



**Office  
of External  
Affairs**

# THE BRIDGE

## The Official Newsletter of the Office Of External Affairs

**ISSUE 26 | JUL-AUG '22**

### Editor's Message

In the spirit of the Vision and Mission of the OEA, we offer you the current issue of The Bridge.

**Vision:** With the motto, 'Bridging Global Knowledge', the OEA's vision is to create mutually-rewarding relationships with a wide array of stakeholders.

**Mission:** The OEA at NSU will facilitate collaboration and mutual exchange of students and faculty with foreign universities and provide a platform for its global alumni to stay connected.

*Editor*

Dr. Katherine Li

*Reporter*

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### Congratulations NSU on 5 new MoUs



**W**e are excited to share the outcome of these faculty-driven initiatives at NSU in the form of recently established partnerships.

UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, Lakehead University, Robi Axiata Limited, SAJIDA Foundation and Aberystwyth University (a renewal).

To learn more about these partnerships, please visit <http://institutions.northsouth.edu/oea/international-affairs/partnership/list-of-mous/>, which is located on the front page of the NSU website under Int'l Partnership.

### NSU holds a Virtual Meeting with DAAD, Germany for ANABIN Accreditation



**anabin**  
Das Infoportal zu ausländischen  
Bildungsabschlüssen



**DAAD** Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

**T**he Office of External Affairs at North South University conducted a virtual meeting with DAAD, a German academic exchange platform, on July 04, 2022. The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the opportunities and strategies for NSU to achieve ANABIN accreditation. ANABIN is a recognition and evaluation system for foreign educational certificates based on German academic standards. The system classifies foreign institutes into two categories; H+ and H-. H+ refers to the institution as a German-recognized institution and its certification is equivalent to the German system. H+/- means some courses/programs may be recognized while others may not be. Whereas, H- means the foreign certification is not equivalent to the German system.



Despite NSU's worldwide reputation for ensuring quality education, the university is still listed as H+/- according to the ANABIN classification. Many students from NSU desire to pursue their higher studies in German educational institutes, but because of this H+/- listing, they face numerous difficulties while enrolling into their desired university. Hence, the meeting was arranged to discuss some ways out to certify and enlist NSU as H+. The attendees of the meeting were optimistic about starting the enlistment process and proposed further discussion to carry out and implement the proposed process as soon as possible.

## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 87

The eighty-seventh episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on July 06, 2022. As our guest for this episode, we had Mr. Mufti Sanaullah, an alumnus of North South University from the Department of Business Administration, Batch 2009. He completed his undergraduate studies from NSU in 2014. Mr. Sanaullah initially started his professional journey with an internship in the corporate sector, but later switched to entrepreneurship and decided to establish his own business. He is the founder of the popular burger chain Burger Lab and pizza chain Pizza Lab.

Throughout the event, the guest shared the experiences, struggles and achievements of both his academic and professional journeys. From his student life, Mr. Sanaullah was interested in blue collar jobs and initially planned to work in the corporate sector. Therefore, he joined a renowned corporation as an intern right after graduation. After working a few days in the corporate sector, he realized that it was not suitable for him and gradually developed an interest in entrepreneurship. In 2015, Mr. Sanaullah, along with three of his partners, founded 'Pizza Lab'. His decision to enter the restaurant business was inspired by the owner of PizzaGuy, another popular pizza chain of the current market. At first, he started the restaurant on a small scale. Then, upon receiving a great response from the customers and gaining popularity within a very short time, Mr. Sanaullah expanded his business. About his future plans regarding the business, he said that the goal is further expansion but his dream is internationalization of the company as a brand.

As Mr. Sanaullah has been running his own business successfully in the restaurant industry for the past seven years, he shared some meaningful and interesting insights about both entrepreneurship and the industry. In his opinion, entrepreneurship is about taking collective risk. A successful entrepreneur must be passionate about his business as well as consider profitability of the production from the very beginning. According to him, the restaurant business in Bangladesh has a huge potential but it needs sufficient support from the government to reach its full potential. He also talked about some of the challenges that he experienced while working in the restaurant business. He mentioned that the industry is currently facing some risks because of the price hike of ingredients and raw materials. In fact, the current fluctuation in the price of supplies is significantly noticeable which is something he hadn't experienced before during his journey of the previous seven years in the industry.

Besides sharing his professional experiences, Mr. Sanaullah shared some of the memories and experiences from his undergraduate studies at NSU. According to him, NSU fully groomed him for the further journey of his life. Moreover, the extracurricular opportunities offered by NSU introduced him to a huge community that helped him to build networks and contacts. He also especially mentioned the excellent teaching style and dedication of the faculty members of his department which helped to grow his curiosity and learn with passion. For his fellow NSUers, he suggested that they follow their passion and put proper effort and input regardless of the sector they are working in.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1227470121349266>



## Introductory Meeting with Volunteer Association of Bangladesh

The introductory meeting between Volunteer Association of Bangladesh (VAB) and the Office External Affairs (OEA) of North South University (NSU) was held on July 18, 2022 in NSU premises. The attendees of the meeting included Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Director, OEA, NSU, Mr. Masum Billah, Country Director, VAB, M. A. Alim Khan, Assistant Country Director, VAB and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA, NSU.



The meeting focused on discussing the working areas and operation of the Volunteer Association of Bangladesh and evaluating the possible collaboration opportunities between NSU and VAB. The Volunteers Association for Bangladesh (VAB) is an international NGO registered both in Bangladesh and the U.S.A. The organization basically focuses on the development of the education sector of Bangladesh. They work in partnership with rural high schools, students, teachers, parents and community members with the target of improving the opportunities and quality of education. The organization conducts several scholarship projects for underprivileged and poor rural students in order to facilitate them with fair access to education and encourage high school participation more broadly. VAB also organizes several student empowerment programs like mathematics competitions and runs different clubs like the Math and Science Club, Books and Library Club, Cultural and Debating Club, etc. for the development of language, communication skills, leadership skills and teamwork of the students.

As VAB's area of operations and projects are education oriented, there is ample opportunity for collaboration between VAB and NSU. Currently, NSU is focusing on research activities; therefore, the university's core interest is in research collaboration and joint research proposals for external funding. Besides research, collaboration opportunities like joint publication, training, student internship, etc. were discussed in the meeting. VAB especially expressed interest to establish joint projects with the faculty members and students of the Department of English and Modern Languages regarding their educational programs.



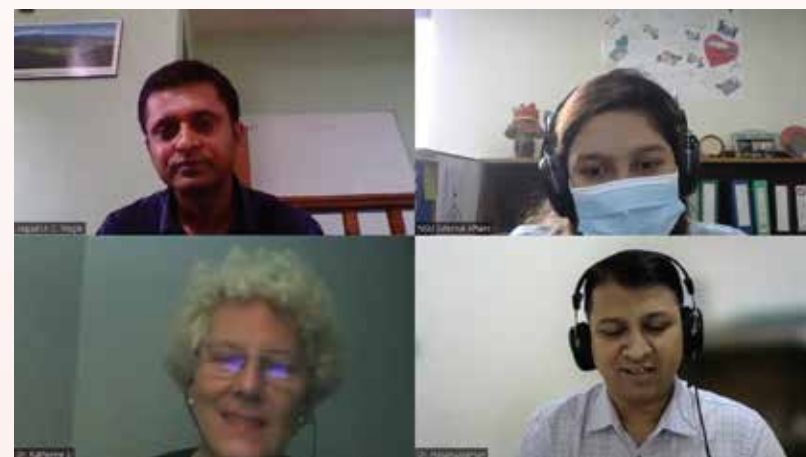
## Collaboration Meeting with Lincoln University, Malaysia



*A courtesy meeting between North South University (NSU) and Lincoln University, Malaysia was held on July 18 2022. From Lincoln University, Malaysia, Mr. Jagadish Chandra Wagle, Director International Relations and Franchising attended the meeting. From North South University, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA and Ms. Antara Labiba, OEA were present in the meeting.*

The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the collaboration opportunities between Lincoln University and North South University. Dr. Li started the meeting by welcoming and thanking all the members for their kind presence. The top priority of the discussion was research collaboration; the attendees especially emphasized exploring the opportunities of joint internal research funding proposals. The guest from Lincoln University expressed interest in conducting research with NGOs regarding issues like climate change, natural disasters, sea level rise, economic trends, micro-finance, etc.

In this regard, the university can use the NGO Network that NSU has built throughout Bangladesh. Organizing collaborative conferences, seminars and workshops for students and faculties of both the universities were also discussed during the meeting. Mr. Wagle also suggested student, faculty and researcher exchange and visitation programs, both long and short term. For instance, he proposed the arrangement of a one-week program where both teachers and students from both universities may visit one another and explore the curriculum, academic structure, collaboration opportunities, etc. of the universities.



## Study and Research Opportunities in Germany

*North South University's Office of External Affairs (OEA) was invited to a virtual information session with DAAD, Germany on July 20, 2022. As the speaker of the meeting, we had Mr. Mahmudul Hasan Suman, Regional Officer from DAAD Information Point at Dhaka with us. From the OEA, Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer and Dr. Katherine Li, Director attended the meeting. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and streamed via Facebook Live on the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.*



Throughout the event, Mr. Hasan discussed the German university system, Master's and PhD opportunities in Germany, DAAD scholarships and visa application process for Germany. He started his presentation with an introduction about DAAD. DAAD is a German academic exchange service; it is one of the largest funding organizations of the world that works to support and guide the international exchange of students and researchers. The organization is affiliated with more than 400 institutions of higher education in Germany, 12,000 study courses in German universities and more than 2,000 international degree programs which are offered in English. Currently, it has 69 operational offices around the world. Until 2019, the organization had funded 145,695 scholars worldwide. DAAD offers scholarship opportunities for Bachelor's and Master's degrees, but scholarships in PhD programs are their flagship scholarships.



Alongside introducing the DAAD scholarships, Mr. Hasan also presented an overview of the German education system. Germany is one of the top choices of students around the world for higher studies; around 13.8% of students are international students. The academic structure and curriculum of higher studies in Germany equally emphasizes both theory and practice. The system offers ample opportunities for research and training and ensures professional growth of the students. Higher education in Germany is also safe and economical as most programs are free of cost there. Mr. Hasan informed the audience that higher education in different disciplines and sectors is offered under three distinct types of universities in Germany, which are – technical universities, universities of applied science, and college of art, film and music. These universities offer a wide range of programs and courses in different disciplines for the students. Through the event Mr. Hasan provided instructions and guidance to find appropriate courses and scholarships according to the interests and preferences of the students.

The speaker also discussed the PhD programs available in Germany for graduates, researchers and faculty members. He mentioned that Germany offers both individual and structured PhD opportunities under three categories of institutes – universities, research institutions and industrial research. Previous publications or German language proficiency is not required for applying to PhD programs there, only postgraduate degree should be enough for it.

Alongside introducing the available higher studies opportunities in Germany, Mr. Hasan provided necessary information about the application procedure, admission requirements, application timelines, tuition fees, etc. of different Bachelors, Master's and PhD programs. He also described the visa procedure for pursuing higher studies in Germany. The event ended with an interactive Q&A session where the speaker received queries from the audience.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/732663831182010>



## Meeting with Queen's University, Canada



**Queen's**  
UNIVERSITY

The Office of External Affairs of NSU arranged a meeting with Dr. Fahim Quadir, Vice-Provost and Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs and Professor of Global Development Studies, Queen's University in Kingston Ontario, Canada on July 20, 2022. From NSU, the Director of Research, Dr. Norman Swazo along with the research coordinators from three of the schools, Dr. Mamun Molla, Dr. Md. Mainul Hossain, Dr. Mahbubur Rahman, Director of External Affairs, Dr. Katherine Li, Asst. Director, Dr. Hasanuzzaman and Ms. Antara Labiba from the International Affairs Office were present.

To start, Dr. Quadir recommended NSU may try to begin with two-three focus areas with an objective of research impact (thus, applied research) and that this could include one or two pilot projects. At some point in the near term we expect we can have a formal MOU regarding various elements of research collaboration.

Dr. Quadir noted that Queen's University participated in a Research Coalition that has approx. a CA\$10-15 million budget as part of a Global Engagement Strategy. Queen's is working to implement its commitment to this strategy and thus engage the "Global South". NSU would fit well within this commitment if a research collaboration could be initiated. Queen's also participates in an SSRC funding opportunity in the Humanities and Social Sciences, which may be an option for SHSS faculty. There are also opportunities in a Partnership Grant program.

A follow-up meeting with the Queen's representatives and faculty members is anticipated.



## NGO Talk Show Episode 22

The twenty-second episode of the 'NGO Talk Show' aired on July 25, 2022 with one of the government-registered NGOs of Bangladesh - Bangladesh Association for Sustainable Development (BASD). The title of the event was 'Developing Bangladesh and the Story behind BASD'. The keynote speaker for this episode was Mr. Boniface Subrata Gomes, Executive Director, BASD. 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.

Mr. Gomes had been associated with social development activities and organizations from his student life. Even after graduation, he continued to work in the same sector for his professional life and was involved with several national-international development organizations throughout his career. He has experience in working with climate resilience, environmental development, agriculture, etc. He also has attended several national-international seminars, workshops and training programs, both as a trainee and trainer. While working in the development sector, the poverty and unemployment situation of our country deeply concerned Mr. Gomes; hence, he initiated the foundation of BASD.



BASD mainly operates in the Southern regional districts of Bangladesh like Khulna, Bagerhat, etc. The organization works for social improvement, cultural development, financial development and independence of the people of the rural community. Their operations focus on employment opportunities, development, agricultural advancement, preservation of the rights for safe food, education and healthcare for people, etc. BASD organizes different youth development programs, workshops and seminars with the target to convert the population into manpower. They also contribute to economic development through economic activities like microcredit, savings management etc. Besides these, another major operating area of the organization is environmental preservation and improvement; they have introduced and widely implemented the concept of an ecovillage in the regions they work in. While describing the activities and working areas of BASD, Mr. Gomes shared a video presentation portraying their field activities with the audience during the show.

Besides discussing the operations of BASD, the guest also briefly talked about the impact and activities of NGOs in the integrated development of Bangladesh. According to him, the government-registered NGOs operating in our country are significantly focused on SME development and implementation programs, training and workshops for the grassroots level people to generate employment opportunities. Therefore, these organizations' contribution to creating employment opportunities for people is remarkable. Furthermore, the NGOs also conduct extensive relief activities and rehabilitation programs in case of any national or social challenge or disaster.

BASD already has an existing MoU with NSU, which elevates the opportunities for collaborative projects between the two institutions to a greater extent. A 10-member team including 3 members from the University of Hawai i at Mānoa and a 7 members from NSU, visited Banishanta (Dacope, Khulna) and Mongla (Mongla, Bagerhat) in order to achieve the objectives of the agreement between BASD and NSU. As BASD is interested and has prior experience in conducting field research, especially action research, they would like to join their research endeavors with NSU on topics of common interests. Some of the suggested and discussed research topics are climate change, disaster management, agriculture – compost and pesticide, etc. Mr. Gomes assured the participants that upon the implementation of joint or collaborative research projects, BASD will support the researchers of NSU with primary data collection and opportunities for field-based applied experience and learning.

To know more about the event, visit the following link  
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/3318056305106666>

## Meeting with Dr. Iftikher Mahmood, Founder and President, HOPE Foundation



*The introductory meeting between the HOPE Foundation for Women and Children of Bangladesh and the Office of External Affairs (OEA) of North South University (NSU) was held on July 26, 2022 via Zoom. The meeting was attended by Dr. Katherine Li, Director, External Affairs (OEA), NSU, Dr. Iftikher Mahmood, Founder and President, HOPE Foundation for Women and Children of Bangladesh and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, (OEA), NSU.*

The meeting focused on discussing the research collaboration, joint publications, training, workshops and internship opportunities between HOPE

Foundation and NSU. In the beginning of the meeting, the representatives of both the institutes introduced their operations and objectives to each other. Through discussion, the meeting attendees identified some important issues regarding which NSU and the HOPE Foundation for Women and Children of Bangladesh could work together. As NSU has a full-fledged Office of Research, four Research Coordinators, a Career and Placement Center (CPC) and most importantly, many expert faculty members who are involved with various research projects in different areas, there are plenty of opportunities for joint research. Dr. Li proposed further discussion and follow up meetings before finalization of any proposals.



## What's Your Story? Episode 11

*The eleventh episode of 'What's Your Story?' was held on July 27, 2022 and for this episode we had Dr. Nasreen Rahim as our guest.*

*Dr. Rahim is a lifelong educator with quite a few years of experience as a technology education leader in Silicon Valley specializing in online education and instructional technology. She leads the Educational Instructional Technology program and the Digital Literacy program at Evergreen Valley College. These programs are in partnership with the California workforce development, K-12 school districts, California Community Colleges (CCC), the California State University system (CSU), and the University of California system (UC). These programs are designed to expand digital technology in underrepresented communities to close the equity and diversity gap among Silicon Valley's workforce.*



Dr. Rahim started her career as an ESL instructor. As an immigrant, she recognizes computer literacy is a critical tool for her students to succeed academically and meet the standards of jobs that were high in demand and provided high wages in Silicon Valley. She has teaching experience at Evergreen Valley College, San Jose City College, Mission College, and UC Santa Cruz Extension with ESL, distance education, computer literacy, and preparing students for the workforce in partnership with major employers in Silicon Valley.

At Evergreen Valley College, she expanded the distance education program by leading teams to create over 200 academic courses to meet graduation standards. She has trained hundreds of faculty across the state of California to prepare for online teaching, especially when COVID changed the nature of academic learning. In 2020, she created the Online Teaching and Educational Technology certification program that is offered to all K-12 school districts and institutions of higher education across the nation. She has continued to grow her Instructional Technology and Digital Literacy Program through various sources of funding through grants and industry partnerships. Her mission is to increase online technology for both academic and student support programs to increase student retention and graduation rates. Most important, to gain digital literacy skills to be competitive in the 21st century workforce.

Dr. Rahim received her Bachelor Degree in English Literature at Chittagong College in Bangladesh. She received her Master's Degree in Linguistics & TESOL at San Jose State University. She holds a Doctorate of Education in Leadership in International Education at Northcentral University. Her dissertation was titled Female Teachers' Perception of Quality Education for Adolescent Girls in Rural Bangladesh. As one born in Bangladesh, she witnessed how access to educational opportunities for women and girls create financial and personal success while ending oppression and gender violence. She recognizes how digital literacy and access to digital resources are vital for developing countries to build their economic stability.



Dr. Rahim grew up in a family where education was always prioritized irrespective of gender. The encouragement and motivation of her family helped her to develop a high achieving and high goal mentality. Growing up, she was also associated with diverse extracurricular activities which expanded her horizon and positive outlook to life. Dr. Rahim's role models were her parents and both of her grandmothers. Their support and words of wisdom got her through the difficulties of life. She learned to believe that there is no shortcut to success and hard work is the only key to achieve goals.

Although Dr. Rahim's academic background is in linguistics, she established her career in the technological training sector. The story behind such a drastic diversion of her career is interesting. She started her career as an ESL instructor; along the way, she realized, although her training is improving the language proficiency of the students, the lack of technological knowledge or expertise is limiting their employment opportunities to a great extent. This realization motivated her to start her mission to increase technology literacy of people through training.

Dr. Rahim nurtured a passion for learning and sharing knowledge from a young age. Her target was to educate the global community. She always wanted to pursue higher studies abroad. Right after her graduation, she moved to the USA with her husband. There, an excellent linguistic program caught her attention and she enrolled in it without thinking twice. That's where her journey of studying abroad started. According to her, the main difference between the education system of Bangladesh and in the USA is that in the USA they embrace a more casual learning environment. Moreover, their learning methods are more group work and practical learning oriented than in Bangladesh. In her opinion, a person needs to have the capacity to embrace a new culture, people and language, accept change, be open minded, maintain a strong work ethic and have people skills to enjoy their experience of globalization. As a Bangladeshi educator teaching abroad, she has a lot of scope to contribute to the development of Bangladesh which she is utilizing to the fullest. As she said, there is a lot to do and the willingness certainly is the first place to start.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/780765099945347>

## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 88

*The eighty-eighth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on July 28, 2022. We had Ms. Sumaiya Firoze, a remarkable alumna of North South University from the Department of Environmental Science and Management, Batch 2004. She completed her undergraduate studies from NSU in 2008 and pursued her Master's degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on environmental conversion. Throughout her career, she has worked with several organizations like ActionAid, International Resources Group, British Council, etc. She has been associated with USAID almost for the past 12 years and currently is the Senior Technical Specialist of Natural Resources Management and Combating Wildlife Crime wing of the organization.*

Throughout her professional journey, Ms. Firoze worked with a lot of dynamic projects and programs of her sector. In the beginning of the event, she shared her experiences, roles and responsibilities of her professional journey with the audience. Her main responsibility is to manage portfolios of the projects related to climate change, adaptation mitigation, wildlife crime, environmental governance, ecosystem and community-based conservation, etc. She is currently focused on forest and wildlife conservation specific projects and is managing three different projects regarding these sectors. Besides that, Ms. Firoze also provides strategic governance on environmental governance issues, project design and interagency coordination.

As the guest's field of work is relevant in the current environmental context of our country, she shared her opinion and insights about environment and natural resources conservation in Bangladesh during the show. According to her, environmental degradation is a concerning issue for our country right now; to address this issue, there has been significant effort and improvement in policy making as a result of which, we now have a number of laws and rules regarding the topic. However, there is plenty of room for improvement in enforcement of these laws. Moreover, there is deficiency of human resources as well as financial resources allocation for this sector which need to be addressed immediately. Nevertheless, the good news is, our government has started to implement systematic environmental management which highlights and emphasizes forestry, tree coverage, water resources, etc. They have also taken initiatives to engage with local communities by diversity management with the target to reach the grassroots level soon. Ms. Firoze emphasized general awareness in order to ensure the effectiveness of the aforementioned initiatives which can be created through systematic and cost effective approaches. The role of mass media to educate, alert and demonstrate examples for the general people about environmental matters is very significant. She mentioned that this long-term process of awareness is expected to come out as commitment eventually.

Another area of Ms. Firoze's professional interest is wildlife crime. The main limitations of this field are data deficiency, lack of investigation and analysis, gap in prosecution, etc. She mentioned that the issues related to wildlife crime need to be addressed, prioritized and brought under better law enforcement. The responsibility of these actions falls under several entities like Bangladesh Forest Department, the judicial system, port authorities, customs and immigration, etc. Therefore, systemic coordination between these correlated units is crucial for reaching the goal. She also emphasized societal effort besides government effort to prevent wildlife crime. Another important topic that was addressed during the event was the current global natural resources crisis. According to Ms. Firoze, this cannot be solved overnight, rather conservation should be an integrated part of our lifestyle and responsible use of resources should be implemented at every step of our lives.

After a thorough discussion about Ms. Firoze's professional life, the topic of the conversation turned towards her student life at NSU during the latter part of the event. She chose Environmental Science as her major for undergraduate studies from the desire to contribute to the development of the local community. Her department was not so large back then; therefore, it was a small community or like-minded people with diverse knowledge. Environmental Science being a multidisciplinary subject, it offered Ms. Firoze ample opportunities of exploration in different areas of specialization within the sector. She also had a fantastic group of teachers who always inspired her to contribute to the greater development of our country and the world. The practical learnings she received from the experiential teaching and exposure to the field experiences that the faculty members ensured for her were invaluable.



Ms. Firoze was active in both NSU Debate Club and NSU Earth Club during her undergraduate life at NSU. She achieved a great deal of skill regarding communication, event management, people management, etc. These lessons and memories shaped her as an environmental professional in the long run.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/380967534167399>

## What's Your Story? Episode 12



The twelfth episode of 'What's Your Story?' was held on August 03, 2022 and for this episode we had Dr Mohammad Ali Tareq as our guest.

Dr Tareq established the Yamaguchi University- MIIIT International Joint Intellectual Property Laboratory (IIPPL) in November 2016 and headed the lab until December 2021. He led the Innovation Management research group in UTM until November 2020. He was the Head of the Management of Technology (MOT) Department of Malaysia Japan International Institute of Technology (MIIT), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) until May 2018.

Dr Tareq has been working as a Senior Lecturer at UTM since 2013. Before joining UTM, he taught at Independent University Bangladesh (IUB), BRAC University and American International University, Bangladesh (AIUB). He was a visiting faculty member of the University of Development Alternative (UoDA) in Bangladesh. He is a Finance major, and used to teach different courses at the undergraduate and master levels. He did his internships at Siemens (Bangladesh) and in ScanCement BD.

Dr Tareq completed MPhil in Real Estate Finance from Cambridge University, UK in 2005. He obtained his PhD in Finance from Shiga University, Japan in 2013. His MBA (Finance) and BBA (Finance and Banking) were from Dhaka University, Bangladesh. He is an ex-cadet of the 11th batch of Barisal Cadet College.

Dr Tareq has supervised 8 PhD, 4 MPhil and 9 Master (Dissertation) students. He is a Doctoral thesis examiner for The University of Notre Dame Australia and Murdoch University, Australia. Dr Tareq's major research interests include, but are not limited to, Innovation & Technology Management, Patent mapping, Finance (Asset-Pricing, Shareholder Privileges, and Valuation), Real Estate Finance, Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and socio-economic development. Besides these, he is planning to offer consultancy for financial planning, project development, cost-benefit as well as project sustainability analysis and the development of SMEs.

Dr Tareq loves sports and other co-curricular activities. He was an active sportsman during his student life. He was the fastest man in Barisal Cadet College from 1989-1994. He used to play for the college football and volleyball team and participated in Inter Cadet College Sports and Athletics Meet from 1992-1994. He was the goalkeeper for the Finance Department Football team and became runner-up in the Dhaka University Inter Department Football Competition in 2001. He was also the House Prefect and Junior House Prefect in 1993 and in 1992, respectively. Dr Tareq is Married to Dr Tania Islam, and they have 2 daughters Zara Afrin Ali and Zenubia Islam.

Throughout the event, the guest shared his academic and professional journeys, experience and insights with the audience. While he was growing up, his parents and mentors focused on experiential and moral education with equal significance as formal academic education. After the completion of his secondary education, he started to grow an interest for commerce-related topics like business, management, etc. Unfortunately, he couldn't pursue commerce during higher secondary level, but switched to the business sector during his undergraduate level. He decided to take Finance as a major for his undergraduate studies which resulted positively later.

Dr. Tareq always desired to be a teacher in professional life. He realized the importance of higher degrees for joining academia and fulfilling his dream, therefore, decided to pursue his higher studies abroad. From his experience of studying abroad, he realized the importance of observation and communication – verbal and nonverbal for getting complete understanding of unfamiliar situations. He also experienced the extent of exposure that global education has to offer. According to him, global exposure changes the pattern of one's thinking, improves analytical abilities and broadens one's mindset.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1089059212003443>

## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 89

The eighty-ninth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on August 08, 2022. As our guest for this episode, we had Ms. Tanzila Elma, a remarkable alumna of North South University from the Department of Business Administration, Batch 2011. She completed her undergraduate studies from NSU in 2014 and initially started her professional journey in the corporate sector. Despite having an academic background in Science till higher secondary level, Ms. Elma always had an entrepreneurial spirit. Therefore, she didn't continue her career in the corporate world for long, rather she switched to entrepreneurship and decided to establish her own business. She is the co-founder and Chief Operating Officer of the popular Bangladeshi clothing brand 'House of Ahmed'.

The event started with the story behind the foundation of 'House of Ahmed' and its journey to becoming one of the leading luxury ethnic clothing brands of Bangladesh. Ms. Elma candidly said that starting of the brand was not something preplanned, rather was started from one of her family vacations to the USA. She designed some customized outfits for her family members before the tour which was widely appreciated and praised by her peers. Such overwhelming appreciation of her clothing designs put the idea of starting a clothing brand in her mind. Afterwards, she, along with her husband, arranged an informal exhibition to display her designs and received a tremendous response. In fact, through that single exhibition, they received orders of clothes worth 9 lacs taka. Therefore, she decided to act on



the opportunity and utilized the response of the potential customers to start her business.

As exciting as the beginning of Ms. Elma's journey with 'House of Ahmed' sounds, it required a tremendous amount of effort, intense market research and strategic risk management. Four years ago, when 'House of Ahmed' was founded, we had almost no ethnic wear luxury brand in our country; therefore, the target market of the brand was extremely niche. Although this helped the company with the first mover advantage, it had to practically build its market starting from market segmentation, supplier selection, operations management, pricing strategies, etc.

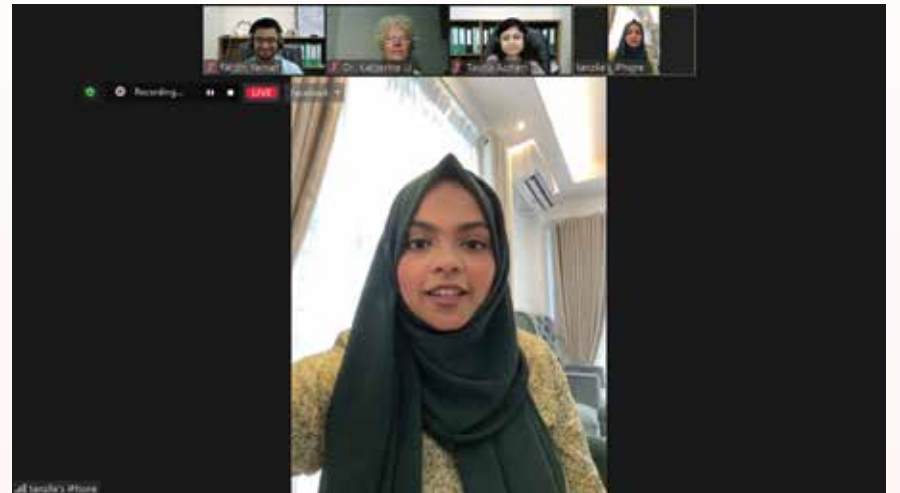
The main objective of 'House of Ahmad' is to portray the cultural and ethnicity of Bangladesh through their designs. The brand uses traditional clothes like Katan, Muslin, etc. and applies hand embroidery, hand paint, etc. to embody the designs. Ms. Elma especially mentioned that they use local materials for production and all the products are crafted by their local in-house artist. From her experience of conducting business for the past four years, the guest shared some insights about the challenges and opportunities of the industry with the audience. According to her, increased fashion consciousness and interest in purchasing locally produced products among the customers are fueling the recent trend of luxury clothing brands in our country. She anticipates a positive prospect of growth from the swiftly emerging market. Another important aspect that Ms. Elma mentioned the importance of preserving the rights and interest of the craftsmen, ensuring fair payment and facilities for the employees and avoiding exploiting the locals for profit for the sustainability of the business. Her future plans with 'House of Ahmed' are internationalization of the brand and worldwide representation of our ethnic wears.

As the event continued, the discussion topic shifted towards Ms. Elma's student life from her professional life. She chose NSU for her undergraduate studies because of the academic excellence, reputation and qualified faculties. She shared some of her treasured memories with friends, course mates and faculty members. She mentioned the devotion and helpfulness of the faculties that guided, motivated and inspired her not only throughout her university life, but also in her further professional and personal life. Ms. Elma was very proactive about extracurricular activities; she was an active member of several clubs including NSU Debate Club, NSU Young Entrepreneurs' Society, etc.

Besides club activities, she also participated in several intra and inter university events, workshops, competitions during her student life. According to her, the diversity she could experience and the network she could build through NSU were the most precious takeaways from her undergraduate life. Besides sharing her journey and memories with NSU, Ms. Elma also shared some valuable insights and suggestions for the current students and recent graduates of NSU. Her suggestion was to make the best utilization of undergraduate life for exploring and learning. She also advised to explore, evaluate and plan for higher studies from as early as possible. Finally, she emphasized prioritizing the different roles of life and balancing focus according to necessity.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/388159553250180>



## Collaboration Meeting with Nippon Koei Bangladesh Ltd.

A collaboration meeting between Nippon Koei Bangladesh Ltd. and North South University (NSU) was held on August 11, 2022 on the NSU premises. The attendees of the meeting included Mr. Naoki Kudo, Managing Director, Mr. A.K.M Nurul Islam, Deputy Managing Director, and Mr. Ishmam Md. Arif Aktab, Junior Civil Engineer from Nippon Koei Bangladesh Ltd. From NSU, Prof. Dr. Javed Bari, Dean, School of Engineering & Physical Sciences (SEPS), Prof. Md. Nazmul Islam, Chair, Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE), Prof. Md. Sirajul Islam, Director, Center for Infrastructure Research and Services (CIRS), Dr. Tanzilur Rahman, Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Science and Engineering (ECE), Dr. Rajesh Palit, Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), Dr. Prof. Nazmun Nahar, Associate Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE), Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Director, OEA and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA.



The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the opportunities and draft the plans for collaboration between NSU and Nippon Koei Bangladesh Ltd. The representatives of both the institutes took interest in shared resources and facilities in order to work jointly. Through discussion, it was realized that the main opportunity of collaboration between the two institutes is regarding joint research programs. The first step for moving forward with the collaborative research plans is to detect shared or common research interests of the researchers of both the institutes. The representatives of Nippon Koei Bangladesh Ltd. suggested selecting research subjects based on infrastructural issues and improvement of Bangladesh. For further discussion about the probable research areas and topics, the attendees agreed upon the arrangement of another virtual meeting including the interested researchers from both the institutes.

After holding the virtual meeting with potential researchers, both the institutes will arrange an in-person visitation for the delegation from each other. These short visits are intended to provide the delegates with better understanding of the collaboration opportunities aligning with the goals and objectives of the institutes. Moreover, they will have ample opportunity for face-to-face discussion about relevant research topics and exploring strengths, opportunities of each other's research facilities. The visitation plans may also include arrangement of workshops, seminars, etc. in order to decide the course of action and draft plans to proceed with the joint research projects. After a detailed discussion about the timeline of the proposed visitation of delegates, it was decided that the most suitable time for the delegates from Japan to visit Bangladesh is from mid-October to mid-December and for Bangladeshi delegation to visit in Japan is from mid-February to mid-April.

The agreement between Nippon Koei Co. Ltd. and NSU will be automatically renewed and be effective for an endless period of time unless one of the two parties declines it. It is expected that this collaboration will strengthen the historic cooperation and friendly relationship between Bangladesh and Japan and result in the improvement of both the countries in the long run.



## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 90

The ninetieth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on August 17, 2022. As our guest for this episode, we had Mr. Mashroor Parvez, an alumnus of North South University from the Department of Business Administration, Batch 2010. Professionally, he is a director, filmmaker and actor. Alongside those, he is also associated with an IT firm as the Creative Director.

Mr. Parvez established an interest in filmmaking at a very young age. As he grew up, his interest turned into passion and following that passion, he started working in the entertainment industry from his student life. Initially, Mr. Parvez worked as assistant director in several projects in the Dhallywood Film Industry. Later on, he obtained a license from Bangladesh Film Development Corporation in 2014 and started to work as a freelancer with different production houses. His first solo directorial film was 'Raiyaan', which was released in theaters both at home and abroad. Another one of his upcoming films is 'Going Home', which will be released soon in theaters. He has also directed a concept short film which received international awards and was played in the International Film Festival of South Asia. Beside these, he has worked in several other films as director of actor which includes অক্ষয় শব্দ, Dog's Illusion, The Runner, Endless Fury, Terminal, Sophie's Choice, etc.



Throughout the show, Mr. Parvez shared his journey, goals and future plans regarding filmmaking and direction. Although he is associated with the IT sector professionally, his passion and dream is to continue working in the entertainment industry and directing creative media contents and projects. Even though Mr. Parvez has both directed and acted in films, he always prefers directing over acting. According to him, working in both the sectors simultaneously may cause concentration diversion which he prefers to avoid in order to dedicate his hundred percent effort towards direction. Moreover, even when he does consider acting, he would prefer to act in others' projects rather than his own. In this context, he also mentioned that 'Raiyan' was an exception and contradicts both of his mottos as it was a biography of himself.

The guest also shared his perception and projection about the entertainment industry of our country during the event. According to him, the industry is definitely growing from several aspects such as, creativity, talent, content quality, graphical presentation, etc. Nevertheless, it has significant shortfalls in terms of investment, as many of the productions are funded by foreign producers or production houses. He mentioned another issue as well which is insufficient number and underdeveloped condition of our theaters. Although the OTT platform has been developing fast in recent times, the silver screen needs more attention for attracting the audience.

In the latter part of the event, Mr. Parvez shared about his journey and memories from his student life at NSU. He joined NSU mainly under the influence of his mother who was very particular about ensuring the best quality of education for him, hence she wanted him to join the best private university of the country. The guest was already working as an assistant director alongside his undergraduate studies at that time; so, he could manage a very limited amount of time to spend on campus besides his classes. Nevertheless, he worked with the Cine and Drama Club (CDC) of NSU for their performances on different occasions. While talking about his NSU life, Mr. Parvez shared some of the memories with faculty members, classmates and friends. He mentioned that his interest in Human Resources Management (HRM) and choice of major in HRM was highly influenced by the faculty members of the department. The cooperation of the faculties not only helped him academically, but also in finding appropriate direction in several other aspects of his life. For the current students and recent graduates of NSU, he suggested to work on and sort oneself out, then prepare for the further ups and downs of life.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/483070093153220>

## Introductory Meeting with Innovision Consulting Bangladesh

An introductory meeting between Innovision Consulting Bangladesh and North South University (NSU) for possible collaboration was held on August 21, 2022 at the conference room of the Dept. of Economics of NSU. The attendees of the meeting included Dr. Asad Karim Khan Priyo, Associate Professor & Chair, Dept. of Economics, NSU, Mr. Md. Rubaiyath Sarwar, Managing Director, Innovision Consulting, Bangladesh, Ms. Misha Mahjabeen, Portfolio Director, Innovision Consulting, Bangladesh, Dr. Syed Mortuza Asif Ehsan, Associate



Professor, Dept. of Economics, NSU, Dr. Samiul Haque, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Economics, NSU, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), NSU, Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Asst. Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), NSU and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, (OEA), NSU.



The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the possible collaboration opportunities between NSU and Innovision Consulting Bangladesh in terms of joint research, publication, research funding, student internships, and training opportunities. To be more specific, formative research (primarily mixed methods), baseline surveys and impact evaluation (quantitative and mixed methods), market research, technical assistance and project management and training and capacity development were given priority during the discussion. After a critical evaluation of the proposed topics, the attendees of the meeting from both institutions agreed to start an academic collaboration through an MoU between NSU and Innovision Consulting, Bangladesh. The agreement is intended to help the two research groups with successful research collaboration, joint publication, research projects, submitting joint research proposals for external funding as well as training and internship opportunities for the students of NSU.



## Information Session with FPT University, Vietnam



**FPT EDUCATION GLOBAL**

North South University's Office of External Affairs (OEA) attended a virtual information session with FPT University, Vietnam on August 22, 2022. As the guests of the session, we had Ms. Ngoc Tran (Ruby), International Admission and Mobility Officer, Ms. Huyen Vu, International Admission and Mobility Officer and Ms. Michelle Nguyen, Head of International Admission and Global Mobility from FPT University, Vietnam. From OEA, Ms. Antara Labiba and Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs attended the meeting. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and streamed via Facebook Live on the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

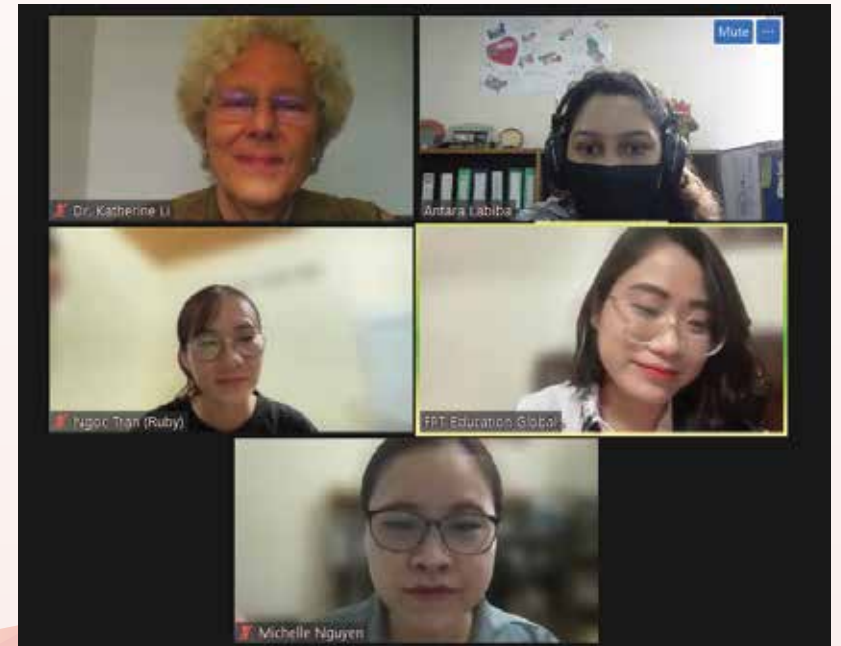
Throughout the event, the three guests and speakers informed the audience about their country and university through presentations. The session started with a video presentation introducing FPT Corporations, FPT Education and FPT University – three correlated entities and explaining the foundation, journey and growth of FPT University. The first speaker of the event, Ms. Vu started her speech by introducing Vietnam. Vietnam is located in South-East Asia. The economy of the country is one of the fastest growing economies of Asia as well as the world. Vietnam has a rich history and versatile culture; the people there are friendly and welcoming. The weather of the country is comfortable and living cost is very affordable. In reference to her description, Ms. Vu also shared a video about Vietnam with the audience.

Afterwards, the speakers moved on to discussing FPT University, Vietnam. The mother company of the university is FPT Corporations which was founded in 1988. The company prominently works with technology, telecommunications and education sectors and is the leading information and technology company in Vietnam. Under the education wing of FPT Corporation, FPT University was founded in 2006. It is the first private school to be established by an enterprise and currently, is one of the best in Vietnam. FPT University is the first to receive 3 stars by QS in Vietnam. The university has excellence in teaching and training, employability, facilities and social responsibilities. It has five campuses throughout the country including one international campus. PFT International was launched in 2012 and has hosted 3,000 international students since then. The university has 174 partners worldwide in regions like Japan, Australia, USA, Nigeria, Europe, South Asia, etc. For better understanding. The guests shared a video presentation demonstrating the campuses, academic activities and facilities.

Another topic that was highlighted during the session was the mobility programs organized and offered by FPT University. These programs are truly global, diverse and customizable, well-designed, affordable and promotes experiential learning. They offer a wide range of mobility programs including, internships, study tours, semester exchange abroad, etc. The speakers provided the audience with detailed information about the structure and agenda, requirements, application process, timeline, costing, etc. of the mobility programs during the show. In this context, they also mentioned that under these student mobility programs, the university hosted more than 1000 mobility students in 2019.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/537611091456356>



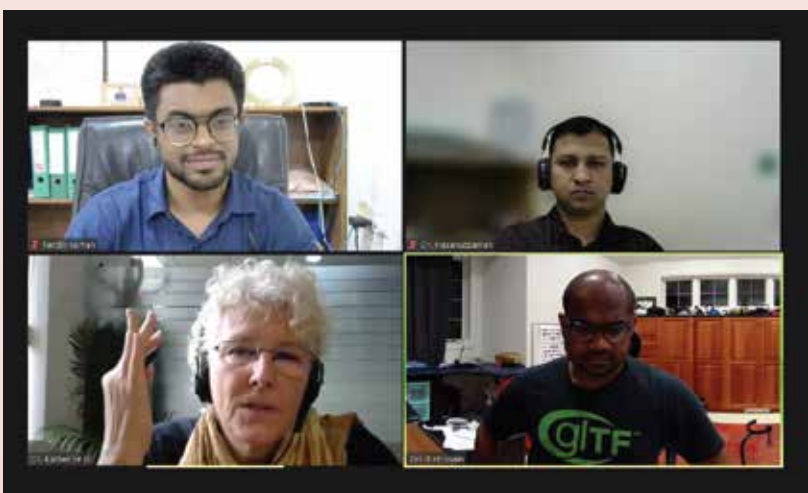
## Meeting held between OEA and Bangladesh Alumni Foundation

The Office of External Affairs held a follow-up meeting with Bangladesh Alumni Foundation after the first successful implementation of BdAF-NSU Scholarship program on August 22, 2022.

Under the current scholarship program, 3 students, Tamjida Tarin Tripti (BBA), Mariya Sharmin Tisha (CSE) and Jarin Tasnim Saba (ARC) are receiving scholarship facilities for their studies in NSU. All of these students showed high meritorious qualities and earned the scholarship after rigorous screening and selection from both NSU and BdAF. According to the agreement, other than financial support, BdAF will also provide mentorship to these students. The main agenda of the follow-up meeting was to focus on that. A discussion was held regarding how students can reach out to the members of BdAF and receive educational advice and talk about future career and professional goals. It was decided that OEA will facilitate a meeting every semester between the students and the BdAF Board so that the members can keep track of the progress of the students. Further discussions were held on how to promote the scholarship on a larger scale for the next admission sessions and how to slowly increase the scholarship amount in a sustainable manner.

Bangladesh Alumni Foundation, a California based non-profit organization, believes that a key towards bringing positive societal change would be to make quality private university education completely free through offering 100% scholarship over a sustained period of time.

The "NSU - Bangladesh Alumni Foundation Scholarship" is a result of that vision.





## NGO Talk Show Episode 23



The twenty-third episode of the 'NGO Talk Show' was aired on August 23, 2022 with one of the government-registered NGOs of Bangladesh - Volunteers Association for Bangladesh (VAB). The title of the event was 'Developing Bangladesh: Scope for Research with VAB'. The keynote speaker for this episode was Mr. Masum Billah, Country Director, Volunteers Association for Bangladesh (VAB). 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.

Mr. Billah worked in different national-international organizations at the beginning of his career. Later on, he shifted his career focus towards academia and pursued teaching as a profession. He also participated in different external educational programs like the Post-Primary Basic and Continuing Education (PACE) Program run by BRAC. Such a long and close association with the education sector inspired him to contribute to this sector even more. Based on that motivation, Mr. Billah along with a few other like-minded partners, founded VAB in 1998. According to his experience and observation, the primary education sector of our country has received much effort and attention from both government and non-government sectors over the past few years compared to secondary level education. Therefore, he decided to contribute to secondary education through his organization. VAB's initial activities included providing free textbooks, education materials and academic scholarships for underprivileged secondary-level students. The organization's operations were limited till 2004; it operated with only 20 schools and provided 10 students from each school. Later on, VAB received government registration in 2006 and started operating from its permanent office in 2012.



As mentioned before, the operations and activities of VAB are only secondary education development-based. The organization has divided its development activities into four basic categories – teacher development, student development, school development and community development. Besides academic education, the organization also provides subject-based training, co-curricular and extracurricular activities opportunities and student clubs for the students. Furthermore, it operates development programs both for the students and non-students such as dropouts, the unemployed, etc. Mr. Billah mentioned that NGOs like VAB have a remarkable influence on our society because they can reach the academic sector of the remote and rural areas that the government cannot reach.

As the research method, Mr. Billah prefers commissioned research for VAB as he believes joint research will be more effective and suitable for the operations of VAB. Therefore, he is interested in developing a collaborative relationship with NSU regarding research. He also expressed interest to collaborate regarding extra-curricular activities and clubs as well as assistance for NSU faculties for teachers' training. VAB is also ready to invite volunteers and interns from NSU. To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/367254708940703>

## Information Session on Higher Studies and Research Opportunities in Hungary with a fully-funded Scholarship

North South University's Office of External Affairs (OEA) organized a virtual information session about higher studies and research opportunities in Hungary with a fully-funded scholarship on August 23, 2022. As the speaker of the session, we had Mr. M. Abdullah Al Mamun Sony, the Ambassador of Bangladesh for Association of Hungarian PhD and DLA Candidates. From OEA, Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA and Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs attended the meeting. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and streamed via Facebook Live on the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.



The event focused on providing an overview of the Hungarian education system, institutes, opportunities of higher studies and scholarships schemes available for the international students. Hungary is a central European country which has been a member of the European Union (EU) since 2004. Hungary has been listed on numerous prestigious ranking lists of its region as well as the world for the quality of education. The country has 65 higher education institutions which provide support in the fields of talent management and research opportunities. The government of Hungary offers a scholarship named 'Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship' for the foreign students who want to pursue higher studies in any Hungarian institute. The scholarship program was launched in 2013, but Bangladesh got enlisted for it two years back, in 2020. The scholarship is available for the students who are enrolled in any full-time undergraduate, graduate or PhD program at a university in Hungary. Besides this, there are several requirements and criteria for the students to be eligible for the program which were discussed in detail during the event.



Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship is a fully-funded program, therefore, it ensures tuition-free education for the recipients. The scholarship is granted for a large number of students every year. In 2021, the Hungarian government received 5,00,000 applications for the program among which 4,700 students were awarded with the scholarship. From Bangladesh, they accept 130 students among which, 30 are allocated for Nuclear Science study and research.

For the Bangladeshi applicants, the application should be processed through the Education Ministry of Bangladesh. The requirements, documents and step-by-step process were explained and instructed thoroughly during the session. Generally, applicants face some confusion about the work permit and study gap while applying for higher studies in Hungary. To clear the confusion, the speaker mentioned that the students have permission to work alongside studying under some conditions and boundaries of working-hours. Hungary accepts a 5-6 years of study gap but the applicants must complete 12 years of primary, secondary and higher secondary education for applying in undergraduate, graduate or PhD programs there.

Mr. Sony shared some useful links for accessing information and contact details for the interested universities at the end of his presentation. Afterwards, he attended an Q&A session where he answered several frequently asked questions from the audience. Finally, he mentioned that he is a recipient of the Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship as well and shared the experience of his journey with us.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

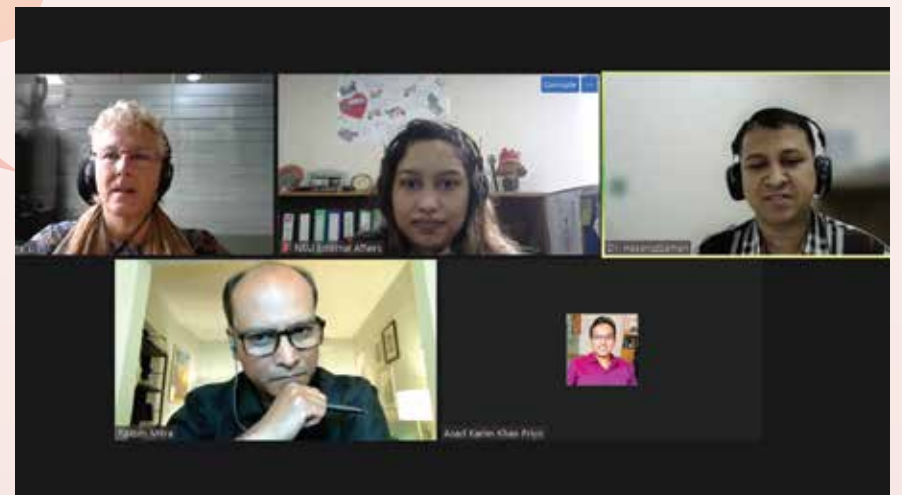
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/2302556109899928>

## Collaboration Meeting with Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada

**Toronto  
Metropolitan  
University**

*A courtesy meeting between North South University (NSU) and Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada was held on August 23, 2022. The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the collaboration opportunities between Toronto Metropolitan University and North South University. The attendees of the meeting included Dr. Raktim Mitra, Associate Professor and Director, School of Urban and Regional Planning from Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada and Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA, Dr. Asad Karim Priyo, Chairman, Department of Economics and Antara Labiba, OEA from North South University.*

The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the possible areas of collaboration between NSU and Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada. Some of the collaboration opportunities detected and discussed during the meeting were student and faculty exchange programs, research collaboration and government funding scholarship programs, joint workshops and seminars, etc. The representative of Toronto Metropolitan University appreciated the idea of exchange programs and expressed interest in taking initiatives to avail such programs for the students of both universities soon. He also suggested establishing joint research units through which the faculties of Engineering and Science, Commerce and Business and Fine Arts of both the universities can connect each other easily to discuss the common topics of interest. The meeting ended with a positive note and assurance from Dr. Raktim Mitra to discuss possible collaboration scopes with other departments of Toronto Metropolitan University and materialize the suggested proposal as soon as possible.



## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 91



*The ninety-first episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on August 25, 2022. As our guest for this episode, we had Mr. Faham Ahmed, an alumnus of North South University from the Department of Business Administration, Batch 2010. He completed his undergraduate studies from NSU in 2014 and pursued his Master's degree in Macquarie University, Australia. He also has academic certification and expertise in Certified Management Accountant (CMA). Both Mr. Ahmed's academic background and career is Finance and Accounting oriented. He has worked with renowned financial institutions like Hall Chadwick Chartered Accountant, Hannan Accounting and Taxation, Al-Arafah Islamic Bank, etc. throughout his career so far. Currently, he is associated with both Natiotech Communications Ltd. and TS Packaging Ltd. as their Director. Moreover, he is teaching in a private university of Bangladesh - University of Scholars.*

The event started with a discussion about Mr. Ahmed's career journey and current professional responsibilities. He informed that both Natiotech Communications Ltd. and TS Packaging Ltd. were founded by his family in 2018. At the time of these companies' foundation, he was in Australia for higher studies. After returning from Australia in 2019, Mr. Ahmed started working for both the organizations as Director. His main responsibility is to manage and supervise financial matters of the companies, such as cost and budgeting, finance and banking, accounting books and records, etc.



As Mr. Ahmed has close association with the infrastructure development sector, he shared some insights about the prospects and future of infrastructural development in Bangladesh based on his experience and observation. According to him, as a swiftly developing country, Bangladesh has a good number of up and running mega projects right now. In order to continue the pace of this ongoing development, proper planning and thorough cost-benefits analysis is necessary. In this context, he mentioned that this sector faces more obstacles due to external challenges compared to internal weaknesses. For example, it is more prone to geopolitical crises than any other sector. The current Russian and Ukraine war, oil and diesel crisis, inflation, price hike of importing raw materials, etc. are heavily affecting the infrastructural development process of Bangladesh.

Besides the corporate sector, Mr. Ahmed also has some experience of working in academia. As the Director of Niontech Communications Ltd. and TS Packaging Ltd, he had to conduct several workshops and training sessions with employees. He realized his interest in spreading knowledge through teaching during these training sessions. He mentioned that he prefers interactive classroom environments and encourages fearless communication for the students in his courses. He also said that teaching made him realize the effectiveness and benefits of two-way learning, as he had learned a lot from his students throughout his teaching career. As the guest has experience of attending university both in home and abroad, he mentioned some similarities and dissimilarities between the educational institutes of Bangladesh and Australia during the event. According to his experience, the universities abroad emphasize more on practical oriented learning compared to the ones in Bangladesh. The international universities are technological knowledge oriented as well; for example, they introduce different accounting software to the Finance and Accounting majors during their undergraduate courses.

After a thorough discussion about Mr. Ahmed's professional life, the topic diverted to his student life at NSU. He decided to pursue his undergraduate degree at NSU based on the university's reputation of academic excellence and credential of the certification. Reminiscing his undergraduate life, Mr. Ahmed shared the treasured memories with his classmates, friends and faculty members at NSU. In his opinion, one of his best achievements from NSU is a diversified network and connection with people throughout industries and countries.

For the current students and recent graduates of NSU, he suggested to always look for help and suggestions from seniors whenever possible. He also advised to never be afraid to make mistakes because making mistakes is a learning process and it is what paves the path for improvement.

To know more about the event, visit the following link  
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/2760834240727957>

## The Regional English Language Officer (RELO) of the US Embassy visited North South University

*The Regional English Language Officer (RELO), Ms. Nabila Massoumi visited North South University on August 28, 2022 along with Mr. Shaon Karmakar, English Language Program Coordinator, US Embassy Dhaka. From North South University, Prof. Dr. Abdur Rob Khan, Professor & Dean, School of Humanities & Social Sciences, Dr. AQMA Rahman Bhuiyan, Professor & Chairman, Department of English & Modern Languages, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA, Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Director, OEA and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA attended the meeting.*



*From North South University, Prof. Dr. Abdur Rob Khan, Professor & Dean, School of Humanities & Social Sciences, Dr. AQMA Rahman Bhuiyan, Professor & Chairman, Department of English & Modern Languages, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA, Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Director, OEA and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA attended the meeting.*



The English Language Office supports the U.S. Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961, which aims to increase communication and mutual understanding between the people of the United States of America and the people of other countries throughout the world.

Ms. Massoumi coordinates the U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Sections in Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives and advises on English language programming, consults with host country ministries of education, universities, and teacher training organizations, visits local schools and institutions, attends local conferences and seminars, and helps to implement Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) programs. RELO also collaborates with governments, Directorates of Education, colleges, and universities for supporting teacher education, teacher training, and teacher professional development. They also work towards curriculum and language teaching materials development, and other English language teaching projects.

The delegates also met with the Vice-Chancellor of NSU, Professor Atiqul Islam during the visit and discussed the potential opportunities to collaborate with NSU through research projects, joint conferences and workshops to strengthen English language training in the region.

## North South University arranges Joint Seminar with Macquarie University, Australia



NSU arranged a seminar titled "The Art of Writing and Publishing a Top Research Article" jointly with Macquarie University, Australia on August 29, 2022. The purpose of the seminar was to explore insights on how to improve the quality of research articles prepared by the faculty members and researchers. The keynote speaker of the event was Professor Rahat Munir CMA, CA, FCPA, PhD. Professor Rahat is the Head of the Department of Accounting and Corporate Governance at Macquarie Business School, Sydney, Australia. In the event, he strongly emphasized on the necessity of quality report articles in the professional development of academicians. He also stated the fact that research articles are crucial in determining the standard of a university. It also helps in the development of rankings for a university. The main takeaway from his talk was that one must have a long-range plan for research and publication. The event was attended by the faculty members of North South University as well as the students.





## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 92



The ninety-second episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on August 29, 2022. We had Mr. Masudul Amin Rintu, an alumnus of North South University from the Department of Business Administration, Batch 2003. He completed his undergraduate studies from NSU in 2006 and pursued his Master's degree in University of Hertfordshire, USA. His academic background is in Marketing and his career follows his academic expertise. He worked in renowned companies like Robi and Bitopi for a long time in his career. Currently, Mr. Amin is associated with a number of organizations. He is the founder and executive director of an advertising agency named 'A for Action' and an IT service and consulting firm named 'V2'. He is also associated with an Advertising agency - 'X' as the Chief Integration Officer.

Mr. Amin has an extraordinary and diversified professional portfolio as has worked with several national-international companies in versatile industries. In fact, the organizations that he is currently affiliated with and his responsibilities there are diverse and distinct from one another. 'A for Action' mainly focuses on below-the-line (BTL) advertising, on-ground and consumer engagement activities such as, events, activation, one-to-one contact, trial generation, sales, etc. Other than that, the organization also works with the over-the-top (OTT) platforms regarding contents like web series, web films, etc. Some of their recently produced contents include 'Pet Kata Sho', 'Tonoya' which were released on OTT platform 'Chorki'. Another organization that Mr. Amin is closely associated with is 'V2'. The company basically works for marketing process automation through innovative software development. The other organization 'X' is an integrated marketing agency that assists companies with complete brand building, campaign management, product launch, new products development, etc. They work with renowned companies like, Banglalink, Samsung, Upay, Berger, Daraz, Chorki, etc.

As Mr. Amin's academic expertise and professional experience both are in the marketing sector, he shared some valuable insights about the prospects and future of digital marketing in the current market context of our country. Considering the advanced and tech-oriented lifestyle of our population, digital marketing is one of the most effective and popular methods of marketing. Therefore, it is a must for the marketers to have a sound understanding of digital space and platforms. He mentioned that marketing is crucial for every business, no matter from which industry it belongs to. Hence, marketers should have extensive knowledge about the basics of different sectors and be updated about current affairs. He also emphasized practical skills besides theoretical knowledge and strong sense of responsibility for the marketing professionals to succeed in their career. Besides marketing, Mr. Amin has quite a close association with the IT industry as well. Talking about this sector, he mentioned that the industry has immense potential and opportunities of growth in the local context. Utilizing the opportunities, the information technology sector of our country is experiencing a lot of innovative and successful initiatives through which it is emerging fast. Our products are serving not only the local market but also the international clients and are being appreciated globally.

In the latter segment of the event, Mr. Amin shared some memories from his campus life at NSU. He mentioned that he experienced a diversified and brilliant campus life during his undergraduate studies at NSU. He was very active in different extracurricular and co-curricular activities and was associated with multiple club and student organizations. He has uncountable memories with seniors, juniors, classmates and faculty members from his campus life. His biggest achievement from NSU is some genuine and caring bonding which is still intact so many years after graduation. All his practical knowledge about people management, human resources management, marketing, presentation skills, negotiation, etc. started from NSU campus. For the current students and recent graduates of NSU, Mr. Amin advised to practice sincerity and seriousness, no matter which sector they work in. He also emphasized effort, responsibility and accountability for both professional and personal life.

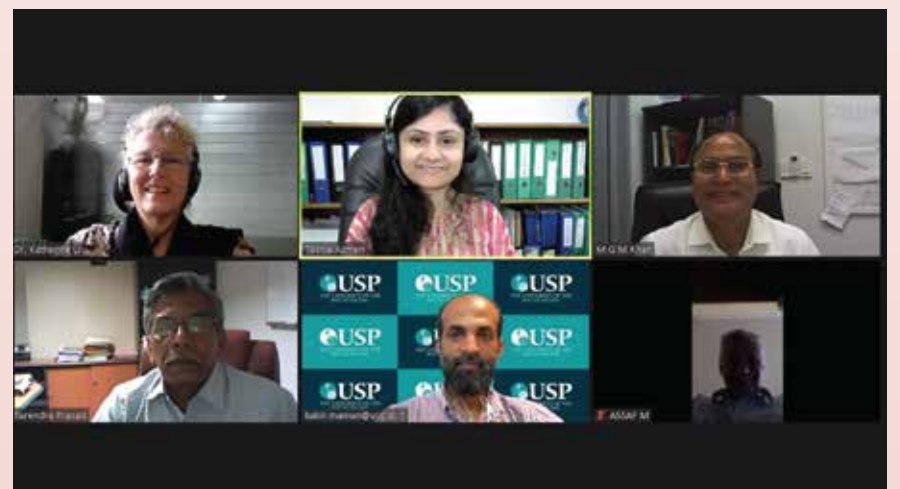
To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1076970809600396>

## Information Session with The University of the South Pacific, Fiji



North South University's Office of External Affairs (OEA) attended a virtual information session with University of the South Pacific, Fiji (USP) on August 30, 2022. As the speakers of the session, we had Dr. Kabir Manun, Senior Lecturer, School of Information Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Physics (SITMS), Dr. M G M Khan, Deputy Head and Acting Head of School, SITMS, Professor Surendra Prasad, Head of School, School of Agriculture Geography, Environment, Ocean and Natural Sciences and Dr. Mansur Assaf, Discipline Coordinator, Department of Electrical Engineering from University of the South Pacific, Fiji with us. From OEA, Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA and Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs attended the meeting. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and streamed via Facebook Live on the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.



Throughout the event, the speakers discussed the academic structure and offered programs of the University of the South Pacific, Fiji. The South Pacific region comprises 12



member countries and USP has 14 branch campuses situated in all 12 of these countries. After a brief overview of the university, the speakers focused on one specific school which was the School of Information Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Physics (SITMS). The school offers a wide range of courses and programs for Bachelors, Masters and PhD level students. The professors and specialist faculties of different disciplines under SITMS like engineering, mathematics and information technology, separately explained the offered programs and department structure of their respective departments in detail.

Besides the specific school oriented discussion, the speakers also informed the audience about the admission requirements and application process of USP. Then they discussed the fee structure of different programs and on-campus accommodation for their students. They also mentioned that, unfortunately, the university does not have any scholarship available for the international students at this moment. However, USP has a well-structured international office dedicated to the welfare of the international students studying there. The representatives of USP present in the meeting assured the audience that their international office is very helpful and looks out for the student's needs very sincerely.

NSU already has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with USP which was initiated this past January. Although the agreement specifies SITMS, the collaboration opportunities go beyond the school. The guests mentioned that they will be more than glad to collaborate with NSU regarding student exchange, faculty exchange, supervising Masters and PhD students, resource sharing, joint funding, etc.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/752472022494290>

## Faculty Feature



*Heinz Scheifinger* is from Brighton, England, and did his BA, MA, and PhD degrees at Reading, Essex, and Warwick Universities, respectively - all in Sociology. He was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, and at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. After that he was a faculty member at the University of Brunei Darussalam, the King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals in Saudi Arabia, Keimyung University in South Korea, and, most recently, Zayed University, UAE. He has also been a visiting professor at the Singapore Internet Research Center at Nanyang Technological University, and at the Asian University of Women in Chattogram. His research covers contemporary Hinduism - especially regarding its digital forms - and most of his publications concern this ever-evolving field of study. Outside of academia he enjoys walking, travel, and chess.

**Interviewer:** Why did you choose Sociology as your field of study?

**Heinz Scheifinger:** Sociology wasn't offered at my school and so I took it at college as I wanted to try something completely new. I found it really interesting as its subject matter is so diverse and it offered a new way of looking at the world. After the A-level it was clearly the discipline that I wanted to pursue at university.

**Interviewer:** What was the topic of your doctoral dissertation? Tell us more about how you carried out the study.

**Heinz Scheifinger:** The title of my PhD is 'Hinduism and the Internet: a sociological study'. It looked at the implications of the intersection of Hinduism and the Internet which was relatively new at the time. I conducted online research along with fieldwork at Hindu temples in India which primarily involved open-ended interviews with temple officials.

**Interviewer:** You have quite a bit of international experience. Can you describe what got you interested in working in other countries? What attracted you to Asia?

**Heinz Scheifinger:** While a postdoc at the University of Aberdeen I saw an advert for another postdoc position at the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore. One of the clusters that they had was called 'Religion and Globalization in Asian contexts', and so my research fitted perfectly with that and I was lucky enough to get a position there. I enjoyed that experience and so took a faculty position at the University of Brunei Darussalam - the national university of a country which has a close relationship with Singapore (they even share the same currency). After my contract finished there I wanted to take up a position in Saudi Arabia as at the time it was quite a closed society and I knew the society there would be very different to any which I had previously experienced. Nowadays, it has famously become less conservative and they even issue tourist visas. Similarly, I took a position in South Korea as again I wanted to experience a different social environment. Then a good opportunity came up in the UAE and so I took that.

**Interviewer:** You mention that you are a chess player. When did you start playing chess and how does chess prepare a person to think strategically in other areas of their life?

**Heinz Scheifinger:** I'm not really a good chess player at all, but I do enjoy it a lot. My dad taught me chess as a child and it literally took me years and hundreds of

games to reach a level where I could beat him for the very first time. I've never thought about a link between chess and thinking strategically in other areas of life before. But it's certainly good for concentration levels. The last match I played shortly before I flew here to Dhaka took 6.5 hours and it becomes like a meditation when you're so focused for so long.

**Interviewer:** What did you teach at the Asian University of Women? How was that experience?

**Heinz Scheifinger:** Teaching at the Asian University was a good experience on every level. I was a visitor for a semester and taught 2 courses: 'Religion in Contemporary Society' and 'Global Social Movements'. Although I didn't want to take up a permanent position there at the time, I always had it in my mind that I wanted to return to Bangladesh in the future - and here I am! Incidentally, I first traveled to Bangladesh in 1995 (for leisure).

**Interviewer:** What made you decide to join North South University? What is your impression so far?

**Heinz Scheifinger:** I really liked living in Bangladesh when I was at AUW and so that was one factor - and I also heard that the students are good at NSU. In addition, we all know that NSU is a highly reputed university academically. And of course, it was only the fact that I was lucky enough to be offered a position that led to me having the decision to make. Actually, when I received the offer it was a relatively easy decision for me to take it up. First impressions are very good - the campus is materially good and the atmosphere is vibrant. Interactions with staff and faculty have been good - people are friendly, professional, and helpful.

**Interviewer:** Tell us more about your research interest in Hinduism. How did it begin?

**Heinz Scheifinger:** There are two main factors in how my research interest in Hinduism began: firstly, my favorite area of sociology as an undergraduate was the sociology of religion and I was particularly interested in the sociology of 'cults' (more properly referred to as New Religious Movements or NRMs). A lot of the NRMs are derived from Hinduism. Secondly, traveling in India I witnessed the practice of Hinduism and I was interested in understanding what was going on around me.

**Interviewer:** What kind of research do you hope to do while you are at North South University?

**Heinz Scheifinger:** I will keep up with 'Digital Hinduism' as it is an ever-evolving area, and look into other avenues of research regarding contemporary Hinduism in Bangladesh. On my first evening here I was eating in a restaurant which, it turned out, belonged to a Hindu NRM. From there I was invited to a Hindu festival the following evening which I attended. So the field is here. I'm also open to other areas of research unrelated to Hinduism while I am at NSU.

**Interviewer:** Describe your teaching philosophy.

**Heinz Scheifinger:** My main aim is to encourage students to see the world that they live in ways that they had perhaps not previously done, and to help them to think critically. Hence, I see my role as a guide as much as an instructor. To this end my classes are interactive, and I always learn a lot from my students as well.

## Alumni Feature

***Anika Rabbani** is a graduate from the Department of English and Modern Languages of North South University. She graduated in 2007. After that, she received her Master's certificate in Development Studies from NSU as well. Anika started her professional journey after finishing her education and worked in organizations like Care Bangladesh, Save the Children and World Food Program. But soon enough, Anika realized that she wanted something else, and found her passion in health and lifestyle, particularly, yoga. Anika went to study yoga in the world famous K.P.J.A.Y.I Institute in India, which is known as the Harvard of yoga school. She was the only Bangladeshi student there. After completing her training, she started her new adventure as yoga and lifestyle coach for the health-conscious people of Bangladesh. For this, she created her own platform "Yoganika". Yoganika aims to provide online and offline yoga courses to people that rejuvenate the mind and strengthen the body. Anika loves her work, and she is grateful for the fact that she was able to make her passion her profession. She dreams of a world where the people are health conscious and take care of their bodies and minds.*



**Interviewer:** When did you realize your passion for fitness and yoga? When did you realize you wanted to make it your professional identity?

**Anika Rabbani:** I've always been passionate about fitness, about sports and about being active. I started yoga when I was 14 years old. I didn't do it seriously but I



liked the idea of movement and breathing. To me, it felt really good and I enjoyed how it felt afterwards.

I used to be a development worker for about a decade and I experienced many natural disasters. Well I had to report on them because I was a communication manager. I had to report on situations like that. This was right after I finished graduation at NSU and then the last one was my experience of volunteering at the Rana Plaza collapse, after which, I decided that I no longer want to pursue this job. Instead I wanted to do something that made me feel like I was doing something of more value at a soul level, and so I started teaching yoga as a career. I'm also a single mother, so I know how difficult life can be for a single mother. My daughter was only 2 and so I decided that a different career path would help me since I was no longer able to make frequent field visits and all.



**Interviewer:** Tell us about “Yoganika”. What are its activities?

**Anika Rabbani:** Yoganika is basically a space mostly for women. I also teach children from time to time. It's a space for women where they can come, they can de-stress and they can also get stronger, fitter, and engage in healthier habits throughout their lives. My personal philosophy is that a strong body will lead to a strong mind. In this regard, I speak strictly from my personal experiences. I believe that women will benefit from having stronger minds, especially in our society which is very patriarchal and many women hesitate to speak their minds or to show their strength.



**Interviewer:** How does yoga affect the body and mind? Is there any prerequisite health condition to practice yoga, or can anyone do it?

**Anika Rabbani:** Yoga is a fusion. In a sense, it creates a mind-body connection and because of this connection, people are able to steel themselves, their anxiety and stress; then, they can see things from a point of view where there's equanimity. There's no prerequisite to do yoga. Yoga is for everyone. There are many styles of yoga, and many variations of it. I like to believe that there is a type of yoga for everyone out there. As per what we see in magazines and ads, yoga bodies do not necessarily have to be fit, young or skinny. Everybody can do yoga and it is very possible for anybody to do yoga.

**Interviewer:** What are your future plans for Yoganika?

**Anika Rabbani:** My future plans for Yoganika are to continue to make it a safe place for women. A place where women feel supported and they also support each other and can lift each other up. That's pretty much my future plan for Yoganika and I believe that when women stand together, they can do anything and everything. The future is female and Yoganika strongly believes that.

**Interviewer:** What is life to you? What and/or who are your sources of motivation?

**Anika Rabbani:** To me, life is a fascinating journey where there are ups and downs, there are rainy days and sunny days. All of it should be looked at as an adventure. So there's no such thing as bad or good. I don't like to call things bad or good. Rather everything is just an experience. I'm lucky to have different kinds of experiences. My sources of inspirations are my husband as he constantly inspires me with his humbleness, my daughter as she is so loving. And I really have lots of love for animals. Animals are innocent and pure and they also constantly inspire me. I have a lot of pets. They are all adopted from the street and they really motivate me to try and bring a change in the world or whatever small things I can.



**Interviewer:** What is your advice for your fellow NSUers?

**Anika Rabbani:** To my fellow NSUers, I would say "start young". I started very late to be healthy. I wasn't always very healthy. I would suggest to start young, start in your teens, start in your 20s and start exercising, start moving your body. The body is an amazing machine and you can wield it anytime, any way you like. When you have a strong and fit body, your mind becomes limitless and that is a very powerful thing to possess. So definitely don't neglect your health, eat the right kinds of food so that you can fuel your body. Like this you can have a very powerful machine. So, your body can either be a rickshaw, a CNG or a powerful Ferrari - which one would you choose?

## International Student Feature



*This is Shao Qinjuan, I was born in Suzhou, China. It is a beautiful and clean city which is famous in China. And there is an old saying, "There is paradise above and Suzhou and Hangzhou below". I am lucky to be born in such a comfortable environment. And it has contributed to my optimistic, open-minded, cheerful and positive personality.*

*When I was a kid, I had a specific goal in my life: I wished I could become a successful business lady and I could travel the whole world with my family and friends, and I am glad that I've always been on the right track.*

*I completed my Business Administration bachelor degree at Nanjing Normal University in China. After that I joined the GTIG group and did an international trading business in the textile industry. A few years later, I set up my own company and continued to do trading business of all kinds in fancy yarn. In 2020, after the pandemic occurred, I transferred my market focus to Bangladesh, so I came to Bangladesh in October 2020. I have set up my marketing team here, my team is growing up and doing well day by day. In the meantime, I have joined NSU for the EMBA program. All the knowledge about marketing, financial, and human resources attracts me a lot. And I am sure it will be helpful in my career and self-improvement.*

*By the way, I would like to say North South University is such an energetic, open and inclusive, internationally connected university. I can feel the faculties are so hard working and full of wisdom. The students are friendly and kind-hearted. I really appreciate what I have encountered here. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of the NSU staff and students to enjoy a happy life and reach new heights in the near future.*

**Interviewer:** From your bio, we know that you grew an interest in entrepreneurship from a young age. What are the reasons behind your interest in this particular sector?

**Shao Qinjuan:** I feel it is interesting to communicate with all kinds of different people who come from different cultures, education, countries etc. Because my father owned a factory which produced iron, aluminum and nickel when I was young, I saw him meet with buyers from other countries.

**Interviewer:** Your bio also mentions that you have founded and successfully run an international trading business in the textile industry. Please share your experience and journey of fulfilling your dream and about becoming an entrepreneur in brief with us.

**Shao Qinjuan:** Well, when you want to do a thing perfectly, you need the awareness and action to learn it profoundly. When you become a specialist in your area, then I think you can do something. And I think people should have a learning heart which will make her or him keep learning till the end of life.

**Interviewer:** After the COVID-19 pandemic, you transferred the targeted market for your business from China to Bangladesh. What were the reasons behind such a decision?

**Shao Qinjuan:** Previously I have taken business trips to different countries in a short period, mostly 5-10days. After COVID-19 pandemic, it became difficult to move freely. I also found that we only had 1-2 buyers in many countries. For example, Malaysia, Thailand, Ukraine, Pakistan, Sweden, UK, and Viet Nam. So I realized that maybe I should focus on one or two countries which might become a big market for my sweater yarn, so I made my decision to come to Bangladesh and set up my marketing team.

**Interviewer:** What inspired you to choose North South University to pursue your EMBA among all other universities of Bangladesh?

**Shao Qinjuan:** I had a plan for further study. Since I will be here for a long time, my friend who is also studying at NSU recommended it to me. As we know, NSU holds a good ranking in the EMBA program in Bangladesh and worldwide.

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

**Shao Qinjuan:** I think it is rigorous, open-minded, proactive, inclusive, hard-working, and friendly.

**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.

**Shao Qinjuan:** Both are okay, but I prefer on-campus classes because they are more vivid, interactive and impressive.

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

**Shao Qinjuan:** The greatest feature is that people are mostly friendly, kind-hearted and welcoming. I feel free and relieved here.

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

**Shao Qinjuan:** I have been working on introducing my Chinese friends to enter NSU and study together with me.



## IELTS Update



*Under the guidance and direct supervision of the British Council Bangladesh, IELTS, in association with the Office of External Affairs at North South University is offering exams and exam preparation to NSU faculty members, students, and alumni. The benefits are outlined below:-*

- 1. A chance to attend three IELTS workshop sessions conducted monthly by the British Council IELTS experts at North South University;*
- 2. A chance to win a Tk. 50,000 scholarship;*
- 3. Convenience of sitting for the test on their own campus;*
- 4. Free IELTS resources and materials including "Road to IELTS" upon successful completion of registration;*
- 5. Complete guidance from the British Council IELTS examiners;*
- 6. Access to the NSU IELTS WhatsApp group for IELTS materials and to discuss and practice with other candidates and consistent guidance by the ambassadors;*
- 7. Access to all the IELTS Corner books and reading materials located in the NSU library building.*

*So far, the British Council has successfully organized two IELTS exams with 25 candidates at our institution in the months of June and August respectively while preparing them through monthly workshop sessions conducted by the IELTS experts. Moreover, "IELTS AT NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY" achieved a significant incline in reachability from 1.5k to 4.9k (30%) after the appointment of the two IELTS Campus Ambassadors, Sadia Jeesan Ayesha and Khandkar Yaaseen Qader.*

*The workshop sessions that we provide are highlighted below-*

### SESSION 1

The "IELTS Awareness Programme", is an introductory workshop intended to prepare candidates who have zero knowledge about IELTS.

### SESSION 2

Also known as the "IELTS Tips & Tricks Programme" essentially concentrates on the tips and tricks required to achieve a higher band score by reviewing sample answers of past examination papers along with various practice worksheets and resources.

### SESSION FINALE

Titled the "IELTS Last-Minute Preparation" which is the most integral of all the workshops, explores all the modules on a deeper level.

All three sessions contain numerous interactive activities that can help students learn from basic to advanced levels. Last but not least, IELTS at North South University was further complemented by Dr. Greg's workshop which was organized by the Department of English and Modern Languages.


The bar chart below illustrates the number of students who have appeared for their IELTS exams in the months of June and August respectively at North South University and their corresponding band scores. The exam was conducted with a total of 25 candidates who were all students and alumni of North South University. From this trend, we can observe that most of the candidates obtained scores from 6.5 to 7. The highest band score was recorded by 4 candidates which was 8.5 on a scale of 9 and the band score achieved by the largest number of students was 6.5.




In the near future, with the enhancement/progress of this program, and the inclusion of better opportunities for the students of our institution such as IELTS classes and Mock test facilities, we expect to achieve further improvements in the overall IELTS Band Score of our students.



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