



**Office
of External
Affairs**

THE BRIDGE

The Official Newsletter of the Office Of External Affairs

ISSUE 27 | SEP-OCT '22

Editor's Message

Welcome to the latest issue of The Bridge where you can learn all about the latest events coordinated by the OEA. If you would like to have us feature news about any of your academic collaborations, we would be delighted to do so. Hope you enjoy reading about all that's happening. Thank you for your continued support!

Editor

Dr. Katherine Li

Reporter

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Congratulations NSU for reaching 200 MoUs



NSU has signed the following eleven new MOUs in last two months: Taylor's University, Malaysia, Arannayk Foundation, CSR Centre Bangladesh, Hubei University, China, Florida International University, USA, Brunel University, UK, Fukuyama University, Japan, Nagad, Infertility Care and Research Center (ICRC), Gram Unnayan Karma (GUK), Johns Hopkins University (renewed). As a result, NSU has crossed another milestone reaching 200 Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with partners inside and outside of Bangladesh.

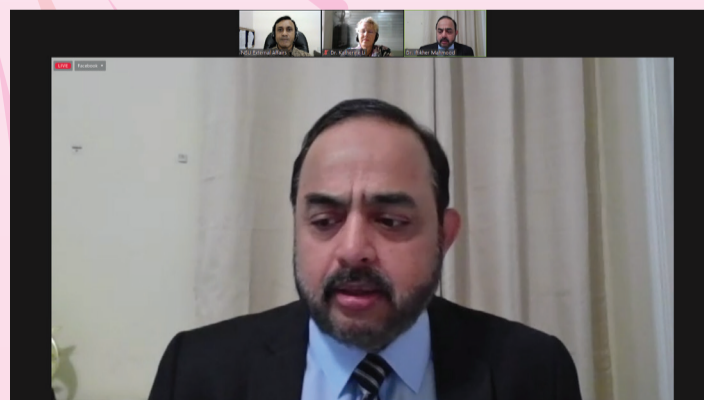
To learn more about these partnerships, please visit <http://institutions.northsouth.edu/oea/international-affairs/partnership/list-of-mous/>, which is located on the front page of the NSU website under Int'l Partnership.

NGO Talk Show Episode 24

The twenty-fourth episode of the 'NGO Talk Show' was aired on September 5, 2022 with one of the government-registered NGOs of Bangladesh – HOPE Foundation for Women and Children of Bangladesh. The title of the event was 'Developing Bangladesh: Scope for Research' with HOPE Foundation. The keynote speaker for this episode was Dr. Iftikher Mahmood, Founder and President, the HOPE Foundation for Women and Children of Bangladesh. 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.



Dr. Mahmood graduated from Chittagong Medical College in 1987 and obtained his higher studies specializing in Pediatric Endocrinology from Brooklyn Hospital and New York Hospital – Cornell University in USA. After completing his higher education, Dr. Mahmood settled in Florida establishing a successful pediatric practice. In the meantime, he founded the HOPE Foundation in 1999 for the women and children of Bangladesh as a charitable organization in the state of Florida, USA with the objective to provide healthcare to the poorest and economically marginalized mothers and children of Bangladesh. The organization has expanded both in size and operations since its establishment and currently is working in several countries of the world as a voluntary organization.



The idea and inspiration of founding a charitable organization was conceived in Dr. Mahmood's thoughts during his student life. While on a hygiene tour of his medical college to Bangladesh Institute of Research and Rehabilitation in Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders (BIRDEM), he had the opportunity to meet Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim – the National Professor of Bangladesh. The professor's initiatives and influence of his actions in the lives of commoners touched Dr. Mahmood and motivated him to do something for the betterment of the society. As Dr. Mahmood had an interest in mother and child healthcare, after graduation he initially started working in a children's hospital which made him realize the sufferings of the people, especially women and children of the population below the poverty line. He strongly felt the necessity of charitable clinics and hospitals for these people; therefore, he initiated founding one.

Hope Foundation was established in 1999 as a clinic in Cox's Bazar. Later, in 2005, it was made into a hospital named the 'Hope Hospital'. The organization has made significant contributions to mothers' and children's healthcare in the marginalized areas of Bangladesh. They have established several birth centers in Cox's Bazar. Moreover, they have several projects for midwifery training and fistula awareness. In fact, Hope Foundation was a participant in the midwifery education program under BRAC during the first cohort. They also work to ensure immunization and vaccination of children. The organization took part in rehabilitation during the Rohingya crisis in 2017 as well. They opened the largest hospital at the Rohingya camp with 100 beds and 24/7 emergency service. The organization has recently started widening their operations in other regions of the country as well besides Cox's Bazar, such as Barisal Division.

After the liberation of Bangladesh, the NGOs started to emerge in this region and since then have continued to make remarkable contributions in development throughout the past 50 years. Currently, we have more than 2,000 registered national NGOs and nearly 200 more international NGOs operating actively in our country. Since the beginning, NGOs have been working in sectors like health and relief, social development, education, infrastructure development, advocacy, gender equality, gender-based violence, human rights, disability, etc.

During the last portion of the event, the attendees discussed the probable scope for collaboration between NSU and Hope Foundation. The organization has recently started conducting research, some of their research topics are maternal nutrition, fistula, midwifery, mental health, etc. Dr. Mahmood invited NSU to collaborate with them in research as he believes shared expertise, resources and funding can increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the process. He also encouraged and invited the NSUers for pursuing their internship in his organization.

To know more about the event, visit the following link
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/631753671712981>

Introductory Meeting with Plan International Bangladesh

A virtual meeting between Plan International Bangladesh and the Office External Affairs (OEA) of North South University (NSU) held on September 5, 2022. The attendees of the meeting included Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA, Ms. Kashfia Feroz, Director, Girls' Rights, Plan International Bangladesh, Mr. Tariqul Hassan, Head, Monitoring Evaluation Research & Learning, Plan International Bangladesh, Dr. Mahubur Rahman, Professor, Dept. of Political Science and Sociology & Research Coordinator, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, NSU, Dr. Mohammad Bulbul Ashraf Siddiqi,

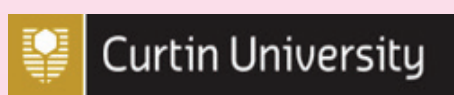


Associate Professor, Dept. of Political Science and Sociology & the Director, Confucius Institute of NSU and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA, NSU.

The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the present work of Plan International Bangladesh for the development of our country and the possible collaboration opportunities with NSU in terms of joint research, publication, research funding, student internships, and training opportunities. The attendees of the meeting introduced the objectives and operations of their respective offices and departments throughout the meeting. Afterwards, through the discussion, they identified some common areas of interest which the two concerning institutions can work together in partnership. Some of such suggested topics include disaster management, climate change, media influence on social issues, public health, etc. After a detailed discussion, the attendees from NSU agreed to send a draft proposal to their program team regarding an academic collaboration or partnership. In this regard, Plan International Bangladesh will evaluate the

options based on their partnership strategy

Mixed Method Research: Improving Quantitative inquiry with Qualitative Insights



The Curtin University (CU), Australia, research team behind the "Assessing Adoption and Diffusion of Agricultural Innovations in Bangladesh" project organized a special lecture on mixed method research on September 6, 2022 at NSU. The event was graced by the Presence of the Honorable Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Atiqul Islam as well as the Pro Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. M. Ismail Hossain. The Principal Investigator (PI) of the project, Prof. Dr. Nazrul Islam, briefly introduced all the attendees about the project and oversaw the proceedings. The Keynote Speaker for the event was Prof. Dr. Elizabeth (Liz) Jackson, Senior Lecturer, Curtin University, Perth, Australia. In attendance was Dr. Gour Gobinda Goswami, Co-PI of the project and Dr. Md. Zulfikar Rahman, PI of the component organization: Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU). The project was awarded to NSU by the Krishni Gobeshona Foundation (KGF). The session was broadcast live through Zoom to the collaborative partners of the project, Curtin University and University of Western Australia. An informative lecture on mixed methods research was delivered by the esteemed Dr. Jackson which was then followed by a lively question and answer session. Prof. Dr. M. Ismail Hossain delivered the closing speech and then presented Dr. Jackson with a small token of gratitude with Prof. Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs.



NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 93



Officer at Partex Star Group.

The ninety-third episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on September 11, 2022. We had Dr. Ferdoush Saleheen, a remarkable alumnus of North South University from the Department of Business Administration, Batch 1998. He completed his undergraduate studies from NSU in 2002. Afterwards, he received his MBA from Victoria University, Australia in 2007 and another Masters' degree in Logistics Materials and Supply Chain Management from the University of Texas at Arlington, USA in 2008. Dr. Saleheen also pursued his PhD in Supply Chain from University Utara Malaysia in 2014. In his professional life, he has been in the corporate sector, specifically associated with the Operations and Supply Chain Management field from the beginning of his career. Previously, he worked in renowned corporations such as Gemcon Group, Buhler Group, Kazi Farms Group, Akiz Food and Beverage, etc. Currently, Dr. Saleheen is working as the Chief Supply Chain

Despite majoring in Marketing and Management, Dr. Saleheen has worked in the Supply Chain Management sector for the past 20 years of his career in corporate. He specializes in the business transformation of supply chain and leadership. As the Chief Supply Chain Officer at Partex Star Group, his current responsibilities are to look after the planning, procurement, commercial, manufacturing, logistics and transportation-related activities and operations of the company. Besides corporate ties Dr. Saleheen also has close associations with academia. He has taught in several renowned universities at home and abroad as a professor including ULAB, BUP, BRAC, BUET, etc.

As the guest has worked closely with the Operations sector from the beginning of his career, he has a good understanding and viewpoint about the supply chain sector of Bangladesh. The industry is still new but fast-growing. According to Dr. Saleheen, the main challenges of this sector are synchronizing demand and supply, understanding the global trend, regulating price and ensuring on-time availability. He also believes that the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the importance of the supply chain vividly and unlocked the real potential of it. In his opinion, the subject area is multidisciplinary and Bangladesh still doesn't have enough facilities and arrangements for producing quality graduates in this sector. He emphasized keeping a clear insight about data analytics to excel in SCM as most decisions in this sector are made based on numbers.

Alongside his professional life, Dr. Saleheen's academic background is diverse. As he has the experience of pursuing higher studies in different parts of the world, he shared his observations about the similarities and dissimilarities of the higher education pattern of home and abroad. The guest mentioned that NSU has a similar education system as American universities but a different grading system. Nevertheless, our system is more focused on teaching whereas the international higher education structure focuses equally on research as teaching. Also, the culture of easy interaction with faculties and learning through practical experiences is also more prominent abroad. Moreover, they cultivate a solid industry-academia collaboration which ultimately improves practical learning and research opportunities. During the latter part of the event, Dr. Saleheen shared his journey of undergraduate studies at NSU. He chose NSU for his Bachelor's degree, relying on its reputation of being a results-driven academic institution. He absolutely cherished the ambience and environment of NSU and enjoyed his undergraduate life to the fullest. The guests especially appreciated the cordial, inspiring and nurturing attitude of the faculties of the university towards their students. Other than academic excellence, NSU also increased his access to information and taught him resilience. It also made him confident, focused and determined. His suggestion for the fellow NSUers was to think big, explore more and not to limit themselves. He believes chasing dreams with passion and consistency is what makes them come true.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

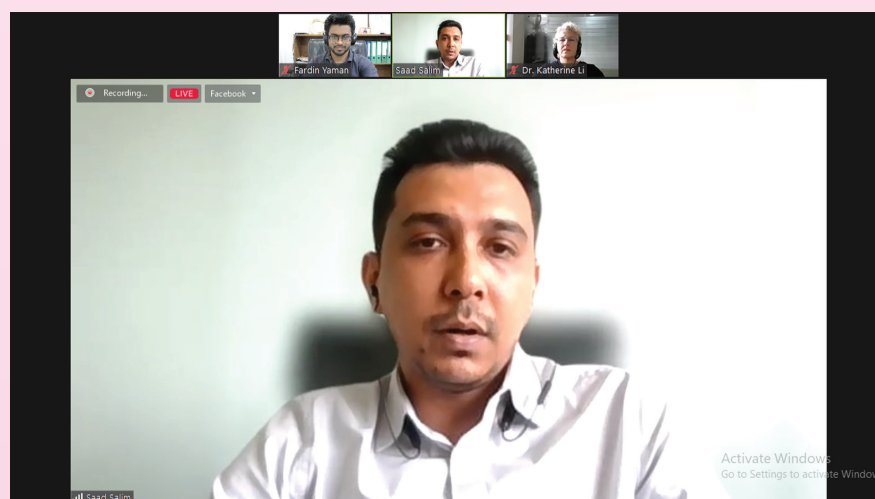
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/3463824313654874>

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 94

The ninety-fourth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on September 12, 2022. For this episode, we had with us Mr. Saad Mohammad Salim, an alumnus of North South University from the Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering, Batch 2006. He completed his Bachelor's degree in 2010 and pursued a Masters of Business Administration at NSU in 2012. In 2016, he received another Masters' degree from Western New England University in Electrical Engineering. Professionally, Mr. Salim is associated with the Higher Education and Study Abroad sector. Currently, he is working as the Student Recruitment Manager at a Global Education Service Provider organization - Navitas.

Navitas is one of the leading global education providers with a huge number of partnerships with renowned educational institutes around the world. As the Student Recruitment Manager of the organization, Mr. Salim oversees the partnership and communication mainly with the North American partner universities along with some other prominent ones in Canada and Australia. His main responsibilities are to conduct training for the Councilors and Education Managers of the higher education consultancy firms of Bangladesh that have connection with Navitas, inform them about the opportunities, requirements, admission procedures etc. of the partner universities, arrange and attend education exhibitions and seminars. Through these seminars, he can make direct interaction with the interested students and guardians. He also articulates the communication between the local education agencies and the foreign universities' point of contact.

As someone who has been associated with the global education sector for a long time, Mr. Salim encouraged obtaining a foreign degree regarding higher education for the students. He mentioned, such a certification can boost one's career up significantly, especially in the early stage. He has observed that most of the students



now-a-days who are interested in studying abroad are generally well informed, proactive and conduct thorough research before even applying. Nevertheless, he suggested narrowing down regions, universities or programs of preference before starting to research for convenience. In his experience, the countries or regions that top most of the students' preferences are Canada, Australia, USA, UK, etc.

When asked about the effect of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic on global education, Mr. Salim said that it certainly raised a unique situation for the education sector which was initially very challenging. But the worldwide education system could adapt with the new normal within a short while. In fact, the innovative practices and intense digitalization during the pandemic has greatly increased efficiency and productivity of the education system.

During the last portion of the event, Mr. Salim shared some of the experiences and memories from his NSU life with the audience. He believes that getting admitted to NSU was one of the best decisions of his life. The four years of his undergraduate at NSU greatly influenced his entire life and shaped him as the person he is today. He mentioned that his campus experience was very diverse and balanced as he had the opportunity to attend classes in both the old and new campus of NSU. At the end of the session, Mr. Salim shared some suggestions for his fellow NSUers. He advised them to cultivate positivity instead of pessimism. One should focus on progression, personal growth, and opportunities in order to overcome obstacles in life.

(Disclaimer: NSU does not endorse any third-party education agencies for study abroad.)

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/497769601683644>

NSU Successfully Organizes IELTS Preparation Programs and IELTS Exam at NSU



After the successful organization and accommodation of the two IELTS professional exams in June, 2022 and August, 2022, the Office of External Affairs, North South University, in association with The British Council, Bangladesh arranged the exam again in September, 2022.

It took two days in total to facilitate the whole exam process including all four sections of the test. The listening, reading and writing sections (paper-based) of the exam were held on September 25, 2022. Only the speaking part (computer-based) was held one day later, on September 26, 2022. A total of 27 examinees participated in the exam this time; they were accommodated in three classrooms on NSU campus.

For the aforementioned exam held at the end of September, there were three consultation sessions for helping the participants to prepare for the test. The first session was held in August, 2022; the other two sessions were held on September 12, 2022 and September 18, 2022 respectively. Consultation session 2 mainly focused on consulting the examinees about the tips and tricks needed to achieve a higher band score and discussing the mistakes candidates should avoid for each of the 4 modules. The third workshop was considered to be the most integral of all the three consultation sessions. This session was about exploring all the modules on a deeper level and included a last-minute revision. Moreover, it discussed the marking criteria as well as the sample answers of candidates with different band scores. The session provided a chance to clarify the candidates' doubts and practice with the British Council Expert (through engaging activities). Overall, it offered full guidance with final revision of the contents and solution papers for the exam. The sessions were conducted by Mr. Sayedul Abrar, Professional Skills Trainer from the British Council.



The next on-campus IELTS exam is scheduled for the end of December, 2022. For this exam, the first two of the consulting sessions were conducted in October, respectively on October 13, 2022 and October 20, 2022. The first one was intended for candidates who have no knowledge about IELTS. It presented an ultimate overview and walk-through of the world-recognized IELTS Program. This session aimed to focus on all the core aspects of the entire process of the IELTS Examination which further included clear guidelines for the process of registration and announcements of the test scheduled for December 2022 followed by a special Q&A session with the expert in order to mitigate further queries. The second session focused on the tips and tricks for scoring better in the exam as mentioned earlier.

NGO Talk Show Episode 25



The twenty-fifth episode of the 'NGO Talk Show' was aired on September 13, 2022 with one of the government-registered NGOs of Bangladesh - SNAD Foundation Bangladesh. The title of the event was 'Developing Bangladesh: Scope for Research' with SNAD Foundation. The keynote speaker for this episode was Mr. Syed Nuruddin Ahmed, Chairman, SNAD Foundation Bangladesh. 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. Ahmed has the experience of working in the development sector for 30 years at home and abroad. Such extensive experience with development projects helped him comprehend the impact of NGOs in the improvement of our state and society. Throughout his career, he has closely worked on livelihood programs in the northern and river areas. He was also a part of the Implementing Monitoring Organization (IMO), a tool for monitoring the basic needs of the people of remote areas, communicating those to appropriate authorities and taking steps for improvement where needed. These experiences helped him realize the importance of NGOs, especially for the marginal areas of Bangladesh and inspired him to found an organization to facilitate these processes.

SNAD Foundation Bangladesh started its journey in 2008 with the objective to provide both short-term impactful and long-term sustainable development solutions for the mass population of Bangladesh. The organization initially started its operations in the health sector and is still mainly focused on the same field. It works to avail basic healthcare for the underprivileged people of the rural areas. The projects of the organization are especially focused on child healthcare; in fact, they treated and saved the lives of nearly 11,000 children till 2022. SNAD Foundation has built several health centers and medical camps for providing treatment as well as basic health education for people. Moreover, they arrange eye camps in the rural areas for facilitating free eye examinations, treatments and operations. The objective of these camps is early identification and prevention of health problems before they become fatal. Besides these, the organization prioritizes disability and runs projects for supporting disabled people by providing necessary materials like crutches, special chairs, etc. They also work for women's economic empowerment through organizing skills and vocational training for ensuring employment and financial independence.



Besides discussing the projects and operations of SNAD Foundation, Mr. Ahmed also shared his insights about the activities of NGOs and their impact on the integral development of Bangladesh. According to him, our civil society addresses the irregularities and inconsistencies of the state and society as well as represents the needs of the masses; moreover, NGOs initiate appropriate measures to reconcile the issues. After the liberation of Bangladesh, the NGOs emerged swiftly and contributed to the rehabilitation of the newly-born country greatly. They had significant roles in the socio-economic, cultural and industrial development of our country. The activities and initiatives of the NGOs have impacted almost every sector largely including education, health, food, agriculture, etc. Currently, the development sector along with the civil society are influencing the policy making, infrastructure and governance system for good as well.

In the last part of the event, the attendees discussed the possible collaboration between NSU and SNAD Foundation. There is already an MoU between the two institutions which is likely to facilitate collaborative projects greatly. The main partnership opportunity that was identified was regarding research projects. In Mr. Ahmed's opinion, both action and commissioned research methods are relevant and executable depending on the research type and funding. He suggested commissioned research for reason identification and problem-solving oriented projects with predetermined objective and action research for policy or strategy development-oriented projects. Some of the research topics with common interests that were suggested during the event include the Rohingya crisis, the social safety net, etc.

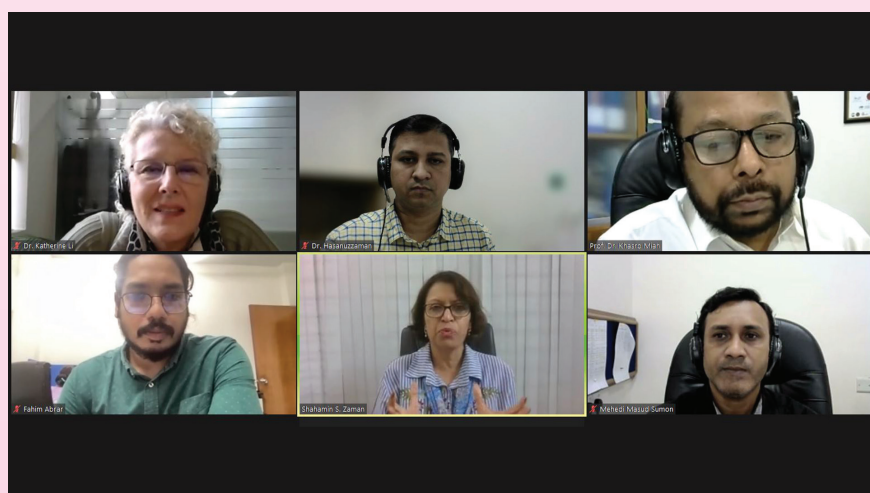
To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/470988381585383>

Partnership Meeting with CSR Centre

A partnership meeting was held between the CSR Centre and the Department of Economics, North South University on September 14, 2022. The partnership project was titled "Youth Development for Tomorrow's Leaders" (YDTL).

The CSR Centre is the joint focal point for United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) in Bangladesh. The Centre is the principal promoter of the UNGC and its principles in the country. The Centre is also a member of a regional CSR platform called South Asian Network on Sustainability and Responsibility (SANSAR). Currently, SANSAR has five member countries including Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan (CSR Centre Facebook page).



The CSR Centre works with the goal to build a bridge between academia and employability. Its objective is to make an impact by engaging industry experts with the youth to reduce the skill gap and enhance job opportunities for the youth of North South University. The main challenge for the youth of today is to develop their analytical skills to give them better knowledge for employability. University graduates need to have practitioner knowledge to access the job market. The need to engage the youth of Bangladesh on global and national issues that leads to good citizenship and leadership roles. The activities and motives of the organization are highly relevant for educational institutions; hence, the partnership project has been initiated.

The project has proposed defined objectives, activities and action plans. The activities include survey of employability needs of students, annual youth conference for employability and leadership, guidance and mentorship, seminars and webinars with industry experts for preparing students for Bangladesh's job market, etc. The action plan is designed to be activated through signing an MoU between NSU and the CSR Center, then carried forward through finalizing courses of action, nominating project advisory committees, developing and implementing youth mentorship programs. In Bangladesh, the YDTL project is linking the private sector with academia to encourage youth in career development. It is hoped that the project will fulfill the demand of industries in Bangladesh for a skilled labor force.

Information Session with Manchester Metropolitan University, UK



North South University's Office of External Affairs (OEA) arranged a virtual information session with Manchester Metropolitan University, UK on September 15, 2022. We had Mr. Jonathan Pitt, the International Recruitment Manager of Manchester Metropolitan University with us as the speaker during the session. From OEA, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs and Ms. Antara Labiba, OEA attended the session. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and streamed via Facebook Live on the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

In the beginning of the event, Mr. Pitt shared a brief overview of Manchester Metropolitan University with the audience through a comprehensive presentation. The university is situated in a prime location of Manchester, one of the most lively and convenient cities of the UK. Manchester is considered to be the 10th most affordable city and one of the top 25 student friendly cities of the world. It also has direct transportation to London, Liverpool, Leeds, Edinburgh in just a few hours and an international airport in just 20 minutes distance. Manchester Metropolitan University is one of the oldest universities of the UK with a glorious history of growth and excellence of nearly 200 years. Throughout its journey, the university has offered the students quality education, best learning opportunities, facilities and the most up-to-date technologies and research equipment. Over the years, the university has also built and cultivated networks and collaboration with top-notch companies of the world like Microsoft, IBM, Walt Disney, Puma, Nike and so on which assists graduates with employment or job placements.

Manchester Metropolitan University offers numerous courses under four faculties – Arts and Humanities, Business and Law, Health and Education, Science and Engineering. The institution has achieved several academic accreditations for academic excellence. Its business school is triple accredited by AACSB, AMBA, EQUIS which ensures the quality and principles of the business courses to be standard in accordance with the accreditation. The university is also research focused, the facilities and quality of their research are top notch and internationally appreciated. Besides academic excellence, the university also offers its students with additional facilities like British Council accredited language center, tutor for academic progress, necessary disability support, more than 130 student clubs and societies etc. To help the graduates further in career, they also have different services like mentoring schemes, career events, interview and assessment support, postgraduate internship programs. Even after graduation, the alumni have lifelong access to the university's portal of digital career service for advice and opportunities.

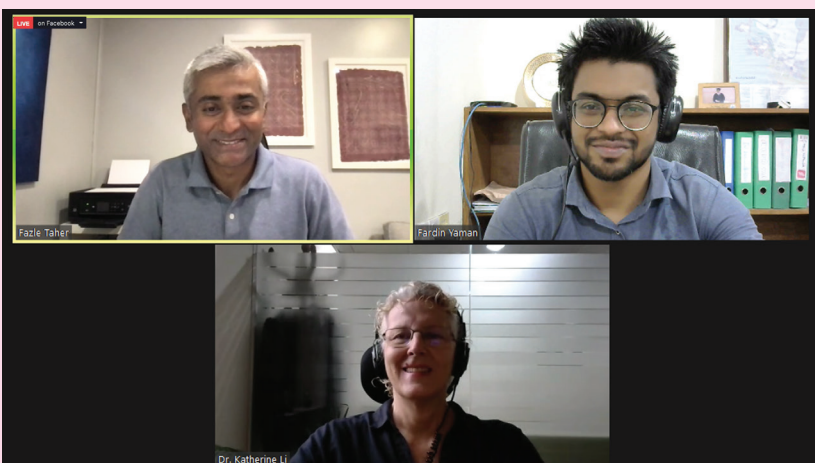


Besides the aforementioned facilities, Manchester Metropolitan University offers several special facilities for their international students. Two main types of academic scholarships that are available for the foreign students are – Chancellor and Vice Chancellor Scholarship. Furthermore, there are opportunities to acquire tuition fee discounts of various kinds such as alumni, sports, faculty specified and automatic ones for high-achieving students. The university also ensures accommodation, safety and availability of information for the students.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/767734284501818>

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 95



The ninety-fifth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on September 18, 2022. As our guest for this episode, we had M. Fazole Taher, an alumnus of North South University from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Batch 1999. He completed his undergraduate studies from NSU in 2004 and pursued his Master's degree at the George Washington University, USA. From the beginning of his career, Mr. Taher has been working in the technological and engineering sector of different companies and industries. Currently, he is working as the Director of Engineering at Heidrick & Struggles, USA and as the Director at Fortuna Bangladesh. Simultaneously, he is associated with Bongo, a local online entertainment platform of Bangladesh as the Sr. Director of Engineering and Technology.

Throughout the event, Mr. Taher talked about his professional journey and experience of working in distinct sectors and industries. The guest always had an entrepreneurial spirit and was interested in startups more than corporate jobs. Right after graduation, in 2004, he along with one of his cousins started a software company named Infrablue technology. The company basically provided value-added services for the telecom companies. Later in 2012, Mr. Taher founded another technological company, NYStartupLab, which provided technical direction and infrastructural decisions to client companies.

Beside the tech industry, Mr. Taher is also involved with the sports, manufacturing and entertainment industry. Fortuna Bangladesh is the guest's family



business which he oversees as a director. He is also associated with Bongo as a consultant. At Heidrick & Struggles, as the Director of Engineering, his main responsibility is to set up the engineering process, manage the tech team along with several offshore and onshore teams. He also manages resources for digital products and software services. The main objective of his role is to help the product team to set up an efficient process.

Although Mr. Taher is currently based outside Bangladesh and is working abroad, he was and still is involved with several local ventures closely. From his experience, he shared some insights about the current state of the software engineering industry of our country. In his opinion, the sector has been experiencing amazing improvement regarding skill development in recent years. There has been a tremendous increase in interest for technology and eagerness to learn among the youth. The improved infrastructure support, faster, easier and affordable Internet, progressive policies have played significant roles in fueling technological development as well. According to him, the driving force of this advancement is the desire and interest to learn and improve; a software engineer must cultivate these qualities to succeed in their career. He also mentioned that one should always compete with their previous self instead of others in order to improve.

During the latter part of the show, Mr. Taher shared some of the treasured memories from his student life at NSU. He mentioned that he was determined to pursue higher education in engineering; hence, he chose CSE for his undergraduate studies. His favorite topic of all was mathematics, therefore he had a very close and friendly bonding with the faculties of his department, especially the ones who taught math. He highly appreciated the extraordinary teaching method and organized academic structure of the courses at NSU. Regardless of academic pressure, Mr. Taher had fun during his student years at NSU. He was involved in various extracurricular activities, especially sports. Besides the sports club, he also worked with the cultural club, computer club, etc. of NSU. According to him, NSU has a huge impact both on his professional and personal life. Not only did it enrich him with diverse opportunities, experiences, and network, but it also groomed him in efficiency, team spirit and leadership skills. The lessons that Mr. Taher received from NSU improved his interpersonal skills like emotional intelligence, and the ability to get the best out of people.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

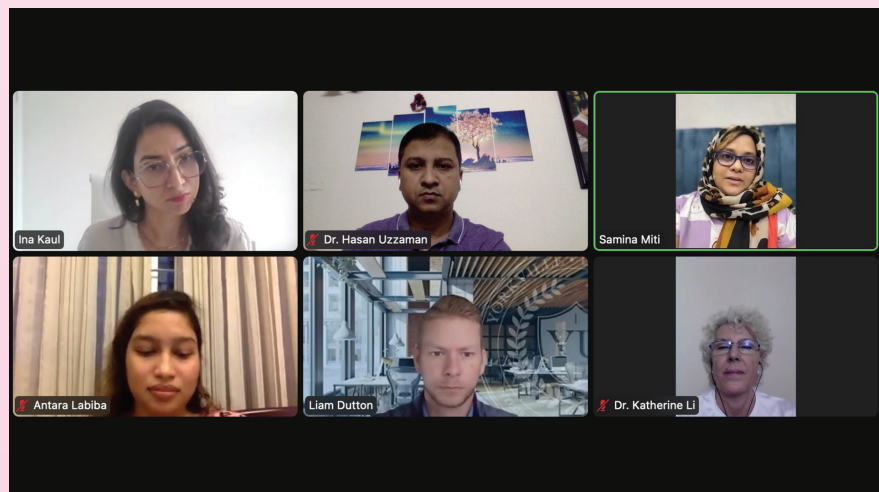
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1242697139823192>

Collaboration Meeting with Yorkville University, Canada

A meeting between North South University (NSU) and Yorkville University, CA was held on September 18, 2022. From Yorkville University, CA, Ms. Ina Kaul Sharma, Regional Director, Student Recruitment and Liam Dutton, Director, Student Recruitment attended the meeting. From North South University, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA and Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA were present in the meeting.



YORKVILLE
UNIVERSITY



The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the collaboration opportunities between Yorkville University and North South University. The attendees discussed and explored several partnership opportunities like research collaboration, student exchange, faculty and researcher exchange, joint degree offering etc. Organizing collaborative conferences, seminars and workshops for students and faculties of both the universities were also discussed during the meeting. Besides these, the representatives from Yorkville University proposed a distinct collaboration between the Toronto Film School and the Department of Media and Journalism of North South

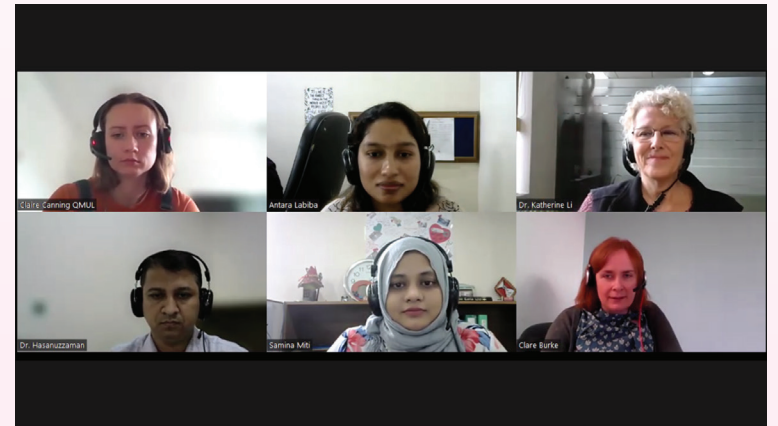
University. Such a partnership can smoothen the collaborative programs and broaden joint degree arrangement opportunities for both the administrators and students.

Meeting with Queen Mary University of London, UK



A courtesy meeting between North South University (NSU) and Queen Mary University of London (QUML) was held on September 20, 2022 via Zoom. The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the collaboration opportunities between

QUML of London and NSU. The attendees of the meeting included Ms. Clare Burke, Head of International Partnership and Directorate of External Relations, QUML, Ms. Claire Canning, International Partnership Manager, Global Engagement Office External Relations, QUML, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, (OEA), Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs officer, OEA, Ms. Antara Labiba, from OEA, NSU.

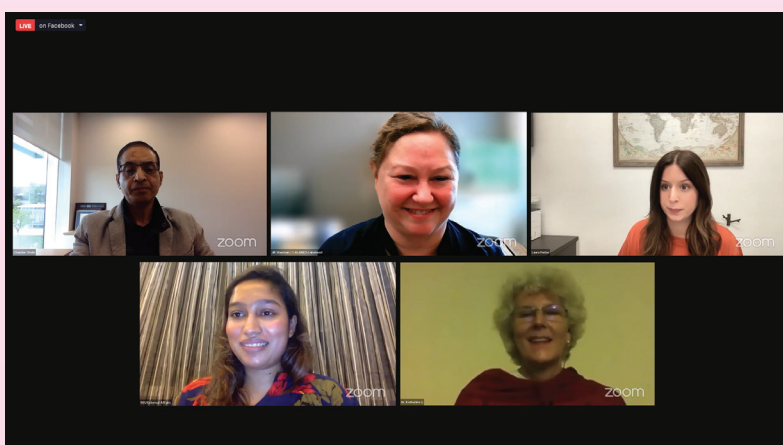


Information Session with Lakehead University, Canada

North South University's Office of External Affairs (OEA) conducted a virtual information session with Lakehead University, Canada on September 20, 2022. For the session, we had Ms. Laura Pudas, Global Mobility Programs Coordinator, Dr. Chander Shahi, Dean, School of Engineering and Ms. Jill Sherman, International Research Facilitator as guests and speakers. From North South University, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs and Ms. Antara Labiba, OEA attended the event. The session was conducted through Zoom and streamed via Facebook Live on the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.



Throughout the session, the speakers presented an overview of Lakehead University including its foundation, location, academic structure, student facilities, research opportunities, exchange programmes, etc. The main campus of the university is located in Thunder Bay, Ontario, one of the biggest provinces of Canada and also just beside Lake Superior which is known as the largest fresh water lake in the world. The University also has a satellite campus in another amazing location, Orillia, surrounded by two lakes which is in the central country, just 90 km away from Toronto. Lakehead University is renowned for its quality of education as well as its focus on research. It is one of the top 10 universities of Canada with a ranking of number one for undergrad research university in the region for 5 years in a row. The university has a student pool of 9,000 students among which, more than 1,800 students are international coming from nearly 80 different countries around the world.



Lakehead University offers more than 86 undergraduate and graduate courses and 9 PhD programmes organized under eight faculties for its students. Besides ensuring excellence on the academic side, the university also focuses extensively on research. The University has a research plan for 2019-2024 in major research sectors like culture, society and social justice, first nations, health and wellbeing, informatics, new material and technologies, sustainability, resources and the environment. It has a total number of 13 research centers and institutes including the world-renowned Biorefining Research Institute (BRI), and Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Mining and Exploration (CESME). In this context, the speakers also added that the research opportunities are mainly designed to support short-term individual research for both the graduate and undergraduate level students.

Alongside the academic structure and research facilities of the university, the guests also shared information and guidance about the admission requirements, application procedures, awards and postsecondary work permit facilities for international students of Lakehead University. They also informed the audience about the fee-paying exchange programmes and the Study in Canada Scholarship Program, funded by the Canadian government. These government funded scholarships are accessible to students of NSU for being one of their partner universities. They also informed that the university facilitates the students who have been accepted for these programs with the additional procedures including visa process through their Department of International Student Services.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1140107493550096>

What's Your Story? Episode 13

The thirteenth episode of 'What's Your Story?' was held on September 22, 2022 and for this episode we had Mr. Tanveer Shaheed as our guest.

Mr. Shaheed is a business development management professional with 20 years of experience working in the Australian International Education sector. He is currently working as Deputy Director, International at Macquarie University, Sydney with the responsibility to develop and implement strategies to promote education excellence of Australia and Macquarie University and assist international institutions to be part of it. Mr. Shaheed is one of the key liaising staff to maintain strategic relationships with international stakeholders of Macquarie University for the engagement across academic and research areas with leading international educational institutions, governments, corporate agencies, Alumni, etc. He is also responsible for the recruitment of high-quality international students, management of recruitment agents for the University. He has participated in hundreds of international educational events in many countries including South Asia, Middle East, Africa, Southeast Asia, and China. Mr. Shaheed has given numerous public presentations and media interviews at various international education institutions, national and international conferences/seminars (including AIEC, IEAA, ISANA, PJE), TV Channels, newspapers, etc. He holds Master of Business Administration (Marketing), Master of Computer Science (Software Engineering), and Bachelor of Computer Science degrees. Tanveer is an elected Board Member of International Education Association of Australia (IEAA) and an IEAA's Senior Fellow (IEAA-SF). He is also serving as a Justice of Peace (JP) for NSW, Australia and an active volunteer for various community-based organizations at Sydney and has been raising funds for local and international charity organizations.



Mr. Shaheed grew up in Chittagong, a city on the southeastern coast of Bangladesh. Therefore, his primary, secondary and higher secondary education was in Chittagong. From childhood, he grew up in a healthy and academic friendly environment, both in home and educational institute. He was a student of a missionary school where they put emphasis on language proficiency a lot, hence his expertise in the English language was extraordinary from a young age. In this context, Mr. Shaheed mentioned that his early life inspiration was his parents, especially mother and his school teachers.

From childhood, Mr. Shaheed was curious about learning and knowing about new matters. This urge of knowing the unknown inspired him to pursue his higher studies in Computer Science. As he looked for a university that offered the curriculum of his desired field, he came across Savitribai Phule Pune University, India which offered a program of computer engineering in the specific area of his interest. Enrolling in that program is where Mr. Shaheed started his international education journey. After undergraduate studies, he pursued two master's degrees in Computer Science and Business Administration simultaneously in Savitribai Phule Pune University, India and Canadian School of Management, Canada respectively. Although Business Administration was a whole new discipline of education for him, he enjoyed the curriculum and perspective of economics that it portrays thoroughly.

His decision to explore global education was bold, but this provided him exposure and access to newer experiences as well as challenges. According to him, international education is about experiencing diversity and practical life skills as much as it is about academic learning. Such experiences can help shape one's prospect and increase acceptance greatly.

Mr. Shaheed has been associated with academia from the beginning of his career. Based on his extensive experience in the global education sector, he believes that international education is very important for students during their higher studies for their integrated growth. Such exposure may help them expand their span of thoughts and evolve as global citizens. He also emphasized following one's instinct while deciding about higher education abroad. In his opinion, shifting abroad for studies should not be addressed as brain-drain; rather, it should be thought of as 'brain gain' since the process helps one identify and cultivate their true potential.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/641024307535943>

EducationUSA Fair



North South University's Office of External Affairs participated in an event arranged and hosted by EducationUSA in association with the US Embassy on September 22, 2022. The event was held at the Doreen Hotels & Resorts, Dhaka. The main agenda of the event was to improve the connection and build a better network between the universities of the USA and Bangladesh. Stakeholders and representatives from 17 American universities met with representatives from universities of Bangladesh including BRAC, NSU, IUB, etc.



The main purpose of organizing such an event was to introduce the American and Bangladeshi universities to each other for smoother collaboration and partnership opportunities. Every year, a large number of students from Bangladesh go to the USA to pursue their higher education.

BdAF Scholarship Recipients Meet the Donors



The Office of External Affairs arranged a meet and greet session between the members of Bangladesh Alumni Foundation (BdAF) and the scholarship recipient students of Fall 2021 for their program on September 25, 2022.

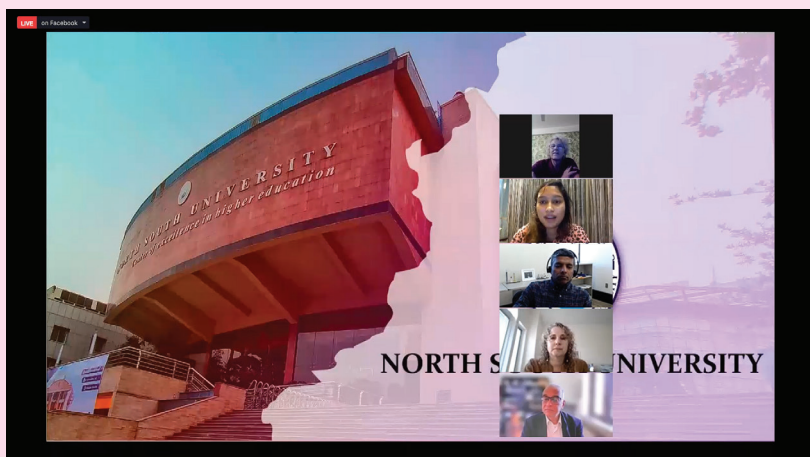
The purpose of the meeting was for the BdAF members to keep in touch with the students they are sponsoring. According to the agreement between NSU and BdAF, the nature of this scholarship program is not only of a financial nature, but also it includes mentorship. That means the members of BdAF will help the students with academic, professional and life advice and help them further in their careers when they get to it. The students asked various questions regarding resume and CV writing, higher studies abroad, scholarship opportunities, internships, entry level prospects, types of work opportunities in Bangladesh and North America, importance of industrial experience during academic tenure and more. BdAF was delighted to see how their contribution was affecting the lives of these students, and hopes to continue this along the way.

From the Office of External Affairs, Director Dr. Katherine Li, Assistant Director Dr. Hasanuzzaman, and Alumni Affairs Officer Sk. Fardin Yaman was present. From Dr. Li's suggestion, it was decided that a regular meeting would be held every semester between BdAF and students to keep up with their academic progress and provide support along the way.



Collaboration Meeting with University of Wisconsin, USA

A courtesy meeting between North South University and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee was held via Zoom on September 29, 2022. The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the collaboration opportunities between University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and North South University. The attendees of the meeting included Professor Devarajan Venugopalan, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Dr. Tracy Buss, Associate Director for International Partnership and Market Development, UWM, Dr. Kundon Kishor, Professor and Chair, Department of Economics, UWM, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA) and Ms. Antara Labiba, OEA from North South University.



During the meeting, the Dual Degree Model was proposed by Dr. Buss, where students might start a program at their institution and finish up the last year at UWM. She showed interest in short-term faculty-led programs so there may be opportunities for Economics faculty or some other faculties to lead a study abroad program. On that note, Professor Venugopalan shared the areas of his interest such as entrepreneurship, engineering, etc. He encouraged the involvement of students in projects and entrepreneurship related to sustainable development goals. The attendees of the meeting from NSU appreciated their opinion about shared interests and proposed further discussion for better exploration of the common interest areas for collaborative projects. Therefore, it was suggested that a follow-up meeting should be arranged including the interested researchers from both the institutions in the discussed topics in order to finalize any collaborative decision.

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 96

The ninety-sixth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on September 29, 2022. We had Mr. Mustafa Rabbi, an alumnus of North South University from the Department of Business Administration, Batch 2007. He completed his undergraduate studies from NSU in 2010 and started his professional career in the financial industry right away. Throughout his career, Mr. Rabbi has worked with several national and multinational banks including Standard Chartered Bank and NRB Bank Ltd. Currently, he is associated with a renowned multinational bank in Bangladesh, Bank Alfalah Bangladesh Ltd. as the Head of Marketing.

The event started with a discussion about Mr. Rabbi's professional journey, experiences and responsibilities in his current role. As the Head of Marketing, he has five departments functioning under his supervision which are – marketing, branding, product development, service quality and strategy. His main responsibilities

are planning overall marketing strategies (both short and long term) and developing new products. He also oversees the managerial and operational aspects of the related sectors. From his experience of working in the banking sector, he emphasized developing cognitive and analytical ability for the professionals of this industry to thrive. Having a higher professional degree or certification is always an advantage for one's career; nevertheless, practical skills add the highest value in professional life.

As Mr. Rabbi has been associated with the banking industry for a long time, he has experienced the ups and downs of the industry in the past few years, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the guest's observation, almost every economy and all the industries throughout the world have been affected by the pandemic. The effect on the banking industry of our country was significant too, but the situational problems have been dealt with and the industry has recovered from this disaster in a better way than expected. The pandemic has made the banking industry more flexible and adaptive. One of the positive impacts of the global disaster was it directed the focus on digital banking, as a result, a lot of new digital banking products were introduced. Mr. Rabbi encouraged the recent digitization of the banking sector and expected it to increase even more in future.



Besides his career journey, Mr. Rabbi also shared some of his memories from his student life at NSU with the audience. Initially, he started his undergraduate studies in Australia but couldn't continue there because of some personal reasons and had to return to Bangladesh. Back then, North South University was one of the very few universities to accept credit transfer from foreign universities, therefore, Mr. Rabbi got admitted into NSU. The guest mentioned that he loved his campus life at NSU. He learned a lot from his undergraduate life and had a good time bonding with his classmates, friends, faculty members. He also appreciated the organized and structured course structure and teaching method that most of the faculty members of NSU follow. In brief, NSU had a huge impact on Mr. Rabbi's life. The inclusive culture and practical learnings of NSU helped him develop adaptivity, communication skills, etc. alongside his academic learnings. For his fellow juniors from NSU, he suggested developing soft skills, communication skills, expertise in softwares and practicing adaptability.

To know more about the event, visit the following link
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/805547470002791>

Delegation Visit from Charles Darwin University, Australia

A delegation from Charles Darwin University, Australia visited North South University (NSU) and attended a meeting with the Office of External Affairs, NSU on September 29, 2022. The delegation included Ms. Jenny Roberts, Vice Chancellor and President, Global and External Relations, Ms. Joanne Chrystal, Director, CDU Global and Mr. Girish Iyer, Vice Chancellor and President, Global and External Relations, Global, International Marketing of Charles Darwin University. From North South University, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Director, OEA and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA attended the meeting.



The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the collaboration opportunities between NSU and Charles Darwin University, Australia. Common interests and partnership scopes that were identified through discussion are joint research and publication, two-way student exchange, collaborative seminars, etc. Both the universities offer some exclusive academic programs which can be a point of interest for the students for pursuing their higher education. Through discussion, it was also identified that both the universities have extensive partnerships with national and international organizations and educational institutions which can be beneficial for both parties if worked together.

It was also agreed upon that in order to implement the aforementioned plans, an academic collaboration and official documentation is needed. Therefore, another meeting will be initiated soon.

Joint Seminar with University of Alberta, Canada



North South University's Office of External Affairs organized and hosted a joint seminar with University of Alberta, Canada about research conduction and collaboration on October 2, 2022. As the guest and speaker of the event, we had with us Md. Saiful Islam, Assistant Lecturer, Construction Engineering and Management, University of Alberta, Canada.

The main agenda of the seminar was to discuss the research objectives, procedures and expected outcomes of Mr. Islam's innovative research interests and possible collaboration opportunities between NSU and University of Alberta. The event started with a thorough overview of the research topic – recent development in the panelized off-site construction of light wood frame buildings and mass timber structure. Panelized construction subdivides a building model into

sub-assemblies such as wall panels, floor panels, and volumetric roof elements that are manufactured in an off-site facility and then shipped to the site for installation. Automated and semi-automated manufacturing processes are implemented by all off-site building manufacturers in light wood frame construction. However, this process is also being implemented in high-rise construction in recent years due to the re-emergence of global interest in high-rise timber structures and the introduction of a relatively new category of engineered wood products called mass timber panels (MTP). Recently, the concepts of panelized off-site construction of light wood is being implemented in an innovative and convenient manner, which was discussed throughout the seminar.

The aforementioned research initiative is still in process and has great potential for sustainable infrastructure development. Therefore, there are opportunities for further research regarding the subject matter. As the University of Alberta is already moving forward to explore the possibility in this sector, NSU may work in collaboration regarding the project involving appropriate resources and researchers.

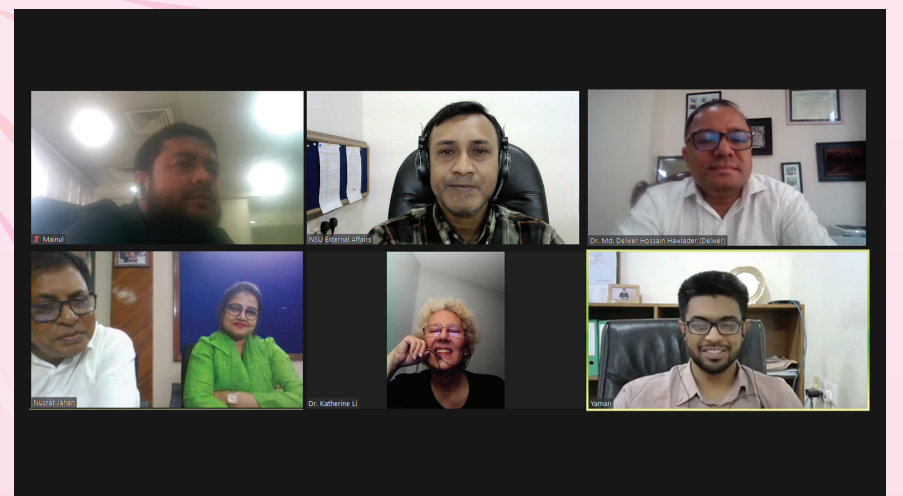


Collaboration Meeting with SOS Children's Village International in Bangladesh



A virtual meeting between SOS Children's Village International in Bangladesh and the Office External Affairs (OEA) of North South University (NSU) held on October 4, 2022. The attendees of the meeting included Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA, Dr. Md. Asharf Hossain, Director, Programme, SOS Children's Village International, Bangladesh, Ms. Nusrat Jahan, Deputy Director, Advocacy & Communication, SOS Children's Village International, Bangladesh, Dr. Mohammad Delwer Hossain Hawlader, Associate Professor & Chair, Dept. of Public Health, NSU, Dr. Md. Mainul Hossain, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, and Research Coordinator, School of Health & Life Sciences, NSU and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA, NSU.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss the present work of the SOS Children's Village International in Bangladesh for the development of our country and the possible collaboration opportunities with NSU in terms of joint research, publication, research funding, student internships, and training opportunities. The attendees of the meeting introduced the objectives and operations of their respective offices and departments in the beginning of the meeting. While explaining the activities of SOS Children's Village International, Md. Hossain mentioned that the working fields of the organization includes family-based care, family strengthening program, vocational training for enhancing individuals' employability and improving the productivity and profitability of enterprises, etc. The organization also has a plan to establish a research & monitoring evaluation wing soon for conducting thorough and primary research regarding the aforementioned topics. Aligning with their research plans, the representatives from NSU identified that the Department of Public Health of the university has the most relevance regarding these subject areas.



After a detailed discussion, the attendees of the meeting agreed that before any further step towards a successful collaboration and research projects between RTM International and NSU, another meeting is required with the experts and researchers of the respective fields from both the institutions.

University of Greenwich, UK Delegate visits NSU

Ms. Helen McCormack, International Regional Manager (Asia) of the University of Greenwich, UK visited North South University on October 6, 2022. She was at NSU to represent and introduce the University of Greenwich to the students and officials of North South University. At the first meeting, which was attended by the students of North South University, Ms. Helen introduced the students to the University of Greenwich.

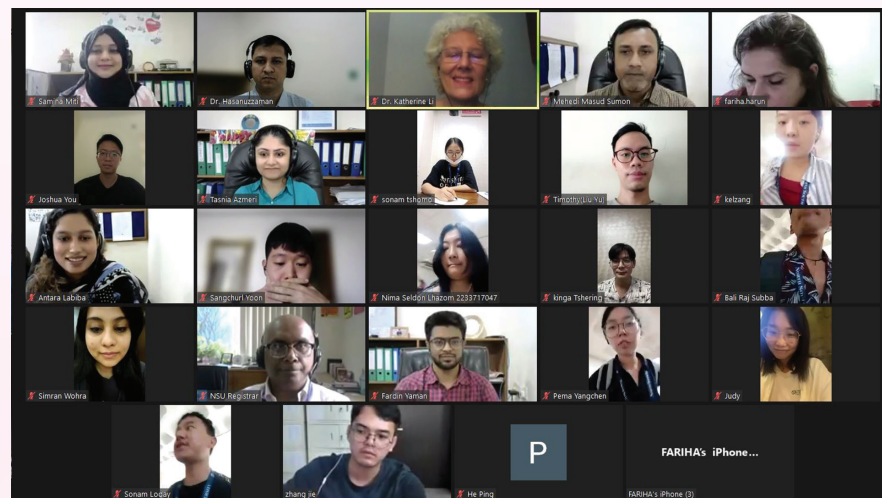


After finishing the discussion session with the students, Ms. McCormack, attended an interactive meeting with the officials of North South University. This session was attended by Dr. Hassanuz-zaman, Assistant Director, OEA, Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA and Ms. Antara Labiba from OEA, North South University. The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the collaboration opportunities between University of Greenwich, UK and North South University. The discussion proceeded towards research collaboration, student faculty exchange, progression to

Master's degrees and other innovative and beneficial topics. After exploring all the opportunities, the officials from OEA and Ms. McCormack agreed on the point that further discussion should be done about signing a collaboration between NSU and University of Greenwich, UK.

International Students' Orientation Ceremony – Fall 2022

The orientation program for international students of the semester Fall '22 was held on October 10, 2022, via Zoom. The organizers from North South University Office of External Affairs and international freshers of Fall 2022 joined via Zoom. 18 students from different countries like Bhutan, China, Korea, India, Nepal, Pakistan, etc. attended the program. 10 among the 18 students were Bhutanese, who have been offered full scholarships from NSU as a token of appreciation in honor of the friendly relationship of 50 years between Bangladesh and Bhutan. From the organizers' side, Dr. Katherine Li, the Director of Office of External Affairs, Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Director, Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, Ms. Antara Labiba, Guest Worker, Mr. Fardin Yaman, Alumni Affairs Officer, and Mr. Mehedí Masud Sumon, Officer were present in the program. As special guests, Ms. Fariha Harun, Chief Student Councilor and Mr. Ahmed Tazmeen, Register attended the event.



In the beginning of the event, from the International Affairs Office, Ms. Samina Alam Miti briefly introduced North South University and the Office of External Affairs of the university through an informative slide presentation. She talked about the foundation, mission, vision, activities and the two wings (Office of International Affairs & Office of Alumni Affairs) of the OEA. Afterwards, she provided the newcomers with the necessary information about OIA (Office of International Affairs) such as partner universities and organizations, legal issues, international students and alumni, contact details both virtual and physical of the office. Next, the floor was offered to the special guests of the event. Both Ms. Harun and Mr. Tazmeen welcomed the newly admitted students to NSU. They assured that, not only OEA, every administrative unit of NSU will support them in any kind of need and requested them to feel free to contact them anytime. The following segment of the event was the introduction session. The new students from different countries present in the ceremony introduced themselves. Afterwards, the members of OEA present in the event introduced themselves as well and each of them conveyed short messages to the freshers. At the end of the event, Dr. Li shared the Office of External Affairs website and social media page and explained how to reach the OEA if they are in need of any support and presented a short ending remark welcoming the new students on board.

As the COVID-19 situation is better now, the organizers expressed their hope to arrange the next orientation program for international students in-person. Moreover, a plan of initiating a get together with all the current and previous international students was also proposed during the event.

Inauguration of the US Embassy English Language Fellowship at NSU

A delegation from the US Embassy, Dhaka visited North South University to formally inaugurate the English Language Fellowship program on October 11, 2022. The meeting was held in the Dean's conference room of School of Humanities and Social Sciences to kick-off the fellowship program at NSU and introduced Mr. Allen Stewart to the Department of English and Modern Languages. This fellowship is a part of the Regional English Language Office (RELO). The English Language Office 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.

The RELO develops funds, and implements targeted local programs; supports the development of local teacher's organizations; and serves as a resource to teachers and other education professionals to strengthen English language instruction in the region.



NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 97



The ninety-seventh episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on October 11, 2022. As our guest for this episode, we had Mr. Muntasir Khan, a remarkable alumnus of North South University from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Batch 2003. He completed his undergraduate studies from NSU in 2007. After graduation, Mr. Khan was professionally associated with tech firms in Bangladesh. In 2011, he moved to the USA joining Google LLC as a Software Engineer and has continued to work there till present.

During the show, Mr. Khan shared his journey of joining Google LLC and his experience of working with this internationally Silicon Valley company. As mentioned earlier, the guest started and persisted in his career in the area of his academic expertise in Bangladesh when he received a sudden offer for jobs from both Google LLC and Facebook. He interviewed for

both of the companies. Nevertheless, he got called and accepted an offer by Google earlier than Facebook and chose to take the opportunity to join there at once. Mr. Khan started at Google in 2011 as a software engineer in a team that works for image search. Throughout his journey of the last 10 years, he has worked with several other teams and departments such as Google search index, web server etc. Currently, he is working with the web server department where his team's main responsibility is to support ensuring the productivity, consistency and efficiency of several other teams of the department. The tasks of Mr. Khan's team concern internal tools and internal services and are very reactive and situational.

From his experience of working for a long time at Google LLC, Mr. Khan shared the work culture, operational spirits and work ethics that he has observed with the audience. He mentioned that the surface level employee facilities of the company are great. But the things he loves the most about Google LLC are his coworkers and the work culture. The organization cultivates a problem-solving oriented work environment supported by a proactive pool of employees. The main objective of the operations of the organization are focused on creativity, idea generation and effective implementation for ensuring convenience of the users. When asked about the employee assessment and recruitment process of Google LLC, Mr. Khan informed that the organization requires technically skilled people to run their operations smoothly, therefore, they prioritize hard skills, technical knowledge and expertise while recruiting.

Moreover, he mentioned that the applicants' CVs need to stand out among the thousands of CVs received by the recruiters in order to get recruited. In fact, for a software engineer to thrive professionally in the software engineering industry, it is very important to have solid knowledge and skills as well as the ability to apply the knowledge practically. Mr. Khan also emphasized soft skills not only for the software engineer but also for the professionals of every industry. He also mentioned that as much as knowledge and skills in relevant fields are necessary for a software engineer, the certification is comparatively less obligatory for this profession. Nevertheless, he encouraged higher studies and additional professional certifications for the engineers if possible.

Besides sharing about his professional journey, Mr. Khan also talked about his student life at NSU during the event. He said that he was determined to study engineering and looked for an international standard of education; hence, he chose NSU for his undergraduate education. His campus life at NSU was very eventful and memorable. He gained an epic and everlasting bonding with classmates, friends, seniors, juniors and faculty members during the four years of his undergraduate studies. Besides academics, Mr. Khan was also involved with co-curricular activities and participated in several programming competitions. In fact, he won prizes in some of these competitions and got the opportunity to meet some brilliant people through these arrangements.

Mr. Khan also played a significant role in the foundation of NSU Alumni Foundation Scholarship Program (BdAF). He mentioned that the main objective of this program is to help the talented students to afford to study in NSU. He is quite satisfied with the initial launch of the program and has plans to expand it and afford more scholarship offers for students.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/3778155322410754>

Manchester Metropolitan University, UK Delegate visits NSU

Mr. Jonathan Pitt, International Recruitment Manager (South Asia) of Manchester Metropolitan University, UK visited North South University on October 12, 2022. He was at NSU to represent and introduce Manchester Metropolitan University to the students of North South University. At the first meeting, which was attended by the running students of North South University, Mr. Jonathan introduced the students to Manchester Metropolitan University. He mentioned that Manchester Metropolitan University campus culture and administration of the university is very student-focused. The education system of courses is organized in a practical work-orientated at Manchester Metropolitan University. Moreover, employment permission is available for the students during student life. The master's program of the university is for 2 years. After finishing the discussion session with the students, Mr. Jonathan Pitt, went for a campus tour to visit our state-of-the-art facilities and student engagement in the usual class hour.



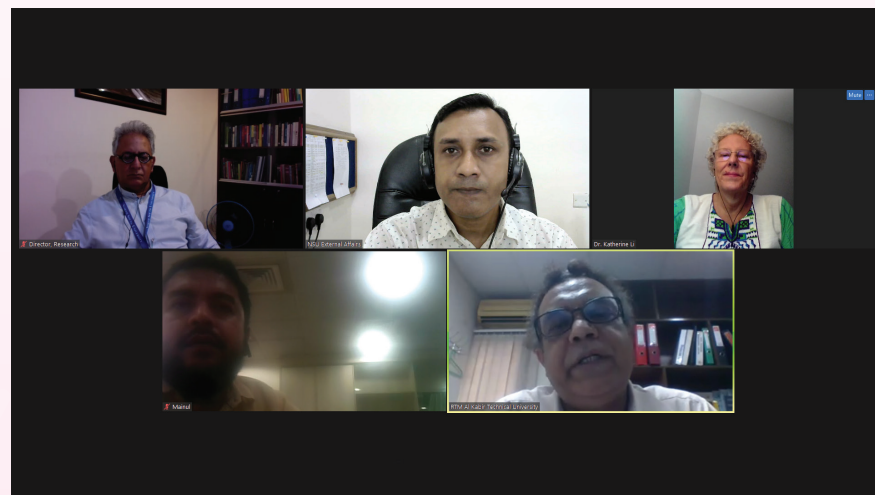
Introductory Meeting with Research, Training and Management (RTM) International



A virtual meeting between Research, Training and Management (RTM) International and the Office External Affairs (OEA) of North South University (NSU) held on October 12, 2022. The attendees of the meeting included Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA, Dr. Nazrul Islam, Director, Research and Evaluation, RTM International, Prof. Dr. Norman Kenneth Swazo, Director, Office of Research, NSU, Dr. Md. Mainul Hossain, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, and Research Coordinator, School of Health & Life Sciences and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA, NSU.

The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the present work of the Research, Training and Management (RTM) International for the development of our country and the possible collaboration opportunities with NSU in terms of joint research, publication, research funding, student internships, and training opportunities. During the meeting, the attendees introduced the objectives and operations of their respective organizations, offices and departments. Alongside the organization, Dr. Islam also briefly introduced their sister concern RTM Al-Kabir Technical University. As the discussion was mainly research opportunities focused, he mentioned some of their research topics that they have already started or planned to work on, such as health, and population, nutrition, education, private sector, HIV/AIDS, livestock related activities, etc. Aligning with their research interests, the representatives from NSU identified that the Department of Public Health of the university has the most relevance regarding these topics.

After a detailed discussion, the attendees of the meeting agreed that before any further step towards a successful collaboration and research projects between RTM International and NSU, another meeting is required with the experts and researchers of the respective fields from both the institutions.



University of Manchester, UK Delegate visits NSU



The University of Manchester

This session was attended by Dr. Hassanuzzaman, Assistant Director, OEA, Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA and Ms. Antara Labiba from OEA, North South University. The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the collaboration opportunities between University of Manchester, UK and North South University. The discussion proceeded towards research collaboration, student faculty exchange, progression to Master's degrees and other innovative and beneficial topics.

Mr. Christopher Gibson, Country Manager (Asia) of University of Manchester, UK visited North South University on October 16, 2022. He was at NSU to represent and introduce the University of Manchester to the officials of North South University. Mr. Christopher Gibson attended an interactive meeting with the



DAAD Delegation visits NSU

A delegation from DAAD, Germany paid a courtesy visit to North South University on October 17, 2022. The delegates included Mrs. Aditi Gosavi, Senior Advisor of Communication and PR, DAAD Regional Office at New Delhi, Mr. Mahmudul Hasan Suman, Regional Officer, DAAD Bangladesh, Mrs. Tamara Kabir, Education and Cultural Officer, German Embassy Dhaka and Mr. Tim Fauth, Deputy Director and Head of Language, German Cultural Centre (Goethe-Institut) Dhaka. The guests conducted an informative session during their visit at NSU.



The agenda of the session was to introduce DAAD and discuss the German university system, Master's and PhD opportunities in Germany, DAAD scholarships and visa application process for Germany. 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, the guests also presented an overview of the German education system in brief. As many students from Bangladesh travel to Germany for higher education every year, the scholarship and other opportunities offered by DAAD can be of great use for them. Therefore, the delegates encouraged the students to contact them for any kind of assistance regarding the relevant matters.

Delegation visit from Queen Mary University of London, UK

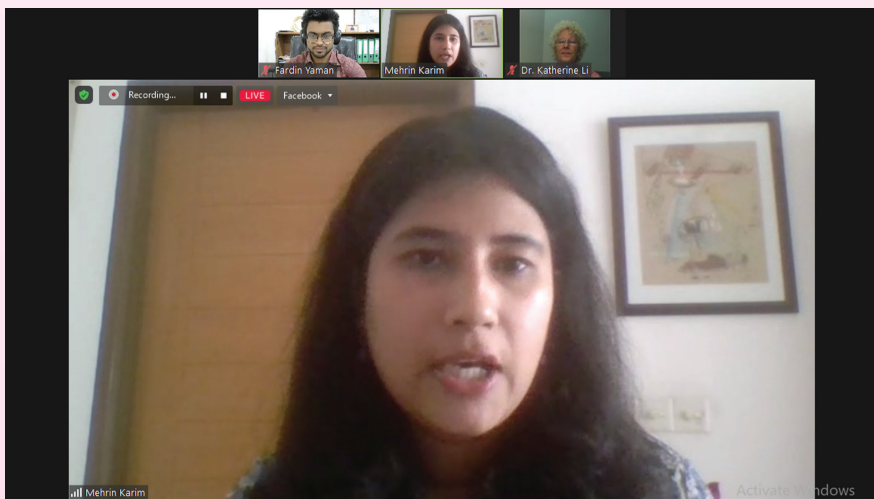


A follow-up in person visit by Mr. Abhishek Boral, International Recruitment Advisor from Queen Mary University of London (QMUL), UK to North South University on October 17, 2022. The guest met with the officers of North South University Office of External Affairs and one-to-one session with some of the students of NSU during his visit.

The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the partnership opportunities between the two universities which were identified through discussion and includes joint research, student, faculty member and researcher exchange, joint publication and resource sharing, joint seminar, workshops, etc. The attendees of both the institutions expressed interest to work together to implement these collaboration opportunities through an academic partnership. During the one-to-one session with the students, Mr. Boral introduced his university, explained the admission process, requirements and offered programs in brief for better understanding of the students. He also informed them about the facilities and academic scholarship available for the international students at QMUL.



NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 98



The ninety-eighth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on October 25, 2022. As our guest for this episode, we had Ms. Mehrin Karim, a remarkable alumna of North South University from the Department of Economics, Batch 2004. She completed her undergraduate studies from NSU in 2008 and pursued her Master's degree in the same subject area at the State University of New York at Buffalo, USA. In her professional career, she has worked with several think tanks like ADE, Aggreko, etc. Currently, she is working as a Research Officer of Social Protection Policy Support (SPPS) at UNDP.

Right after graduation, Ms. Karim started her career at HSBC and worked there for a while before she went for her Master's. Her intention was to contribute for the betterment of her country through her work, therefore returned to Bangladesh after postgraduate studies and started her career here. Throughout her professional journey, she has worked in fields like climate change, social protection, etc. Ms. Karim is also interested in the research and editorial sector and has published several articles regarding the topics of his academic and professional interest and expertise in renowned national and international magazines. One such article of hers about climate financing was published in a Nepal International Magazine which caught the attention of the UNDP. From that trail, the Assistant Country Director of the organization reached out to her and offered her the opportunity to join UNDP as a researcher.

During the show, Ms. Karim shared about the objectives, activities and her roles and responsibilities in the projects of UNDP she is involved with. The organization is working with the cabinet division and all the 39 ministries of government to implement the national social security strategy. It is an integral part of the government's sustainable development policy which covers goals like no poverty and zero hunger. They have recently launched their action plan which includes projects concerning disabilities, healthcare, education, etc. of the underprivileged population. Besides these, Ms. Karim has some significant work and articles on adaptation of climate change which discusses timely matters like financing of public and private enterprises to mitigate climate change and challenges regarding these.

Besides discussing her professional journey and responsibilities, Ms. Karim also shared her experiences and memories from her NSU life. Since when she was introduced to the subject Economics, the guest knew she wanted to pursue higher education on it. The main reason behind her choosing NSU for undergraduate studies is the university's enriched economics department and research opportunities. Addressing her time at NSU as 'golden days', she mentioned that she experienced a great campus life during her undergraduate with great friends and faculty members. She enjoyed the structured curricular and organized way of teaching of the faculties of her department a lot. According to Ms. Karim, NSU has been a blessing for her as it laid the foundation and prepared her well for her further journey of life. For the recent graduates and current students of NSU, she suggested gathering practical experience and building networks as much as they can during their student life and early professional period. She advised to be hardworking as there is no substitute of hard work for conquering one's dreams.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/697886551450380>

North South University Office of External Affairs Meets with SB Police

SB Police of Bangladesh hosted a meeting with representatives from 18 universities of Bangladesh on October 24, 2022. North South University's International Affairs Officer, Ms. Samina Alam Miti attended the meeting with the Assistant Registrar, Ms. Sonia Hossain.



The main agenda of the event was to get introduced to the newly joined Special Super of SB Police, Ms. Jesmin keka, PPM, SS, SCO-Visa and meet and greet with representatives of the renowned universities of Bangladesh.



The meeting offered the attendees an open floor to share their problems and issues regarding the international students studying in these educational institutions. The international offices of the universities especially mentioned the legal and visa issues that they face relating to the international students. The SB Police assured to look into the raised matters and take every possible step in their power to resolve them. The police also requested timely submission and upgrade of the required legal documents of the students from the university authorities.

Collaboration Meeting with Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD)



يونيڤرسيتي بروني دارالسلام
UNIVERSITI BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

On October 24, 2022, North South University and Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia had a meeting to explore possible areas of collaboration. The meeting took place over Zoom. Present from UBD were Dr. Sabrina

Daud, Director of Global Relations, Dr. Khondker Iftekhar Iqbal, Associate Professor, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, UBD. Prof. Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Director, South Asian Institute for Policy and Governance, and Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs of NSU. The outcome of the meeting was that Dr. Sabrina connected Prof Tawfique to their Institute of Asian Studies and Institute of Policy Studies Directors for further discussion on collaboration. On their my side, they are keen know more (in detail) of the sort of community outreach activities (semester-long) that NSU may be able to offer their students. Dr. Sabrina shared information about their inbound short-term/summer programme (Global Discovery Programme) next running for 4 weeks at end of Jan 2023, in case NSU students might be interested.



NSU Signs an MoU with Nagad

North South University (NSU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Mobile financial service provider company of the Post Office, Nagad on October 25, 2022.



The objective of this partnership is to conduct leadership training programmes and research to contribute to women's empowerment and gender equity collaboratively. As per the MoU, the NSU students will be able to know about internship and working opportunities at Nagad. They will also get the opportunity to work jointly with Nagad in preparing their thesis papers that would include pragmatic research. Nagad Limited, too, will carry out different programmes and hold job fairs on the NSU campus and the university will publish those news items on its websites and social media platforms and share with different clubs of the university. Nagad and the university will conduct leadership training and research to contribute to women's empowerment and gender equity and build industry-academia partnerships. Under the agreement, the two parties will offer a leadership certificate programme and jointly work to prepare its curriculum and accomplish the overall task.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Tanvir A Mishuk, Founder and Managing Director of Nagad and Mr. Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of NSU. Besides the signees, Dr. Ismail Hossain, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the NSU, Mr. Maruful Islam Jhalak, Executive Director of Nagad, and M. Sheikh Aminur Rahman, Chief Business Officer of Nagad, was present during the event. The MoU signing ceremony was held at the university's campus.

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 99

The ninety-ninth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on October 30, 2022. As our guest for this episode, we had Mr. Al Mamun Ansar, an alumnus of North South University from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Batch 2003. He completed his undergraduate studies from NSU in 2007 and pursued his MBA at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka. Although he has an academic background in engineering, his professional journey has been in the financial and banking sectors from the very beginning. Currently, he is working as the Head of Liability Business at Eastern Bank Ltd.

The event started with a discussion about Mr. Ansar's professional journey and experience in the banking sector so far. Despite being an engineering graduate, he was always interested in money management and economic diversity, therefore, decided to start his career in the banking industry after graduation. It is a common assumption that the jobs of the financial sector are boring; contradicting that, the guest mentioned that he finds his job rather interesting and innovative. As the Head of Liability Business at his current job, Mr. Ansar's main responsibility is to ensure fulfillment of portfolio targets through channels like retail, small, medium loans and deposits. He also works to maintain a successful and sustainable deposit portfolio and fulfill the regulatory requirement of the bank.

As Mr. Ansar has experience of working in the banking industry for a while, he shared some insights about the current trends of the industry as well as the effect of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic on the industry. He mentioned that the pandemic didn't hit the industry initially or at once, its effects on the banking sector have emerged slowly. The main impact is a huge increase of non-performing loans, therefore, decrease of interest. Despite some negative effects, the pandemic has influenced the digitalization of the industry to a huge extent. He also mentioned that the future of the industry depends on the condition of the economy as well as other industries.

Besides his professional life, the guest also talked about his passions and hobbies during the event. Mr. Ansar is passionate about traveling. According to him, traveling removes the monotony of life, refills positive energy and of course, creates everlasting memories. In the last part of the show, the guest shared some of the memories and experiences from his student life at NSU. He mentioned that he chose NSU for his undergraduate studies based on the impression and reputation of NSU as the best private university of the country. He had a very lively and eventful campus life at NSU. In his opinion, the academic structure, campus environment, guidance of the faculty members and cooperation of friends and classmates built him to be the person he is at present. The education and lessons learned from NSU benefit him with an extra edge in every aspect of life.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/486078680225249>



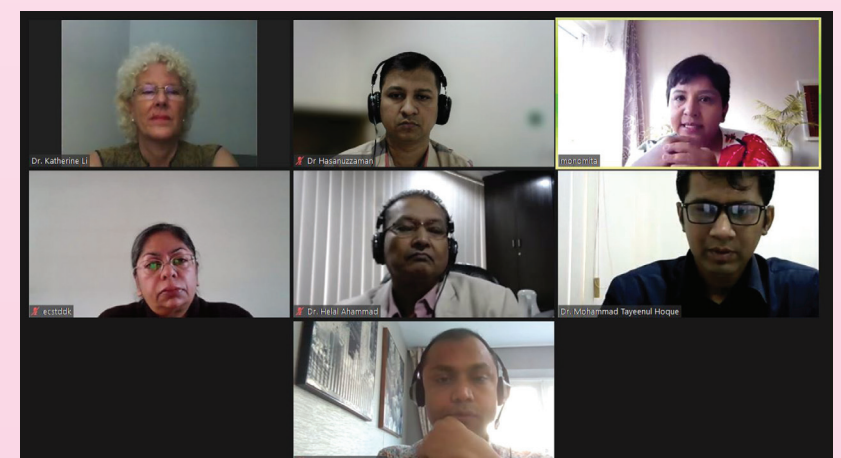
Collaboration Meeting with Brunel University London, UK



**Brunel
University
London**

A collaboration meeting was held between North South University and Brunel University London on October 31, 2022 over Zoom as a part of the recent partnership. From North South University, Professor Helal Ahammad, Dean of School of Business and Economics, Dr. Mohammad Tayeenul Hoque, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Marketing & International Business, Dr. Katherine Li, Director and Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Asst. The Director of External Affairs was present. From Brunel Business School, Dr. Monomita Nandy, Reader in Accounting and Finance and Director of Internationalization, Ms. Dilruba Karim, Senior Lecturer of Economics and Finance and Dr. Farhad Uddin Ahmed, Lecturer in Strategy and International Business were present.

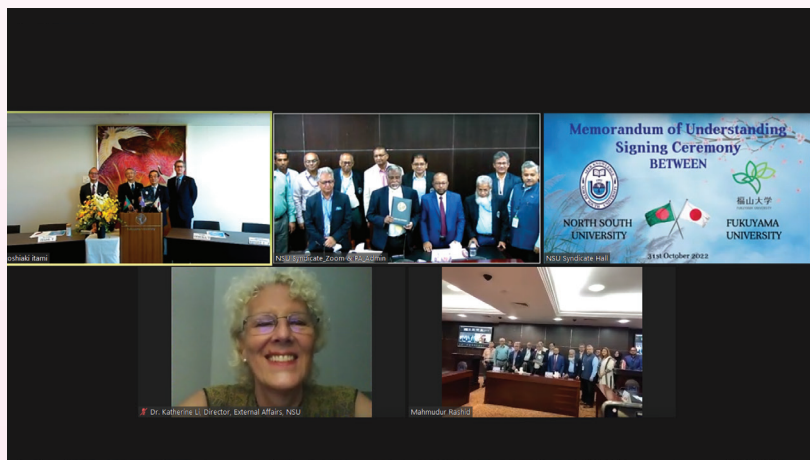
An MOU between these two universities was signed earlier and it was an exploratory meeting to pinpoint opportunities for joint research, publication, and faculty and staff exchange. Brunel students can explore the courses of International Business for one semester at NSU, in which students can get real life experience on development activities of NGOs and how the export-oriented firms work from emerging economies operate and manage exporting processes to the UK, EU, the USA, and Middle Eastern countries. Brunel faculties can train the faculty members of NSU to enhance their learning outcomes in the analytics domain. Joint program supervision was another option in the discussion.



NSU may explore joint certificate courses as a part of management development programs for the executives, in which faculty members' of from Brunel can join in a hybrid mode to enhance the object of the programs.

NSU Signs an MoU with Fukuyama University, Japan

North South University (NSU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Fukuyama University, Japan on October 31, 2022. The purpose of this MoU is to provide facilities for students and faculties of both universities to exchange and develop the quality of education and research. The MoU signing ceremony was conducted online through a virtual session. The event was attended by Prof. Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, NSU, Prof. Dr. M. Ismail Hossain, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, NSU, Prof. Khashro Miah, Director, CPC, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA, Prof. Yutaka Otsuka, President, Fukuyama University and Prof. Toshiaki Itami, Vice-President, Director, International Center, Fukuyama University.



After the formal signing, the guests of the event conveyed their appreciation for such a great initiative and expressed hope for it to be successful and beneficial for both the parties during their speeches. This academic partnership is expected to smoothen the process of admission and transfer of students of both the countries and universities for each other. The collaborative initiative was also a token of acknowledgment of the friendly relationship between the two nations, Japan and Bangladesh as well as a way to cultivate such a positive relationship further in future. It is hoped that the MoU will strengthen the relationship between Bangladesh and Japan as well as NSU and Fukuyama University.

Reflection on Semester Exchange Experience at St. Mary's University, Canada

by Farhat Maisha Roopkotha

Being able to be selected for a semester exchange program in Canada, especially from Bangladesh is unimaginable since the practice of semester exchange students is still new here. When I first got to know about such a program through the Canadian High Commission, with the help of North South University's Office of External Affairs (OEA) I applied for the opportunity. For a program like this I had to compete locally and globally, qualifying multiple stages in the selection process for the Study in Canada Scholarship (SiCS) program.

When I finally got selected for a fully-funded scholarship opportunity sponsored by Global Affairs Canada it was a dream come true. From doing the paperwork for visa processing to surviving in a place which is thousands of miles away from my country was quite the experience. Since this was my first time abroad, away from home, out of my comfort zone I was definitely nervous and excited at the same time. Any journey is supposed to be a little challenging at the beginning but having the right mindset is what keeps you going during the difficult times. The thrill of going abroad, meeting new people from all over the world and being able to lead a foreign lifestyle itself was very exciting. Coming from a business background, when you see significant resemblance in the curriculum and teaching pattern of your home institute which in my case is North South University (NSU) and host institute, Saint Mary's University (SMU) you cannot be prouder. SMU is situated in Halifax which is the capital and largest municipality in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia, and the largest municipality in Atlantic Canada. It is a port city with a lively culture and pleasant weather.



When I first got there in January it was during the winter. Coming from Bangladesh which is in the tropical monsoon region in South Asia, coping with such extreme cold in Canada was pretty challenging yet not impossible. Because of the Omicron virus, the pandemic was at its peak (3rd wave) in January hence we had to resort to hybrid classes. But soon we returned to campus and my new journey began. I was very happy that I got to do one of my Marketing major courses on campus with a professor like Heidi Weigand who taught us how marketing works in the real world in the most creative way possible. Her course structure was not strictly bookish rather it was activity based.

Also, I got to do one elective course with a Bangladeshi Professor which was a great experience as well. With the help of the Global Learning Center of SMU, I got to meet the semester exchange students of Winter '22 semester and got to know a bunch of new people across the world specifically from Finland, France, Germany,

Ireland, Vietnam, and Japan. We studied a lot about cultural differences in different courses of BBA but being able to experience it firsthand is what fascinated me the most and that also combined us together. We used to hang out inside the campus and also explored the wide range of activities that Halifax has to offer.

I also made some friends through my mutual friends who I used to know from Bangladesh. When you live abroad, some of these people become your family along the way since you don't have relatives around. Since I am writing on the completion of my journey in Canada it is an emotional moment for me. From meeting new people from all over the world, making friends through exchange groups to working day and night to make the most out of this opportunity, my entire experience in Canada has been a bliss.

Through this semester exchange program, I was able to represent my home institution, NSU and my country, Bangladesh for which I am very proud. With experiencing some challenging situations like how to survive and adapt to a completely different culture, gathering the international experience to utilize it in the future and learning from the global perspective I could not be more happy and grateful that I was eligible and selected to experience such once in a lifetime opportunity.

One last thing that cannot be skipped is talking about the beauty of Nova Scotia. It is famous for its breathtaking natural landscape, white land beaches, lobsters and vibrant culture. Few of my personal favorite spots in the city of Halifax include, Halifax Harbor Waterfront, Citadel hill, the streets of downtown and my home in LeMarchant Street. No other place in Canada can beat the blue sky and native trees of Nova Scotia. I was there temporarily but I built a life there. My friends, my study, and my work were all there so it will occupy a special place in my heart forever. I have never been welcomed anywhere so wholeheartedly before because of the loving people of Nova Scotia. Within a short time, it became my home so, Halifax, my home in Canada, you will be missed dearly.

Special Feature

Major Talukder Md Shahedul Hoque (Retd), Chief of Security

Education: Masters in Business Administration (2016), American International University of Bangladesh (AIUB) CGPA of 3.76/4; Masters of Disaster and Human Security Management (2014), Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP) CGPA of 3.45/4; Bachelor of Social Science (BSS) (2001), National University, 2nd Division; Higher secondary School Certificate (HSC) (1991) Dhaka Shaheen College, Dhaka, Bangladesh Division; Secondary School Certificate (SSC) (1989) Gonobhaban Govt High School, Dhaka, Bangladesh Division: 1st.

Military Experience: Bangladesh Army (22 years) from Dec 16, 1993 to Aug 18, 2016, Position: Major. Commissioned on 16 Dec 1993 with 29 BMA Long Course in the Corps of Infantry. Served in Chittagong Hill

Tracts a number of times and actively took part in various operational activities. Served in the Army Military Police Unit and took part in various ceremonial and protocol duties at national and international level. Deployed a number of times as Military Police Officer in UN mission in Congo serving with 23 different Armies of the world. Served in NSI in the Political Wing and also in the capacity of PS to the Director General. Served as Administrative Officer of a Training Institution in Bogra. Served as officiating commander and 2nd in Commander of 14 East Bengal Regiment and 4 Bangladesh Infantry Regiment of Bangladesh Army. Served in BDR presently Border Guard Bangladesh for a long time in Srimangal and Dinajpur in a complex environment handling the border crisis and border related conflict. Actively took part in parliament elections to maintain law and order in 1996, 2001 and 2009. Participated in humanitarian activities on government orders during disasters like floods and cyclones. Participated in military and intelligence training in home and abroad. Attended a number of conferences and international seminars at home and abroad. Visited most of the countries of Africa and England, Malaysia, Singapore, Kuwait, Thailand, Dubai, Turkey, India.

Corporate Experience: North South University (NSU) from March 2022 to the present as Chief of Security, Deputy Director (Admin); Bangla Trac Ltd. (BanglaCAT) from February 2019 to 23 March 2022 as Head of Admin; Apollo Hospital Dhaka from February 2018 to January 2019 as Head of Security; Associated Builders Corporation (ABC) Ltd. from June 2016 to January 2018 as Head of Corporate Safety and Security.

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

Md. Shahedul Hoque: I grew up in two places. Until I was 4, I was in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Then due to my parent's work commitments, we had to move to Libya where I stayed for 6 years. So, I had exposure to international schooling besides the schooling here. Everyone, regardless of geographical locations, was very supportive and friendly. I am still in contact with most of my school friends.

Interviewer: Who was your role model?

Md. Shahedul Hoque: My role model is General S. Patton. His military leadership during WWII was exemplary.

Interviewer: Why did you decide to pursue higher education?

Md. Shahedul Hoque: My whole family always encouraged everyone to pursue education. Being in the Military, I did get higher education, but that is still different from what people normally get as it was focused on military training. I did not want to be the only one left behind who didn't have a higher education. That's why I have not only one but two Master's degrees.

Interviewer: Tell us about your reasons behind pursuing two masters degrees: one in Business and the other in Disaster and Human Security Management?

Md. Shahedul Hoque: Well, it's always good to have a degree in Business. It helps you in every stage of your employment life. The other one is more focused on the military. Disaster management and ensuring human security are key components of the military. I wanted to enhance my knowledge and contribute more to the military by getting this degree.

Interviewer: What made you decide to join the military?

Md. Shahedul Hoque: Actually, I was looking for an early start to my career. I wanted to establish myself and become independent. And, there was no better option than joining the Bangladesh Army.

Interviewer: Tell us about your special training in the military.

Md. Shahedul Hoque: I had a lot of special training in the military. If I had to specify, then I would say that I have specialized training in investigation and intelligence. And one thing you must know about the investigation and intelligence training, you cannot disclose what you learned.

Interviewer: How might the discipline you learned in the military be applied to daily civilian life?

Md. Shahedul Hoque: Not all military discipline can be applied to civilian life as people are not used to it. Some people think military life is very rigid which to some extent is true. However, the things I have adopted from my military service are my work ethic, punctuality, and result-oriented output.

Interviewer: Tell us what you learned from your international experience.

Md. Shahedul Hoque: I learned about adaptability and cultural inclusivity. That's why people say, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do."

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

Md. Shahedul Hoque: It was nothing particularly special. I saw a job posting from NSU and I wanted to shift from my current employer. So, I thought why not apply at NSU? And I think I made the right choice. I have worked with various types of people over here and each day I learn more and more. Like the students learning here, NSU is teaching me new things too.

Interviewer: How does your military training translate to an academic environment? Are there transferable skills that can be utilized at a university?

Md. Shahedul Hoque: It's true that most of my military learning will not be applicable to an academic environment. But, for my position as the Chief of Security, the things I have learned are easily transferable/applicable at NSU. My learnings have made it quite easy for me to implement different security protocols here.

Interviewer: In what way has your professional training shaped your personality?

Md. Shahedul Hoque: It has made me more realistic in thinking. I try to always think ahead and strive to attain perfection (despite knowing fully that perfection is not always attainable). I also learned to be more humane and mixed with all sorts of groups in order to be a good liaison with all.

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

Md. Shahedul Hoque: My advice for all would be—for any security-related help, the security Dept. is always ready to help. You just need to come and ask for it. Also, if you come ahead of time, then we can work properly and maintain all security protocols. My job is to make things as smooth as possible. All I seek is cooperation.

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

Md. Shahedul Hoque: World tour.

Interviewer: Anything else you would like to share about yourself?

Md. Shahedul Hoque: I think I have said enough. If you want to know me more, please drop by my office for a cup of tea.

Alumni Feature

I started off my business when I was in my 2nd year of undergraduate studies. I harnessed my very first inspiration to start off my career as an entrepreneur when I sold some brownies in my high school canteen. While I was doing my Bachelor's I used to have classes two days a week and the other 4 days I used to bake brownies to sell them at the school where I did my schooling from playgroup to O'levels. I was motivated by my daily earnings of 4,000 BDT per day just by selling brownies. I couldn't continue the business for long as classes increased in the next semester and courses became difficult. Six months later, during an entrepreneurship course, our instructor gave us a practical project where we had to set up stalls and had to be an entrepreneur for a day. I had 4 group members and at our stall we sold brownies that I baked myself. 200 brownies were sold out in 20 minutes, the crazy response of my fellow friends and teacher of the university motivated me to open up my Facebook business page Brownie Hut, which amassed a large online and offline following very quickly, since my university people helped me to grow faster as they already knew the taste of the brownies. People started posting positive reviews all over Facebook and the Internet about Brownie Hut which caught the eyes of some local food chain in Dhaka. They started taking my brownies for their dessert section of their restaurant. Brownie Hut started earning a lot of money with no big investment but only a small baking oven at my home kitchen. All these years I baked all the cakes and brownies alone. I had been the founder-owner-manager and the baker myself for 5 years until I finished my post-graduate degree when I could finally expand my business with a separate kitchen set up and employees working with me. In 6 months after the expansion of my business, I opened my first restaurant The Dumpling Hut in Dhaka in a 1,300 sq. ft store.



The Dumpling Hut was initially named Brownie Hut Café, I opened this café with two other partners, one is my sister and another friend. We miserably failed in this project during the pandemic, because right after opening we had to go through almost 5 months of lockdown in intervals. On top of that there were some mistakes in the business plan as well. Instead of shutting it down, we rebranded the café to a Cantonese cuisine and named it The Dumpling Hut. With very minimal investment this time, in about a week we rebranded and reopened the new restaurant and till this day it has been a great success and we are extremely happy with the returns now. The desserts of Brownie Hut are still displayed and being sold at The Dumpling Hut now.

In order to compensate for the losses that occurred in the café during the pandemic, I tried to utilize the month of Ramadan for something new so Brownie Hut didn't solely have to bear the losses of the café. During the month of Ramadan of 2021, Deshi Shaaad was a new venture which was a month-long online platform selling Ramadan special items, started off at the hot kitchen of Brownie Hut on the 1st day of Ramadan and ended up with a separate space for Deshi Shaaad on the last day. Deshi Shaaad sold about 100 kg of jilapis each day with 90 to 100 boxes of haleem daily. Later other desi items were very popular like Beef Kalabhuna, Achari Khichuri and Morog polao.

During the past 5 years of business Brownie Hut has worked with many corporate firms, catered to thousands of parties and events, and took part in various food events held by different companies. Brownie Hut had 2 pop up stores in the past 5 years inside two restaurants. But the 1st one had to close down as the main restaurant shut down, the second pop up store closed because of the pandemic that hit in March 2020.

Besides these businesses I also had an import business Boon, where I used to sell women's shoes known as juttis and women's wear imported from India. The page was very popular until the pandemic hit the world. Boon sold around 2 to 3 thousand pairs of imported juttis to the people of Bangladesh on its online platform. The business has been on a break ever since the stock has been sold out.

All along I have been a teacher. I have been teaching Economics to O Level candidates. After the opening of my restaurant The Dumpling Hut, I resigned from my teaching job from Sunnydale School Dhaka. Previously I have worked in an Australian International School.

To me victory means freedom to take risks and while not everything works out the way that I want it to, it's all about picking myself up and trying again. I aspire to continue taking risks and whatever opportunities that present themselves in front of me. In particular, I especially want to consider the expansion of my requisite businesses in the future.

Interviewer: What do you think are the main challenges of operating startup ventures in our country? What are the problems that you have experienced in the food industry?

Mehruk Hasan and Madiha Hasan: There are various challenges that we have to face when operating a startup business. Most importantly is the fierce competition in the market that we have to overcome by providing the best possible outcome for the customers. For me being in the food industry, I had to face it too. Besides, the extreme traffic conditions make it more complicated to deliver the goods to the customers.

Interviewer: What is your opinion about the present status of women's empowerment and female leadership in the workforce entrepreneurial sectors of Bangladesh? What are the opportunities for improvement?

Mehruk Hasan and Madiha Hasan: The present status of female leadership is quite prominent now. We see a lot of female entrepreneurs and female leaders in the corporate field. I think it should be normalized more and rather than focusing on women's empowerment, we should respect everyone equally according to their talent and contribution to society.

Interviewer: Who is your role model? What was your inspiration in this entrepreneurial journey of yours?

Mehruk Hasan and Madiha Hasan: My role model was an imaginary picture of myself that I have built myself today. Entrepreneurship was not a choice I made but a passion for baking turned it into business. Back in the days I enjoyed the earnings that I received from baking and selling online and that turned me into the entrepreneur that I am today.

Interviewer: What is your advice for your fellow NSUers?

Mehruk Hasan and Madiha Hasan: Do what you love to do. Do not live by the norms if that doesn't make you happy. Do what you enjoy the most and grab every opportunity that comes your way. Use time wisely.

International Student Feature



Humans are superior in the entire universe to all creatures. Being a part of it makes me miniature-like between the billions of humans like myself. Although everyone is unique in their way, I try my best to be humble, calm, and respectful to everyone I meet irrespective of gender, caste, creed, religion, and nationality. It is not an easy task to write about oneself because one may overwrite or exaggerate at some point. Either way, we are faking ourselves and causing a rendezvous within ourselves. With this background, I'm introducing myself.

Hello! Assalamu-alaikum,

*I'm **Kinga Tshering** currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Engineering. I hail from a small country well known as Bhutan sandwiched between the two most populated and fastest-growing economies in the world: India and China. I was born to a humble family on the outskirts of the city where I spent most of my time with my three other brothers. From childhood, I was fascinated by renowned philanthropists and freedom fighters who stand for the rights of all people regardless of any discrimination. I have never been in so bad a situation as my King and parents were always there to shower their unconditional support and love. My King is my inspiration and an idol. His speeches have broadened my perspective of looking beyond the four corners of the classroom walls. I was driven by the compassionate nature of my King and country fellow mates to partake in social services. From a young age, I have developed my interest in volunteering with several non-governmental organizations that serve in pursuit of seeking happiness in others' lives.*

I'm an active member of the Largest Youth Network in Bhutan known as Y-YJA and Y-PEER. Other than that, I have also served as the President of a volunteer group in my district which is working under the civil society organization known as Nazhoen Lamtoen. It is an organization that looks after the well-being of underprivileged youths who conflict with the law of the country and the ones who are undergoing economic distress due to domestic violence and gender inequality.

Ever since my passion for volunteerism became part of my life, I have learned that nothing in life is promised except death. I knew that one should embrace every moment of life. If one accepts the reality of our very own imperfections then life dwells with the song of fun and joy.

I'm always looking for ways to develop my skills and learn new things. I love interacting with people of diverse cultural backgrounds and I want to associate with them to advance my understanding of reality in the world. I have every intention to make this world a better place for everyone. I know I'm not a Superman nor do I have any concrete plans right now, but I'm on the road to discovery.

Similarly, like Julian Mantle in Robin Sharma's book titled "The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari" I'm here in Bangladesh, the land rich in textiles and cultural traditions to ascertain my destiny. Hence, my career aspirations meet with the visions of North South University, the leading educational institution in Bangladesh. I feel very proud to be part of such a great community with highly qualified professionals and keen learners who aspire to make a change in society. Every single prospect at the university has been created for self-discovery. My days at the university are filled with warm hospitality and I'm pretty sure by the end of my final year I will have lots of memories to cherish. I'm looking forward to having lots of fun with purpose.

Not to forget I would like to extend my heartiest gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar, and particularly the Office of External Affairs for their unwavering support. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.

Interviewer: What inspired you to choose North South University for your undergraduate studies among all other universities of Bangladesh?

Kinga Tshering: North South University is a platform that gathers great minds from around the globe. It is one of the highly accredited universities with very highly qualified faculty from the most renowned universities in the world. NSU is a US-modeled university and follows its curriculum style such as credit hours, subject grading, and the semester system.

Moreover, NSU believes in an inclusive and diverse range of learning. They offer a 100% scholarship to aspiring meritorious candidates across the world.

Additionally, there are many festivals and events where students can interact with each other and build a close bond. In general, NSU gives hope to dream and wings to fly beyond the horizon. Hence, who wouldn't choose NSU as their ideal place to study?

Interviewer: You are pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Engineering at NSU. What were the factors that influenced you to choose this field of study?

Kinga Tshering: Computer Science and Engineering is a course that will blossom in this digital era. The course has the largest employment opportunities and it generates exclusive research questionnaires. Moreover, it has always been my dream to become a software engineer where I can contribute to the world in a smaller way. My King is the source of inspiration for me in taking a step into the world of information technology at a young age. Hereafter, I couldn't find myself taking interest in other courses than CSE.

Interviewer: From your bio, we know that you have a lot of experience and interest in voluntary and community work. What inspires you to participate in these kinds of activities?

Kinga Tshering: Life is too short to consider yourself a protagonist in every act. Rather life is a cycle of our Karmic actions. I believe in rebirth. Everyone is related to one another over these infinite generations. This gives me a sense of responsibility to play a vital role in making this world a better place to live. Every human has the right to live and the freedom to raise their voice. I was born in a place where we believe "you get what you give". My King and my country's fellow citizens are the core reason behind my interest in rendering volunteer service. Moreover, volunteering is my passion and it's a part of my life where I enjoy the zest of being born as a human.

Interviewer: What are your future plans for your career once you complete your undergraduate studies?

Kinga Tshering: Life is full of surprises. Things don't seem to go as we wish. It is the uncertainty of life that opens new dimensions of life. With that, I can see myself pursuing a higher degree right after the completion of my undergraduate studies or either as an elite software engineer; although, I'm not entirely sure what I'm going to do yet. I believe that after completing my program, I may have equipped myself to make an informed decision.

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

Kinga Tshering: North South University offers a wide range of undergraduate courses along with a Master's program. The university has highly qualified faculties with world-class classrooms where students can explore their interests in learning. The academic structure is designed in such a way that it can lead to interpersonal development. The university has an extensive library hall with spacious rooms to study. Moreover, the university aims at producing competent graduates in their selected disciplines who will have productive careers or choose to engage in advanced studies. Therefore, North South University is a destination for the ones who have the lust and desire to learn.

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


Kinga Tshering: I believe that the environment we live in has a great impact on happiness within oneself. Bangladesh is none other than a friendly neighbor of my country. We do share a lot of things in common. People are so kind and welcoming in one way and another. Hereafter, Bangladesh is my second homeland and I'm very happy and excited to explore more about the culture and history of this country.


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

Kinga Tshering: North South University is a top university in Bangladesh. It has been home to many successful Business entrepreneurs and globally recognized individuals. Besides that, after the completion of your studies, employment is noticeably not a problem if you give your best under the leadership of expert tutors. Therefore, the choice is yours to make the right decision.




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