



**Office
of External
Affairs**

THE BRIDGE

The Official Newsletter of the Office Of External Affairs

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Editor's Message

2022 was a year full of activities which ended with a bang. We saw our students go abroad for a Winter Camp in Vietnam and many more opportunities open up with new and old partners. Both online and in-person collaboration meetings, talk shows and information sessions provided rich avenues to learn together with our friends around the world. With that, our hopes are high for NSU as we continue to bridge global knowledge together with you. Thank you so much for your continued support!

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Congratulations NSU on the latest MoUs



Laurentian University
Université Laurentienne



NNSU has signed the following eleven new MoUs in last two months: Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC), Kathmandu University, MetLife, Laurentian University, De Montfort University, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation and Aerospace University (BSMRAAU), Innovision Consulting Private Limited, Projahnmo Research Foundation.

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.

Annual International Evening 2022

The International Affairs Office of the Office of External Affairs, North South University (NSU) organized an Annual International Evening for the first time on December 21, 2022. The event was complemented by the presence of internal and external high officials from NSU, Bangladesh Government, different embassies and high commissions. Our Honorable Vice Chancellor, Professor Atiqul Islam and Honorable Pro-Vice Chancellor, Professor Mohammed Ismail Hosain along with the Deans of the Schools, Chairs of different departments, faculty members and administrative staff attended the event. Additionally, officials from embassies and high commissions, members of law enforcement agencies, officials from the passport and immigration office were present in the program. The event was also open for the students of NSU to enjoy; therefore, many local and international students from different departments also attended the program.





The arrangement of the program was initiated and executed by the International Affairs Office (OIA) which functions under the Office of External Affairs, NSU. One of the primary purposes of this office is to support and administer services for the international students and faculties studying or teaching at NSU. Besides supporting the international students and faculty members with academic and administrative support, OIA has always been active to provide them with the cultural support as well, for which, they have organized several yearly or semester-wise cultural, recreational or extracurricular programs involving the international community. Nevertheless, because of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, the organization of such events was limited for the past three years.



Currently, NSU is hosting students and faculty members from 19 different countries including Somalia, China, USA, Nepal, Bhutan, Taiwan, etc. The Annual International Evening was complemented by the presence of the people from all these countries, among which, students and teachers from 8 countries performed for the cultural part of the event. The main attraction of the event was the cultural program, as it portrayed the diverse culture of the people from different communities and represented the cultural diversity cultivated and promoted by NSU. The program also included speeches from the Director of OEA, Dr Li, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Dr. Ismail Hossain and the Session Chair, Vice Chancellor, Professor Atiqul Islam. Moreover, the international students and faculty members also shared their thoughts, opinions and remarks about the event through short speeches. The event ended with a gala dinner.

International Winter Camp 2022, FPT University, Vietnam

FPT University is the first university in Vietnam to be recognized as a 3-star university by the QS World University Rankings. In 2015, FPT Business School was ranked among the top two business schools in Vietnam and ranked among the top 200 for MBA programs worldwide in 2018. FPT Global Education hosted the "International Winter Camp 2022" at FPT University, Danang City, Vietnam, to bring local and international students an exciting and productive winter camp experience.



A 10-day adventure took place between the 20th and 29th of November, which was filled with innovative, practical projects to explore new knowledge and destinations. The program focused on activities such as Business Communication Skills, camping activities, and excursion tours. The FPT Winter Camp 2022 was a platform for the youth to revive their talents and excel in various tournaments with intelligence. The FPT coordinators extensively organized the program with many exciting events and assisted students with their struggles and program-related concerns.

The Winter Camp 2022 session was filled with colorful learning, adventure, and development events in diverse fields. The Business Communication classes helped the participants to reinvigorate and ramp up their professional journeys. The camp also consisted of entertaining camping activities where participants had the opportunity to sharpen their English in an entirely English-speaking environment. The networking opportunities and cultural exchanges with international students from various nations were immense. The winter camp also included exploration-worthy educational and physical activities. Excursion trips, a sequence of discovery activities, are a must-try in Danang, one of Vietnam's most worth living-cities.

An interview with one of the participants, Mr. Zahidul Islam from the department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, North South University, who attended the Winter Camp is given below.

Interviewer: What made you want to apply for the Winter Camp?

Mr. Zahidul Islam: I rarely check my emails. One day coincidentally, I logged into my NSU mail and saw the invitation for the Winter Camp. Although I was not serious about the camp initially, I signed up for it hoping to drop it later. I stuck to it partly because I wanted to explore a unique place and take a refreshing break from my hectic daily schedule.

Interviewer: Have you ever traveled to a foreign country before?

Mr. Zahidul Islam: I have never traveled overseas before the Winter Camp. It was my first ever trip overseas with strangers, without any supervision from my guardians.

Interviewer: How did you prepare for the Winter Camp before leaving for FPT University?

Mr. Zahidul Islam: As I previously mentioned, I was not serious about this camp and left all my things for the last moment, including all the paperwork and the payment. I wouldn't have gotten my Vietnamese visa if my friend hadn't reminded me at the last moment. I packed my luggage the night before the flight, and I needed to remember my flight ticket for the domestic flight to Vietnam. You could say I was thoroughly unprepared for the Winter Camp.

Interviewer: What part of the Winter Camp at FPT University were you the most excited about experiencing?

Mr. Zahidul Islam: I have always wanted to study abroad along with my friends. This wish remained unfulfilled due to many reasons. FPT University allowed me to go overseas and experience their culture. Just being able to sit in a foreign classroom is enough to excite me for days. Plus, the friends I made and the cordial atmosphere elevated that experience.

Interviewer: What was your initial thought after you had reached FPT University?

Mr. Zahidul Islam: Simply wow. The tidy and cozy environment of the FPT campus was amicable to experience. The building size was smaller than I expected, but the contents inside were diverse. The decoration around the campus was soothing, and I could feel the stress of my NSU days fading away into the beautiful nature. There was a warm air among their students, and they warmly welcomed us.

Interviewer: What have you learned from the Winter Camp?

Mr. Zahidul Islam: This Winter Camp was about business communication skills. As a biochemistry student, most of the things were new to me. The encouraging teachers helped me gain confidence, and I can now express myself better in my regular classes.

I also learnt to deal with people outside my comfort zone to complete an assigned task, mainly during the presentation preparation.

The most important thing I learned from this camp is not to judge people quickly. Things could have turned out quite differently if I had stuck to my initial thoughts. Everyone has their own story.

Interviewer: What quality do you possess that was particularly useful during the entirety of the Winter Camp?

Mr. Zahidul Islam: Since all of us were practically strangers, it was natural for a mismatch of opinions and minor clashes between the students. I was one of the few people who were neutral in all aspects and could communicate with them without any hassle. I was a mediator for some of us, and my actions brought the team much closer than before. This required being very patient and unbiased.

Interviewer: Can you describe what the Winter Camp has meant for you?

Mr. Zahidul Islam: Simply speaking, this camp was an experience like no other. I cannot describe it fully with words as it won't express my feelings about it. It was just what I never knew I needed until I got it. The countless memories and the "foreign certificate" is sure to take me places. It started out very shaky but ended with sweet tears and a bag of memories.

Interviewer: What are some activities you enjoyed the most at the Camp?

Mr. Zahidul Islam: The tours were the best part of this trip. The bus rides were phenomenal. The most exciting part for me was the camping day which I enjoyed the most. The games and the cooking competitions had my quirkiness go overdrive. The beach day was enjoyable as we had to dance with our teammates within minutes of rehearsal and win the day's final game, which got our team 3rd place.

Interviewer: What was the biggest cultural shock for you in Vietnam?

Mr. Zahidul Islam: Time management was the most significant difference I had to face in Vietnam. The schedule for the locals is very rigid, and they finish their dinner by 7 p.m! Coping with their morning routine was a bit of a challenge as I am used to waking up much later than when I had to wake up in the morning, as well as sleeping early. Plus, they all follow a collective schedule, unlike here in Bangladesh.

Interviewer: Can you share a little about your most memorable event from the Winter Camp?

Mr. Zahidul Islam: It is difficult to share the most memorable experience because it is challenging to choose one in the first place. Halfway through the camp, some of us decided to head out to the beach at night. It started raining during our time together at the beach, and we had to run to find cover. Eventually, we sat down under a lifeguard room and waited until the rain disappeared. None of us did anything out of the ordinary, but just looking at the rain and feeling the cold wind on our wet skin in an unknown country with new friends was hitting a different spot.

Interviewer: What was the biggest challenge that you faced during your stay? How did you overcome it?

Mr. Zahidul Islam: The biggest issue that my other mates faced and I was financing. Since we had to book our domestic flight tickets on arrival, we had to spend extra on hotel rent due to an extended stay which took a toll on everyone.

Interviewer: Do you have any advice or suggestions for the NSU students who want to go to camps in the future?

Mr. Zahidul Islam: I want to tell the students who wish to experience such opportunities to ensure that they have all their information right. Secondly, I would like them to communicate with each other, engage in group activities, and maintain individual contact with OEA.

Interviewer: Is there anything more you would like to share with us?

Mr. Zahidul Islam: Overall this trip was a roller coaster of emotions and experiences. However, I would like NSU to consider the timing of such trips. All of us had missed out on classes and exams, and it took an effort to recover from that part. Other than that, the camp and the arrangement was lovely.

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 100



The hundredth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on November 1, 2022. We had Ms. Shahreen Shahjahan, a remarkable alumna of North South University from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Batch 2012. She completed her undergraduate studies from NSU in 2016 and pursued a Masters' degree in the same subject area at the University of Texas, Dallas, USA. Her professional journey has been computer engineering centric from the very beginning as well. Currently, Ms. Shahjahan is working as a Software Development Engineer at tech-giant Amazon Web Services in the USA.

Throughout the event, Ms. Shahjahan shared her experiences and journey of both professional and student life. Her journey at Amazon Web Services started in 2020. So far, she has worked with two different teams of the company – EC2, which manages the Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud and SageMaker, which enables developers to create, train, and deploy machine-learning models in the cloud. While sharing her experience of working with these two separate departments, Ms. Shahjahan mentioned how these teams have several similarities and common areas, yet how they are different from each other. In her opinion, Amazon Web Services is more like a computer architecture that accommodates other apps. They mainly function based on core computer science based technical tasks. Different departments of the company scale up or scale down functions, improve infrastructure and technical design of the software and services and debug the system based on deliverables and customers' feedback.

As Ms. Shahjahan has both academic expertise and professional experience in the field of computer science and engineering, she shared some insights about the sector with the audience during the event. She mentioned that patience of progressing step-by-step and practice of accomplishing one task at a time are necessary skills to progress in the engineering sector. She also highly emphasized understanding the programming languages, data structure and algorithms in depth for a thriving career and professional advancement. According to her, mastering these skills is a matter of patience and practice. Ms. Shahjahan has few experiences about research as well; she mentioned that the importance of participation in research work during or after undergraduate studies depends on career goal and interest. Research surely is solution oriented and offers one with ample opportunities of exploration. Experience in the research field helps a lot for working in academia and pursuing a PhD.

During the show, Ms. Shahjahan also briefly discussed higher studies in international universities. She mentioned that a good score in internationalized assessment exams like GRE, GMAT and IELTS is important for applying for international education. Besides, a strong letter of recommendation and statement of purpose are also equally important. She also recommended early application and avoiding deadlines for greater chances of acceptance. And for scholarships, she suggested searching intensely and consistently, without leaving any stone unturned.

In the latter part of the event, the guest shared her journey and experience of undergraduate studies at NSU. The highly qualified faculty pool, enriched and well-designed curriculum, student welfare centric approach of NSU influenced Ms. Shahjahan choose NSU for her undergraduate studies. In her words, "student life at NSU was one of the sweetest journeys of my life". She made friends for life from this campus with whom she is still connected. In this context, the guest shared some of her cherished memories with faculties of her department. Lessons from NSU smoothed her career path to a great extent. In fact, it was the starting point and stepping stone in her career. For the recent graduates and current students of NSU, she suggested fixing goals and starting preparing for achieving them as early as possible.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/416936970647689>

NGO Talk Show Episode 26



The twenty-sixth episode of the 'NGO Talk Show' was aired on November 2, 2022 with one of the government-registered NGOs of Bangladesh – COAST Foundation. The title of the event was 'Developing Bangladesh: Scope for Research' with COAST Foundation. The keynote speaker for this episode was Mr. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, Executive Director, COAST Foundation. From North South University (NSU) Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs was present as a Special Guest, and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA hosted the live talk show.

The event started with a brief introduction of the guest including his academic and professional background. Mr. Chowdhury pursued his higher studies in sociology and has 35 years of experience of working in the development sector. He has made remarkable contributions in fields like government policies and activities, sustainable microfinance, human resource development, management and planning, etc., throughout his career. In fact, Mr. Chowdhury was a member of the Operation, Policy and Advocacy Group of the Interagency Stand Committee of the UN and a board member of organizations like CHS, Alliance, etc. Moreover, the guest has attended several national and international conferences as chief guest, speaker and participant.

During the show, Mr. Chowdhury shared the history behind the foundation of the COAST Foundation followed by the objectives, projects and activities of the organization. The COAST Foundation started as a project of ActionAid International which was activated in 1982 and was nationalized in 1994. Mr. Chowdhury was associated with that project as the Project Director. As the span and operations of the project expanded, it transformed into an NGO from just a project. With that goal, the Board of Trustees of the COAST Foundation was established in 1998. The organization started its operations from selective regions of Bhola which later expanded throughout Bhola, Chittagong and Patuakhali.

As the COAST Foundation conducts most of its operations along the coastal areas, the organization's main objective is to improve the livelihood of the residents of coastal areas. The speciality of the organization is that it runs without the help of any foreign aid. The main foci of their projects and operations are

sustainability and advocacy. They have worked in sectors like sustainable microfinance, climate change, the Rohingya refugee issue, civil society movement, etc. The COAST Foundation also runs a radio station in the regions of their operation to broadcast information about natural disasters. This station is run by local adolescent girls. The organization is also focusing on digitalizing the contents that they broadcast through the station. Throughout the journey of the COAST Foundation, they have faced challenges regarding entrepreneurship development, training arrangement, peace and balance establishment between government, civil society and the private sector.

Besides discussing the projects and activities of the COAST Foundation, Mr. Chowdhury also shared some insights about the roles of NGOs in the development of Bangladesh. In his opinion, NGOs have been playing a significant role in disaster management, relief work, education, healthcare, climate migration, women's empowerment, etc. He also acknowledged the influence of civil society in the integrated development of our country, especially in sectors like women's education, child and maternal mortality, etc. He addressed the current social structure as a multi-drive society where collective effort is important for the overall improvement.

During the latter part of the event, our guest discussed their research projects that were previously done, currently running and planned for the future. He believes there is scope for both action and commissioned research in the development sector. The type of method to be used for any research project solely depends on the topic. In this context, he encouraged the involvement of students in research at the field level. Mr. Chowdhury mentioned that the COAST Foundation already has the experience of working with both students and researchers from several renowned universities. In continuation of that, they are interested in building such partnerships with NSU as well in order to explore collaborative working opportunities.

To know more about the event, visit the following link
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/5578826178900526>



Information Session with Hubei University, China

North South University's Office of External Affairs (OEA) arranged a virtual information session with Hubei University, China on November 8, 2022. We had Ms. Tan Yuting, Deputy Director, Study Abroad Office, Ms. Yan Chao, Program Coordinator, Study Abroad Office, Mr. Rashedul Hasan, Alumni Postgraduate Studies from Hubei University, China with us as the speakers and guests during the session. From OEA, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer OEA attended the session. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and streamed via Facebook Live on the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.



湖北大学
HUBEI UNIVERSITY

The event started with a brief overview of Hubei University, China including its foundation, location, campus, academic structure, curriculum and facilities. Hubei University is one of the oldest universities of China. It was founded in 1931 and has a glorious history of academic excellence of 91 years. The university is located in Wuhan, China and is named after the region it is located in – Hubei. It has 3 campuses accommodating 250 acres of land area each of which is situated in different prime locations of the region.



The academic structure and curriculum of Hubei University are advanced, upgraded and aligned with international standards. The university offers diverse academic programs under 24 separate schools and faculties. Their curriculum includes 87 Bachelor's programs, 180 Master's programs, 41 doctoral programs and 6 post-doctoral programs, 116 of which are taught in English. Besides, the university offers separate language learning programs for better adjustment of the international students with the locals. Currently, the university has a student pool of nearly 10,000 postgraduate students and more than 19,000 undergraduate students. Alongside academic excellence, the university is also focused on research projects and publications. It has advanced research centers, labs and annual research funds of 200 million yuan to facilitate the research projects.

Hubei University started admitting international students in the 1960s and currently has students from 40 different countries and regions of the world enrolled in different programs. The university provides several facilities, especially for their international students to ensure their convenience and safety while studying there. They have their Study Abroad Office and International Student Association dedicated to support the international students and provide them with any kind of consultation required. The university also offers different types of scholarship and financial aid opportunities for the foreign students such as, the International Chinese Teacher Scholarship, the Chinese Government Scholarship, the Hubei Provincial International Scholarship, etc.

Alongside welcoming international students from all over the world, Hubei University, China creates and cultivates collaborative relationships with international institutions through extensive global outreach efforts. The university has academic partnerships with 150 international universities and research institutes in 40 different regions of the world. They have a joint institute co-established with Manchester Metropolitan University, UK named 'Manchester Metropolitan Joint Institute'. Hubei University maintains a multicultural campus environment and promotes cultural diversity and vibrancy in their own campus as well as initiates promotion of their cultures in their partner institutions concurrently. The university operates several Confucius Institutes as a tool for promoting their culture at many of their partner institutes in distinct regions of the world.

Throughout the event, we also heard from some current students and alumni of Hubei University about their experiences of studying there. Moreover, the speakers informed and instructed the audience about the application procedure, requirements, deadlines, etc., for enrolling into Hubei University, China. Lastly, they provided contact details of the appropriate persons and offices for the students to reach out to retrieve any information related to the university.

To know more about the event, visit the following link
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/3405072853109890>

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 101

The one hundred and first episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on November 10, 2022. For this episode, we had with us Mr. Md. Mizanur Rahman, an alumnus of North South University from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Batch 2001. He completed his Bachelor's degree in 2006 and pursued a Masters' of Business Administration at East West University. Professionally, Mr. Rahman is associated with the information technology industry. Currently, he is working as the Chief Technical Officer and Director at a software development firm - Brain Station 23.

The event started with a discussion about Mr. Rahman's professional experience and journey in the information technology sector. His current workplace is a software service company that started its journey in 2006. In the past 16 years, the company has grown a lot and currently has more than 7,000 employees working for them. Through different projects, Brain Station 23 serves both local and global clients regarding software development. The core goal of the company is the adaptation of newer technologies. Mr. Rahman plays a key role in the strategic management for the organization. His main responsibility is to properly direct the process.

As Mr. Rahman has been associated with the IT and software engineering sector from the beginning of his career, he shared some insights about the current situation and future prospects of the industry. In his opinion, competitiveness and infrastructural support of the software development platforms of our country are improving swiftly. In fact, the sector is already standardized enough to align with global expectations. Nevertheless, there are some gaps and areas for improvement in the industry. Mr. Rahman mentioned that there are still deficits regarding the alignment of academic and industry as well as scope for the freshers in the job sector. Collaborative effort is required to fill in these gaps, increase competitiveness, therefore overall improve the industry further.

Besides the condition of the IT sector, Mr. Rahman also shared his observations and suggestions about career development in the industry. According to him, being passionate about software engineering and cultivating the passion is the foremost thing to thrive in the sector. Besides, it is important to have the ability to adapt, willingness to improve and interest to explore are important qualities for professionals of the industry. One needs to be consistent and focus on creating a positive impact to grow professionally. He also emphasized acquiring practical skills alongside professional certifications as these add value to one's career portfolio. As easy accessibility to resources has made it much convenient to receive professional certificates, learn new skills and improve oneself easily, he suggested to pursue these as much as possible.

As the event furthered, the discussion turned towards the guest's student life at NSU. He mentioned that he was always passionate about computer science and was determined to pursue higher studies in this subject area. For his choice of subject, NSU was the best choice; hence he enrolled here. Mr. Rahman had a very joyous and eventful time at the university. He was closely associated with his departmental clubs, therefore, was heavily involved in extracurricular activities during his undergraduate studies. According to him, NSU prepared him for the further journey of his life. It made him responsible and taught him to do whatever is needed to get things done. NSU also prepared him to manage people and situations calmly. Lastly, the guests shared some suggestions for the recent graduates and current students of NSU. He emphasized taking risks, and experiencing through experimenting to grow. He advised to be focused on goals and start preparing early to achieve those.

To know more about the event, visit the following link
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/3233130786947173>



Collaboration Meeting with Utrecht University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands

A meeting between North South University (NSU) and Utrecht University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands was held on November 14, 2022. From Utrecht University of Applied Sciences, Ms. Ankan Siddiquee, Lecturer, Institute for International Business Studies, HU Hogeschool Utrecht - Utrecht University of Applied Sciences 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.



The meeting intended to kick off a discussion and exchange of ideas for collaborative projects between NSU and Utrecht University of Applied Sciences that include internships for students from both countries interested in startups. The representatives of Utrecht University of Applied Sciences proposed a joint academic project involving both the undergraduate and postgraduate level students of the universities. In order to activate such a project, curriculum mapping and semester alignment between the concerned institutes or departments will be necessary. Therefore, the attendees of the meeting focused on the methods to follow for the alignment and discussed the challenges regarding this. One of the risks of executing the joint academic project is the participants may pull out mid-semester or mid-process. To avoid such risks, the attendees suggested allocating some credits or grades for participating and successfully completing the project. The initiative is most likely to be launched with the students of MBA initially. The meeting ended on a positive note with the attendees agreeing to arrange another meeting to discuss further about finalizing the activation and specifications of the project.

MoU Signing Ceremony between NSU-SBE and MetLife



North South University and Metlife Bangladesh signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on November 16, 2022 to operate a series of programs for the benefit of the university's researchers and students.

Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, NSU and Mr. M. Ala Uddin Ahmad, Chief Executive Officer, FCA, MetLife Bangladesh signed the MoU on behalf of their respective sides at a program at the NSU campus.

As per the MoU, the NSU students will be able to know about internship and working opportunities at Metlife Bangladesh. They will also get the opportunity to work jointly with Metlife Bangladesh in preparing their thesis papers. NSU's Director for Office of Research, Dr. Norman K. Swazo gave the welcome speech at the MoU signing program.

Dr. Md. Nurul Kabir, Associate Professor and Chair at the Department of Accounting & Finance said, "Metlife will offer internships to our students under the MoU and there will be an industry-academia collaboration between NSU and Metlife Bangladesh." Describing the slow growth of the insurance sector in Bangladesh, he said only 4 out of 1,000 people in our country have insurance. The insurance sector can play a big role in the development of our country.

Mr. Ahmad said, "This is the first research we are doing with any outside organization. The outcome of the research will be for the public interest. When the output of this research is available, we will arrange workshops and seminars and meet friends from the media." During this time he added, "Insurance has huge potential in Bangladesh. We need to pay attention to insurance for the development of our country."

Professor Atiqul Islam said, "We hope that this MoU will help our present students and researchers, they will be benefited from the agreement. In the future, we can provide some other facilities to our researchers and students with such initiatives. He thanked Metlife Bangladesh for the joint research initiative.

Among the others, Dr Abdul Hannan Chowdhury; Professor, Department of Management, Professor Dr. Jashim Uddin Ahmed, Professor & Chair at the Department of Management, Dr. Arifur Rahman; Professor of Finance, Mr Jamil Ahmed, Director of Public Relations Office at NSU and Dr Katherine Li; Director of Office of External Affairs were present at the program.

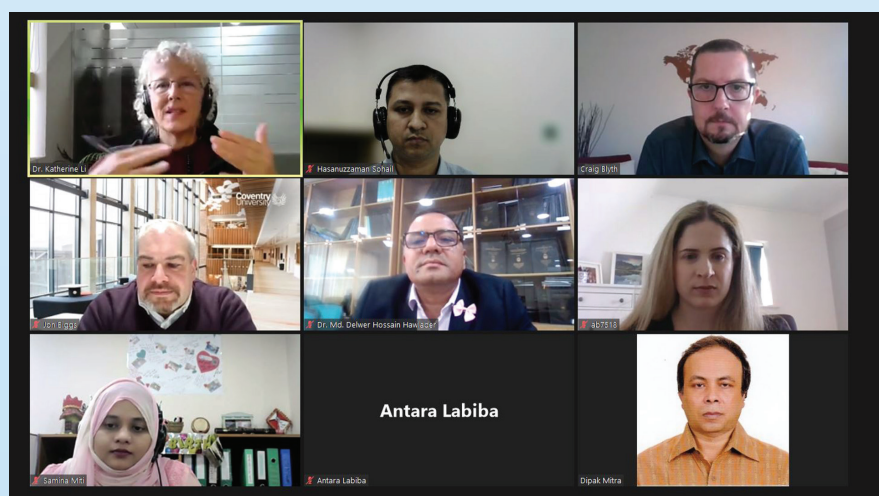


Collaboration Meeting with Coventry University, UK

A courtesy meeting between North South University (NSU) and Coventry University, UK was held on November 16, 2022. Ms.

Karen Thomas, Academic Partnership Development Manager represented Coventry University in the meeting. From North South University,

Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA and Ms. Antara Labiba, OEA attended the meeting.



The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss opportunities of partnership between Coventry University, UK and NSU. The points of interest identified for collaboration were joint research projects and publications, two-way student and faculty exchange, summer school, Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) projects, etc. Through the discussion, it was realized that both the institutions are highly interested in applied learning and international learning. As the universities have such common points of interest and focus, there are great opportunities for partnership between the two institutions. The representatives of Coventry University also expressed interest to explore the opportunities to work with different partner NGOs of NSU. Through a detailed discussion about the effectiveness and relevance of the proposed academic collaboration projects involving different departments and schools of NSU

and Coventry University, the attendees of the meeting agreed to arrange a follow-up meeting with the presence of representatives with program area-specific departments or schools of both the universities.

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 102

The one hundred and second episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on November 17, 2022. For this episode, we had with us Mr. Md. Fuad Hasan Lotus, an alumnus of North South University from the Department of Business Administration, Batch 2005. He completed his Bachelor's degree in 2009 and pursued a Masters' of Business Administration at NSU in 2016. The academic expertise of Mr. Lotus is in the Human Resources Management sector, therefore, he pursued his career in the same field as well. Currently, he is working as the Manager of Human Resource at one of the largest pharmaceutical companies of Bangladesh – Renata Ltd.

From the start of his professional journey, Mr. Lotus has been associated with the Human Resources Management Department of different companies. He started his career with the Orion Group from where he shifted to Homebound and then to Renata Ltd. In his current role as Human Resources Manager at Renata, his main responsibilities are to lead the HR team and handle the entire HR process of the organization – from the recruitment of employees to their exit. While discussing the HRM process of Renata Ltd., Mr. Lotus especially mentioned the advanced digitized methods of operations of the company. He informed the audience that they use a customized app for their HRM-related operations which was launched two years back. In fact, Renata was the first company to introduce such software-based HRM operations.

Alongside discussing the HRM trends of Renata Ltd. Mr. Lotus also shared some valuable insights about the overall Human Resources Management sector of our country. In his opinion, discipline is the foremost skill and quality for an HRM professional to master in order to grow professionally. As an experienced HR professional, he also shared some suggestions about preparing and customizing CVs and cover letters in accordance with the job description while applying for different job posts.

As the event furthered, the discussion shifted towards the guest's student life from his professional career. Mr. Lotus was interested to pursue his higher studies in the business administration sector; therefore, he chose NSU for his undergraduate studies. Although he had the opportunity to experience and enjoy classes both at the Banani and Bashundhara campuses of NSU, he felt comparatively more attached to the Banani campus than Bashundhara. While reminiscing about old memories from his campus life at NSU, he shared several treasured memories with faculty members, friends and classmates. He mentioned that the impact of NSU on the growth and advancement of both his personal and professional life is undeniable.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/5759660304091340>



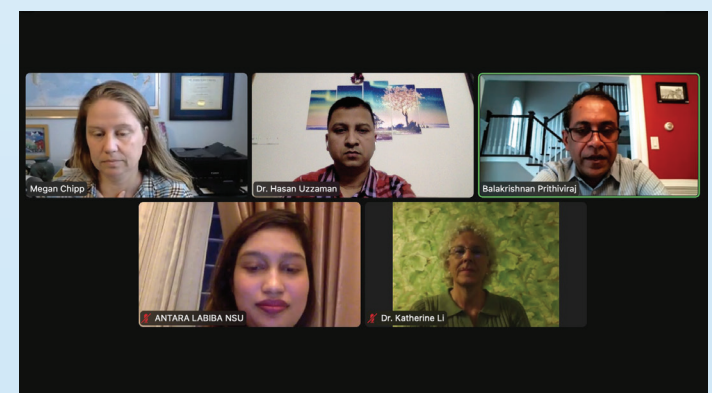
Collaboration Meeting with Dalhousie University, Canada



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

A courtesy meeting between North South University (NSU) and Dalhousie University, Canada took place on November 17, 2022. From Dalhousie University, Ms. Megan Chipp, Manager Global Partnership and Dr. Balarishnan Prithiviraj, AVP Global Relation attended the meeting. From NSU, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), Dr. Hasanuzzamn Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA and Ms. Antara Labiba, OEA were present in the meeting.

The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the collaboration opportunities between Dalhousie University and NSU. The discussion topics included the implementation of joint research projects (research collaboration), student and faculty exchange programs, etc. The meeting started with a presentation by Ms. Labiba pertaining to information regarding North South University. After that, Dr. Li discussed the aforementioned areas of collaboration with the representatives of Dalhousie University. After a detailed discussion, the attendees of the meeting agreed that before any further step towards a successful collaboration, another meeting is required with the experts from both the institutions.



NSU Signs an MoU with Laurentian University, Canada



North South University (NSU) signed an MoU with Laurentian University, Canada on November 20, 2022.



Laurentian University
Université Laurentienne

The objective of this partnership is to develop academic and educational cooperation and to promote mutual understanding between the two academic institutions. As per the MoU, the two institutions agreed to develop articulation agreements between programs and institutions, in aiding students to transfer credits, on a basis of equality and reciprocity.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Serge Demers, Associate Vice- President of Student Affairs, Laurentian University and Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor North South University.

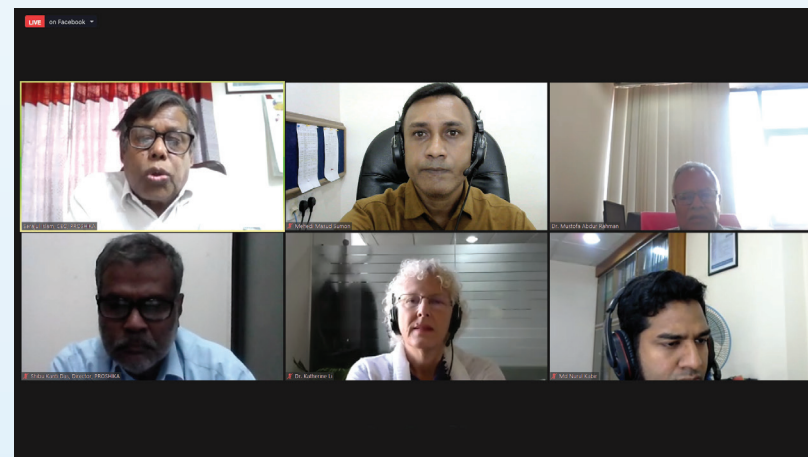
Introductory Meeting with PROSHIKA Manobik Unnayan Kendra



A virtual meeting between PROSHIKA Manobik Unnayan Kendra and the Office External Affairs (OEA) of North South University (NSU) was held on November 21, 2022. The attendees of the meeting included Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA, Mr. Serajul Islam, Chief Executive, PROSHIKA Manobik Unnayan Kendra, Mr. Shibu Kanti Das, Director, Social Development & Program, PROSHIKA Manobik Unnayan Kendra, Dr. Mustafa Abdur Rahman, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, NSU, Dr. Nurul Kabir, Associate Professor & Chair, Department of Accounting & Finance & Research Coordinator, School of Business & Economics, NSU and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA, NSU.

The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the present work of PROSHIKA Manobik Unnayan Kendra 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 representatives of the NGO highlighted their effort for socio-cultural and economic development through projects like People's Organization Building (POB), Financial Services (FSD), social development and environmental protection, income-generating programs, etc.

They also informed the attendees that initially, PROSHIKA had a Policy Research Department that conducted and published many research projects and articles, but had a setback because of a lack of experienced research experts. Recently, the organization is again prioritizing the improvement of their research wing, which is why they are highly interested to collaborate with the experienced research specialists of NSU. Further discussion between the attendees revealed some common topics of interest between NSU and PROSHIKA Manobik Unnayan Kendra on which the expert researchers of both the institutions may conduct research projects jointly. In this context, the representatives of NSU suggested another meeting with the Research Coordinators of the four schools of the university for better understanding and decision making regarding the collaborative projects. Through detailed discussion, the attendees agreed to start an academic collaboration through an MoU between NSU and PROSHIKA Manobik Unnayan Kendra for the greater interest of both the institutions.

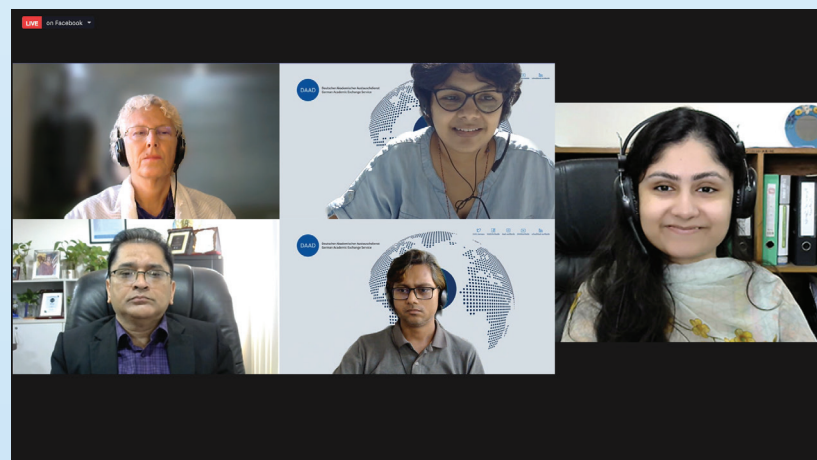


Meeting with Ms. Aditi Gosavi, DAAD

A meeting between North South University (NSU) and DAAD, Germany was held on November 21, 2022. From DAAD, Ms. Aditi Gosavi, Senior Advisor of Communication attended the meeting. From North South University, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), Dr. Javed Bari, Dean, School of Engineering & Physical Sciences, NSU and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA were present in the meeting.



DAAD is a German academic exchange service that works to facilitate international students with higher education opportunities worldwide. As a partner organization of NSU, DAAD has had many meetings and sessions with NSU previously. This meeting particularly focused on their recent initiative 'Falling Walls Lab', which is a platform for young professionals to present and pitch their innovative scientific ideas in front of a



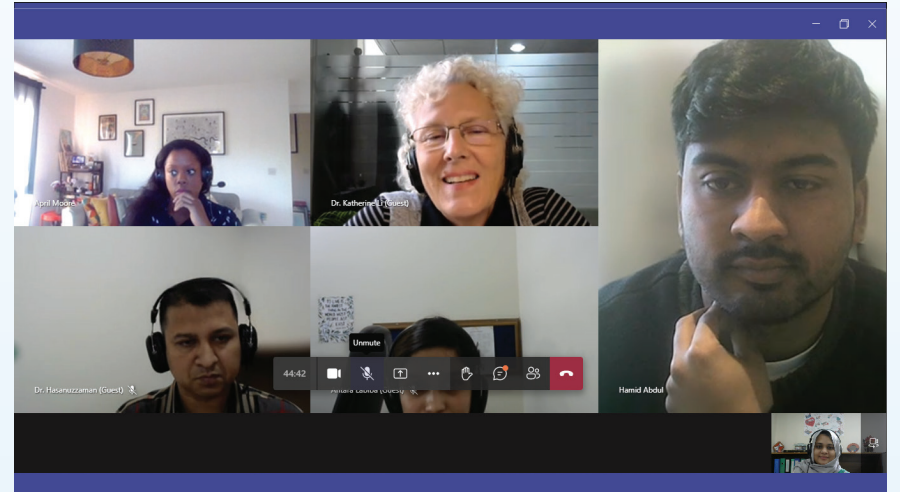
high-caliber jury of experts from academia and business, and the general public. According to the event's website, the aim of the Falling Walls Lab is to provide a diverse and interdisciplinary pool of students, researchers, and early-career professionals with a world-class platform that helps them drive their innovations, develops their communication skills, and connects them with each other, creating a global network and impactful and sustainable community of innovators and change makers. During the meeting, the representative of DAAD introduced the event briefly to the attendees and invited participation from NSUers for the upcoming competition. She explained the application procedure, eligibility criteria and judgment process of the competition in detail for better understanding. She also shared several supporting links and contact information for further knowledge and confusion clarification about their event.

Collaboration Meeting with Delegation of University of Greenwich, UK



A delegation from the University of Greenwich, UK visited North South University (NSU) and attended a courtesy meeting on November 22, 2022. The delegation included Ms. April Moore, Head of International Partnerships and Global Mobility and Mr. Hamid Abdul, International Partnerships Officer. NSU Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA, Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs officer, OEA and Ms. Antara Labiba, OEA attended the meeting.

The main agenda of the meeting was to identify opportunities of collaboration between University of Greenwich and North South University. One of the collaboration opportunities that was emphasized during the discussion was the study abroad program. Through this program, undergraduate students can visit University of Greenwich for one semester or one academic year as a fee paying associate student and receive their transcript from the university. Another highlighted topic was a PG Progression Agreement through which undergraduate students will be able to apply for any relevant Master's programs at the University of Greenwich when they graduate from NSU. Similarly, postgraduate students from NSU can apply for one-year Master's programs at the University of Greenwich. Besides these, the discussion topics included joint research collaboration, two-way short term student exchange programs, summer schools, etc. After evaluating the feasibility of the discussed collaboration areas, the attendees of the meeting agreed that the University of Greenwich would send a draft of an MoU to NSU.



NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 103



The one hundred and third episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on November 23, 2022. As for our guest of this episode, we had Mr. Meaad Chowdhury from the department of Business Administration, batch 2010. After he completed his undergraduate studies, he pursued his career and later, in 2017, received MBA from NSU. Mr. Chowdhury completed his O and A levels from Chittagong and migrated to Dhaka, where he pursued his undergraduate studies at NSU.

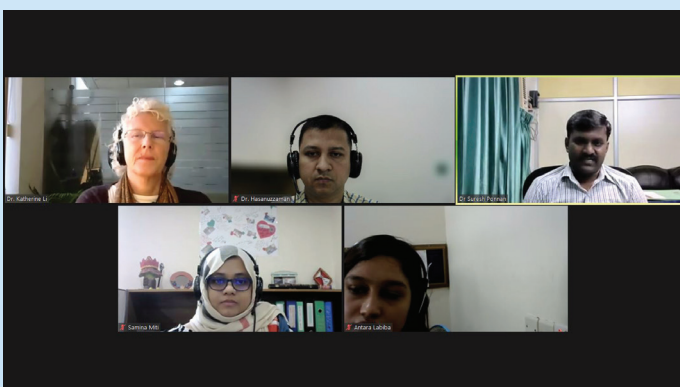
Mr. Chowdhury has worked extensively in the corporate world, specifically in International Trade and Management. He joined Mitsubishi within six months of his internship during his undergraduate studies. Subsequently, he was relocated to the petrochemical market, where he managed the global trading of polypropylene and other materials abroad for almost seven years. He also had a formidable view of Mitsubishi's business transactions with mega-corporations such as Pran-RFL, Akij, and others. Mr Chowdhury is presently focusing on a Mitsubishi shareholder called Mitsubishi Corporation, which currently holds 20% of Mitsubishi Motors Corporation.

Mitsubishi Motors has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to conduct a feasibility study for establishing a manufacturing plant in Bangladesh as part of the company's 2025 expansion plans. The Japanese automotive manufacturer wants to expand its presence in the country because it expects the automobile market to flourish in parallel with the country's economy. Mr. Chowdhury is directly involved in the automobile industry, liaising and facilitating meetings for Mitsubishi with large companies across the country and internationally. Mitsubishi has already invested in numerous projects in Bangladesh, like the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka, contributing as the main contractor and manufacturing the locomotive for the metro-rail project. Mr. Chowdhury believes that a country's social and economic development can be assessed by its automobile sector, as an increase in the number of vehicles reveal the population's disposable income. Mr. Chowdhury is actively monitoring the process with Mitsubishi on challenges such as economic development and increasing employment in Bangladesh. Besides sharing his professional life, Mr. Chowdhury shared his exciting journey at NSU during his undergraduate studies. He revealed that NSU always provided comfort, which convinced him to pursue his MBA at NSU. Mr. Chowdhury reminisced about the campus and its beauty, the diversity at NSU and his emotional attachment and bond with some of his faculty members. Besides excelling at academics, Mr. Chowdhury was a member of the NSU YES club, where he recalls acquiring practical knowledge about professionalism, formal meetings, team and event management, and numerous other things that have benefited his professional and personal life.

Mr. Chowdhury requested students to have an open mind and gain more knowledge where feasible while also encouraging them to read books, having practical and technical expertise, networking with people from different places, and attending various seminars and training. The most significant advice Mr. Chowdhury gave was to have patience and not be frustrated about studies or career life. He strongly recommended students really recognize what they want from life. At the end of the talk show, Mr. Chowdhury confessed he considers himself his role model since this is a driving force for him to strive and accomplish more in hopes that, ten years from now, he would be an individual better—someone he aspires to be today.

To know more about the event, visit the following link
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/705570110735087>

Collaboration Meeting with Vel Tech, India



A courtesy meeting between North South University (NSU) and Vel Tech India was held on November 23, 2022. Dr. P. Suresh, Dean International Relation represented Vel Tech India during the meeting. From NSU, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohai, Assistant Director, OEA, Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA and Ms. Antara Labiba, OEA attended the meeting.



The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the collaboration opportunities between Vel Tech India and NSU. The discussion topics about partnership possibilities included implementation of joint research projects (research collaboration), student, faculty and researcher exchange program, etc. Ms. Labiba started the meeting by presenting a brief overview of NSU. After that, Dr. Li, mentioned and suggested some of the possible areas of collaboration such as joint research, student-faculty exchange programs, etc. after the discussion, Dr. Prithviraj agreed to discuss the possibility of joint research and student exchange program with the administrative authorities and faculties of Vel Tech India.

Collaboration Meeting with University of Waterloo, Canada



A courtesy meeting between North South University (NSU) and the University of Waterloo, Canada took place on November 23, 2022 with the representatives of both the universities. Attendees from the University of Waterloo included Dr. Ian Rowlands, Associate Vice-President, Ms. Amelia Burton, Associate Director and Ms. Marilena Strambu, International Relation Manager. From NSU, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA, Ms. Tasnia Azmeri, Coordination Officer, OEA, Ms. Antara Labiba, OEA and Dr. Shahedul Alam, Professor, Department of Management were present in the meeting.

The main agenda of the meeting was to find opportunities of collaboration between the University of Waterloo and North South University. The discussed topics included joint research project and publication, a two-way student and faculty exchange program, joint certificate program, short-term study tours, etc. the University of Waterloo is very practical learning and entrepreneurial activities focused. As NSU has similar priorities as well, it might be beneficial for both the institutions to work on the application of these concepts in academic structure jointly. In this context, setting sustainable goals and gradually making progress towards greater changes through achieving them were proposed and encouraged by the meeting attendees.

Throughout the discussion, the arrangement of short study tours from both NSU and the University of Waterloo was highlighted as well. The representatives of NSU mentioned that they could offer housing facilities for students from Waterloo for two weeks or one semester. NSU students can also go and visit there, some can be in paid capacity, and other cost can be free of charge. After a thorough discussion, it was decided that the University of Waterloo will get back to NSU about the finalization of the discussed collaborations and partnership after further discussion with relevant stakeholders from their side.



Collaboration Meeting with Ontario Tech University, Canada

A courtesy meeting between North South University (NSU) and Ontario Tech University, Canada was held on November 25, 2022. From Ontario Tech University, Ms. Cristina Preece, International Liaison, International Office attended the meeting. From North South University, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA) and Ms. Antara Labiba, Guest Worker, OEA were present in the meeting.



The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss collaboration opportunities such as joint and collaborative research projects, student and faculty exchange programs, etc. between Ontario Tech University, Canada and NSU. The meeting started with a presentation by Ms. Labiba from OEA presenting a brief overview of North South University. After that, Dr. Li continued with the discussion of possible areas of collaboration such as joint research, student and faculty exchange programs. Based on the aforementioned discussion, Ms. Preece assured to discuss the possibility of joint research with the appropriate authorities and relevant personnel of Ontario Tech University.



Upon evaluating the feasibility of the discussed collaboration areas, the attendees of the meeting agreed that NSU would send a draft of an MoU to Ontario Tech University. This collaboration was initiated by Ms. Carolyn Yeo, Manager, International Office, 1320 Software and Informatics Research Centre (SIRC), Ontario Tech University Dean of Business and Information Technology, Dr. Michael Bliemel. Dr. Bliemel has been in contact with Dean Abdul Hannan Chowdhury regarding signing a possible MOU and exploring some pathways between North South University and Ontario Tech in Commerce.

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 104

The one hundred and fourth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on November 27, 2022. As for our guest for this episode, we had Mr. Inzamal Haque Chowdhury of batch 2011 from the Department of Business Administration. After graduating in 2015, he pursued his career until 2020, when he obtained his MBA from North South University. Mr. Chowdhury completed his higher secondary school in Chittagong and relocated to Dhaka in 2011, where he pursued his undergraduate studies at NSU.

The show commenced with a discussion about Mr. Chowdhury's professional life. After graduating, Mr. Chowdhury worked for three months as a business development executive for a software company called Fast React Systems Ltd. He then served two years at Grameenphone Ltd as a territory manager in four distinct markets.

Mr. Chowdhury had the opportunity to work in divisions such as Mymensingh and Chittagong in addition to Dhaka. He was appointed Product Manager for the Chittagong and Comilla markets, overseeing the product portfolio and revenue management.

Currently, he is working at Grameenphone as a Lead Specialist for Grameenphone's flagship software application, known as the MyGP app, with responsibility for the overall growth of the MyGP app. Mr. Chowdhury was previously in charge of developing a sustainable base for revenue growth through advanced machine learning, contextual marketing, and personalized campaigns. Mr. Chowdhury admitted that to succeed in the telecommunications market, one must have exceptional interpersonal skills, sufficient consultation skills, and adaptability.

Mr. Chowdhury highlighted personal experiences in addition to his professional life. He mentioned that his core focus in life has always been self-improvement, both in his private and professional lives. He specified exploring new work sectors to acquire a brand new collection of skills. Mr. Chowdhury aspires to be a good human being who strives to improve in all aspects of his everyday life.

Toward the end of this episode, Mr. Chowdhury reflected on his roller coaster experience at NSU during his undergraduate studies. Mr. Chowdhury found a home in Dhaka through NSU, during which he ended up struggling in a new city full of false recognition to find peace and tranquility during classes. Every day, he said, was a great learning opportunity, a unique excursion. Mr. Chowdhury described how his education at NSU trained him for real-world experiences such as teamwork, collaborations, job interviews, negotiations, etc. He also acknowledged his achievements at NSU, including first place in the Social Business Competition and rankings in several other business competitions. He revealed that his favorite aspect of NSU was that there would be so much that he could learn from an unknown individual that had a significant effect on him. Mr. Chowdhury concluded the show by reiterating the significance of students assessing their adaptability in various circumstances, communicating effectively with people from eclectic backgrounds, and knowing how to present themselves well. Mr. Chowdhury encouraged the present students and recent graduates of NSU to concentrate on their strengths and ace them to form a strikingly different individual identity that will aid them to prosper. He believes that if one is ethical and follows ethical practices, they are an exemplary individual.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/611052220706201>



Coordination Meeting with UNICEF Bangladesh

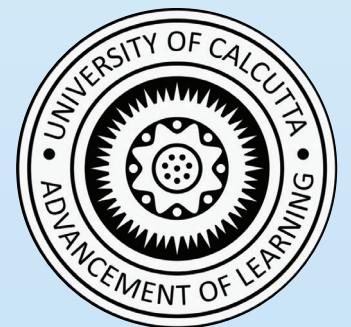


A collaboration meeting between North South University (NSU) and UNICEF Bangladesh was held on November 27, 2022. The attendees of the meeting included Mr. Vedprakash Gautam, Corporate Alliances Specialist, Resource Mobilization and Partnership Unit, Mr. Md Samin Salekin, UNICEF Bangladesh, Prof. Dr. Helal Ahammad, Dean, School of Business & Economics, NSU and Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs.

The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the strategic partnership opportunities between NSU and UNICEF Bangladesh on 'Child Right and Business'. UNICEF Bangladesh is looking for a strategic partnership with a reputed academic institution in the country for strengthening its work on private sector engagement to support various child-focused interventions in Bangladesh. In this regard, the organization expressed interest in an MoU with the School of Business and Economics, North South University, Dhaka. The wing of UNICEF that will be actively participating in this partnership is Child Right and Business Principles (CRBP). The discussed joint projects include creating a national platform for students, academicians and private sector stakeholders to create awareness about CSR activities, initiating a flexible learning opportunity through an online certification course organized by NSU, organizing seminars, conferences, etc. on specific and relevant topics involving key stakeholders from the business ecosystem of Bangladesh, developing and publishing knowledge products like advocacy briefs, information brochures, etc. An MoU has been drafted incorporating the aforementioned discussion topics and is waiting for approval from the appropriate authorities of both sides for the partnership to be formalized. After the MoU is signed at the end of January, 2023, a formal launching event will take place on February 1, 2023 at NSU.

Collaboration Meeting with University of Calcutta, India

A meeting between North South University (NSU) officials and the University of Calcutta, India represented by Dr. Amit Dey, Ashutosh Professor of Medieval India was held on November 28, 2022. The NSU attendees of the meeting included Professor Atiqul Islam, Honorable Vice-Chancellor, NSU, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), Dr. Norman Kenneth Swazo, Director, Office of Research, Dr. M. Emdadul Haq, Professor & Chair, Department of History & Philosophy, Dr. Sharif Uddin Ahmed, Professor, Department of History & Philosophy, and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, Office of External Affairs (OEA).



The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the draft MoU between North South University and the University of Calcutta and define the clauses of the agreement. The MoU is expected to avail plenty of academic, research opportunities and practical exposure for both the universities. Because of being located in the same region, these two universities have a lot in common in terms of demography, history, language and culture. Hence, the representatives of both the universities expected to find plenty of common points of interest between the institutions, both at academic and administrative levels to work on jointly. Further discussion revealed that the curriculum, faculties, departments, research interests, challenges, etc., of North South University and University of Calcutta have significant similarities. In fact, the attendees of the meeting could come up with some common research interest areas instantly, which include climate, environment, river reservation, history, ethics, urbanization, socio-culture, socio-economy, home science, etc. They proposed to follow an innovative and real-life-oriented approach to go about the collaborative projects. Upon discussion, it was also suggested that the collaboration to proceed step by step, involving specific departments and particular projects at a time. As the initially discussed common interest areas are mostly related to the Department of History and Philosophy, the attendees proposed to initiate the primary collab

oration projects involving the aforementioned department and, for that matter, the whole School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Initially, the universities can organize joint virtual workshops and faculty exchange programs; then, eventually can extend the programs towards student exchange, public lectures, seminars, cultural events, and joint research venture and research funds.

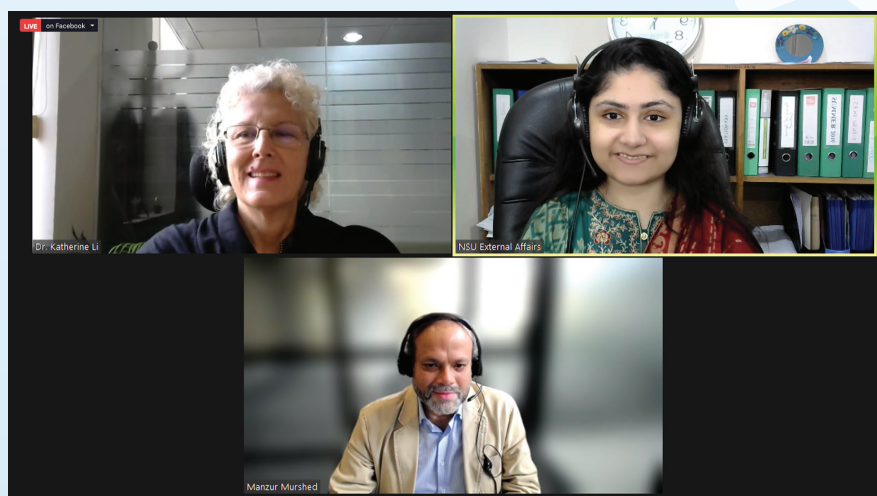
The Honorable Vice Chancellor of NSU, Professor Atiqul Islam, however, emphasized that the official launching of the MoU should be made as soon as possible and the actual execution of the MoU may start with a collaborative cultural event coinciding with the celebration of Pahela Baishakh, Bangla New Year on April 14, 2023, when the Honorable Vice Chancellor of the University of Calcutta might be invited to give a lecture as the Chief Guest accompanied by some faculty and a student's cultural group. The details may be chalked out later on.

Both NSU and the University of Calcutta have previous academic collaborations with several national and international institutions, which provided positive outcomes for them; therefore, they are hopeful of benefitting from this initiative as well in no time. The MoU between the two universities was suggested to be a renewable one so that the beneficial collaboration can be extended upon necessity. The attendees agreed to share the collaboration opportunities and joint project ideas discussed in the meeting with appropriate higher administrative authorities of the respective institutions to decide the further courses of action. They hoped for the arrangement of more such productive meetings involving other stakeholders of the proposed projects and ventures to take their valuable opinion and insights before finalizing the agreements.

The meeting ended on a positive note with key decisions of executing an MoU between North South University and the University of Calcutta as soon as possible. In the MoU besides other clauses, exchange of faculties, exchange of students, and joint cultural program at NSU to start with the celebration of Pohela Boishakh on April 14, 2023 the following should be included.



What's Your Story? Episode 14



The fourteenth episode of 'What's Your Story?' was held on November 29, 2022 and for this episode we had Dr. Manzur Murshed as our guest.

Dr. Manzur Murshed received a BSc. Engineering (Hons) degree in Computer Science and Engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka in 1994 and a PhD degree in computer science from The Australian National University, Canberra in 1999. Currently, he is a Professor of Computer Science at Deakin University. Previously, he served Federation University as the Associate Dean, Research at School of Engineering, Information Technology and Physical Sciences (2019-2022) and a Robert Smith Chair (2014-2018), and Monash University as the Head of Gippsland School of Information Technology (2007-2013). His research interests include video technology, machine learning, wireless communications, Cloud

computing, and security & privacy. He has published 240+ refereed research papers and received \$5.4m competitive research funding, including seven Federal Government grants, and supervised 29 PhDs to completion. He is an Associate Editor (AE) of IEEE TMM and was an AE of IEEE TCSVT.

Dr. Murshed was brought up in Chittagong and studied in a public school in the City. From childhood, he learnt to adjust to and admire diversity as students from completely different backgrounds used to study with him in the school. While reminiscing about his school days, he especially mentioned the cordiality and care that he received from his school teachers because that impacted his further life greatly. Growing up, Dr. Murshed mostly idolized the people present in his surroundings, like his own mother, father and teachers rather than some historical or fictional character he had never met. His idols' hardworking, empathetic and compassionate characteristics always inspired him to grow.

Dr. Murshed's mother and father both were great at mathematics; therefore, his basics of math were very clear, and his interest towards mathematics increased with time. At the same time, the technology used to astonish him. He learnt the basics of programming language even before he started his university from a manual that came with a computer game he bought. Although Computer Science was neither a popular nor familiar subject for higher studies in his time, he chose to pursue his higher education in CSE because of his passion. Dr. Murshed was one of the students of the first intake batch for the CSE Department of BUET. In his time, they had very limited resources like fewer labs, and no personal computer; but their unlimited passion, and guidance of amazing professors led him to today's position.

After his undergraduate, Dr. Murshed was waiting to be accepted for the Commonwealth Scholarship in the UK when one of his professors from BUET introduced him to another famous professor at Australian National University (ANU). Through communicating with the professor, he managed to receive a fellowship at ANU, Australia. That is how his journey of study abroad started. From the early stage of his higher studies journey, Dr. Murshed has been associated with academia, especially with research. He started his research in the field of theoretical computer science but later shifted to cloud computing technology. Currently, he is researching Artificial Intelligence (AI) techniques for encoding visual content, image processing and wireless communications.

As Dr. Murshed has the experience studying in local and international educational institutions, he shared some insights about the differences between the academic structure and curriculum of home and abroad. In his opinion, the main difference is not regarding the teaching contents but regarding the teaching. In Bangladesh, the teachers mostly focus on delivering knowledge rather than exploring it. But the international philosophy of teaching is learning is about exploring. Therefore, they follow an application-based and problem-solving-oriented method to teach.

After completing his higher studies, Dr. Murshed had no intention to settling abroad, but his fate didn't allow him to return to his homeland yet. He had a serious coronary surgery right after completing his higher education and, because of that health complication, had to settle abroad. But he dreams of returning to his homeland someday and do something to serve the underprivileged and disadvantaged people of Bangladesh, especially the students.

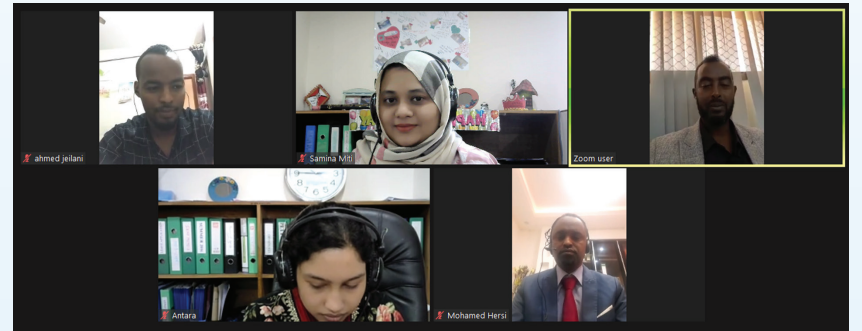
To know more about the event, visit the following link
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/515312317217935>

Collaboration Meeting with University of Hargeisa, Somalia



A meeting between North South University (NSU) and University of Hargeisa, Somalia (UoH) was held on December 05, 2022. From University of Hargeisa, Mr. Ali Mire, Acting Corporate Communication Director and Mr. Warsame M. Ahmed, Director attended the meeting. From North South University, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA, Ms. Antara Labiba, OEA and Mr. Hamse Abdi Hassan, International Student, NSU were present in the meeting.

The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the collaboration opportunities between UoH and NSU. 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. Throughout the discussion, the attendees also emphasized initiating a joint postgraduate program and offering scholarships for postgraduate students of both the universities.



NSU Alumni Professional Development Workshop



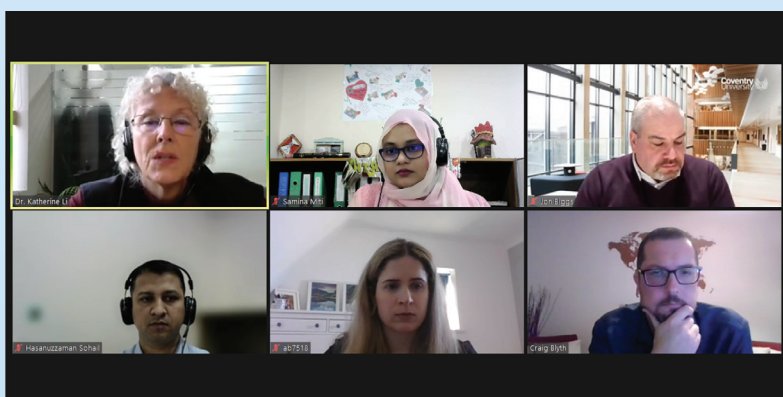
The Office of Alumni Affairs organized its first session of the NSU Alumni Professional Development Workshop Series on December 06, 2022. Mohammad Mizanur Rahman, Director and CTO, Brainstation 23 attended as the speaker of the event. Students from the Engineering School were the participants of this session. Interactive discussions were held regarding academia to industry transformations, career advice, insights on the computer engineering industry and more. Dr. Katherine Li, Director of External Affairs and Dr. Mohammad Monirujjaman Khan, Faculty Advisor, NSU Computer and Engineering club attended the event. The NSU Computer and Engineering club was OEA's partner for this event.

During the event, Mizanur Rahman provided some valuable advice to the students. He mentioned that the industry does not expect a fresh graduate engineer to know all types of coding. He suggested that freshers should learn 1 or 2 coding languages properly, instead of learning all the types altogether and not excelling at any. The event was highly interactive, and the students were delighted to learn firsthand from a senior of their very own university.

The NSU Alumni Professional Development Workshop is an initiative launched by the Office of Alumni Affairs with a goal to reduce the gaps between academia and industry, as well as current and former students of NSU. More sessions will follow in the future.

Follow-up Meeting with Coventry University, UK

A follow-up meeting between North South University (NSU) and Coventry University, UK was held on December 07, 2022. From Coventry University, Dr. Craig Blyth, Associate Dean, School of Health and Life Sciences and Ms. Karen Thomas, Academic Partnership Development Manager attended the meeting. From NSU, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA, Ms. Antara Labiba, OEA, Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA, Dr. Dipak Kumar, Professor, School of Health and Life Sciences and Dr. Mohammad Delwor, Associate Professor and Chair, School of Health and Life Sciences.



The follow-up meeting was organized in continuation of the previous discussion between the representatives of NSU and Coventry University. The main agenda of this meeting was to further the exploration of opportunities for partnership between the two universities. Some collaboration scopes discussed in the meeting include joint research projects and publications, a two-way student and faculty exchange program, summer school, Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) projects, etc. This meeting mainly focused on the joint project opportunities of the School of Health and Life Sciences of the concerned universities. In this regard, Dr. Blyth suggested the Public Health Department's students from Coventry University to come Bangladesh for their internships with an NGO that works on public health issues. He also proposed implementing programs like a Summer School where the School of Public Health students from North South University would visit Coventry University for two weeks for experience. After a thorough discussion about the possible collaboration areas, it was decided that North South University will send an MoU draft to Coventry University for reviewing and formalization of the partnership.

Collaboration Meeting with BUET



Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology

A meeting between North South University (NSU) and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology

(BUET) was held on December 08, 2022. The attendees of the meeting included, Prof. Muhammad Anisuzzaman Talukder, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Prof. A S MD Abdul Haseeb, Department of Glass and Ceramic Engineering

(GCE) from BUET and Prof. Javed Bari, Dean, School of Engineering & Physical Sciences (SEPS), Prof. Mohammad Abdul Matin, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Prof. M. Shazzad Hosain, Director, NSU Startups Next, Prof. Mamun Molla, Research Coordinator, School of Engineering and Physical Sciences (SEPS), Prof. M. Rashedur Rahman, Professor & Graduate Coordinator, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA from NSU.

The main agenda of the meeting was the introduction of the Research and Innovation Centre for Science and Engineering (RISE), BUET and a discussion of possible collaboration opportunities between the institute and NSU. The representatives of BUET mentioned that, through this research wing, BUET is transitioning towards being more research-intensive and has already collaborated with several local and international universities and research institutes. As the continuation of their outreach and research collaboration process, the institute is interested in collaborating with NSU.

Responding to the collaboration proposal from RISE, BUET, the attendees of the meeting provided an overview of the previous and ongoing research projects as well as research interest areas of NSU. Professors and Research Coordinators from different schools and departments of NSU mentioned some department specific research interests and topics in this regard. Some of such topics are – energy crisis, machine learning, environmental engineering, block chain, water resources, biomedical engineering, robotics, wireless communication, etc. During the meeting, the attendees not only discussed the joint research projects but also considered the collection, allocation, availability and sharing policy of research grants as well as the post-research publication method. Moreover, the possibility of collaborative entrepreneurship projects between the departments of the two universities was also discussed in the meeting. Finally, a draft MoU was provided from NSU for review and suggestion of customization upon necessity by the meeting attendees or appropriate authority.

Celebration of 200+ MoUs and 100+ Alumni Talk Shows

The Office of External Affairs celebrated the achievements of 200+ MoUs and 100+ Alumni Talk Shows on December 08, 2022. The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Professor Atiqul Islam, Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. M. Ismail Hossain and the Academic and Administrative Heads participated in the celebration. Discussions were held regarding how to make more effective utilization of the active MoUs, how to increase alumni engagements in a fruitful manner, and possible cross-departmental collaborations in the upcoming days.

The Director of Office of External Affairs (OEA) Dr. Katherine Li delivered a detailed speech and clarified about how the OEA functions and what are its contributions to North South University (NSU).



Session on Bangladesh and Canada in the 21st Century with the University of Saskatchewan, Canada



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN



North South University's Office of External Affairs (OEA) arranged an information session with the University of Saskatchewan on the 11th of December, 2022. From the University of Saskatchewan, Dr. Ken Coates, professor and Canada Research Chair in Regional Innovation at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Saskatchewan campus. Along with Dr. Coates, Dr. Carin Holroyd, an Associate Professor of Political Studies and the Chair of the International Studies Program at the University of Saskatchewan, was also present. From North South University, Prof. Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA); Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA; Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA and Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer,

OEA were present in the meeting. The session was conducted at the North South University at AUDD801, with the university's students as audiences for the session.

The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the collaboration opportunities between NSU and the University of Saskatchewan. Shared interests and partnership possibilities identified through discussion were joint research and publication, two-way student exchange, collaborative seminars, etc. Both universities offer some exclusive academic programs, which can be a point of interest for students pursuing higher education. Moreover, through discussion, it was identified that both universities have extensive partnerships with national and international organizations and educational institutions, which can strengthen both parties. Additionally, the universities have a strong presence in research and have established collaborations with other universities in various research fields. The attendees discussed and explored partnership opportunities like research collaboration, student exchange, faculty and researcher exchange, joint degree offering, etc. Furthermore, NSU and the University of Saskatchewan discussed organizing collaborative conferences, seminars and workshops for students and faculties of both universities during the meeting.



Dr. Li introduced the speakers, Dr. Coates and Dr. Holroyd, briefly describing their academic and career lives. Following the introduction, Dr. Coates discussed different ways university professors can help students with their applications and queries regarding relevant courses or majors. He had shown significant interest in having students from Bangladesh move to Canada for higher studies and experience the cultural variations and differences abroad. On top of that, he mentioned the lack of knowledge about Bangladesh and the history and culture of South Asia, granted that he and Dr. Holroyd had extensively studied and researched History and Asian Studies. Dr. Coates proceeded to discuss the cultural differences between Bangladesh and Canada. He then put forth his observations about Bangladeshi students living in Canada and advised them to socialize in different communities rather than just on their own. In addition to that, during the session, Dr. Coates shared his discernment regarding the unemployment rate of graduates, nearly 50%, and the lack of job offers. He ended his speaking session with keenness and excitement about the hike in many interested students who wish to travel to Canada for their graduate studies.

Dr. Holroyd was welcomed to the stage to speak. She commenced by elaborating on how to reach out to the professors relevant to their fields of interest or majors and the customs and regulations. Dr. Holroyd urged the students to thoroughly check the websites of the universities before reaching out and spamming the professors with unnecessary emails. She emphasized improving language skills, learning a new language, and developing an advanced vocabulary.

Furthermore, Dr. Holroyd highlighted the importance of extracurricular activities and practical lessons on different life skills alongside academics. In addition to that, she mentioned the negative repercussions of applying to universities through agents. Dr. Holroyd ended her speech by encouraging students from the audience to pursue fields they are interested in and to reach out to her or Dr. Coates for any queries or help.

The informative lecture on higher studies was delivered successfully, followed by a lively question-and-answer session. The students asked various questions regarding higher studies abroad, scholarship opportunities, internships, entry-level prospects, visa applications and job opportunities in Canada. Dr. Li delivered the closing remarks and presented Dr. Coates and Dr. Holroyd with a small token of gratitude.



Information Session with Laurentian University, Canada

North South University's Office of External Affairs (OEA) arranged a virtual information session with Laurentian University, Canada on December 15, 2022. We had Ms. Xuan Zhao, Manager of International Recruitment and Student Service, Laurentian University with us as the speaker during the session. From OEA, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer OEA attended the session. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and streamed via Facebook Live on the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.



During the session, the guest presented an overview of Laurentian University as well as the region and country it is situated in – Sudbury, Canada. Canada has a unique and robust economic situation and is one of the largest hubs of health, education, mining, finance, retail, etc., in the world. The country is culturally enriched and industrially highly developed. They use English and French – the most popular international languages as their official language. Alongside world-class educational institutes, quality education and ample job opportunities, the country also provides a multicultural society, a safe environment and a welcoming community for immigrants. It is also easy to achieve work permits in Canada as the country is looking for bright young students and professionals. Moreover, the region ensures a comfortable living environment with higher income and affordable expenses for livelihood.

Laurentian University is one of the most well-established and renowned universities of Sudbury, Canada. The university has nearly 9,500 students enrolled in different programs and more than 600 international students from 73 countries worldwide. Laurentian University has an enriched and modernized curriculum containing 106 academic programs under

four faculties:– Arts, Education and Health, Management, Science, Engineering and Architecture. The university highly promotes experiential learning; therefore, it avails the opportunity of degree combination and customization regarding majors and minors in order to ensure the specialization of their students in their desired and industry-appropriate subject areas. Such timely and advanced academic structures result in a high employment rate of the graduates of the university. According to a recent survey, the current employment rate for the graduates of Laurentian University is 97%.

Alongside providing an overview of Laurentian University as well as the entire Canada, the guest shared some crucial information about the admission process, and credit transfer process, requirements, intakes and deadlines for enrollment in their undergraduate programs. Mentioning the three types of postgraduate programs (master's degree, doctoral degree, graduate diploma) offered by the university, Ms. Zhao also shared the program details of each of them with the audience. In that regard, she highlighted the importance of the desired subject area-oriented research experience or publication for better chance of acceptance in post-graduate programs. Afterwards, she presented a clear picture of their tuition fees plan, financial aid and scholarship opportunities for a better understanding of the audience. During the event, she also informed about the support and wellness facilities and residence offerings of Laurentian University. Finally, the session ended with an interactive Q&A segment when Ms. Zhao received questions from the audience and answered them sincerely.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/524456869703123>

MoU Signing Ceremony with BSMRAAU



North South University (NSU) signed an MoU agreement with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation and Aerospace University (BSMRAAU) on December 18, 2022. A high-level delegation from BSMRAAU headed by the Vice-Chancellor, Air Vice Marshal ASM Fakhruul Islam, visited NSU to meet with the Vice-Chancellor of NSU, Dr. Atiqul Islam, and his delegation to formalize and sign the agreement.

BSMRAAU is the first public university in Bangladesh in the field of Aviation and Aerospace. NSU is the first private university in Bangladesh pioneering education in the country. Through this MoU agreement, BSMRAAU and NSU aim to establish joint research collaboration, the teaching of academic courses and other academic collaborations. After the MOU signing, a joint discussion was held between the two teams on future directions and next steps.

Pro-Vice Chancellor of NSU, Dr. Ismail Hossain, Pro-Vice Chancellor of BSMRAAU, Air Commodore Mohammad Monjur Kabir Bhuiyan, Distinguished Expert of BSMRAAU, Air Vice Marshal (Retired) Mahmud Hussain, and other delegates addressed the meeting and shared their thoughts on growing the collaboration between the two universities.



NGO Talk Show Episode 27

The twenty-seventh episode of the 'NGO Talk Show' aired on December 19, 2022, with one of the government-registered NGOs of Bangladesh – Research, Training and Management (RTM) International. The event title was 'Developing Bangladesh: Scope for Research' with Research, Training and Management (RTM) International. The keynote speaker for this episode was Dr. Nazrul Islam, Director, Research & Evaluation. From North South University (NSU), Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs, was present as a Special Guest, and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA, hosted the live talk show.



The event commenced with a brief introduction of the key speaker's academic and professional background. Dr. Islam has obtained a PhD in Political Science. Before joining RTM International, Dr. Islam was a program officer in Population and Development (PPD). He has 17 years of experience in program development and management, communication and research for eradicating poverty, health system strengthening and population development for attaining the global population and reproductive health agenda for sustainable development. He has been highly influential in overseeing multi-county program development and implementation financed by various contributors like UNFPA, SSCAF, World Bank, Packard Foundation, Hewlett Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Gillespie Foundation, DFID/UKAID, USAID, European Commission, and Bi-lateral Governments Projects. Moreover, his book on Decentralized Governance, Transparency, and Social Capital has been massively popular among students and scholars.

As the event preceded, Dr. Islam shared the history and establishment of RTM International and then continued to discuss its mission, goals and initial journey. The NGO was established as an independent NGO in 1994 with the name 'JSI Research and Training Institute, Bangladesh (JSI Bangladesh)' and as an affiliate of John Snow Incorporated, a leading public health organization assimilated in the USA. In 2004, JSI USA phased out its financial support. JSI Bangladesh was renamed to 'Research, Training and Management (RTM) International' with the approval of its registration authority in Bangladesh to provide high-quality technical and information aid to the institutions working in the education, healthcare and environmental development sectors for the strategy, execution and evolution of regional capacity. RTM International works as a sustainable entity with 'business' linkages and associations with multiple donors and government and private sector institutions. Through the years, RTM International has built a human resource pool of professionals with diversified backgrounds and experience in development specialization. Furthermore, it has established a strong working association with resources from different development areas whose prowess could be utilized quickly.

Barring the objectives and activities of RTM International, Dr. Islam also conveyed his insights on the roles of NGOs in the development of Bangladesh. NGOs have played a significant role in healthcare, education, climate migration, women empowerment and many more. He further discussed and acknowledged the people's contribution and involvement in developing civil society in Bangladesh, predominantly in primary education, women's education and independence, and so on. He goes on to acknowledge the contribution of NGOs to remote localities and provide them with a multitude of resources, especially primary healthcare.

During the latter part of the show, Dr. Islam discussed numerous reasons why Bangladesh's development is an attraction to research centers abroad. According to him, the fast-paced growth of the healthcare and education sectors is only possible with the NGOs' immeasurable contribution. Dr. Islam noted that RTM international already has experience working with students and researchers from several renowned universities. He then concluded with a warm welcome for a collaboration between RTM International and NSU for employment-oriented training, field experience, collaborative research, and knowledge exchange through an understanding or partnership.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/891095125229765>

Research Talks by Prof. Muhammad Moshfique Uddin, Leeds University, UK



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

North South University's Office of External Affairs (OEA) hosted talks given by Prof. Muhammad Moshfique Uddin, University of Leeds, UK, on December 19, 2022. He is the Chair of Financial Management, Departmental Director of Internationalization, Department of Accounting and Finance of the University of Leeds. From North South University, Dr. Katherine Li, Director of Office of External Affairs, Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA, attended the event.

Throughout the session, the speaker presented an overview of the University of Leeds, including its foundation, location, academic structure, student facilities, research opportunities, exchange programs, etc. Session I was called 'Research Proposal with Prospective PhD Candidates', in which Prof. Uddin shared his advice to young NSU graduates of NSU on writing a thesis and research proposal for PhD to universities. Prof. Uddin urged the graduates to go through recent publications and think about challenging topics of the current world, along with their theoretical contributions. He asked the students to be thoroughly informed about their issues and to remain determined, serious and innovative. Prof. Uddin advised the students to select multi-country data as the data quality would be higher and more meticulous. Moreover, multi-disciplinary or cross-work/research has a higher chance of being approved because of its quality and impact. He noted that for methodology, supervisors always search for students who excel in econometric techniques and softwares, like STATA, R and SPSS. Highlighting such abilities in the proposal increases the probability of the research proposal being authorized, mentioned the speaker. Session I concluded with a question-answer session where the students enquired about practical implications, emotional/motivational guidance, application requirements and eligibility, tackling different majors and many more.



Session II was called 'Exporting by Private Equity-Backed Portfolio Companies', which commenced shortly after a break. In session II, Prof. Uddin presented a presentation on research he had conducted about how private equities assist companies in entering the international market with exports. The purpose of the study was to encourage people in Bangladesh and abroad to set up private equities and boost money circulation and productivity for the interest of Bangladesh. The research objective was also to show the impact of private equalities on portfolio companies, and it is known that they focus on profitability. The research showed that private equities help to change underperforming employees to outperforming and that companies with private equities investments perform better during recessions. Moreover, Prof Uddin also demonstrated data which revealed that private equities support companies to overcome crises and enable firms to be more resilient during such circumstances. Then he presented the determinants of exports, exporting by private equity-backed firms and board characteristics, data and descriptive statistics from his presentation. Prof. Uddin concluded his research with the hypothesis that private equities increase the export and performance of a company, as supported by his data.

The information session was concluded by discussing possible MoU and partnerships between NSU and the University of Leeds, UK. Possible collaborative PhD supervision, exchange master's programs with proper residence, active research collaboration, joint funding and credit exchange was also identified for both universities, which can benefit both parties and their students if they work together. Dr Katherine Li delivered the closing speech and presented Prof. Uddin with a small token of gratitude from the Office of External Affairs.

Introductory Meeting with Bangladesh Institute of Social Research (BISR) Trust

A virtual meeting between Bangladesh Institute of Social Research (BISR) Trust and the Office External Affairs (OEA) of North South University (NSU) held on December 20, 2022. The attendees of the meeting included Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA, Dr. M. Khurshed Alam, Chairman, BISR Trust, Ms. Sarmin Akhter, Senior Research Associate, BISR Trust, Ms. Navira Azmi, Communication & Research Officer, BISR Trust, Mr. Md. Parvez Hasan Yousuf, Research Associate, South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SAIPG), NSU and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA, NSU.



The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the present work of BISR Trust for the development of our country and the possible collaboration opportunities



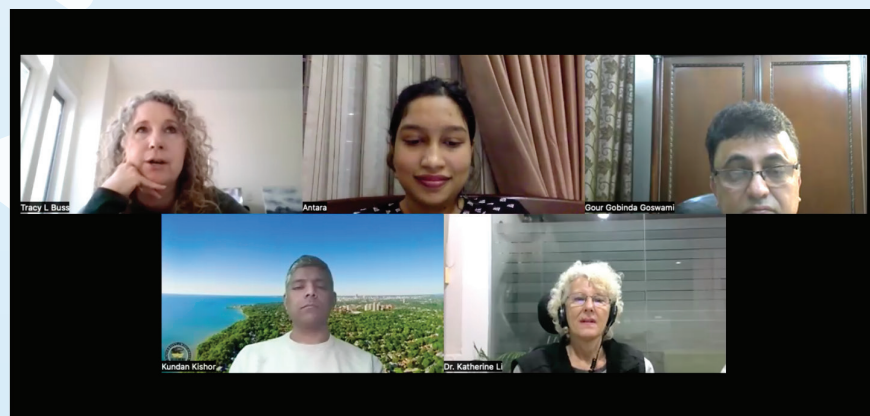
with NSU in terms of joint research, publication, research funding, student internships, and training opportunities. While talking about the organization, the representatives of BISR Trust informed that it is an independent, non-profit, non-party multi-disciplinary think tank which aims to conduct research on various fundamental and critical contemporary, socio-economic and environmental issues of Bangladesh like social and gender, economy, environmental and climate change, crime and human rights, peasant and labor, etc. The organization mainly focuses on research and adheres to the need-based and problem-oriented research including action and pilot research. As BISR Trust's operational focuses complement the research interest of NSU, ample opportunities for successful research collaboration, joint publication, research projects, joint research proposals for external funding between the two institutes were found through discussion during the event. Before confirming a successful and formal collaboration, both the parties attending the meeting felt the necessity of further discussion involving relevant administrative and academic bodies from both sides. Therefore, another meeting was proposed to finalize the partnership between BISR Trust and NSU.

Follow-up Meeting with University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, USA



The second follow-up meeting between North South University (NSU) and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, USA (UWM) was held on December 22, 2022. The attendees of the meeting included Dr. Tracy Buss, Associate Director for International Partnership and Market Development and Dr. Kundon Kishor, Professor and Chair, Department of Economics from UWM and Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), Ms. Antara Labiba, OEA and Prof. Gour Gobinda Goswami, Professor, Department of Economic from NSU.

The agenda of the meeting was to discuss further the collaboration opportunities between the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and North South University. For joint projects or partnerships between the two universities, the topics of interest include the development of dual degree programs, short-term faculty-led programs, PG progression agreement, joint research collaboration, joint funding and publications for projects, joint PhD supervision, etc. Under the PG progression agreement, Bachelors' program students from NSU can easily apply for any relevant Master's program in UWM after graduation. Dr. Buss highlighted the Dual Degree Model, where students might start a program at their institution and finish their last year at UWM. She also expressed interest in short-term faculty-led programs so there may be opportunities for faculty members from different departments, especially Economics to lead the study abroad programs. Further discussion in this regard revealed that in several areas of research interests of the researchers of the Economics Department, NSU matches with the Economics' researchers of UWM. Therefore, a joint research seminar presentation was proposed to align the research interests better.



Upon a thorough discussion about the aforementioned topics, it was decided that UWM would send a draft MoU to NSU for reviewing and finalization. Moreover, Professor Goswami and Professor Kishor will exchange and review information on the MS Economics curriculum for a potential dual Master's degree agreement.

Ambassador Talk Series, Session 1: Ambassador of Royal Bhutanese Embassy, Dhaka

Ambassador Talk Series, Session: 1 was jointly organized by the Center for Peace Studies-CPS, SPPG, North South University and the Office of External Affairs - OEA at North South University on December 22, 2022. The key speaker and the event's chief guest was H.E. Mr. Rinchen Kuentsyl, Ambassador of the Royal Bhutanese Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh. From North South University, Professor Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Director, South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SPPG), Professor Salahuddin M. Aminuzzaman Adviser South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SPPG), Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA and Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA were present at the event.



The event commenced with a brief introduction of His Excellency Ambassador Rinchen Kuentsyl from Dr. Li. According to the website of the Bhutanese Embassy, Ambassador Rinchen Kuentsyl was born on July 1, 1971, in Tsakaling village in Mongar, eastern Bhutan. He holds a Master's Degree in International Policy and Practice from George Washington University, the United States, and a Bachelor's Degree (Honor's) in English Literature from Sherubtse College, Kanglung, Bhutan. Ambassador Rinchen Kuentsyl started his career as a trainee officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from which he was then posted to the Royal Bhutanese Embassy in New Delhi as a Third Secretary and subsequently as a Counselor (Political Section) at the Permanent Mission of Bhutan to the UN in Geneva, Switzerland, from 2010 to 2013. He also bore several posts at Headquarters, including as Chief of the Asia Division and Deputy Chief of the Policy Planning Division. He served as Director for the Department of SAARC and Regional Organizations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before being appointed Ambassador of Bhutan to Bangladesh. He is the 13th Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The topic of the talk series was 'Gross National Happiness - Bhutan's Development Philosophy'.



The 4th King of Bhutan, King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, first used the terminology 'Gross National Happiness' in 1972 when he declared that, "Gross National Happiness is more essential than Gross Domestic Product." The concept insinuates that sustainable development should take a holistic approach towards visions of progress and give equal importance to non-economic elements of well-being. His Excellency noted that since then, the notion of Gross National Happiness (GNH) has impacted Bhutan's social and economic approach and has also captured the imagination of nations overseas. In designing the Gross National Happiness Index, Bhutan aimed to create a measurement tool for measuring happiness that would be useful for formulating policy and providing incentives for the country's enterprises, NGOs, and government to increase GNH.

It is a holistic assessment of the population's overall well-being in Bhutan rather than a subjective psychological order of 'happiness' alone, as perceived by the Ambassador. The GNH Index includes nine domains: Psychological Well-being, Health, Education, Time Use, Good Governance, Cultural Diversity, Living standards, Community Vitality and Ecological diversity and Resilience. The Government of Bhutan's Centre for Bhutan Studies modified and

released an updated GNH index with 33 indicators in the nine domains. The four pillars of GNH—Good Governance, Sustainable Socio Economic Development, Cultural Preservation, and Environmental Conservation—have commonly been used to characterize the philosophy. The four pillars have been further separated into nine domains to convey a comprehensive knowledge of GNH and to illustrate the full range of GNH principles. The nine domains are comparably weighted because each part is equally important as a constituent of GNH. The 33 indicators are normatively significant, statistically reliable, and easily interpreted by broad audiences.

His Excellency further discussed that the government of Bhutan formulated the GNH measure to meet various requirements for an official national measure of happiness that is important to national and ward policy. It aims to more precisely and genuinely represent the happiness and overall well-being of the Bhutanese community more than a monetary metric. Bhutan's objectives and Buddhist notions of happiness are far more inclusive than those used to define "happiness" in Western literature. In July 2012, inspired by Bhutan's development philosophy of GNH, the UN passed a resolution declaring March 20 would be observed as the International Day of Happiness annually. The philosophy and aspects of GNH as a development framework have been promoted, supported and propagated by the previous and the current kings of Bhutan.

The informative talk series on Gross National Happiness (GNH) was then followed by a lively question and answer session. Professor Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Director, South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG), delivered the closing speech and then presented His Excellency Ambassador Rinchen Kuentsyl, with a small token of gratitude with Prof. Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/center.for.peace.studies/videos/850374179550955>

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 105

The one hundred and fifth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on December 29, 2022. We had Ms. Diti Roy Chowdhury, an alumna of North South University from the Department of Business Administration, Batch 2010. She completed her undergraduate studies in 2013 and pursued a Masters' of Business Administration at NSU in 2015. She started her professional career in 2014 at the largest advertising agency in Bangladesh - Asiatic Marketing Communications Limited as the Manager of Brand Communications. After working for 5 years in the marketing sector, her professional journey took a sudden shift as she switched to the development sector and joined Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) as the Program Associate of Adolescents' Nutrition project. She worked at GAIN for three years before joining BRAC. Currently, Ms. Chowdhury is working as a Project Lead at BRAC.



As mentioned earlier, Ms. Chowdhury's professional journey so far has been quite adventurous and diverse. Being a marketing major, she started her career in the marketing field and continued in the sector for 5 years. According to her, while working in the Brand Communication department of Asiatic Marketing Communications Limited, she could nurture her creative self. Her responsibility as a marketer was to plan and execute marketing campaigns. Eventually, she realized that her marketing-related knowledge, skills and understanding could be used to bring social changes. Gradually she grew an interest in behavioral change and communication. As the best platform to work on her newly realized interests was the development sector, therefore, she switched to join there.

Currently, Ms. Chowdhury is associated with BRAC as the Project Lead of the online safety project of BRAC. In this project, Meta is working in partnership with BRAC. The project works for women's and youth's safety on online platforms. Under the project, they try to create safety and privacy tool awareness by organizing training in an interactive manner. The training participants include BRAC employees and 60 youth ambassadors. Ms. Chowdhury has been working on it for the past year. She mentioned that it had been a great experience for her to work on such a sensitive yet necessary issue of present times.

Besides her project, Ms. Chowdhury also shared some insights about the other youth-related projects of BRAC with the audience. She mentioned that youth is a key component for BRAC as the organization wants to ensure maximum youth participation in community improvement-based activities. Their projects focus on the adaptation of the timely skill sets, moral values, improved leadership, unity, community-based leadership, etc. As Ms. Chowdhury works closely with the digital platform safety-based projects, she shared some challenges they face in standardizing the safety measures. She mentioned that they are still working on creating awareness about the proper adaptation of digital platforms, training of precautionary measures, limit and control access, data provision, tools and settings, positive uses, etc.

In addition to her professional experiences, Ms. Chowdhury shared some fond memories from her student life at NSU with the audience. Her enrollment at NSU was influenced by her elder brother who is also alumnus of the university. During her campus life, she was involved in several extracurricular activities and

enjoyed the time to the fullest. The diversity, culture and environment of NSU always amazed and excited her. Moreover, she loved the interactive and experiential way of teaching of the faculty members of NSU. In fact, she was so inspired by the teaching style of her faculties at NSU that she tried to implement the methods in her training sessions. In her opinion, NSU laid the foundation for her further career and personal life journey. It made her empowered and confident, and taught her to respect and follow moral values.

To know more about the event, visit the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1321545548694929>

International Faculty Feature



Allen Stewart holds an MA in Foreign Language Teaching from Bogazici University (Istanbul, Turkey), a TESOL Certificate and a BA in History from Baldwin Wallace University. Before coming to Dhaka, Allen was a Virtual English Language Fellow in Thailand and has taught ESL/EFL for over 10 years in Ethiopia, South Korea, Poland, and Turkey. He began his teaching career with the English Program in Korea (EPJK). Since then, he has taught a range of courses, such as Business English, Military English, and Academic English to students at public and international schools, adults at private institutions/academies, and undergraduate students at universities. Allen is currently working at North South University (NSU) as an English Language Fellow (ELF), U.S. State Department.

Interviewer: How did you move from an interest in History to an interest in English?

Allen Stewart: When I was back in university, I always wanted to travel, though being in Ohio, I was not aware of many options. I was not even sure about how to get a passport. Though since I was working in the Student Affairs office during my senior year, I was in close proximity to the International Student Affairs office. The director at the time was from China, and it was her that informed me about the option for teaching English abroad as a means for traveling. After graduation, I applied for my passport and started applying for English

teaching jobs in Japan and Korea. The week I got my passport, I had an interview and an offer from a company in Korea. Within a week of having the interview, I was in Seoul. By the end of my first year, I became more interested in being an English teacher and I started working on a TESOL certificate.

Interviewer: What made you choose to study at Bogazici University? Tell us about your experience there? What differences did you notice between the American and Turkish education systems?

Allen Stewart: I chose Bogazici because they had a program conducted in English. At the time I joined Istanbul University, part of my goal was to take classes towards a masters, yet they did not offer any programs in English. When I learned that Bogazici had a program in English. I immediately signed up. I was somewhat fortunate because I did it during the pandemic. So I can say I was productive with my time. It also helped that the US provided stimulus payments to the citizenry. I was able to use that money to fund my degree. It would not have been possible to do something like that in the US, as university costs are so high.

My experience while doing the degree was pleasant as the courses were done completely in English and the classes were small. We were only around 12 in every class. Plus, as the native English language user, I had different perspectives that I could bring to the class. It helped because the professors would often ask my input in class as our classes covered teaching and learning English. My only caveat was that there was never an in-person meeting. Outside of the graduation ceremony, I never got to meet any of my classmates.

As for the differences between the American and Turkish systems, it is difficult to compare them as I can only speak from seeing certain aspects of both systems. In America, public schools are not highly respected, whereas they are in Turkey. Public schools are well funded and the brightest students usually attend them. As for university, it is the same. Most students aim to enter a public university as it is free and offers good education. Private schools can be seen in a positive light, though outside of a very select few, the majority of them are cash cows and do not offer quality education. In the US, the population is so much bigger that they can afford to have many universities. Perhaps living in Istanbul, I came across so many new universities that it nearly didn't make sense.

Interviewer: How have you been able to work in so many different places and what interests you about international education?

Allen Stewart: Being a native English language user from the US opened some doors for me. Once I had a TESOL, it allowed me to apply to other positions outside of language schools. Now that I have a MA, that has allowed me to apply for even more opportunities. I enjoy learning and being in other cultures. As a Black American, I get to help educate others about my culture because many are either not exposed to it, or only experience certain aspects of it without the necessary context. In addition, I look at providing a different perspective towards education that a local teacher may not be able to offer. I find that through collaboration in culture, education becomes easier. Especially in the sense of using English. I try to get students to visualize the identity that they wish to express when they communicate in English. From that, it becomes a motivation factor as well as a goal that students can achieve.

Interviewer: What are the challenges and rewards that come with teaching TESOL courses?

Allen Stewart: During my time at North South University, I have learned that one of the major challenges comes from the manner that students were educated before they came to university. In the previous semester I taught ENG 102 and ENG 103. In both classes, many of the students expected me to tell them everything. Many

did not read the text or come prepared for classes on an informed level. It was challenging for me, as any activities that I had planned were not as productive as they could have been due to the student participation. I tried to instill the idea that my classroom is an experience and not a lecture. As such, student participation was vital. It took over a month into the semester before more students started to show signs of becoming more active learners. I could say that a reward was to see that progression was happening, little by little. Therefore, when they advance to higher level courses, I may be able to recognize a dramatic growth from where they started, and they themselves would be able to acknowledge it. Being able to help a student achieve mastery of the language would be the goal.

Interviewer: How did you become an ELF?

Allen Stewart: I had learned about the ELF program back in 2014. When I looked at applying the only issue was a lack of a Master's degree. Once I was in my final semester of my program, I applied with the knowledge that I would be successful in completion. During the interview, it helped that I had lots of international experience. Having taught in different countries and cultures was something that seemed to stand out. In addition, my background in performance also contributed to my outlook in English education.

Interviewer: What made you decide to come to Bangladesh? How is your experience so far?

Allen Stewart: I was fortunate enough to match with the embassy here in Dhaka. From then, I was set to come. I had only known of Bangladesh for producing the world's clothes. So a goal of mine was to get a new wardrobe and find local factories that produced clothes. I figured by the end of my time, I may have been able to start a fashion line that could be exported to other countries.

As for my experience so far, it has been acceptable. I have spent a lot of time near the campus working. I have been able to experience some local events, such as going to see comedy. Though I am unaware of any museums or libraries. One goal that I started was to document my experience here. I started a YouTube channel, where I share my experiences in a weekly recap. I also have been able to share some rides around the city as well as some local performances.

Knowing that there is a media department, they are aware that I would like to collaborate with them in producing content both for the NSU community, the general Bangladeshi community, as well as including the international community. I have proposed some ideas, yet since the department is so new, they have informed me to wait as they are not ready.

Interviewer: How are you adjusting to NSU? What are your impressions?

Allen Stewart: My adjustment has been reasonably good. I do miss a few things, like a dishwasher, but things are reasonable. The housing is spacious, and close to the office and classes. I would like to use the fitness center more, though with my schedule it has been difficult. I find that the students are good people and the faculty and staff are kind and helpful. Everyone whom I have crossed paths with has been pleasant.

Interviewer: What inspires you about working in higher education?

Allen Stewart: Being able to help students learn what they desire is a great thing. In secondary school, most students only focus on getting good grades and do not focus on learning. When one enters tertiary education, that restriction is lifted and the student is therefore able to aspire to further heights as they are encouraged and challenged mentally. As I have only dealt with incoming freshers, many still maintain that mentality. Thus it is my duty to help change the idea of only getting a good grade as the standard. Promoting the elevation of one's learning and achieving mastery over subjects would be the challenge. Yet, it is our responsibility to produce a learned community, which in turn can lead the public into prosperity.

Interviewer: What do you hope to accomplish while you are at NSU?

Allen Stewart: To know that I have made a difference in someone's pursuit of knowledge, be it of themselves or of some other aspect. Being fortunate to be in this great university, my hope is that my contributions are worthy of the institution. I understand that NSU's outlook is that it prepares future leaders. So, I hope that by students taking part in my classes, it may help to provide some guidance towards that day when they are able to realize a different definition of freedom and have the responsibility to act with grace and integrity.

Interviewer: What are your goals for the future?

Allen Stewart: I am unsure at the moment. I am happy teaching here, yet my position has a time constraint. Perhaps I will have more knowledge on the subject when the time of completion grows closer. Though one thing I do know, and that is that I would like to remain in international education.

Alumni Feature

Minhaz Remo is the founder of Functional Performance. He is a senior coach at international franchise F45, Former Head Coach of another International Franchise, Tapout Fitness Dhaka. He is a certified strength and conditioning coach and nutrition specialist under International Sports Science Association (ISSA) and National Council for Certified Personal Trainer (NCCPT). He also holds a 2nd Degree Black Belt under International Taekwon-Do Federation, ITF, and has been national champion several times. He slowly transitioned into Kickboxing and is currently continuing that style.

Functional Performance is an education and training platform that trains civilians, athletes and tactical athletes (law enforcement teams) in various forms of strength and conditioning, fitness, martial arts and nutrition. He focuses mainly on functionality, strength and performance. His view is that functional strength training will be optimal for both sports and athletes and civilians.

Remo is also experiencing entrepreneurship in the healthy food sector. He is the co-founder and CEO of Momium, a platform that provides healthy food options for fitness enthusiasts. "Momium - The Healthiest Spread in The Market", is a food store founded by Minhaz Remo and his mother. It started because Remo was always conscious about what he ate, and his mother used to help him out with his diet according to his instruction. Later his father and his brother joined in to help with the business. Now it's a family-run business with great reviews.

Remo is an avid promoter of self-defense training for general people, particularly women. He believes that learning self-defense is not a luxury but a necessity in the present age. He has organized and taken part in multiple events, seminars and workshops and provided personal and group training. Remo is a graduate of North South University. He graduated in 2019 with majors in Marketing and Human Resource Management.



Interviewer: When did you realize your passion for fitness? When did you understand that you want to make this your profession?

Minhaz Remo: Fitness for me started as a self-protection mechanism. When I was younger, like 13-14 years old, I was severely underweight to the point that my collarbones and ribs used to be very visible. Some kids during my O levels coaching center used to bully me for my size and weight. Most of them were older than me and one group also arranged a mugging session for me, luckily my dad got me back my stuff.



I was always a fan of martial arts because my maternal uncle used to take me to films and teach me kung fu when I was very little. But later during my teenage and O levels years I took up Taekwon-Do as a means to toughen up. My best friend Zami knew I was temperamental, so he teased me into starting weightlifting and that along with martial arts got me started on this path.

I have been teaching martial arts since my NSU days. Keep in mind that I was helping my parents pay for my tuition because it was so expensive. There was a Pahela Baishak incident in DU during 2015, where some girls were molested and humiliated. The footage shook me to the core. I am a fan of the superhero genre, especially Batman. I thought about being a superhero like a kid, but I know that is not possible. So I decided to start teaching what I know. I made an offer to the NSU Athletics Club, and they took me to the club's director. After 8 months of non-stop requirements and applications, they told me that they won't let me teach them if I charge them.

Out of disappointment and anger at my own university, I started my own academy called Titans Academy, that's how this all turned into profession. Started getting media features, newspaper articles and corporate events. You can say the rejection from NSU authority kickstarted this profession of mine.

Interviewer: What is the current scenario of health awareness among Bangladeshi citizens? Do you think people are getting more fitness oriented? What are a few ways to increase this awareness on a mass scale?

Minhaz Remo: Current situation is that people are still looking for easy non serious ways to take care of their health like doing Zumba or just walking passively for 20-40 mins. People's awareness is there but their lack of knowledge is dangerously low, which allows unethical people to profit from it. I can proudly say that they are getting more fitness oriented in their own little ways, that is always a good sign.

The best way to increase awareness is to train professionals from trainers, coaches, doctors, nutritionists to psychologists. These are trusted individuals in the society but oftentimes they are criminally ignorant in fitness and healthy lifestyle. Educating them can change the scenarios on a large scale.

Interviewer: Why should people make time for physical activities during the busy routine of everyday life? What are some tips to find time? Please advise about some basic healthy diet and daily activity practices.

Minhaz Remo: One simple concept, the law of disuse in sports science. Which states that anything you don't use, you lose it. Muscles, bone density, etc. When we

grow older we will lose all of this, in order to prevent this either we should have a huge surplus of this or gain more of these than we lose, and exercise is the one of the few ways you can do it. If you don't wanna be old and frail, workout! Stop wasting time on social media. Eat more veggies, get involved with any physical activities you enjoy like dance, sports, martial arts, and start lifting weight.

Interviewer: What are your future plans?

Minhaz Remo: Still under wraps, you will see when it's executed.

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

Minhaz Remo: Life to me is what brings me joy and it varies depending on mood, situations and circumstances. My source of motivation is all those who have done great things despite being told they can't.

Interviewer: What are your advices for your fellow NSUers?

Minhaz Remo: Do not waste all your time trying to get good grades or do what others are doing. Keep some time to do things that feed your soul. Following others will always lead you to unhappiness and will be a disservice to YOU, YOUR authenticity. Nurture your interests outside of academics and don't ignore them.



International Student Feature



I am Joshua, You Guang Thong. I come from a Christian family in Taiwan. Taiwan is an island surrounded by the sea and has many mountains. It is a very beautiful country. I was born in a town near the sea which is a very humane, and simple place. My father's entire family basically lived in this town.

There are four members in my family, oh, now it has five. Both of my parents are teachers, my younger sister is a make-up artist and my wife is a beautiful Hong Kong girl. My parents taught me since I was a child that I need to be humble and agreeable in dealing with people, and to have a grateful heart. Moreover, they taught me to give praise and thank God in many things, and to have a heart of reverence.

I spent my whole student life in Taiwan before I became a part of NSU. After I graduated from the university, I worked in a technology company for 2 years. Later I got a chance to go to Hong Kong for an internship, and I worked in HK for 2 years as well. Thank God for giving me such an opportunity, so that I could meet my beloved in Hong Kong.

Both my wife and I like to travel, experience new things, and are willing to challenge ourselves. Whenever we have the opportunity, or we try our best to create an opportunity to travel, visit somewhere we have never been before. We traveled not only to see sites, but more importantly to experience different cultures and different customs. It really attracts and expands our horizon. We have been to many countries, especially in Asia. For instance, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Mainland China, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Nepal, India and Paki-

stan. There were so many valuable experiences to us.

On an occasion, our friends shared their story living in Bangladesh to us, and they also invited us to come and have a look and experience the local life. We did not travel for around two years due to the pandemic, so when they said there was no need for compulsory quarantine here, and we had time at that time, we came to Bangladesh in July.

At first we just came here to travel. However, after we came, we found that it was different from what we imagined. Our friends took us to visit some famous places and we made some friends in some universities. We found that the people here are very nice and enthusiastic, we like them so much. At the same time, we visited the best private university in Bangladesh. We found that the facilities were great and the students there were creative and most of them good at English. So it took me a long time to go back to university. Then I shared my feelings with my wife and got her support to make my dream come true. I had never studied abroad before, and I like NSU's campus and people. I can experience Bangladesh's culture in depth here as well.

I am very grateful that North South University gave me such an opportunity to study here. I am proud to be a NSUer and I will cherish and enjoy studying here.

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

Joshua: North South University is the best private university in all of Bangladesh. Is there any other reason why I should not choose it?

On the other hand, through the introduction of friends, many aspects of educational resources are the best, so if you want to choose, of course you must choose the best university.

Interviewer: From your bio, we know that you finished your undergraduate studies and started your career back in Taiwan before enrolling in NSU. What inspired you to take a break from professional journey and resume on your higher studies?

Joshua: In terms of learning, there is no day of graduation, and I am sure that I can learn every day. In my life plan, learning and work are not just for a period of time. When I feel that I need to improve myself, I will seize the opportunity to challenge myself.

Interviewer: What are your future career plans once you complete your higher studies at NSU?

Joshua: It is possible to continue to study, or to find a suitable job to start a career. As long as you have a skill, you are not afraid of not being able to find a job.

Interviewer: You have mentioned your passion for traveling in your bio. What influenced you to grow such a wonderful and interesting passion?

Joshua: When I was young, my parents often encouraged me to go abroad and see the world if I had the opportunity. You can learn many special experiences in different countries and cultures.

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

Joshua: From the care of the teachers to the students in the way of teaching, to the encouragement and help among the students, and there are many faculty members who have helped us, I think the overall culture of North South University is very satisfying. The atmosphere of NSU is full of vitality and enthusiasm.

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

Joshua: I feel that Bangladeshis are very close and full of enthusiasm. The people I met here are very willing to help us and care about us a lot. Although it is not easy and there are some differences in language and culture, it takes time to learn the language and understand the culture here. Bangladesh is a Muslim-dominated country, and this is a culture that I have never been exposed to. It's full of freshness.

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

Joshua: Don't be afraid and believe in yourself.

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