



**Office  
of External  
Affairs**

# THE BRIDGE

## The Official Newsletter of the Office Of External Affairs

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*Editor's Message*

May  
the music  
of  
monsoon showers  
clear away  
the dust  
from  
your mind  
and  
enliven you  
with  
the sparkling  
greenery  
all around.

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### Harvard Krokodiloes – A Cappella Performance



THE HARVARD  
KROKODILOES



**A**s a part of 'The Harvard Krokodiloes' 2022 World Summer Tour', Bangladesh was their only stop in South Asia on their way around the world. For their performance venue, they chose North South University (NSU). According to their website, The Harvard Krokodiloes, are the oldest cappella singing group of Harvard University, USA, founded in 1946. The concept of this group originated from The Kroks, which is rooted in the Hasty Pudding Club, founded in 1770 and recognized as the oldest collegiate social organization in the United States. This was a matter of great prestige for both Bangladesh and NSU to host the 'The Harvard Krokodiloes'.



The excellent event took place on June 16, 2022 at 4.45 pm at the NSU campus. Alongside the members of The Harvard Krokodiloes, NSU's partners in organizing the event were esteemed members from the US

Embassy, Dhaka and their Public Affairs Section. The Harvard Krokodiloes' group consisted of twelve tuxedo-clad undergraduates who sang songs from the Great American Songbook and beyond. From the US Embassy, H.E. Helen LaFave, Chargé d'Affaires graced the occasion. Other dignitaries from Bangladesh also attended the grand program.



It is a matter of great pride for our country to have hosted such a prestigious event on the NSU campus. The already existing long and productive diplomatic relationship between Bangladesh and the USA will only improve and the friendship between the two nations will be strengthened through this wonderful occasion.

### NSU signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tauri Foundation

**A**fter thorough discussion and a comprehensive evaluation of common interests and objectives, North South University (NSU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tauri Foundation.



The MoU commences the scope of joint research/publications, resource/grants mobilization, training workshops and internship opportunities for students. The agreement will be beneficial to both the respective parties. The agreement contains terms for exchange of research outcomes, academic publications and other academic information.

According to the MoU, training programs for research methodology, grant proposal writing, and internship opportunities will be offered in the areas to develop innovative learning platforms, educational programs and carrying out research. Both NSU and the Tauri Foundation will encourage research collaboration in areas of mutual interest, in particular, towards an inclusive society where all disadvantaged people – including persons with disabilities live with equal rights, opportunities, access and dignity like all other citizens of the country. The agreement will remain effective for five years and will be automatically renewed.

The MoU was signed by Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, NSU, Prof. Dr. Hasan Mahmud Reza, Dean, School of Health & Life Sciences and Mr. Ashfaq-UL-Kabir, Executive Director, Tauri Foundation. The points of contact for this agreement from NSU are Dr. Mohammad Delwer Hossain Hawlader, Associate Professor & Chairman, Department of Public Health, Dr. Nadira Sultana Kakoly, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health and from Tauri Foundation are Mr. Ashfaq-UL-Kabir, Founder & Executive Director, Marufa Hossain, Co-Founder & Director.

## Meeting with Shenyang Jianzhu University, China



*A courtesy meeting between North South University (NSU) and Shenyang Jianzhu University, China was held via Zoom on April 25, 2022. The participants of the event included Dr. Kevin Wang, Professor and Director/Dean, International Office Shenyang Jianzhu University, China and Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA, Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Director, OEA, Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA and Ms. Antara Labiba, Office of External Affairs (OEA) from North South University, Bangladesh.*

The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the collaboration opportunities between Shenyang Jianzhu University, China and NSU. Implementation of joint research projects (joint research collaboration), student exchange, etc. were also topics of the meeting. The attendees also proposed arranging a summer camp program for 50-60 students who will come from Shenyang Jianzhu University, China to NSU for a short period of time.

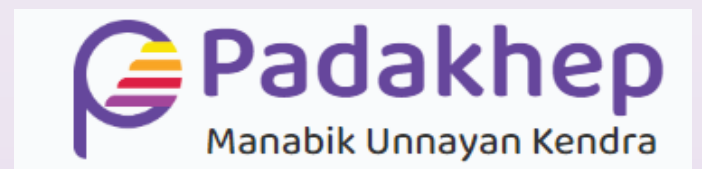
In the beginning of the meeting, Ms. Samina Alam Miti, introduced her OEA team members. She mentioned the international students of North South University. After that, Dr. Hassanuzzaman, Assistant Director, OEA, discussed the possible areas of collaboration such as joint research, student exchange programs. Next, Ms. Samina Alam Miti introduced the different academic programs of North South University such as those of the School of Business, School of Engineering and Physical Sciences, etc. Later on, Ms. Tasnia Azmeri described the international partnerships of North South University which include partnerships with foreign universities around the world.

Dr. Kevin Wang, Professor and Director/Dean, International Office was interested in programs such as Electrical Engineering, Management and Architecture. He also showed interest in joint research programs because the Chinese government supports funding for research programs. Lastly, he discussed the summer camp arrangement at North South University for 50-60 students who will come from Shenyang Jianzhu University, China.

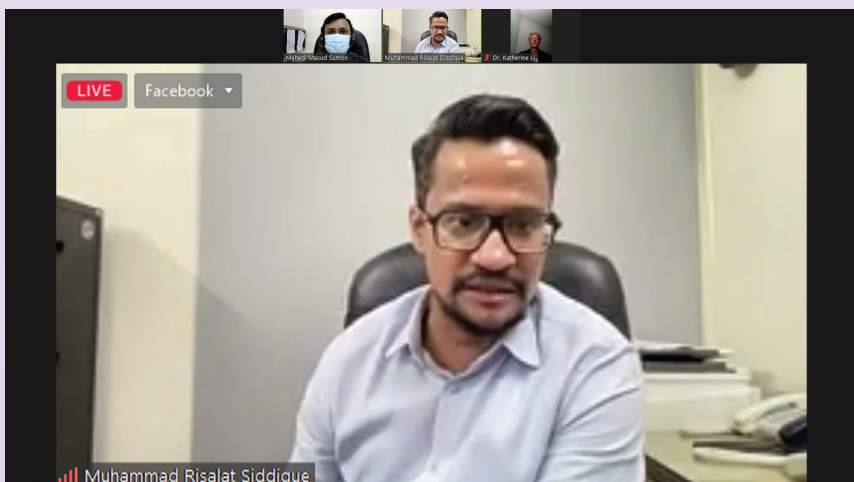
After evaluating the feasibility of the discussed collaboration areas, the attendees of the meeting agreed that Shenyang Jianzhu University would send a draft of an MOU to NSU.

## NGO Talk Show Episode 16

*The sixteenth episode of the 'NGO Talk Show' aired on May 17, 2022 with one of the government-registered NGOs of Bangladesh – 'Padakhep Manabik Unnayan Kendra (PMUK)'. The name of the event was 'Developing Bangladesh: Scope for Research between NSU and PMUK'. We had Mr. Risalat Siddique, Director, Micro-finance Wing, Padakhep Manabik Unnayan Kendra (PMUK) with us as the keynote speaker for the event. From North South University, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs was present as a Special Guest, and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA hosted the live talk show.*



Padakhep Manabik Unnayan Kendra (PMUK) was founded in 1986. The organization started its operation in Barishal with the local people. After 36 years, PMUK is now operating country-wide with a holistic developmental approach. During the event, Mr. Siddique discussed the operations and objectives of the organization. He mentioned that PMUK is currently focusing on transformation of the economy towards automation along with a more digitized approach. Their operations emphasize implementing data science and analytical tools in the development sector and economic advancement. The organization is working toward enacting digital literacy, developing market capacity and expanding market connectivity. PMUK stresses sustainable enterprise projects rather than charitable activities.



Alongside the initiatives of PMUK, Mr. Siddique also discussed the integrated influence of NGOs on the development of Bangladesh during the event. He mentioned that the NGOs have played an important role in the digitization process of our country. Moreover, the development sector has greatly contributed to ensuring financial access and training access for the general people. In Mr. Siddique's opinion, the safety needs of the people should be prioritized over social needs. NGOs have been working hand-in-hand with the government from the very beginning. Moreover, the guest acknowledged the significant influence of civil society on the development sector of our country. The joint effort of the development sector, civil society and government have improved the condition of basic human needs, primary healthcare, women's empowerment, etc. of Bangladesh.

Alongside practical operations in the field, PMUK also runs research projects in relevant subject areas. While discussing research, Mr. Siddique drew a comparison between action and commissioned research and emphasized the importance of combining both tactics while applying them practically. As the discussion furthered, the attendees of the session talked about the potential scope of collaboration between PMUK and NSU. Mr. Siddique

encouraged joint research and related factors like problem identification by students, faculties, researchers to analyze collected data through research fellowships, etc. He also offered internship opportunities to the students of NSU in their organization. Overall, the discussion focused on ways to enhance the opportunities to bridge academia and the development sector.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/760099525157220>

## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 79

*The seventy-ninth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on May 18, 2022. As our guest for this episode, we had Mr. Nafis Ridwan Chowdhury, an alumnus of North South University from the Department of Business Administration, Batch 2012. He completed his undergraduate degree from NSU in 2016 and pursued his Master's from City University of New York in Data Science. In his professional life, he has mostly worked in the finance and banking industry. He has the experience of working with financial institutions like Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission, FPT Information System, Standard Chartered Bank, etc. in Bangladesh. While still working with Standard Chartered Bank, he moved abroad and joined the bank in the USA. Currently, he is working as the Assistant Vice President (AVP) of Bank MUFG, a Japanese bank with a branch in New York City.*



The event started with a warm appreciation from Mr. Chowdhury towards the Office of Alumni Affairs (OAA) for offering a platform for the alumni of NSU to stay connected. Afterwards, the guest shared his experience and journey of his professional career. As mentioned before, his entire career so far has been finance and banking industry oriented. As the AVP of a multinational bank, his responsibilities include managing the accounts of the investment banking department, supporting relationship management and documentation, compliance, etc. According to him, finance professionals need to have adequate product knowledge regardless of which department they work in. They also need analytical skills, a wide network and an improvement oriented approach to problem solving to thrive in their career. Mr. Chowdhury also emphasized the role of data science in current career prospects of professionals. As almost every sector of the industry has some implementation of data analysis in their operations, it is important for everyone to have a basic understanding about this rapidly growing area.

Mr. Chowdhury has ample experience of working in the finance and banking sector both at home and abroad. He shared some of his observations about the differences in banking practice and customer psychology in Bangladesh and the USA from his experience. According to him, both the industries have quite a similar client base. Nevertheless, in the USA, the clients are comparatively well informed about regulatory requirements and the validity and authenticity of information are easier to ensure. He also mentioned that the office practices for the employees of the banking sector are somewhat different in the USA from our country. Although he continued working for the same bank even after moving abroad, Mr. Chowdhury could clearly differentiate the cultural differences between the two branches of the same company. From his experience, the work-life balance is better in the USA and the corporate hierarchy is less bureaucratic than in Bangladesh.

As the event furthered, the discussion moved towards Mr. Chowdhury's student life from his professional life. The guest was familiar with the reputation and quality of education at NSU even before he got enrolled here because of his mother's association with the university. In spite of having a science background, when he decided to pursue his undergraduate degree in commerce, he was certain about choosing NSU, one of the best business schools in the country. In NSU, Mr. Chowdhury had a versatile campus life. He shared some of his fond memories with faculty members, friends and classmates from his NSU life with the audience. He mentioned that NSU helped him to become more outgoing, overcome his limitations, increase connectivity and build networks.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/556219399478474>

## Taylor's University, Malaysia Delegation visits NSU

A delegation from Taylor's University, Malaysia visited NSU for a courtesy meeting on May 24, 2022. The delegation included Ms. Tan Huey Khan, Senior Director, International office, Taylor's University, Manzuma Morshed, Country Manager, Taylor's University, Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Director, Ms. Antara Labiba from the international affairs office, OEA attended the meeting.



**TAYLOR'S  
UNIVERSITY**  
Wisdom • Integrity • Excellence

The main focus of the meeting was to discuss the partnership and joint research opportunities between NSU and Taylor's University. The delegates proposed arranging international seminars and conferences as well as workshops for students. The attendees also discussed faculty-student exchange programs, joint research collaboration with research centers between two institutes. The meeting ended on a positive note with a decision to reconvene for further discussion.

## Information Session about Wedu's Introduction to Leadership (ITL) Course



Investing in women leading the change

North South University's Office of External Affairs organized a virtual information session about Wedu's Introduction to Leadership (ITL) Course on May 24, 2022. As the guests for the session, we had Ms. Shaan Suhas Kumar, Leadership Development Program Manager, Ms. Than Zin, Project Associate, Ms. Arshae Ahmed, Rising Star and Ms. Sona, Program Intern from Wedu. On the other hand, from North South University, Dr. Kathrine Li, Director, OEA and Ms. Antara Labiba were present during the event. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and streamed via Facebook Live on the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

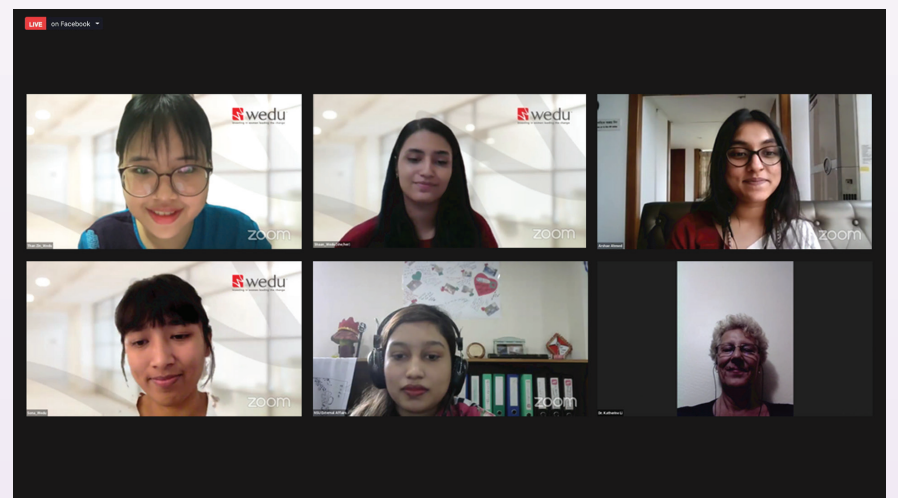
The event started with an overview about Wedu. The first speaker of the event, Ms. Kumar introduced the audience to the mission, vision and operations of the organization. She mentioned that Wedu envisions a world where half of all leaders are women. The organization's goal is to nurture leadership development of women around the world by supporting their unique, lifelong journeys with leadership development training, opportunities and funding for education. The second speaker of the event, Ms. Zin, briefed about the programs and activities of the organization. Wedu mainly arranges leadership development programs for supporting women with their professional and leadership skills. The target of these programs is to help the women reach and exercise their full potential.

Afterwards, the guests introduced several distinct programs offered by Wedu and briefed about the structure, operations and goals of these programs one by one. They explicitly talked about the Introduction to Leadership (ITL) Course, Rising Star Opportunity, Global Mentorship Program, Education Funding through Future Income Sharing Agreement (FISA), Women's Leadership Academies, Curation of Leadership Development Opportunities, etc. The guests mentioned that The Global Mentorship Program is an eight-month long one-on-one mentorship program in which the mentors support the mentees to grow and reach their smart goals. Another essential and introductory program of Wedu is Introduction to Leadership Course which is a two-month long two-part online leadership development course. The course promotes 7 aspects of leadership dimensions and traits. The goals of these courses are to identify strengths of the participants, improve leadership and self-management.

Alongside introducing the programs, the speakers also shared their journey and experience with Wedu with the audience. Afterwards, they informed and guided about the registration, enrollment process and application timeline of the programs offered by the organization. Furthermore, the guests shared their contact details with the audience for the convenience of reaching out to them with further questions.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1438811416577786>

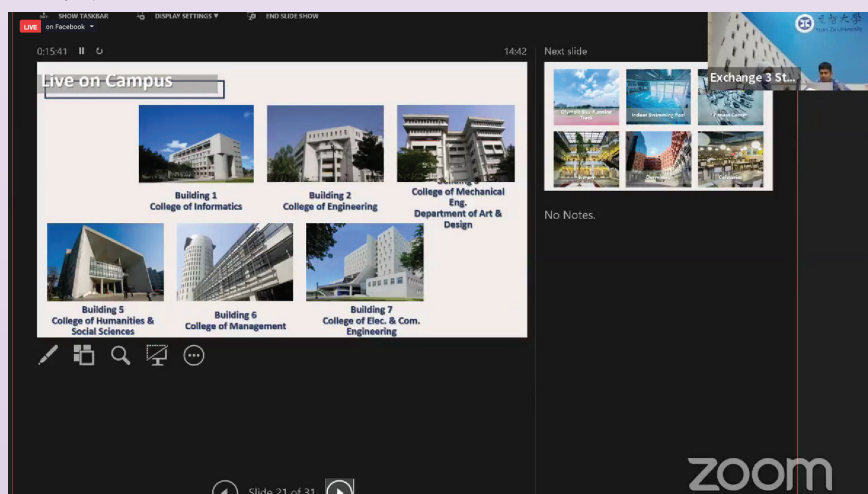


## Information Session with Yuan Ze University, Taiwan

North South University Office of External Affairs arranged a web information session with Yuan Ze University, Taiwan on May 25, 2022. Mr. Dien Giau Richard, Director of International Corporation Section, Global Affairs Office, Ms. Sayadin Saimu, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, College of Informatics (Master's Program), Mr. Mohammad Nowshin Amin Sheikh, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, College of Informatics (Doctoral Program) attended the session as guests and speakers from Yuan Ze University. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and was shared through Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.



元智大學  
Yuan Ze University



The event started with a presentation by the guests which included an overview of Yuan Ze University of Taiwan and its background and history. Yuan Ze University possesses a high rank among the Asian universities as well as in the world university ranking. It has been one of the top choices for international students who aim to pursue their higher studies in Taiwan. The university currently consists of 19 percent international students of its total student population, coming from over 50 different countries. Over the years, Yuan Ze University has built adequate affiliations and accreditations with several educational institutes and organizations which has helped the university to grow and facilitate its students with better opportunities. The university has a background of proficient research work and currently is offering the students the opportunity to pursue research programs with them. Moreover, Yuan Ze University facilitates its students with various scholarships and waiver offers, student exchange programs, internship programs, and so on.

Throughout the session, the guests presented information and guidance about the application procedure and the application requirements of Yuan Ze University for international students.

The academic structure of the university was also explained in detail during the session. In this context, the guests mentioned the number of required semesters for the completion of graduation and post-graduation program in the university. Moreover, they provided the audience with details about the departments and courses

offered by Yuan Ze University. The university has 24 departments under five colleges which are – Electrical and Communication Engineering, Informatics, Engineering, Management, Humanities, and Social Science. Each of these mentioned departments and colleges ensures quality teaching from highly qualified and dedicated faculty members. The university offers many of the aforementioned offered courses in English and some are bilingual. Due to the excellence and integrity of education, Yuan Ze University has a higher placement/employment rate among its graduates.

In the last segment of the session, the guests talked and talked about the visa process and collection procedure for Taiwan. The event ended with an interactive Question/Answer session where the guests took questions from the audience.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/2273686059436242>

## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 80

*The eightieth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on May 26, 2022. As our guest for this episode, we had Ms. Farzana Nahid, an alumna of North South University from the Department of Business Administration, Batch 1998. She completed her undergraduate studies in 2002 and pursued an MBA from NSU in 2007. Her professional journey so far is mostly the finance and banking sector. She worked for a long time with HSBC Bank in Bangladesh. Afterwards, she moved to Canada and worked with several financial institutes there throughout her career. Currently, she is associated with Scotiabank in Toronto as the Senior Manager.*

Ms. Nahid has been associated with the banking industry for 19 years and her professional expertise is mainly in the risk management department. She started her career in HSBC and worked there for more than 13 years. Afterwards, she moved to Canada and continued working in the same industry and department there as well. Ms. Nahid has worked with three different banks in Canada till now, and she joined her current employer Scotiabank in 2019. As an experienced risk management professional, she oversees the different areas of risk management functions like fraud, internal audit, sanctions, etc. Other than those, her current roles and responsibilities include working with partners in retail commercial, managing wealth, monitoring communication platform, managing change within the control framework and the regulatory policies, etc. Her duties ensure complete compliance with the policies and operations of the bank. As a risk management professional, Ms. Nahid is closely involved with anti-money laundering operations and activities. She discussed some of the challenges that she faces while dealing with such matters. She mentioned that rapid change in customer behavior patterns heavily affects the risk management sector.

As Ms. Nahid has adequate experience of working in the banking sector both nationally and internationally, she shared some insights about the banking practices and customer psychology in our country and abroad. In her opinion, the banking sector of Bangladesh is quite advanced and there is not much gap between it and the international standard of practice. In this context, she also mentioned that Bangladesh used to have a mostly cash-based industry before the pandemic. But because of the increased e-transfer and reduced in-person transactions throughout the pandemic, people's dependence on online platforms has increased and the industry has become much more digitized and advanced. It also pushed the industry towards a rather data driven structure. To thrive in such an industry, adaptability, analytical skills, resilience and result oriented actions are required in a professional.

In the later portion of the event, the guest shared her journey, memories and experience from her student life at NSU with the audience. Her decision of choosing NSU for higher education was driven by her desire to acquire quality education and finish the degree timely. However, she could enjoy her undergraduate life in NSU to the fullest. She was involved with various extracurricular activities throughout her university life. In her opinion, NSU had a significant impact on both her professional and personal life. It offered her platforms for self-development, boosted her confidence and made her resilient. From her experience, she suggested the younger NSUers to practice resilience. She advised not to be afraid of failure but to keep the courage and determination of getting back on their feet again.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/331334005808349>



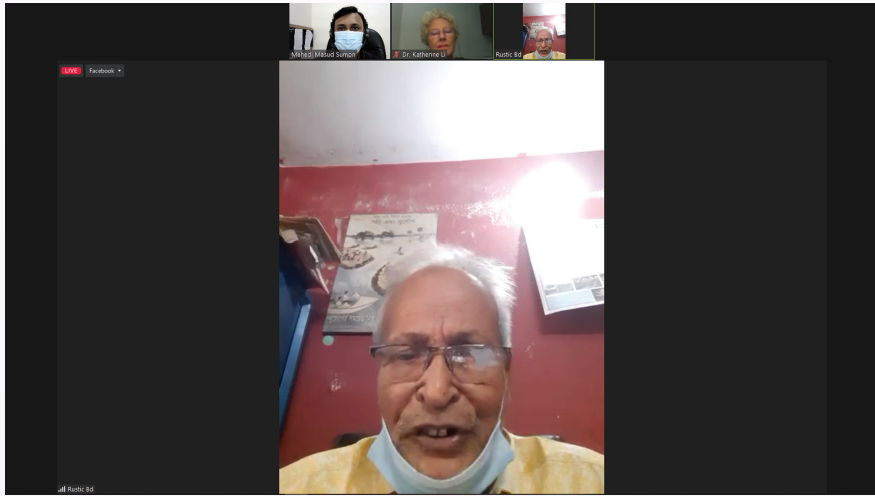
## NGO Talk Show Episode 17

*The seventeenth episode of the 'NGO Talk Show' aired on May 26, 2022 with one of the government-registered NGOs of Bangladesh – 'Rural Unfortunates Safety Talisman Illumination Cottage (RUSTIC)'. The name of the event was 'Developing Bangladesh: Scope for research between NSU and RUSTIC'. We had Mr. Moral Noor Mohammad, Executive Director, Rural Unfortunates Safety Talisman Illumination Cottage (RUSTIC) with us as the keynote speaker for the event. From North South University, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs was present as a Special Guest, and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA hosted the live talk show.*



Our guest, Mr. Noor graduated in 1970 with a Bachelor's in Social Science. The Liberation War of Bangladesh started right after his graduation, and he participated in the war as a freedom fighter. Once the war ended and Bangladesh became independent, Mr. Noor started his journey as a social worker and devoted himself to the betterment of the newly formed nation. As he concentrated on problem

identification and solution-oriented activities, some serious agricultural issues like, illegal shrimp cultivation in paddy fields caught his attention. With the intention to contribute to solving such critical issues, he founded RUSTIC. The organization officially started its journey in 1988 after it got registered with the Department of Social Services. The working area of RUSTIC mainly covers the Southwestern districts of our country.



RUSTIC basically works for the development of agricultural technology and training on an extensive scale. The organization started its journey with the illegal shrimp cultivation prevention project. The organization worked to support the farmers whose lands had been forcibly seized for cultivating shrimp and led a movement with the participation of a large number of farmers against such activities. After eleven long years of efforts, their demands were fulfilled; the government formulated the shrimp cultivation policy to resist any unlawful or detrimental activities that can lead to the imbalance of the ecosystem. Another sector that RUSTIC has been focusing on from the start of their journey was solid waste management and recycling. They introduced the municipal solid waste management program which promoted producing compost fertilizer through recycling organic solid domestic waste. Furthermore, the organization developed biogas plants using kitchen garbage to ensure the supply of gas in the rural areas for regular use. Alongside these, RUSTIC has several other projects regarding environmental preservation, tree plantation, safe drinking water, rainwater harvesting, climate refugees, etc.

The organization has already received massive International attention, interest, recognition and appreciation for their remarkable work in the aforementioned areas.

Besides the operations and activities of RUSTIC, the guest also shared some insights about the impact of NGOs in the development of Bangladesh from his experience. According to him, NGOs do an incredible job in reaching the marginalized people and identifying problems in densely populated and developing countries like ours. Their reach to the grassroots level population gives them an edge for data collection. Therefore, these organizations work hand-in-hand with the government to put the government funds in use to implement projects for solving the collective or community problems. All the operations, projects and activities of the NGOs ultimately are targeted towards poverty alleviation, human rights preservation, environmental preservation, public awareness, etc.

As RUSTIC has prior experience with action research at quite a large scale regarding the agricultural technologies that they developed and launched, Mr. Noor expressed interest in extending their experience in research by conducting joint research projects with NSU. He proposed developing joint program process plans through further discussion between the relevant authorities of the two institutions. The guest also suggested some common interest areas and sustainable research topics like, climate and biodiversity, mangrove forest preservation, salinity increase in land and water, etc. The internship opportunities for the students and fresh graduates of NSU in their organization was also discussed in the event.

To know more about the event, visit the following link  
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/812798316366973>

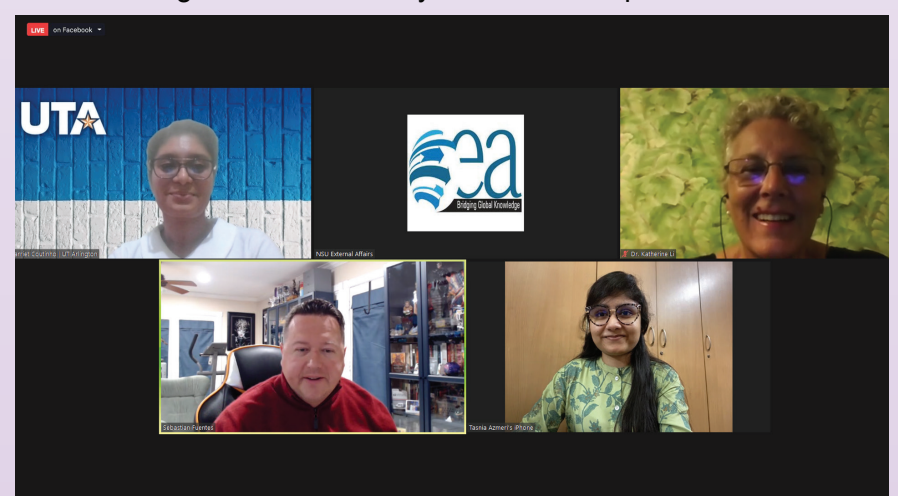
## Information Session with University of Texas at Arlington, USA



*North South University Office of External Affairs arranged a web information session with the University of Texas at Arlington, USA on May 31, 2022. As the speaker of the session, we had Mr. Sebastian Fuentes, Associate Director of Graduate and International Recruitment, Office of Admission and Ms. Harriet Coutinho, International Country Coordinator from University of Texas at Arlington. The main target of the information session was to inform and guide students about the application process, requirements, academic structure, scholarship schemes, etc. of the University of Texas at Arlington, USA. The interactive session was conducted as a video conference through Zoom and was shared as Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.*

The event started with an informative presentation about the overview of the University of Texas at Arlington. The university has a student pool of more than 41,000 students, among which, nearly 4,000 students are international students. The international students of the university receive necessary support and assistance from their specific wing for serving international students – Office of International Education.

The University of Texas at Arlington is highly ranked both nationally and internationally for its quality of education and student-centric facilities. The university offers more than 180 degree programs for graduate and undergraduate level. The programs are offered under nine multidisciplinary colleges, which are College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs, College of Business, College of Engineering, College of Education, College of Liberal Arts, College of Nursing and Health Innovation, College of Science, Honors College, School of Social Work. The university also emphasizes highly on research projects and activities, in fact, it has been included as one of the R1 ranked research institutes. The student support and assistance administration of the University of Texas at Arlington is extraordinary as well. The university offers exclusive facilities for career consultation of its students under 'The Lockheed Martin Career Development Center'. Furthermore, the university has more than 300 student organizations offering the students adequate opportunities to participate in diverse extracurricular activities.



Besides introducing the programs and facilities of the University of Texas at Arlington, the speakers also briefed about the application procedure, admission requirements, cost of attendance, scholarships and financial aid, etc. of the university. They also shared the contact procedure and details for further communication of the interested audience members.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

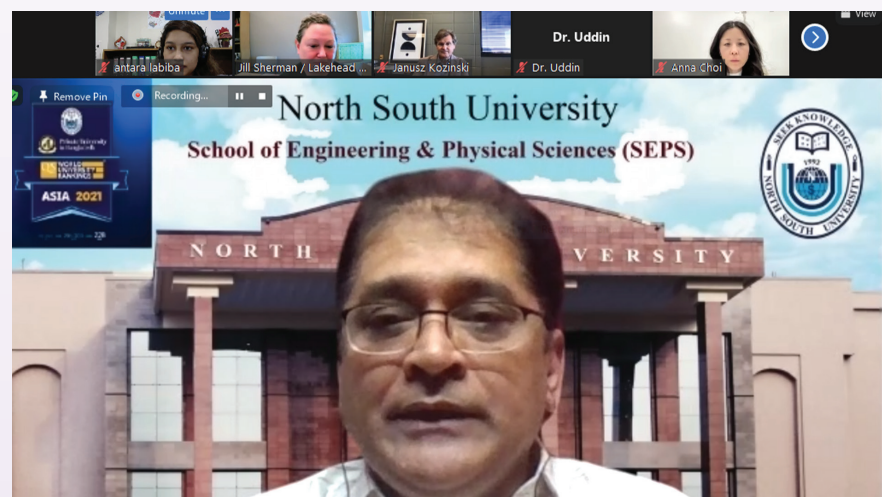
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/540474500869803>

## NSU meets with Lakehead University, Canada

North South University Office of External Affairs had a meeting with Lakehead University, Canada via Zoom on June 1, 2022. From Lakehead University, Ms. Anna Choi, Manager, International Relations, Ms. Jill Sherman, International Research Facilitator, Dr. Janusz Kozinski, Dean, School of Engineering and Dr. Mohammed Nasir Uddin, Professor, Electrical Engineering attended the meeting. From North South University (NSU) Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), Prof. Javed Bari, Dean, SEPS, Prof Norman Swazo, Director, Office of Research and Antara Labiba, Office of External Affairs were present in the meeting.



**Lakehead**  
UNIVERSITY



The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss establishing a general MoU to initiate a partnership that will facilitate opportunities of research collaboration and content exchange. In the beginning of the meeting, Ms. Jill Sherman, International Research Facilitator, started out with a presentation pertaining to information regarding Lakehead University. After that, Dr. Kovinski, Dean of Engineering, stated that Lakehead University is interested in building a partnership with North South University. Next up was Prof. Bari, Dean, SEPS, presenting the present and future plans of NSU and specifically SEPS. Furthermore, Prof. Bari discussed the shortcomings of the Bangladeshi research facilities to find a way to improve them to attract more partners and students. He described some of the cutting-edge research being conducted by NSU. Dr. Uddin, Professor, Electrical Engineering joined the meeting and described the area of his exist-

ing research.

Next up was, Dr. Li, Director, Office of External Affairs, who proposed a joint PhD program with Lakehead and many other research opportunities present in Bangladesh which can be used by students of both universities. After that, Prof. Bari suggests a general MoU which could be molded by individual faculties depending on their needs. According to what Prof Bari said, the Lakehead University delegation presents interest in visiting Bangladesh in November subject to the signing of MoU with NSU. Furthermore, Ms. Sherman, has stated that she will facilitate meetings with other faculties to increase the extent of the partnership. After evaluating the feasibility of the discussed collaboration areas, the attendees of the meeting will review and finalize a general MOU.

## NSU signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Payap University, Thailand



North South University (NSU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Payap University, Thailand on June 1, 2022. The agenda of the collaborative MoU is to enhance the relationship between the two institutions and to develop academic and cultural interchange in the areas of education and research.

The areas of collaboration can be any program offered at either of the institutions that are considered to be desirable and feasible for the development and strengthening of cooperative relations between the universities. Such collaborative projects include exchange of students, faculty members, researchers as well as educational, academic materials and information. Additionally, collaboration in academic research, joint conference, workshop, seminars and joint supervision of PhD students in areas of Peace Studies were also agreed upon in the MoU. The MoU shall be effective upon approval by both parties and shall remain in effect for five years. The agreement will be renewed by mutual agreement at least six months prior to the expiration date.

The MoU was signed by Professor Atiquil Islam, Vice-Chancellor, NSU on behalf of NSU and Apicha Insuwan, Interim President, Payap University on behalf of Payap University, Thailand.

## NSU signs an MoU with Mariano Marcos State University, Philippines

North South University (NSU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU), Philippines on June 1, 2022. The MoU states an agreement to make reasonable efforts from both sides to encourage direct contact and research cooperation between their faculty members and departments, to the extent that they are able, and under provisions of this agreement, endeavor to cooperate in the fields with which parties are concerned.



The potential fields of collaboration according to the agreement include collaborative international lecturing programs, joint offering of certificate courses, joint research in fields of mutual interest, symposia, workshops, conferences, and meeting arrangements, experience sharing in innovative teaching methods and design of curriculum, exchange of students and faculty for teaching and research, collaborative academic internship and immersion programs, etc. The implementation of this agreement will commence upon approval by both parties and will continue to be effective

for five years. The MoU will be subject to revision and modification from time to time by mutual agreement.

The MoU was signed by Professor Atiquel Islam, Vice-Chancellor, NSU on behalf of NSU and Dr. Shirley C. Agrupis, University President, MMSU on behalf of Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU), Philippines.

## Delegation from Laurentian University, Canada visits NSU



A delegation from Laurentian University, Canada visited NSU for a courtesy meeting on June 5, 2022. The delegation included, Ms., Xuan Zhao, Manager of International Recruitment and Services, Dr. Krishna S. Challagulla, PhD, PEng, Associate Professor – Bharti School of Engineering and Computer Science, Laurentian University, Mr. Sujoy Shyam Pritam, in-country Representative (Bangladesh) Laurentian University, Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Director, OEA, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA and Ms. Antara Labiba from the office of International Affairs, OEA attended the meeting.

The meeting focused on discussing the partnership opportunities between NSU and Laurentian University. The delegates highlighted collaborative projects regarding Masters programs, student-faculty exchange, joint offering courses and researcher exchange involving the School of Engineering and Physical Sciences of the universities. Moreover, the attendees discussed opportunities for joint research through collaboration with research centers between the two institutions. The meeting ended on a positive note with a decision to reconvene for further discussion.



## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 81



The eighty-first episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on June 5, 2022. As our guest for this episode, we had Mr. Adnan Mehdi, a remarkable alumnus of North South University from the Department of Business Administration, Batch 2003. He completed his undergraduate studies from NSU in 2006. In his professional career, he has been associated with the finance and banking sector from the very beginning. He has the experience of working with renowned companies like, Grameenphone, BRAC Bank, Citibank, HSBC, Standard Bank etc. Besides banks, he was associated with mobile finance service (MFS) institute bKash as the Head of Treasury for more than three years. Currently, is based in Toronto and is working with Citibank as the Vice President.

Although for most of his career Mr. Mehdi has worked in the banking industry, he didn't target to become a banker initially. He started his professional journey as an intern at Citibank. After the limited internship period, he prolonged his affiliation with Citibank by joining as a full-time employee in the bank's treasury department. At the time, the concept of treasury was new to the industry and such departments had just started functioning in Bangladesh. To give the audience some insight about the department's operations, he mentioned that it involves maintaining mainly three sectors which are – receivables, payables and investments. He enjoyed working in the newly emerging sector and received a lot of learning opportunities from the industry leaders/experts. In his further career, after working with several national-multinational banks,



Mr. Mehedi has recently returned to Citibank, joining as their Vice President in Canada. His current roles and responsibilities include looking after multinational corporations, offering treasury and trade solutions related to working capital regarding similar product sides but in different regions of the world, etc. Overall, he works to ensure efficiency, automation and timely monitoring of treasury functions of the bank.

As an experienced banker, Mr. Mehedi also shared his opinion about the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the banking sector. According to him, extensive digitalization of the sector throughout the pandemic changed the landscape for the industry as a whole. The pandemic also extended the opportunities for the fin-tech industry to flourish in Bangladesh.

As the event furthered, the discussion topic headed towards the guest's student life from his career. Mr. Mehedi chose NSU for his undergraduate degree based on the institution's excellent reputation for quality of education. His journey with NSU was exciting and memorable. While talking about his NSU life, Mr. Mehedi shared some memories of his friends, courses, and faculty members from NSU. According to him, NSU has laid the foundation for him to grow into the person he is today by influencing his thought process.

To know more about the event, visit the following link  
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1465775133864684>

## NSU successfully organizes IELTS Preparation Programs and IELTS Exams at NSU



*The IELTS preparation events are organized by The Office of External Affairs, North South University, in association with The British Council, Bangladesh.*

### IELTS Consultation Session 1: IELTS Awareness Program

The first consultation session and awareness program for IELTS was held on June 05, 2022. This session was intended for candidates who have no knowledge about IELTS. It presented an ultimate overview and walk-through of the world-recognized IELTS Program. The event was conducted by Ms. Murshida Begum, IELTS expert, British Council Services Ltd, Bangladesh.



This session aimed to focus on all the core aspects of the entire process of the IELTS Examination which further included clear guidelines for the process of registration and announcements of the test dates of June 2022 followed by a special Q&A session with the expert in order to mitigate further queries.

### IELTS Consultation Session 2: IELTS Tips and Tricks



The second consultation session for IELTS was held on June 14, 2022. This session mainly focused on consulting the examinees about the tips and tricks needed to achieve a higher band score and discussed the mistakes candidates should avoid for each of the 4 modules. The event was conducted by Mrs. Murshida Begum, one of the most knowledgeable IELTS experts from the British Council. The session aimed to groom the candidates and further guide them with valuable "Tips and Tricks", which will play a major role in marking criteria.

### IELTS Consultation Session 3: IELTS Last-Minute Preparation Workshop

The third workshop for the final preparation of the IELTS candidates of June session was held on June 21, 2022. It was considered to be the most integral of all the three consultation sessions organized so far. This session was about exploring all the modules on a deeper level and included a last-minute revision. Moreover, it discussed the marking criteria as well as the sample answers of candidates with different band scores. The session provided a chance to clarify the candidates' doubts and practice with the British Council expert through engaging activities. Overall, it offered a full guidance with final revision of the contents and solution papers for the exam.



### IELTS Exam on NSU Premises



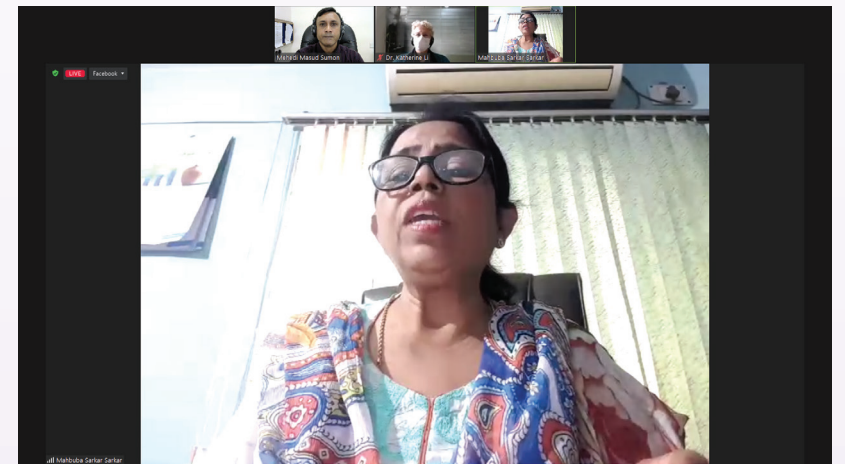
On June 25, 2022, North South University, in collaboration with the British Council, successfully organized the very first IELTS exam on their own campus for their students.

## NGO Talk Show Episode 18



The eighteenth episode of the 'NGO Talk Show' aired on June 06, 2022 with one of the government-registered NGOs of Bangladesh - 'Dustha Manabotar Seba Sangstha (DMSS)'. The name of the event was 'Developing Bangladesh: Scope for Research between NSU and DMSS'. We had Ms. Mahbuba Sarkar, Executive Director, Dustha Manabotar Seba Sangstha (DMSS) with us as the keynote speaker for the event. From North South University, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs was present as a Special Guest, and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA hosted the live talk show.

The event started with a brief introduction of the guest and her organization. Ms. Sarkar's academic background was in Economics; she has been associated with the development sector for more than 32 years. Throughout her journey, she has worked in areas like women's rights, family planning, etc. She also has the experience of attending several national-international training programs both as trainee and trainer. She has been associated with DMSS for a long time and started working as the Executive Director of DMSS from 2019. DMSS started its journey in 1992. Later, the organization got registration from the Department of Social Services in 1994. DMSS mainly focuses on the rights protection oriented activities. Their major working areas include agriculture, education, environmental preservation, etc. The organization brings different skill development opportunities and training programs to the underprivileged population of our country for ensuring fair opportunity for employment. They also work to preserve women's rights and provide legal support when necessary. Furthermore, DMSS has several projects concerning the ethnic groups of Bangladesh which basically focus on the lifestyle development of ethnic people based on their needs.

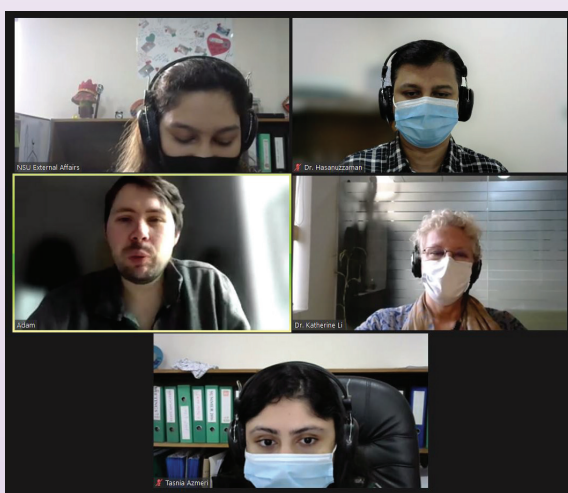


Besides the activities and operations of DMSS in the development sector, Ms. Sarker also discussed the role of NGOs in the integrated development of Bangladesh. According to her, NGOs basically focus on problem identification and solution oriented approaches. The journey of NGOs in the development sector of our country started after liberation as relief work. But later on, these organizations started to operate and contribute heavily in every other sector, especially in women's empowerment, micro-finance, etc. The economic development of Bangladesh is highly influenced by the NGOs, as their activities impact the buying power and saving practice of the mass people positively. Moreover, these organizations also improved the environmental and food safety conditions of our country over the years. Based on the social needs and context, NGOs work hand-in-hand with the government regarding administrative structure and legal modification. Ms. Sarker also mentioned that the supportive role and active participation of civil society in the development sector cannot be denied. In her opinion, civil society has 80% contribution in the development of Bangladesh, if not more.

As research is an important aspect of development oriented activities, Ms. Sarker shared some insights about research from her experience. She mentioned that the implication of action or commissioned methods for research entirely depends on the type of the project. Even sometimes, the combination of both methods can be implemented based on necessity. While discussing research, the topic of joint research projects came up and the guest expressed interest to establish collaborative projects with NSU. She also offered joint publications and internship opportunities for the NSUers during the event.

To know more about the event, visit the following link  
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/529898075287699>

## Meeting with De Montfort University, UK



A courtesy meeting between North South University and De Montfort University, UK was held via Zoom on June 8, 2022. The attendees of the meeting included Mr. Adam Percival, Senior Progression Officer, International Office from De Montfort University (DMU), Leicester, UK and Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA, Ms. Antara Labiba, Office of External Affairs from North South University (NSU), Bangladesh.



The main agenda of the meeting was to find opportunities for collaboration between De Montfort University and North South University. The attendees of the event discussed becoming a part of De Montfort's Progression Pathways. The focus of the collaboration consideration was ensuring the implementation and sustainability of a two-way faculty and student exchange partnership, joint Master's and joint research programs. For convenience of the proposed collaborative projects, the representatives of both institutions proposed transfer of curricula documents of the business courses to fine-tune the details.

## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 82

The eighty-second episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on June 9, 2022. As our guest for this episode, we had Mr. Moshfaeen Khan, an alumnus of North South University from the Department of Business Administration, Batch 1998. He completed his undergraduate studies from NSU in 2003 majoring in Finance and MBS. Mr. Khan's career is mostly finance and banking sector oriented. He has worked with different national-international renowned companies like ACI Ltd., ACI Logistics, Junior Chamber International, Green Delta Capital etc.

throughout his professional journey. Currently, he is based in Canada and associated with the Royal Bank of Canada as the Business Account Manager.



The event started with a thorough discussion about Mr. Khan's professional life. His career started with corporate financial planning and corporate budgeting at ACI Ltd. After working for a long time in the same sector, he moved into operations joining ACI Logistics. Mr. Khan was also one of the founding team members of Shwapno, one of the leading retail chains of Bangladesh. He said that this initiative interested him because it offered him an opportunity to combine his educational background in finance and work experience in business in one platform. After leading a versatile and successful career in Bangladesh for over ten years, Mr. Khan moved to Canada in 2015. Currently, he is working at the Royal Bank of Canada where his prime responsibility is to oversee the small business sector. His department works to support small entrepreneurship businesses in growth and sustainability in the form of advising or any sort of services needed. Another challenging aspect of his responsibility is relationship management sustainability. As Mr. Khan works closely with small businesses, his role includes ensuring the synchronization between competency and value creation of the newly established enterprises.

As Mr. Khan's expertise and experiences are mainly financial sector focused, the discussion explicitly highlighted the current situation and future opportunities of this specific area. While discussing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the banking industry, Mr. Khan mentioned that the impact of any unusual event varies based on different infrastructure of the economy and financial sector from region to region. Nevertheless, one common challenge that nearly every industry has faced throughout the pandemic is uncertainty. Companies had to build their operating and management system from scratch matching with the new normal prioritizing sustainability over growth. The unique situation increased interdependence among sectors and resulted in a shrinking market. Mr. Khan also discussed the aftermath of the pandemic during the show. According to him, the challenges the industry had to face throughout the pandemic have forced the increase in overall adaptivity, openness to new learning opportunities and confidence to accept changes. It has also established the development of diversified skill sets, advanced technological knowledge and communication skills.

Alongside his professional life, the audience could get a peek into Mr. Khan's student life at NSU through the event. The guest shared the interesting story behind his admission at NSU. He mentioned that he got enrolled in NSU right after his O levels, without completing A Levels. However, no matter how he started his journey with this institution, he never regretted the decision, rather is grateful for the memories, learnings, experiences and bonding he earned from here. Among the countless invaluable memories from his excellent journey with NSU, Mr. Khan shared a few with his classmates-juniors-seniors and faculty members with the audience. He also mentioned his close involvement in extracurricular activities during his student life and emphasized the impact of it on his further life. In his opinion, extracurricular activities are the bridge between theory and practice. He could implement many bookish concepts like event management, media planning, project organization, market research even before entering his professional career through club activities.

To conclude, Mr. Khan mentioned that NSU was not just a journey for him, it was a whole experience. The experiences from his NSU life shaped who he is today. As a senior alumnus of NSU, he left some suggestions for the current students and recent graduates of the university. He advised the students and young professionals to expand their horizons and explore options for realizing what they are passionate about, and then follow that path dedicatedly.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/349079807296597>

## NGO Talk Show Episode 19

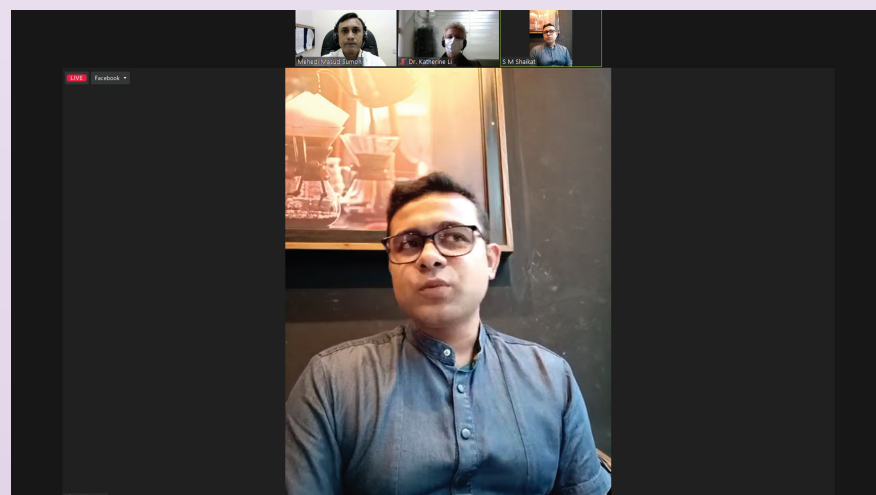


The nineteenth episode of the 'NGO Talk Show' aired on June 9, 2022 with one of the government-registered NGOs of Bangladesh - 'SERAC-Bangladesh'. The name of the event was 'Developing Bangladesh: Scope for Research between NSU and SERAC-Bangladesh'. We had Mr. S M Shaikat, Executive Director, SERAC-Bangladesh with us as the keynote speaker for the event. From North South University, Dr. Katherine Li,

Director, Office of External Affairs was present as a Special Guest, and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA hosted the live talk show.

The event focused on the inception, objectives and operations of SERAC-Bangladesh. The organization was registered with the Department of Social Services and started its journey in 1993. The main goal of the organization is sustainable development. They started their operations from rural areas focusing on the education of deprived people. The organization founded three primary schools in some of the remote areas of Bangladesh. Mr. Shaikat explained that SERAC-Bangladesh works in partnership with the Bangladesh government as well as different national and international organizations regarding their development projects.

SERAC-Bangladesh considers youth as the driver of development. Hence, the organization has initiated urban youth councils in four distinct city corporations of Bangladesh, which is, in fact, the first initiative for such arrangements in South Asia. The objective of these councils is to ensure the democratic empowerment of youth at the local level. They also encourage non-traditional political engagement among the youth. Although the organization has started this project in a limited range, they have the intention to expand it throughout the country soon. Another significant project of SERAC-Bangladesh is 'shukhi jibon' which is currently operating in four different districts of our country. Under the project, SERAC-Bangladesh provides assistance, counseling, information facilities, community campaigns, etc. facilities for the urban people through their agents at their service points.



Alongside the activities of SERAC-Bangladesh, the guest also discussed the role and contribution of NGOs in the development of Bangladesh. According to

him, the biggest contribution of NGOs is the meaningful utilization of the budget of the local government for the betterment of local people. They have access to remote areas which automatically provides them with an advantage to execute development projects.

During the event, Mr. Shaikat shared his experience of research with the audience. SERAC-Bangladesh has already conducted research on relevant topics like counseling service for adolescent people to support their projects and aims to conduct several more research projects like these in future. Hence, he assured the audience that there are great opportunities for research collaboration between SERAC-Bangladesh and NSU regarding the topics where beneficiaries and the target population matches. In fact, he expressed interest to have NSU as one of their academic partners through establishing an MoU between the two institutions.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/361464845893078>

## What's Your Story? Episode 9

The ninth episode of 'What's Your Story?' was held on June 12, 2022 and for this episode we had Dr. Md. Hasanuzzaman as our guest.

Dr. Md. Hasanuzzaman is currently working as an Associate Professor at the UM Power Energy Dedicated Advanced Centre, Higher Institution Centre of Excellence (HI CoE), University of Malaya, Malaysia (QS World Ranking 65 and Asia University Ranking 8 for the year 2022). He was listed among the World's Top 2% Scientists by Stanford University & Elsevier for the years 2020 & 2021. He holds a PhD from the University of Malaya, Malaysia and received a University of Malaya Excellence Award in 2012 for his outstanding achievement in his PhD. He also received scholarships from the Bangladesh Scholarship Council and the Nippon Foundation, Japan, 2003-2004 during his undergraduate program at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). He is an Associate Editor of the Alexandria Engineering Journal, Elsevier; Associate Editor in Chief of the International Journal of Renewable Energy Resources. He has been serving as an Editor, Guest Editor & Editorial Board Member in many well-reputed journals. His books: (1) Technologies for Solar Thermal Energy, 2022 and (2) Energy for Sustainable Development, 2020 have been published by Elsevier. Dr. Hasan served as the Program Coordinator Master of Renewable Energy, Double Degree Program with Master of Energy Science, Kyoto University, Japan from April 2012 to September 2020. He has supervised more than 50 postgraduate students. His research interests include energy, renewable energy, energy policy, energy & environment, smart transport and electric vehicles. He has more than 4,850 citations with an h-index of 36 in the Scopus and 6,900 citations with an h-index of 42 in google scholar.



During the event, Dr. Hasanuzzaman shared his experiences from his academic and professional journey with the audience. He grew an interest in math from a young age and was well known in his high school for excellence in math. He always wanted to be involved in academia and work in the teaching and research sector. He considers himself extremely lucky to have the motivation and support of his teachers and family members in fulfilling his dreams and goals.

Dr. Hasanuzzaman is a very goal-oriented and hard-working person. Based on his determination and diligence, he completed his undergraduate studies from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology in his preferred subject with a scholarship. His research interest was in the energy sector, therefore, he conducted his undergraduate thesis on heat transfer. His further research projects in his career are also energy sector oriented. One of his most significant projects is on how renewable energy can be made more affordable for people. Dr. Hasanuzzaman has been listed among the top 2% scientists in the world for his contribution in research. According to him, both institutional value and personal achievement are important motivations for involvement with the research sector.

Dr. Hasanuzzaman is a very knowledgeable person; alongside research, he takes great interest in reading and publications. He also likes to work with young research enthusiasts, guide and supervise them towards implementing their fresh ideas and innovation.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/3151957701787204>

## NSU signs an MoU with Local Environment Development and Agricultural Research Society (LEDARS)



After thorough discussion and comprehensive evaluation of common interests and objectives, North South University (NSU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Local Environment Development and Agricultural Research Society (LEDARS) on June 13, 2022. The MoU intends to increase cooperation and interaction between the two institutions and commences the scope of joint research and training activities through an educational collaboration which will be beneficial to both the respective parties. The agreements of collaboration include taking joint capacity development initiatives in order to encourage, sponsor and promote multidisciplinary basic and action research, conducting joint research projects, arranging training programs for research methodology, grant proposal writing, and availing internship opportunities for NSUers from different departments for practical experience, etc.

The agreement will remain effective for five years and shall automatically be renewed at the end of five years unless one or both of the institutes propose otherwise. Both LEDARS and NSU shall send written



notice and consult with each other at least one year prior to revision or give at least six months' written notice and consult with each other at least one year prior to revision or give at least six months' written notice in case termination of the agreement is sought. The MoU was signed by Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, NSU and Prof. Dr. Hasan Mahmud Reza, Dean, School of Health & Life Sciences on behalf of NSU and Mr. Mohon Kumar Mondal, Founder and Executive Director, LEDARS on behalf of LEDARS.

## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 83

The eighty-third episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on June 16, 2022. The episode showcased Ms. Sadia Sultana, an alumna of North South University from the Department of Business Administration, Batch 2007. She completed her undergraduate studies from NSU in 2011 majoring in Marketing and Human Resources Management (HRM). She completed her Master's from NSU as well in 2012, right after her graduation. In her professional life, Ms. Sultana has worked with several institutions like, Netherlands Embassy in Bangladesh, Riskorts Ltd., Etc. Currently, she is working as the Job Counselor at North South University Career and Placement Center.

Ms. Sultana started the conversation by appreciating OEA for offering the alumni of NSU a platform to reconnect through organizing such an event like the NSU Alumni Talk Show. As the session furthered, the discussion took a turn towards the guest's professional career. She informed the audience that she joined CPC at NSU in 2018. The requirements for her current role as Job Counselor matches perfectly with her academic background, working experience in HR and expertise in recruitment, talent acquisition, etc. Her responsibilities include preparing the students for their upcoming career journey, channeling and managing internships, reviewing CVs, skill development, conducting mock interviews, etc.

Although Ms. Sultana graduated with a dual major, her career has been Human Resources Management focused from the beginning. From her experience of working in the HRM sector for a long time, she shared some insights about the recruitment process and requirements of the current job market. In her opinion, students should prepare themselves for facing job interviews throughout their entire undergraduate life. She also emphasized on selecting majors based on interest and setting career goals from the early stage of undergraduate journey. Some of the things that Ms. Sultana suggested for an applicant to notice properly before applying for jobs are the job description, requirements, etc. and advised to evaluate the candidate's eligibility and modify their CVs accordingly. From her observation, most candidates make the common mistake of not conducting sufficient research about the company and post they are applying for. Alongside being confident, presentable and smart, one very interesting suggestions she left for the interviewees is to carry chocolates.

CPC being one of the pioneer departments of NSU, it has been providing services for the students' further future and career buildup for the past 25 years. As a core member of the Career and Placement Center of NSU, Ms. Sultana holds a comprehensive overview about the performance and perception of NSUers in the job market. Based on her knowledge and experience about this matter, she confidently admitted that NSU graduates have achieved a great reputation of reliability among the employers over the years and are currently leading in corporate choice.

Besides discussing her professional life, Ms. Sultana also shared the experiences and memories from her NSU student life with the audience. She mentioned that she chose NSU for her higher studies based on its excellent reputation for quality education. Having a background from the national curriculum for all her previous academic records, Ms. Sultana had some doubts about adjusting with the international manner of curriculum and teaching method. Nevertheless, proving all her fears and doubts wrong, she could cope with the curriculum just fine with the utmost help from the faculty members. Alongside academics, Ms. Sultana was involved in some part-time jobs and activities as well during her student life.

At the end of the event, Ms. Sultana shared some insights and suggestions for the younger students and graduates of NSU. She encouraged carrying a positive attitude always and towards every situation or opportunity. She also emphasized improving both verbal and written communication skills and focusing on maintaining work ethics for overall betterment of one's professional career.

To know more about the event, visit the following link  
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1585050941888675>



## Follow-up Meeting with Arannayk Foundation (AF)

The second follow-up meeting between Arannayk Foundation and the Office External Affairs (OEA) of North South University (NSU) was held on June 16, 2022. The meeting attendees included Md. Rakibul Hasan, Chief Executive Director, Arannayk Foundation, Md. Abdul Quddus, Senior Program Officer, Arannayk Foundation, Ashish Kumar Datta, Program Officer, Arannayk Foundation, Md. Skawkat Islam Sohel, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Science and Management, Dr. Md. Jakariya, Professor, Department of Environmental Science and Management and Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs, NSU.



ARANNAYK  
FOUNDATION

Conserving forests for the future



The meeting focused on discussing the working areas and operation of Arannayk Foundation towards the integrated development of our country and evaluating the possible collaboration opportunities between NSU and Arannayk Foundation on relevant projects. Some of such

projects discussed in the meeting include knowledge sharing, joint proposal submission, seminars, sharing expertise from both the organizations, contributing to the learning opportunities of the students, field activities and research scopes for students, internships, policy advocacy in relevant fields, etc. The attendees of the meeting encouraged an inclusive MoU between NSU and the Arannayk Foundation for better opportunities and faster progress of the aforementioned collaborative projects.

The discussion of the meeting turned out to be particularly meaningful and fruitful and revealed some rare opportunities for collaborative and joint projects. The attendees of the meeting agreed that any academic collaboration between NSU and Arannayk Foundation would be win-win for both the institutions, therefore they hoped for an effective MoU upon further discussion.

## NSU signs an MoU with UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, India



North South University (NSU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, India on June 17, 2022.

The agreement mainly focused on collaborative training programs and courses for the staff and students of the concerned institutions. The MoU mentions provision of advanced training opportunities and certification for the participants from NSU. Moreover, it agrees to provide thematic and technical support for all enrolled learners.

The MoU was signed by Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, NSU on behalf of NSU and Mr. Anantha Duraiappah, Director, UNESCO MGIEP.

## NGO Talk Show Episode 20

The twentieth episode of the 'NGO Talk Show' aired on June 19, 2022 with one of the government-registered NGOs of Bangladesh - 'Mukti-Mancha Foundation'. The name of the event was 'The Story behind the Mukti-Mancha Foundation'. We had Mr. Mohammad Rouf, Founder, Mukti-Mancha Foundation with us as the keynote speaker for the event. From North South University, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs was present as a Special Guest, and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA hosted the live talk show.



This episode of the 'NGO Talk Show' was different from all the previous ones as it was held in hybrid mode – combining virtual and in-person participation of the guest, hosts and audience. The special event started with a brief discussion about the guest, Mr. Rouf's academic background. He mentioned that he always had an interest in knowing about the environment from a very young age which led him to choose physical science as his major for his Bachelor's and Environmental Health for a Master's. Besides environmental improvement, working for social welfare interested Mr. Rouf from his student life which inspired and motivated him to form Mukti-Mancha Foundation. A major project of the foundation is to operate a school for underprivileged children, especially women. Mr. Rouf mentioned that currently, they are teaching 260 students in the school and have plans to expand the student pool and facilities of the school in the near future. Mr. Rouf also mentioned that his organization emphasizes on the education sector to contribute to ensuring the right to education of the underprivileged population. Besides education, the organization runs development projects for women's empowerment, primary healthcare, etc.

Alongside the working areas and projects of the Mukti-Mancha Foundation, Mr. Rouf also discussed the collaboration opportunities between NSU and Mukti-Mancha Foundation during the event. He mentioned that the organization highly encourages collaboration and joint ventures with other organizations and institutions. He expressed his earnest interest in joint research projects, internship and teaching opportunities in their school both for faculties and students. In this regard, he ensured that they have separate facilities for the guests' accommodation in their offices and school.

A significant portion of the event was an interactive Q&A session with the audience which was made up mostly of students from the NSU Social Services Club (SSC). This session started with introduction of the in-person attendees and participants and proceeded through taking their queries and answering them one by one. Many of the participants were curious to know about the inspiration and hope behind the foundation of the Mukti-Mancha Foundation. To this question, Mr. Rouf replied that his own struggles worked as inspiration for him to contribute to social welfare. One of the most frequently asked questions was what gives Mr. Rouf hope to carry forward; he responded to this question saying trust in himself and in greater goodness is the source of his hope. Upon the audience's request, Mr. Rouf also shared the future plan for his organization. He plans to establish a nursing school for the students of his current school in the near future.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1352784251909310>

## Introductory Meeting with COAST Foundation



The introductory meeting between the COAST Foundation and the Office External Affairs (OEA) of North South University (NSU) was held on June 20, 2022. The meeting attendees included Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs, NSU, Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, Office of External Affairs, NSU, Mr. Reza, COAST Foundation and Mr. Iqbal Uddin, COAST Foundation.



The agenda of the meeting was to understand the working areas and operation of the COAST Foundation towards the integrated development of our country and evaluate the possible collaboration opportunities between NSU and the COAST Foundation on relevant projects like joint research, publication, research funding, student internships, training opportunities, etc. An extraordinary and significant working area of the COAST Foundation that was discussed especially during the meeting was Action Learning. As the representatives of the NGO briefed about the concept of action learning and their projects regarding it, the attendees from NSU expressed interest for collaboration in this regard since textbook learning is very common in our education system but there are limited scopes for practical or action learning for the students.

## NSU meets with Ontario Tech University, Canada

A courtesy meeting between North South University (NSU) and Ontario Tech University, Canada was held via Zoom on Tuesday June 21, 2022. The participants of the meeting included Ms. Cristina Preece, International Liaison, International Office from Ontario Tech University, Canada and Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA, Ms. Antara Labiba, Office of External Affairs from North South University (NSU), Bangladesh.



The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the collaboration opportunities between Ontario Tech University, Canada and NSU. The discussion topics included implementation of joint research projects. (joint research collaboration), student, faculty and researcher exchange program, etc.

In the beginning of the meeting, Ms. Antara Labiba, OEA, started out with a presentation pertaining to information regarding North South University. After that, Dr. Li, Director, OEA, discussed the possible areas of collaboration such as joint research, student and faculty exchange programs. Later on, Ms. Preece, International, she discussed further about a possibility of joint research with other faculties of Ontario Tech University.

After evaluating the feasibility of the discussed collaboration areas, the attendees of the meeting agreed North South University, Bangladesh would send a draft of an MOU to Ontario Tech University.

## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 84

The eighty-fourth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on June 22, 2022. In this episode, we had Mr. Omar Farook, an alumnus of North South University from the Department of Environmental Science and Management, Batch 2000. He completed bachelor in science from NSU in 2005. He completed his Master's from BRAC University in Disaster Management in 2012. Mr. Farook's professional career is mostly development sector oriented. He has worked with organizations like Care Bangladesh, World Bank, DFID, etc. throughout his career. Nevertheless, he was associated with the World Food Program (WFP) for the longest period of his professional journey. Currently, he is working as the Regional Policy Specialist - Forecast Based Action and Climate Service of WFP in Egypt, Cairo.

The event started with a discussion about the professional journey and experience of Mr. Farook. The guest informed us that he didn't exactly have any determined career target or plan from student life or even after graduation. Initially, he started his



career with entrepreneurship by founding his own organization. The organization was mostly passion driven and comparatively less profit oriented, which is why it couldn't sustain and operate in the long run. As entrepreneurship didn't work well for him, he was seeking opportunities to redirect his career. Upon getting an offer from Care Bangladesh, Mr. Farook decided to join the organization, therefore, stepped into the development sector.

As a significant portion of the guest's career is associated with the WFP, he briefed about the goals, operations and roles of the project. WFP started as a program under the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) to address global emergencies. The project mainly focuses on ensuring food security and hunger mitigation through influencing the worldwide policy making and compelling proper implementation of the policies. WFP also works for the implementation of sustainable food production systems in developing countries around the world. The region of WFP that Mr. Farook currently works with covers the Middle East, North Africa, Ukraine, Armenia, etc. He mentioned that the main tasks of regional offices are to support different country operations, trend analysis, forecast, detect vulnerability to disaster, run anticipatory action, etc.

In the latter part of the event, Mr. Farook shared some of his experiences and memories from his student life at NSU. He had experienced a very eventful, versatile and memorable journey with his friends, acquaintances and faculty members at the university. He was also involved in intense extracurricular activities with several clubs during his student life. In the guest's opinion, the practical and soft skills he acquired throughout his journey with NSU surely rewarded him with competitive advantage in his further career. As a senior alumnus of NSU, he left some suggestions for the current students and recent graduates of NSU through the event. He emphasized on achieving self-awareness through exploring and trying to understand oneself. He also advised to establish balance between productivity and stress management to succeed in the long run.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/394096606005648>

## MoU with South Asian Network for Public Administration (SANPA)

# // SANPA

### Advancing Public Administration in South Asia

**S**outh Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) of North South University (NSU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the South Asian Network for Public Administration (SANPA) on June 23, 2022.

The MoU intends to establish a collaborative relationship through cooperation in the areas of public administration and governance research and advocacy. The areas of collaboration include exchange of knowledge and experience, joint education and research activities, arrangement of seminars, lectures and academic meetings, etc.

Professor Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Director, SIPG took the initiative on behalf of NSU with Professor Habib Zafarullah, Chairperson, Executive Committee on behalf of South Asian Network for Public Administration (SANPA).

## International Student Orientation Program – Summer 2022



*The orientation program for international students of the semester Summer '22 was held on June 23, 2022, via Zoom. The students from countries that included China, India, Singapore, USA, etc. attended the program. From the organizers' side, Dr. Katherine Li, the Director of Office of External Affairs; MS. Antara Labiba, from the International Affairs Office, Mr. Fardin Yaman, the Alumni Affairs Officer, and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer were present in the program. Furthermore, the student employees of OEA, Nusrat Naila Nokshi and Md. Hafiz Uzzaman Tuhin also joined the event.*

In the beginning of the event, from the International Affairs Office, Ms. Antara Labiba briefly introduced North South University and the Office of External Affairs of the university through an informative slide presentation. She talked about the foundation, mission, vision, activities and the two wings (Office of International Affairs & Office of Alumni Affairs) of the OEA. Afterwards, she provided the newcomers with the necessary information about OIA (Office of International Affairs) such as partner universities and organizations, legal issues, international students and alumni, contact details both virtual and physical of the office.

The following segment of the event was the introduction session. The new students from different countries present in the ceremony introduced themselves one-by one. Afterwards, the members of OEA present in the event introduced themselves as well and each of them conveyed short messages to the freshers. At the end of the event, Dr. Li shared the Office of External Affairs website and social media page and explained how to reach the OEA if they are in need of any support and presented a short ending remark welcoming the new students on board.



## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 85

The eighty-fifth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on June 26, 2022. The episode showcased Mr. Tanveer Masud, an alumnus of North South University from the Department of Business Administration, Batch 2007. He completed his undergraduate studies from NSU in 2011 majoring in Marketing and Human Resources Management (HRM). Afterwards, he completed his Master's in Accounting from La Trobe University, Australia in 2013. In his professional life, Mr. Masud has worked with several national-international financial institutions. Throughout his professional life, he was associated with organizations like Brand Fusion Marketing Ltd., AMP, Linked Money Pty Ltd., etc. Currently, he is working with Pooles Accountants & Tax Specialists as an Accountant. He is also associated with the Melbourne branch of NSU alumni base, Melbourne NSUers, as the General Secretary.



In the beginning of the event, the guest presented an overview of his professional career. Despite his initial academic background and professional experience in Marketing and HRM, Mr. Masud is currently working in the Accounting sector. After working a while in Marketing and HRM, he realized the diversity and importance of accounting in major decision making in companies, therefore grew interest for the sector. Hence, he continued his higher studies in Accounting. Among the different branches of Accounting, his specialized working field is self-managed superfund accounting. His responsibility in his current role is to supervise and ensure proper transaction of the self-managed superfunds. His duties also include regular communication with the clients and their financial advisors and smooth launch fund within predetermined deadlines.

As Mr. Masud is associated with the accounting sector for a long time, he shared some insight about the required skills and qualities of the professionals of this sector from his experience. In this context, he emphasized on expertise in Excel. He mentioned that some additional skills in relevant software can give the professionals a major competitive edge. Mr. Masud also shared some suggestions about pursuing higher studies and career in Australia. He advised to conduct proper research and target key sectors with sufficient opportunities to pursue higher studies or build a career.

In the last portion of the event, Mr. Masud shared some of his memories and experiences from his NSU life. He mentioned that he chose NSU for his higher studies with the expectation to complete graduation on time. He also considered the corporate value of BBA and his interest in management while choosing the subject. Mr. Masud's campus life at NSU was versatile; he could experience time at both the old and new campuses of the university. He was also closely involved with various extracurricular activities during his undergraduate studies in NSU. While talking about his campus life, Mr. Masud shared some memories with his respected faculty members of that time. He highly praised the teaching strategies, appreciated the guidance and motivation of his teachers through the event. In his opinion, his experiences in NSU have broadened his point of view towards life. He advised his fellow NSUers to explore and experiment before setting their career goal and target, and then take preparation according to the determined goal.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/399765158782771>

## NSU signs an MoU with DBL Group

North South University (NSU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the DBL Group, a Textile conglomerate in Bangladesh, on June 27, 2022.

The MoU expresses agreement about collaboration and cooperation between NSU and the DBL group regarding research of research, capacity building activities and leadership programs of mutual interest through exchange and sharing of information and resources on their programs and activities. The agreement also mentions an internship collaboration program for the students of the final semester of NSU who will be given internship opportunities of internship in different business groups of DBL Group. The MoU will remain in force for an initial period of three years and may be renewed with the consent of two parties.

The MoU was signed by Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, NSU on behalf of NSU and M. A. Rahim, Vice Chairman, DBL Group on behalf of DBL Group. The points of contact for the agreement are Professor Khasro Miah, Director, Career and Placement Center, NSU and Mohammad Kamal Hosen, GM, Corporate HR, DBL Group.

## What's Your Story? Episode 10

The tenth episode of 'What's Your Story?' was held on June 27, 2022 and for this episode we had Dr. AS MD Abdul Haseeb as our guest. Dr. Haseeb earned his PhD in Metallurgy and Materials Engineering in 1992 from Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. The topic of his dissertation was Synthesis and Characterization of Electrolytic Compositionally Modulated Multilayers. He earned his Master of Science in Engineering (Metallurgical) in 1986 from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka, Bangladesh. His thesis title was Gas Nitriding of Some Locally Available Steels. He also earned his Bachelor of Science in Engineering (Metallurgical) in 1984 [First Class Securing First Position in the Class] from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka, Bangladesh. His thesis title was Study of Precipitation Hardening in Aluminum Alloys. He is currently a Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, and Dean, Innovative Industry and Sustainability Science Research Cluster, Institute of Research Management at University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



Throughout the event, Dr. Haseeb shared his life journey starting from early childhood through academic life, professional pathway to current stage of life and career. From his early life, he received the lesson of always prioritizing education and moral values. He also experienced mentorship and guidance from his teachers about building his life and career in a rather simple but production manner. From a quite young age, Dr. Haseeb grew an interest in the operating process and structural details of machines, which led to the pursuit of his higher studies in engineering later. He got accepted in and graduated from BUET, one of the best engineering universities of Bangladesh. According to Dr. Haseeb, alongside the quality of education and educators of BUET, another significant factor that makes the institute best is discipline.

Dr. Haseeb's professional career is in academia; besides teaching, he conducts research in his area of academic interest, which is low cost methods of improving the longevity of machine spares. Based on his experience of working and studying abroad, he shared some insights about the difference between the education system of home and abroad during the event. The foremost advantage of the international education structure is their collaborative engagement between industry and academia. The guest highly encouraged the students to pursue some part of their higher education abroad. According to him, it is important to experience global citizenship and broaden perspective.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/539145867902939>

## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 86



The eighty-sixth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on June 29, 2022. For this episode, we had with us Ms. Nibras Yaman, an alumna of North South University from the Department of Business Administration, Batch 2005. She completed her undergraduate studies from NSU in 2009 majoring in Finance and Economics. Afterwards, she completed her Master's in Financial Economics from the City University of London, UK. Ms. Yaman has been associated with the banking sector from the beginning of her professional journey and has worked with several renowned banks at home and abroad. Currently, she is settled in Canada and working with a multinational bank as the Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Specialist.

The event started with a discussion about the professional career of the guest. Professionally, Ms. Yaman is an anti-money laundering (AMO) specialist. Her main responsibility is AMO advisory; she supports lines of businesses for the bank, both large and small corporations. The key role of AMO advisory is KYC (know your customer), transaction monitoring, regulatory reporting, risk assessment, etc. Some of the challenges that Ms. Yaman mentioned while talking about her profession include advanced money laundering tactics, newer instruments, etc. In her experience, money laundering risks in big corporations are significantly smaller than small corporations.

As Ms. Yaman has the experience of working in the banking sector both at home and abroad, she shared some observations about the difference in banking practice in Bangladesh and the UK. According to her, the customers' awareness is much higher in the UK; the customers are well educated about offered products by banks and associated risk with them. She also praised the customer service and customer convenience of the banks abroad. While sharing insights about the banking industry, Ms. Yaman mentioned some of the skills that are appreciated in a finance professional. Alongside additional academic certifications and diplomas in relevant subject areas, she also emphasized proper grooming and confidence to thrive in the industry.

In the latter part of the event, Ms. Yaman shared her experience and memories from her student life at NSU. Her NSU life was mostly focused on studies. Although, she was not very active in extracurricular activities during her undergraduate studies, yet, the overall ambiance of NSU offered her ample opportunity to network. She also shared some of her fond memories with faculties who inspired and influenced her greatly. In her words, "good teachers can do wonders". NSU impacted Ms. Yaman's life from countless aspects; she could point out her academic and career interests, got groomed, and improved her presentation skills throughout her journey with NSU.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1086029795327740>

## University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and North South University Joint Capstone Project Field Visit with BASD



**N**orth South University (NSU) and Bangladesh Association for Sustainable Development (BASD) through an agreement came to a platform to establish an educational collaboration in order to contribute to the sustainable development of Bangladesh and to contribute to the progress of learning. Accordingly, a 7-member team from NSU (Team Leader Prof. Dr. Md. Sirajul Islam) and a 3-member team from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM Team Leader, Dr. Priyam Das), a total of 10 members visited Banis-hanta (Dacope, Khulna) and Mongla (Mongla, Bagerhat) for the period from 19-23 April, 2022 in order to visit ecovillages that were built to address the issue of sea level rise and to better understand how NGOs are supporting people at the grassroots level to mitigate climate change.



## Special Feature



*Professor Dr. A B M Rashedul Hassan is a Professor, Faculty of Business Administration and Treasurer at North South University appointed by His Excellency, the Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Besides Academia, Dr. Hassan has experience working in financial institutions, government services and consultancy. He was associated with ANZ Grindlays Bank and MODAS (a USAID funded organization) for a while at the start of his career. He also has the experience of working as the Director of Planning at the Privatization Commission of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Second Secretary and then the First Secretary the Labor Wing of the Bangladesh High Commission, Malaysia. Moreover, Dr. Hassan has ample experience in consultancy and research work at different government and private organizations as a member of different consultancy groups of the Bangladesh Institute of Management (BIM). He worked as a team member in the capacity of Organizational Specialist in REED under the Health and Population Sector Strategy and Policy for the Ministry of Health & Family Planning, the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, which was a program funded by the World Bank. Additionally, he was a member of the consultancy team for the Bangladesh Institute of Management to reorganize the Essential Drugs Company Ltd. - a pharmaceutical company under the Ministry of Health and Planning, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh. His experiences also include consultancy in the Intermediate Technology Development Group, an international NGO which was a team to develop a performance appraisal system for United Commercial Bank Ltd., Dhaka, Bangladesh.*

**Interviewer:** Where did you grow up and what was the attitude of those around you toward school(ing)?

**Prof. ABM Rashedul Hassan:** I grew up in Khulna which is an industrial zone of Bangladesh with my beloved parents and siblings. As my parents were educationists from my childhood, I had such an environment that was education friendly. My attitude and my surroundings positively supported schooling which is the first step for any human being to become educated.

**Interviewer:** Who was your role model?

**Prof. ABM Rashedul Hassan:** My role model is Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (SWT). After him, my role model is my amazing mother whose charismatic role had an influence on grooming me.

**Interviewer:** Why did you decide to pursue higher education?

**Prof. ABM Rashedul Hassan:** As I was raised in an environment where my parents were educationists, it pushed me towards higher education. Moreover, I always believe that education has no limits and that this is the only thing that can have any influence on a human being. So, I always try to learn more and more to know the world better. Since my childhood I saw that my parents were always busy learning new things which motivated me to pursue higher education.

**Interviewer:** How did you become interested in the field of Finance?

**Prof. ABM Rashedul Hassan:** I am interested in finance because the field is just the right match for my skills, strengths and personality. A career in finance is exciting and rewarding and usually very lucrative. It attracts young people who are hugely ambitious but who also have passion for economics and accounting and also have the ability to quickly and intuitively grasp and process complex financial concepts and data. Finance is all about managing money.

**Interviewer:** Tell us about your research interests.

**Prof. ABM Rashedul Hassan:** I always love to work in human resource management, project management and marketing.

**Interviewer:** In what way does previous faculty experience help administrators to be better leaders?

**Prof. ABM Rashedul Hassan:** Had I had no prior experience teaching then today as an administrator in a university, I would not comprehend the needs of other faculties. Such experiences also help me to expedite decision-making processes.

**Interviewer:** What made you decide to join North South University and what has been your experience so far?

**Prof. ABM Rashedul Hassan:** As I was appointed by the Honorable Chancellor of NSU, who is also a Honorable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, it prompted me to join NSU. NSU is the largest and the first private university in Bangladesh. NSU has helped me to gain some new experiences which have enriched my knowledge and has helped me to share my knowledge with my respected faculty members, beloved students and all my colleagues as well as staff members.

**Interviewer:** What role can universities play in the development of Bangladesh?

**Prof. ABM Rashedul Hassan:** Universities are neutral conveners, assemblers of talent and unmatched idea factories where the passion, creativity and idealism of great minds, young and old alike, can be applied to problem solving which also advances our social and economic well-being. Universities create minds that have analytical and technical abilities. These young minds will build the new Bangladesh. The country has many heights to reach. Universities are playing an important role by not only providing degrees, and thus producing quality human resources for various sectors of the economy, but also producing enlightened citizens and thus improving the quality of life in the society as a whole. I have no doubt that the universities with their influence will tremendously help to develop the country.

**Interviewer:** How important is financial literacy for personal and professional success and at what age should instruction about financial literacy begin?

**Prof. ABM Rashedul Hassan:** Financial literacy includes paying off debt, creating budgets and understanding the difference between various financial instruments. In sum, financial literacy has a material impact on families as they try to balance their budgets, buy homes, fund their children's education, or ensure an income for retirement. Personal finance can help us increase our cash flow, keep track of our expenditures and spending patterns which enables us to increase our cash flow. Tax planning, spending prudently and careful budgeting ensure that we do not lose our hard-earned money on frivolous expenses. Starting at age 7 (or 2nd grade) a child is ready for instruction and guidance about financial concepts. In the same way that children learn language from their parents, they can and do learn about finance from their parents; but they need exposure and instructive conversations. Moreover, children need the opportunity to practice with money or forms of money that have different representations of value.

**Interviewer:** What advice do you have for NSU students, faculty and staff?

**Prof. ABM Rashedul Hassan:** First of all, "man is true, nothing is more than it" and I strongly believe that. But now-a-days there is no humanity in people. Only negativity is present. I want today's children to grow up with humanity, with values, and with morality. Be a great human being. Not just students, I want everyone to stand side-by-side in each other's happiness and sorrow. That's my only advice to everyone.

**Interviewer:** What is a life-long dream that you still want to fulfill?

**Prof. ABM Rashedul Hassan:** My only dream is to do something for people. But dreams still have a long way to go. However, I want to do more fruitful and effective things for the society and nation.

## Alumni Feature

### Introduction:

My name is **Inzi Akhtar**, and I am an NSU BBA Alumni from the 2010 batch and those proud students that got to fully embrace the new NSU Bashundhara campus. Having majored in Accounting and Finance as part of the BBA program, I am now an aspiring risk management professional in financial services and living in Australia. I hope my story is an inspiration and welcome you to enjoy it!

### Life at NSU:

Having freshly graduated from my GCSE A Levels, I was skeptical about joining NSU. Like many of my peers back then, the objective was to land a spot in a foreign university. After my father used his 'Asian dad' skills to convince me that I was too young to go abroad and would fall foul under the influence of the western culture at the tender age of 17, I decided to give NSU a try. I have never looked back since. The education style impressed me in my first semester. The teachers, technology and curriculum of the BBA program was very comparable to foreign universities, and I saw first-hand what made NSU one of the best in the country. It allowed me to absorb real-life skills and knowledge that I still use to this day.

My life at NSU was low-key, to the extent that some might say 'under-whelming' when compared to what a typical NSUer lived through. It was dedicated to friends, studies and coursework and arriving late to 8am classes most of the time. The course structure and semester system meant I never had the same bunch of friends in my courses. And boy did this allow me to make long-lasting friendships. The new campus and its arrangement meant I was socializing with people from different degree programs. NSU clubs were a big thing back then and rightfully so, but never attracted me as I stuck to my comfort zone focusing on what I wanted to learn and the people I wanted to be around. One of the highlights for me was my role as an Undergraduate Teaching Assistant for the English Department, as it not only taught me to be more responsible and but also flex power as invigilator for the course exams!

Now as I look back, I see no regrets but tons of laughter, jokes and laughable presentations. After all, it was here at NSU where I met my wife.

### Life after NSU and Career Summary:

After graduating in 2013, I moved to Adelaide, Australia to pursue my Master's in Professional Accounting and Finance (which my dad approved of this time!). After completion, my career started in professional consulting working with BDO and Deloitte Australia, where I honed my skills in internal audit and risk management. Through here I assisted local and global financial services companies to navigate through their business risks. I am currently working as a Senior Manager in Allianz Australia, supporting the product division in product design, pricing and underwriting governance of all insurance products. I lead a team of senior analysts, where we aim to add value to the division through risk advisory and assurance work. I ensure we also act as an enabler to the senior management team in making better strategic decisions and remain a competitive player in the Australian market.

### Personal Life:

Having received Australian citizenship in 2019, I am proud to say I am a citizen of two amazing countries being Australia and Bangladesh. I am currently a proud father of an 8 month old son and my spare time is spent watching him grow, exploring the nature of Australia and making my wife angry by playing FIFA all the time!

**Interviewer:** Tell us about your time as a Teaching Assistant at NSU. What did you learn from that experience?

**Inzi Akhtar:** It was during my first month as a TA in the English Department, where I was tasked to review and mark student assignments based on guidance from the senior lecturer. Here I saw firsthand how undergraduate coursework is marked and challenged, especially in the English department. I daresay it was good exposure for me to learn about what to look out for and what the lecturers really expect sitting on the other side of the table.

**Interviewer:** What is your biggest achievement from NSU?

**Inzi Akhtar:** Doing the impossible by completing all the major courses in Finance and Accounting, even the ones that few dared to take back then. Surprisingly I didn't fail in any!

**Interviewer:** How much impact do you think NSU has had in your career and life later?

**Inzi Akhtar:** Very. From building self-confidence to tackling unfavorable situations, NSU played a major part in uplifting my soft skill capability as a professional.



**Interviewer:** What is your source of motivation? What inspires you?

**Inzi Akhtar:** My father, to be honest. Through being humble and having sheer determination, he has and continues to show me that it's one's own personality and mindset that are the true enablers in bringing success and respect.

**Interviewer:** What is your advice for fellow junior NSUers who are currently studying or have just completed graduation?

**Inzi Akhtar:** Work experience and networking with professionals already in the industry. It was not until the harsh realities of being an international student in Australia that I learned that coursework and grades alone won't get you through to landing the roles you really want. Sign up to that volunteering program, participate in that case study competition, take up that unpaid internship everyone is complaining about. You will find yourself in a league above your peers.

## International Student Feature



*Hafsa Hassan (MPH, Public Health) B.S.P.H 2020 Ahfad University for Women in Sudan, is from Somalia, specifically Mogadishu. Her Honor Bachelor's degree thesis in Public Health focused on perception and attitude of mothers towards measles immunization among children less than five years old in Khartoum state.*

*After that she decided to continue her love and interest in Public Health to apply for a Master's Degree in Bangladesh through a wonderful suggestion from her elder brother who also studied in NSU. While she studied for her Master's Degree in Bangladesh, North South University 2021-2022, she gained a lot of knowledge and experience which made her desirous to achieve her dream to become a successful health care worker and entrepreneur. Her current thesis examines the knowledge and pattern of family planning among married women utilizing a health center in Mogadishu, Somalia.*

*She worked in a community organization called Bulsho and received several awards and also did an internship on PHC in Sudan and in an NGO. She loves to read, eat and explore new food, write different types of things and sometimes draw. Her favorite place is to do research in a café or green yard. Hafsa is a very passionate person dedicated to her work and studies.*

**Interviewer:** From your bio, we know that you are passionate and dedicated to the development of healthcare awareness.

What are the reasons behind your dedication regarding the matter? Your higher studies and research are focused on healthcare of children and family planning. What motivates you to emphasize this particular area?

**Hafsa Hassan:** My country Somalia has one of the highest maternal death ratios in the world and an average fertility rate of 6.5 children per woman. The life risk of maternal death in Somalia is 1 in 22. Access to family planning is limited with only three percent of women using a modern contraceptive method and a large unmet need of 35 percent. In order to achieve this target, I have to focus and researching health care for children and mothers.

**Interviewer:** What inspired you to choose North South University to pursue your Master's Degree in Public Health among all other universities of Bangladesh?

**Hafsa Hassan:** My elder brother who also studied at NSU suggested it to me. In addition I searched on the internet and found more details about North South University. NSU is well-known in all areas and has a very good academic reputation, so I decided to join.

**Interviewer:** You mentioned that you are interested in entrepreneurship. What kind of initiatives are you planning on taking as an entrepreneur?

**Hafsa Hassan:** Social entrepreneurship, the social entrepreneur seeks to serve the social needs of a community.

**Interviewer:** What is your opinion about the academic structure, education quality and campus culture of North South University?

**Hafsa Hassan:** The quality of education is excellent and I gained a lot of knowledge and experience which made me love NSU. I just loved everything about NSU.

**Interviewer:** What did you think about the virtual academic continuation of NSU to cope with the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic? Please share your experience of online, hybrid and on-campus classes with us.

**Hafsa Hassan:** My experience of online learning during Covid-19 pandemic was good. My teachers were really working hard to improve the interface and quality of online lectures. Also teachers put a lot of effort into teaching us and interacting with us in a very cool and interesting manner. It has also inspired me to explore new digital learning tools. So I think my experience of online classes was helpful. The disadvantage of online classes was that I only had to use the resources by myself and there was less communication with my teachers. In my opinion, a physical class is more effective than online learning.

**Interviewer:** You have been staying in Bangladesh for awhile now. Kindly share your opinion and observations about the people, language and culture of Bangladesh? How do you like it here?


**Hafsa Hassan:** People are very nice, they really welcomed me. The food is also excellent. Only the language is difficult for me, but mostly they understand English, which helped me a lot.


**Interviewer:** Anything you want to share with or suggest to the future applicant of NSU?

**Hafsa Hassan:** It's my absolute pleasure to recommend joining NSU. You will gain knowledge, skills and experience which will help you both in your career and life in general.



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