is utilized.

## NSU Alumni Feature



*Mr. Ahmedul Kabir did his MBA in Marketing from North South University and did his MA in Human Rights from the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom as a Chevening Scholar. After that he joined BCS (Police) as Assistant Superintendent of Police in 2005, and is now working as a Superintendent of Police at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). He has served in departments ranging from Intelligence, to Operations, and Criminal Investigation at home and abroad. He served in the security forces of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina for two stints and also worked with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti as Operations Commander of Bangladesh. He was awarded a UN Medal by the UN and the Chevening Scholarship by the UK Government for meritorious service.*

**Interviewer:** As you served with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), tell us your experiences of that.

**Ahmedul Kabir:** It was a unique experience. I had the opportunity to serve in a truly international environment with police officers, military officers, and civilian staff from around the world, from countries like the USA, Canada, United Kingdom, Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Sri Lanka, and India, to name a few. As an Operations Officer of the Bangladesh Formed Police Unit-3, I played a key role in advancing world peace. I learned many professional transferable skills there that I was able to apply practically when I returned to Bangladesh Police. This stint of service at the United Nations Mission in Haiti also broadened my mind culturally and intellectually.

**Interviewer:** You have gained international perspectives on policing and Human Rights from the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom. What differences did you notice about the teaching methods used at University of Sussex and NSU or DU?

**Ahmedul Kabir:** Sussex was more like a culmination of my education so far at NSU or DU. My father was a lawyer and as such, Human Rights always held a particular appeal. As a professional police officer, one of my major responsibilities is to safeguard Human Rights, and in the course of my professional life, I have found that policing and human rights are complementary issues. The foundations of my university education in the social sciences, commerce, and the liberal arts, at home and abroad, have been of great help in shaping my understanding of policing, and nurturing the right kind of attitude and aptitude for it. My academic engagement over the years has given me confidence, knowledge, experience, and skills that have grown incrementally and sturdily. There are, of course, many differences that I find difficult to articulate readily, but no matter the differences, all of it has helped me to be what I am today. Sussex always encouraged critical thinking, NSU taught me that one can learn skills, and DU exposed me to the world of knowledge for the first time beyond basic schooling. Although cadet college, which has given our country many leaders, did help prepare me for my life in the police today.



**Interviewer:** Previously you worked with an Information Technology firm and a bank. What are the differences between your past and present profession? Do you feel you have more responsibilities now?

**Ahmedul Kabir:** Yes, initially I served with an Information Technology firm and then moved into the banking profession before I joined the Bangladesh Civil Service (Police). I see them as a natural progression of my career. The diverse and rich academic path I took lead me to careers in banking, then the corporate world, and finally the civil service, more specifically, police service. What I love most about all these professional experiences is that wherever I served, I had the opportunity to serve people. My natural inclination to serve people finally found its best expression in the police force. It was perhaps a convergence of wishes and destiny: the wishes of my parents that I commit myself to public service, and providence that introduced me to the idea of public service in my formative years at cadet college. When it comes to responsibilities, I always felt a sense of responsibility to the people I served, wherever I worked.

**Interviewer:** You are an active member of both the organizations, the International Police Association (IPA) and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). How did you get involved in these?

**Ahmedul Kabir:** I got introduced to two of these major police associations in the natural course of my career. The International Police Association (IPA) is a friendship organization for members of the police force, whether serving or retired, since 1950, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) has been a professional association for law enforcement worldwide for more than 120 years. Active membership in the IACP is open to chiefs and superintendents of police, as well as command-level police officers in public law enforcement agencies.

**Interviewer:** How do you feel about achieving your awards, namely the 'United Nations Medal' and 'Chevening Scholarship'?

**Ahmedul Kabir:** I feel very proud and honored to have achieved the United Nations Medal and Chevening Scholarship. I was given the United Nations Medal in recognition of my service to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. I was awarded the Chevening, the UK Government's international award program aimed at developing global leaders. I did my MA in Human rights from the University of Sussex under this Chevening Scholarship.

**Interviewer:** Tell us about the several publications you have had in the last couple of years.

**Ahmedul Kabir:** I have authored four academic articles published in four different esteemed journals of Bangladesh. My professional experience has certainly contributed to my articles, including an article on the judicial implications of genocide in international criminal law, and an article on strengthening the rule of law and support for human rights in judicial reform. I also wrote an article on the strategic implications of participatory rural appraisal for democracy, and an article on the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission. These were published in the Journal of the Judicial Administration Training Institute, the Journal of International Relations of Jahangirnagar University, the North South Business Review, and the Journal of Bangladesh Institute of International Strategic Studies.

**Interviewer:** In what way did NSU prepare you for your career path and/or add value?

**Ahmedul Kabir:** NSU prepared me for my career path, adding value in many ways. I always found an underlying connection between Human Rights, Business and Economics, and then Literature Studies. The common thread of these humanities subjects is that they all are about human beings, human nature, and their lives. NSU helped me see the issues of Human Rights that always appealed to me, in a social, economic and political context.

**Interviewer:** From your experience, what would your advice be to other NSU students coming to your current profession?

**Ahmedul Kabir:** My advice from my experience to other NSU students coming to my current profession would be to keep learning, unlearning, and relearning. I always felt that police service has a life of its own, that evolves continually, and demands the smartest of minds to serve in it. There can be no sustainable development without peace, and no peace without sustainable development. Prepare yourself to help foster a peaceful, just, and inclusive society!

## International Student Feature

*Takaaki Arayama* is a Japanese student currently enrolled in the Department of Architecture, NSU. He was born and raised in the city of Okayama in Japan. Okayama is a city located between Hiroshima and Osaka. Not as famous as Tokyo or Kyoto; however, Okayama is a warm and rich area. Also, it is an area where no major earthquake has ever occurred. There is a beautiful mountain and the sea, and a wonderful culture and history in Okayama. As he grew up in such areas, he likes history and culture. His father is an architect, so Takaaki also wanted to be an architect. He got his education as an architect in Okayama and is now working at Okayama as an architect. He specializes in the law of constructing a building. He designs and supervises construction. This is a field for which he is making an effort in particular recently. It's about helping others to get a first-class architect's license. He says many people in Japan go to a preparatory school to become a first-class architect after graduating from university. He also works for the preparatory school as a lecturer. Now, he is a student and a teacher at the same time. According to him the examination of Japanese architects is very difficult. Even if someone graduates from a university there, there is a possibility that architects' tests are passed by 10 %. Therefore, everyone studies strenuously. He thinks that such efforts support the Japanese building technology.

**Interviewer:** What made you choose NSU as your alma mater? (あなたが母校としてNSUを選んだ理由は何ですか?)

**Takaaki Arayama:** Several years ago, my friend was studying at Dhaka University. I visited Bangladesh to see the friend. At that time, I received a strong impact. I felt a big difference from my home country. I felt the energy, culture and history that are not in my country from Bangladesh. I thought I'd like to learn Bangladeshi culture and history as an architect. So, I investigated about a university in Bangladesh. And I knew that NSU has the best education program, so I chose NSU. In addition, NSU always supported me. I wish to take this opportunity to thank you all. And special thanks for Dr. Abdul Khaleque and Dr. Mujtaba Ahsan.

**Interviewer:** Can you share some early stories from when you first came to Bangladesh or NSU? (あなたが最初にバングラデシュまたはNSUに来たとき、あなたはいくつかの初期の物語を共有することができますか?)

**Takaaki Arayama:** I learned about the heritage of Bengal architecture in NSU two years ago. Then I learned for the first time about the Ruins of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur. This site is very wonderful and I think it is an indicator of the height of Bangladeshi culture. However, I was surprised by the fact that these remains influenced the “Angkor Watt” ruins of Cambodia. In ancient times, many Japanese strongly wished to go to a Buddhist temple called “Gion-shoja”. This temple is also mentioned in the book “Heike- Monogatari” written 1,000 years ago. This book is the most famous classic in Japan. “Gion-shoja” was admired for certain by many Japanese, and the temple had an influence on Japanese culture. That's a place that Japanese people admire. And many Japanese were thinking “Gion-shoja” was “Angkor Watt” remains for a long time. Surprisingly, the cultures of Japan and Bangladesh have been connected for more than a thousand years. This historical fact impressed me. NSU and Bangladesh gave me such a new discovery and joy.

**Interviewer:** As an international student, do you see cultural diversity in NSU? If yes, can you illustrate it a bit? (留学生として、NSUには文化の多様性がありますか。もしそうなら、あなたはそれを少し説明することができますか?)

**Takaaki Arayama:** Yes, I think that there is certainly diversity at NSU. As proof of diversity, NSU accepted me. It's obvious that there is diversity in NSU for many reasons. One of the reasons can be found on the NSU campus. The students and teachers of NSU are wearing various styles of dress. Some people wear traditional South Asian dresses, Muslim dresses, and Western-style clothing. Students are also mixing various styles skillfully. Their colorful attire add to the classy university campus site beautifully. I think culture, the individuality and insistence show in clothes. There are no places where diversity shows clearly in my country like the campus of NSU.

**Interviewer:** Where do you see yourself in the future? (将来あなたはどこで自分を見ますか?)

**Takaaki Arayama:** My country has an outstanding culture, history, and high technology; Bangladesh also has a beautiful culture, history and infinite possibility. There are differences between my country, Bangladesh and various countries in the world; but those differences are not barriers. It is a form of beauty. I'd like to find its beauty more in Bangladesh.

**Interviewer:** Anything you wish to tell the future applicants of NSU? (あなたがNSUの将来の申請者に伝えたいことは何ですか?)

**Takaaki Arayama:** NSU has an excellent education program. In addition, NSU has the capacity to accept various personalities. You'd be able to learn that beauty lies in difference and the individuality that it brings.