



**Office
of External
Affairs**

THE BRIDGE

The Official Newsletter of the Office Of External Affairs

ISSUE 30 | MAR-APR '23

Editor's Message

Welcome back to 'The Bridge'!

In this issue you will find new partnership opportunities that include research, exchange and joint supervision. If you have questions and want to learn more about how you might benefit from these MoUs, please visit the Office of External Affairs (OEA) which is located on the 5th floor of the Admin Building of NSU.

If you are part of the NSU Alumni community, we would like to hear your story and feature you on the NSU Alumni Talk Show. (Please contact the Alumni Affairs Officer, Mr. Sk. Fardin Yaman fardin.yaman@north-south.edu)

Developing a new academic collaboration or have ideas for one? We are here to support you.

Finally, we welcome your feedback and suggestions.

HAPPY SUMMER !!!

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Congratulations NSU on the latest MoUs



NSU has signed the following 6 new MoUs in the last two months: PROSHIKA, Charles Darwin University, Australia, University of Adelaide, Australia, Sushant University, India, Lovely Professional University, India, and BISR Trust.

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

NSU Delegation Visits India



As part of its outreach efforts to establish academic and research collaborations with reputable universities and institutions across the globe, the Office of External Affairs of North South University organized a delegation visit to India from March 22-25, 2023. Led by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Atiqul Islam, the delegation included Dr. Asad Karim Khan Priyo, Chair of the Department of Economics, and Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Director of External Affairs. During their visit, the delegation met with the leadership of several universities, including The University of Adelaide in Australia, Sushant University in Gurgaon, Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Punjab, and Shiv Nadar University in Delhi NCR, to establish bilateral relationships for academic and research collaboration. This initiative demonstrates North South University's commitment to fostering partnerships with institutions of high repute and expanding its global reach.

MoU Signing Ceremony with University of Adelaide, Australia

The University of Adelaide's delegation, headed by its Vice-Chancellor, traveled to New Delhi, India, to sign an MoU with North South University on March 22, 2023. The delegation was comprised of Professor Peter Høj AC, Vice-Chancellor and President; Dr. Jessica Gallagher, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, External Engagement; Professor Noel Lindsay, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Entrepreneurship & Dean, Business School; and Mr. Daniel Tackage, Global Partnerships Manager, Division of External Engagement. From NSU, the Honorable Vice Chancellor, Professor Atiqul Islam had visited India for the purpose of the MoU signing and other official activities.



The MoU between NSU and UoA outlines an agreement for collaboration on joint research projects and publications, organization of joint conferences and workshops, and sharing academic resources, such as databases, journals, and other research materials. In addition, the two universities will explore opportunities for faculty and student exchange programs, providing students with valuable international experience and faculty the chance to collaborate on research and teaching projects.

Furthermore, the two universities signed a dual degree award agreement between the Masters in Development Studies (MDS) program at NSU and the Master of Public Policy (MPP) program at UoA. Students will complete one

year of study in the MDS program at NSU and one year in the MPP program at UoA, receiving degrees from both institutions. The partnership between NSU and UoA represents a significant step towards promoting academic collaboration and research opportunities between Bangladesh and Australia, strengthening academic programs at both universities and deepening the relationship between the two countries.

MOU Signing Ceremony between Sushant University, India and North South University at New Delhi

On March 23, 2023, Sushant University in Gurgaon, India, hosted a meeting with a delegation from North South University, Dhaka, resulting in the signing of an MOU between the two institutions. The Vice-Chancellors of both universities led the discussions, which centered on potential areas of collaboration such as faculty and student exchange programs, joint research projects, and joint publications. Specific cooperation tasks were identified, including research on sustainable environmental issues and the impact of technology on the future of work. The following steps and timelines were discussed, and it was agreed that a joint committee comprising faculty members from both universities would oversee and coordinate the collaborations. The attendees expressed enthusiasm and commitment to the partnerships, and action items were agreed upon. The MOU signing marks a significant step towards promoting academic collaboration and research opportunities between India and Bangladesh, which will strengthen the educational programs of both universities and deepen the relationship between the two countries.



MOU Signing Ceremony between LPU, Punjab and North South University, Dhaka



Lovely Professional University (LPU) is a renowned private university in Jalandhar, Punjab, India. The university has a sprawling campus spread over 600 acres with modern facilities, including labs, classrooms, libraries, sports complexes, food courts, and hostels. LPU offers over 250 degree programs across various disciplines and strongly emphasizes research and innovation. A fruitful collaboration meeting was held between the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellors of North South University (NSU) and LPU, following which an MOU was signed on March 24, 2023, at the President's office of LPU. The meeting attendees discussed the features of the MOU, including joint research projects, exchange of academic information, materials, and facilities, faculty and student exchanges, organization/participation in joint events, and cooperation in doctoral (Ph.D.) education. The attendees also went on a guided tour of the LPU campus to see the state-of-the-art infrastructure, world-class facilities, and diverse student community. The NSU delegation expressed satisfaction over the meeting and thanked the President for all his cooperation and hospitality. The MOU is expected to strengthen further the academic, research, and cultural ties between the two universities.

Collaboration Meeting between SNU, Delhi and North South University, Dhaka

Shiv Nadar University (SNU), located in Delhi NCR, is a leading institution focused on multidisciplinary research and providing various undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programs. Recently, Dr. Asad Karim Khan Priyo, Associate Professor & Chair of the Department of Economics at North South University, visited SNU to discuss potential collaboration between the two universities. Attendees included faculty and staff members of SNU, as well as a Ph.D. student from NSU. During the meeting, the parties discussed areas of academic collaboration, such as a dual degree agreement and student exchange programs, as well as potential Ph.D. opportunities for lecturers and senior lecturers from NSU at SNU. Scholarship opportunities for Ph.D. students were also discussed, with SNU offering impressive funding to its students. The possibility of a joint workshop at SNU was also discussed. A tour of the campus was provided to Dr. Priyo by a Ph.D. student from SNU, who also discussed potential future collaboration with Bangladesh Bank. Overall, the meeting was fruitful and highlighted the commitment of SNU to provide excellent teaching, research, and service to meet the higher education requirements of India and beyond.



ALUMNI TALK SHOW EPISODE 111



The one hundred and eleventh episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on January 23, 2023. The guest for this episode was Shahidur Rahman, a distinguished alumnus of our university, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science in 2001. Since then, he has been working in the field of software development and client management. After completing his Master's degree at the University of New South Wales, Mr. Rahman migrated to Sydney, Australia, where he works as a Senior Application Architect at NTT Limited. With more than a few thousand clients, Mr. Rahman's work in customer management and software development is awe-inspiring. As an architect, he has been instrumental in creating firewalls and databases that have been integral to the success of his clients. His achievements have not gone unnoticed, and his contributions to the industry have been recognized with several commendations.

As the talk show began, he shared a glimpse into his job as a Senior Application Architect, detailing his responsibilities. Shahidur Rahman is an accomplished IT professional with extensive experience in IT service management and software development. With over 12 years of experience in IT service management, Mr.

Rahman has honed his expertise in various domains such as Event Management, Discovery, Performance Analytics, Operational Metrics, Service Portal, Service Catalog, and Rest API. He has also built custom connectors for various applications, such as 1000 Eyes and Viptela SD-WAN, and custom probes for Arista switch, Nimble, and ZFS storage. In addition, Mr. Rahman has over 10 years of experience in software development and engineering, focusing on web development using LAMP and related tools/technologies. Furthermore, he has over 4 years of experience in cloud-based CRM administration and Apex development. Mr. Rahman's technical expertise, coupled with his innovative approach to problem-solving, has made him a highly respected and sought-after IT professional in the industry. Mr. Rahman's successful and impressive IT career and achievements are a testament to his dedication and hard work.

As the conversation progressed, Mr. Rahman shared his thoughts on the current state of the IT and business sectors and the skills required to thrive in them while also offering some helpful advice. As per Mr. Rahman's expert opinion, the significance of IT in the modern world cannot be overstated, and the ongoing global health crisis has only served to emphasize its importance further. However, he also believes that the true potential of IT has yet to be fully realized and that the future will see even more incredible advancements in this field. Concerning AI technology, he anticipates that it will revolutionize the workforce by allowing for a substantial reduction in working hours while simultaneously increasing benefits. While ChatGPT and other AI systems can offer valuable guidance, it will be up to humans to determine the best methods to harness these technologies. Overall, Mr. Rahman's insights suggest that the future of the IT sector is full of endless possibilities, and the potential impact of AI on the workforce is both exhilarating and transformative.

During the show, Mr. Rahman fondly reminisced about his experiences at NSU, sharing why he chose the university and how it has played a pivotal role in his profession. When he was pursuing his degree, only a select few universities offered a CSE program. As he could not secure admission at BUET, Mr. Rahman chose NSU with eagerness and determination to earn a degree in computer science. Additionally, his role as the General Secretary of the North South University Computer and Engineering Club (NSU CEC) further enriched his time at NSU.

Reflecting on his academic training at NSU, Mr. Rahman noted NSU's rigorous academic training in English and emphasis on presentations proved beneficial for Mr. Rahman, as it helped develop his language skills and prepare him for job interviews. He found that Australian universities recommended the same books as NSU, highlighting the university's advanced curriculum and level of education. NSU's emphasis on presentations and communication also proved incredibly valuable, helping him ace interviews and secure job offers throughout his career. Looking to the future, Mr. Rahman hopes to see more people migrate to Bangladesh as the country continues to develop and offer exciting opportunities for its citizens.

To know more about the event, visit the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1345663586276701>

Sichuan Hope Education Group, China

On March 01, 2023, a meeting was convened between North South University and Sichuan Hope Education Group, where distinguished members from both institutions assembled to explore the prospects of collaboration in the fields of education and automotive technology. In attendance were esteemed representatives, including Ms. Jessica Yang, the Head of the International Office of the Sichuan Hope Education Group, and her colleague, Emily. Representing the Office of External Affairs were Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA; Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA and Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA. The discussion was filled with insightful exchanges ranging from academic exchange programs to advanced research opportunities, promising to pave the way for an exciting and fruitful partnership between the two institutions.



During the meeting, Ms. Yang proposed the possibility of Sichuan Hope Education Group sending their students to North South University to complete one year of their four-year bachelor's degree program. The OEA expressed NSU's readiness to welcome and support international students throughout their academic journey. It was also noted that while students typically show more interest in transferring credits to North American countries, there is a growing preference for pursuing Master's programs in China. Finally, it was emphasized that semester exchange programs provide valuable cultural experiences that can benefit students in their future academic pursuits abroad for both institutions.

Furthermore, Dr. Li highlighted the Confucius Institute at NSU, which piqued the interest of Ms. Yang and Emily. The meeting concluded with plans for future information sessions for students to learn more about Sichuan Hope Education Group, and both parties expressed interest in exploring potential collaborations in the future.

Delegation Visit from Adelaide University, Australia



THE UNIVERSITY
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Office of External Affairs.

On March 02, 2023, NSU hosted a delegation visit from Adelaide University, Australia. The visit aimed to discuss possible collaborations between the two universities. The delegation was led by Ms. Devjani Das Shelat, Manager of Student Recruitment and International Recruitment, Future Students from the Division of External Engagement, and Ms. Anup Srestha, Manager of Student Recruitment and International Recruitment from Marketing and Recruitment of the University of Adelaide. The meeting was held at the Office of External Affairs and was attended by Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director of the

During the meeting, the two universities discussed several areas of possible collaboration, including student and faculty exchange programs, short-term

programs, and research collaborations. Ms. Shelat and Ms. Srestha highlighted the potential benefits students and faculty members could derive from such partnerships, including exposure to diverse cultures, academic expertise, and research facilities. The delegation also invited NSU to a meeting in Delhi, India, to further discuss potential collaborations between the two universities. NSU expressed keen interest in the invitation and agreed to attend the meeting. The two universities agreed to work towards creating a mutually beneficial collaboration that would provide opportunities for students and faculty members to enhance their academic and research skills.

The visit was an excellent opportunity for NSU to establish international collaborations and expand its academic and research network. The delegates were impressed with the facilities and infrastructure at NSU and expressed their eagerness to establish a long-term partnership with NSU. The meeting successfully built a strong foundation for future collaborations, and both universities looked forward to exploring new avenues for cooperation.



MoU Signing Ceremony with PROSHIKA

On March 05, 2023, North South University (NSU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreement with PROSHIKA Manobik Unnayan Kendra, a prominent organization in the field of social development and program implementation. The agreement was formalized and signed by Mr. Shibu Kanti Das, Director of Social Development and Program at PROSHIKA, and the Vice-Chancellor of NSU, Dr. Atiqul Islam, along with their respective delegations.



NSU is the first private university in Bangladesh, pioneering education for many years. The main objective of this MoU agreement between PROSHIKA and NSU is to establish joint research collaborations, internships, training programs, and other academic collaborations. PROSHIKA Manobik Unnayan Kendra has been working to improve society for over 40 years. It is one of the largest non-governmental organizations in Bangladesh, dedicated to creating a sustainable and equitable society through social, economic, and human development programs. Through this MoU agreement with NSU, PROSHIKA aims to utilize the expertise and resources of NSU further to enhance the quality of its programs and research projects.

This collaboration is expected to benefit both organizations in achieving their respective goals and objectives. The joint efforts of NSU and PROSHIKA are aimed at creating a positive impact on society and contributing to the sustainable development of Bangladesh.

Meeting with Professor Simanti Bandyopadhyay from Shiv Nadar University, Delhi, India



On March 06, 2023, NSU hosted a meeting with Professor Simanti Bandyopadhyay, Professor of Economics at the School of Management and Entrepreneurship, Shiv Nadar University, as part of SNU's outreach program with international organizations. The meeting aimed to explore possible areas of collaboration between NSU and SNU, particularly in research and Ph.D. opportunities.

Dr. Asad Karim Khan Priyo, Associate Professor & Chair of the Department of Economics, NSU, led the discussion and introduced the curricula of BS in Economics, MS in Economics, and MDS programs among the faculty members of SNU. Dr. Priyo also shared the recently published "Research Profile" by OR-NSU with SNU researchers to identify research areas of mutual interest.

Professor Bandyopadhyay talked about the existing Ph.D. programs at SNU and how they provide cutting-edge coursework for two years, followed by three years of research. Dr. Priyo promised to promote SNU's Ph.D. programs among the Department of Economics graduate students and discussed the potential of some of the Lecturers and Senior Lecturers of SBE, NSU pursuing a Ph.D. at SNU.

Scholarship opportunities for Ph.D. students were also discussed, and SNU conveyed that they offer impressive funding to its Ph.D. students. Dr. Priyo asked whether it would be possible for an NSU lecturer/senior lecturer to pursue a Ph.D. at SNU and stay in Bangladesh while getting research co-supervised by both universities for the last three years of the program. The SNU delegation responded positively and agreed to discuss the possibility further with NSU authorities.



The meeting ended with a discussion about holding a joint 2-day workshop at SNU to identify further areas of collaboration. A Zoom meeting involving relevant personnel from both institutions will be held to discuss this further before signing a general Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The meeting was fruitful and promising, and it opened doors for potential collaboration between NSU and SNU, particularly in research and Ph.D. programs. Both universities have agreed to stay in touch and explore more possibilities for cooperation.

New International Student Orientation Program - Spring, 2023



The Office of External Affairs (OEA) at North South University pulled out all the stops to host an unforgettable New International Student Orientation and Farewell Program on March 06, 2023. The entire OEA team, along with the esteemed Registrar, Dr. Ahmed Tazmeen gathered to kick off the event with a riveting speech from Ms. Samina Alam Miti, the International Affairs Officer who took the stage and set the tone for an electrifying evening filled with cultural exploration and heartfelt farewells.

With around 20 countries represented at North South University, the atmosphere was charged with excitement and vibrant energy, as everyone indulged in a variety of delicious foods, and students bonded over shared experiences and stories from their homelands. The icing on the cake, quite literally, was when everyone gathered around to cut a specially prepared cake, adding to the celebratory mood.

As the event drew to a close, everyone took turns to express their heartfelt goodbyes and shared memories with one another. The event was a true celebration of NSU's commitment to diversity, inclusivity, and a welcoming atmosphere for all its international students. It was an event that will be cherished forever in the hearts of all who attended, leaving a lasting impression of the unique and unforgettable NSU experience.

Delegation Visit from RMIT, Australia



On March 07, 2023, a delegation from RMIT University, Australia, visited North South University. The delegation included Mr. Abhishek Tulsian, Country Head (Recruitment), South Asia Hub, Global Student Recruitment, and Ms. Reshmi Dutta, Regional Manager, India, Subcontinent, and Africa, Global Student Recruitment. The visit was primarily aimed at renewing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NSU and RMIT University, as the existing MoU is due to expire soon.

During the meeting, RMIT University expressed a keen interest in establishing dual degree programs with NSU as part of the renewed MoU. The delegation also discussed the potential for exchange programs for higher studies between the two universities. The delegation emphasized that the renewed MoU would provide a framework for increased academic collaboration and research opportunities, enabling the two institutions to collaborate on joint projects and initiatives.

The delegation from RMIT University was impressed by the quality of education provided by NSU and recognized the potential for a mutually beneficial partnership between the two institutions. NSU representatives also highlighted the success of the existing MoU and expressed their enthusiasm for the continued collaboration between NSU and RMIT University. The visit successfully set the groundwork for a renewed partnership between the two institutions, and further discussions will take place soon.



Information Session with Sejong University, South Korea

On March 09, 2023, an information session was conducted by Sejong University, South Korea. The event was moderated by Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, Office of External Affairs (OEA), with guest speaker Ms. Julie Pineda, Associate Coordinator of Sejong University's Office of International Affairs. During the session, Ms. Pineda provided valuable insights into the benefits of Sejong University's collaboration with NSU. In addition, Ms. Pineda provided a comprehensive overview of Sejong University, highlighting its academic programs and opportunities for students. She discussed various aspects of the university, including its facilities, faculty, and research initiatives. Furthermore, she emphasized the benefits of the collaboration established between Sejong University and NSU, illustrating how it can be advantageous for NSU students to pursue academic and research opportunities at Sejong University.



Sejong University, located in the heart of Seoul, South Korea, is a leading institution for higher education. It offers a wide range of academic programs with an



emphasis on global education, making it an attractive destination for students seeking a dynamic and diverse academic experience. Sejong University is committed to fostering an environment of academic excellence, with state-of-the-art facilities and world-class faculty who are dedicated to helping students achieve their goals. With its rich history and diverse culture, Sejong offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, including business, engineering, humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.

Additionally, Sejong offers numerous benefits and opportunities to international students, such as scholarships, language courses, internship programs, and study abroad programs. Its international programs allow students to study abroad and gain valuable cross-cultural experience, while its partnerships with universities around the world provide opportunities for exchange and collaboration. Students can also take advantage of the university's strong network of industry partners to gain hands-on experience and develop their skills in real-world

settings. Moreover, Sejong's location in Seoul, one of the world's most vibrant and dynamic cities, provides students with a wealth of cultural, social, and entertainment opportunities.

Sejong University has ten colleges, including the College of Business Administration, College of Social Sciences, College of Arts and Humanities, College of Science and Technology, College of Engineering, College of Pharmacy, College of Health Sciences, and more. They offer undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs in various disciplines such as Business Administration, Economics, International Relations, Communication, Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering, Life Sciences, and more. The university also offers various research programs for students to participate in, including the Sejong Undergraduate Research Program, the Sejong Global Research Program, and the Sejong Research Internship Program. Sejong University provides a conducive learning environment for its students with advanced facilities such as modern classrooms, libraries, computer labs, sports facilities, and research centers. The university also offers various scholarships and financial aids for students to support their studies and research activities. Sejong University offers a unique and exciting opportunity for students seeking a world-class education in a diverse and dynamic environment.

The university has a strong network with international institutions, which provides opportunities for students to study abroad, attend international conferences and seminars, and participate in various academic programs. Sejong University also offers Korean language courses to international students, making it easier for them to adapt to the local culture and community. Students at Sejong University benefit from a range of resources and support services, including modern libraries, well-equipped laboratories, and a dedicated career center.

The university also provides opportunities for students to engage in extracurricular activities, such as sports, clubs, and cultural events, further enhancing the student experience. In addition to its academic excellence, Sejong University offers numerous benefits to its students, including scholarships, housing options, and access to career development resources. The university's location in Seoul also provides numerous opportunities for students to explore one of the most bustling cities in the world, with its rich culture, history, and entertainment options. With its commitment to excellence and innovation, Sejong University is a compelling option for students seeking a rewarding academic experience. Sejong University is a highly attractive study destination for students seeking a unique and rewarding international experience, academic excellence, and unparalleled opportunities for personal and professional growth.

To know more about the event, visit the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/899408581259180>

NGO Talk Show Episode 29

PATHFINDER

The twenty-ninth episode of the 'NGO Talk Show' aired on March 09, 2023, with one of the government-registered NGOs, Pathfinder International, Bangladesh. The title of this episode was "Developing Bangladesh: Scope for Research" with Pathfinder International, Bangladesh. The keynote speaker for the episode was Mr. Md. Mahbub Ul Alam, Country Director, Pathfinder International, Bangladesh. From North South University (NSU), Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), was present, and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA, hosted the live talk show.

The show began with a brief description of Mr. Mahbub Ul Alam, the Country Director of Pathfinder International in Bangladesh, a public health professional with over 20 years of experience in sexual and reproductive health and rights. He leads the USAID Shukhi Jibon project and is dedicated to improving family planning services, mentoring and supportive supervision, postpartum family planning, and community engagement. Under his leadership, Pathfinder International in Bangladesh has made significant progress in expanding access to care for marginalized and hard-to-reach populations, promoting evidence-based practices, and improving the quality of care provided by healthcare providers. Prior to his current position, Mr. Alam held various positions at the Directorate General of Family Planning in Bangladesh for over 20 years.

Pathfinder International is a global non-profit organization that promotes sexual and reproductive health and rights globally. It has worked in Bangladesh since 1978 and is now a prominent provider of sexual and reproductive health services. The organization aims to ensure everyone can access high-quality care, including family planning, safe abortion, and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. Pathfinder International, Bangladesh, empowers individuals and communities to make educated decisions and advocate for supportive procedures. Pathfinder International has helped improve modern contraception use among marginalized populations and

improve maternal and child health by training and supporting healthcare providers in Bangladesh.

Pathfinder International in Bangladesh has several fundamental focus areas, including expanding access to sexual and reproductive health services in remote and underserved areas and improving maternal and newborn health care quality. The organization also strengthens civil society organizations' capacity to advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights. The Shukhi Jibon project, in partnership with Bangladesh's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, aims to improve family planning services by providing technical assistance and strengthening systems. Funded by Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited, the Advancing the Leadership of Women and Girls Towards Better Health and Climate Change Resilience project also focuses on building community resilience to climate shocks through women-led preparation, response, and recovery. It aims to strengthen health systems, improve nutrition, water, sanitation, and hygiene, and position women and girls as change agents to build community resilience and equitable access to health services. The program supports community champions and gender-transformative training. It engages local organizations to combat harmful social norms while contributing to global knowledge on health and climate resilience for greater sustainability and social good.



Mr. Alam further emphasizes the significance of research in the operations of Pathfinder International and affiliated organizations. Mr. Alam further emphasizes the importance of research in the operations of Pathfinder International and affiliated organizations. Mr. Alam highlighted the significance of research in program design and implementation at Pathfinder International and other organizations in Bangladesh. Evidence-based programs are paramount for maximum impact, and continuous research and learning are critical for success. Pathfinder prioritizes research and offers growth opportunities. Collaboration with NSU can aid talent acquisition, information dissemination, and field-level work. NSU students can conduct micro-level studies and prepare reports as part of their academic activities, disseminating information widely. Collaborating on research-based projects, service delivery, and critical assistance would be mutually beneficial, and NSU's public health department can serve as a valuable resource for Pathfinder.

To know more about the event, visit the following link:
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/599537965040241>

Workshop 2: IELTS Tips & Tricks



On March 12, 2023, the second consultation session for IELTS was conducted, with a primary focus on providing examinees with valuable tips and tricks to attain a higher band score. The event was facilitated by Mrs. Murshida Begum, an experienced IELTS expert from the British Council, who advised candidates on how to avoid common mistakes in each of the four modules. The session's main objective was to assist candidates in improving their test-taking strategies and guide them on the essential tips and tricks that play a critical role in the marking criteria. The consultation was aimed at helping candidates polish their skills and gain confidence in taking the IELTS exam.

North South University signs an Agreement with Charles Darwin University, Australia



North South University (NSU) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Charles Darwin University (CDU) of Australia. The agreement was signed following a symposium titled "Sustainable Leadership in Higher Education", organized by NSU on 12 March 2023. Other



than the top officials from NSU, delegates from Charles Darwin University and other relevant stakeholders were present in the program. Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of North South University led his delegation of deans, department chairs and academic heads. From Charles Darwin University, Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Scott Bowman was present along with his delegation of Pro Vice-Chancellors and Administrative heads. Keynote speech in the event was addressed by Mr. Md. Monirul Islam, Joint Secretary, SDG Affairs, Prime Minister's Office, Dhaka. Dr. Susan Maree Vize, Officer-in-Charge, UNESCO Dhaka was present in the event as Special Guest. Keynote speaker Mr. Md. Monirul Islam mentioned in his speech that sustainable education growth has always been one of the top priorities in the SDG targets of the Government of Bangladesh.



It is a delight to see that educational institutions not only from Bangladesh, but from abroad are taking part in this initiative. He expressed interest to support the universities along the way. Professor Scott Bowman, Vice-Chancellor, Charles Darwin University conveyed his well wishes to NSU and Bangladesh in his speech and mentioned that CDU will always be a supportive partner to Bangladesh. Professional Atiqul Islam referred to this agreement as a significant landmark in the partnership between the two countries. He strongly emphasized on the impact of quality education in the implications of SDG, and how NSU is actively participating in achieving the targets. He expressed hope to continue this mutually beneficial partnership between the two universities. The Symposium on Sustainable Leadership on Higher Education organized by North South University (NSU) explored the challenges and opportunities of embedding the SDGs in all aspects of the university and sought to explore what is already in place, identify priorities, opportunities and gaps in integrating the SDGs more fully into the university experience.

To know more about the event, visit the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/516613180549614>

Campus France Bangladesh, AFD



North South University's (NSU) Office of External Affairs (OEA) organized a seminar on March 13, 2023 in collaboration with Campus France Bangladesh and Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD) to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of French higher education, language, and culture. The seminar was conducted by Ms. Syeda Naasiba Hossain, Manager of Campus France Bangladesh, and Mr. Yohann Gigarel, Cultural Attaché at the Embassy of France in Dhaka, on behalf of these esteemed organizations. In addition, the seminar was attended by Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA; Mr. Sk. Fardin Yaman, Alumni Affairs Officer, OEA; and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA.

During the seminar, Ms. Hossain from Campus France Bangladesh provided an in-depth overview of the organization's role in promoting French higher education in Bangladesh. She highlighted the various opportunities available for Bangladeshi students, including undergraduate and graduate programs, doctoral research, and study abroad programs. Campus France Bangladesh is a public organization that operates under the French Embassy in Bangladesh. Its primary objective is to promote French higher education in Bangladesh and facilitate the admission process for Bangladeshi students. Campus France Bangladesh offers a range of services to students, including counseling on study options, assistance with the application process, and information on scholarships and funding opportunities.

On behalf of Alliance Française de Dhaka, she also provided valuable insights into French language and culture. She explained that Alliance Française de Dhaka is the official French cultural center in Bangladesh and aims to promote French language and culture in the country through various activities and programs. In addition to offering French language courses for all levels, Alliance Française de Dhaka provides library services, cultural events and activities, and much more. Furthermore, Mr. Gigarel highlighted the various benefits of learning French, including the opportunity to study and work in France and other French-speaking countries, access to a rich and diverse culture and literature, and the ability to communicate with millions of French speakers worldwide.

Overall, the seminar was highly informative and beneficial for the students. It demonstrated the strong collaboration between NSU and these two organizations in promoting international education and cultural exchange. The seminar ended with a Q&A session, during which students had the opportunity to ask questions and clarify their doubts. The Office of External Affairs expressed their gratitude to the representatives from Campus France Bangladesh and Alliance Française de Dhaka by presenting them with a token of appreciation.



NSU Alumni Professional Development Workshop (Session 2)

The 2nd session of the NSU Alumni Professional Development Workshop took place on March 14, 2023, featuring an illustrious alumnus, Mr. M. Sabbir Jahangir, as the guest and keynote speaker. Mr. Jahangir graduated from NSU in 2005 with a major in Human Resource Management, followed by his Master's in International Business from Hult International Business School in the USA. Throughout his professional career, Mr. Jahangir has specialized in HR and Administration and has worked for prominent companies like Partex Star, BRAC, and DBL Group. Currently, he is the Head of HR and Administration at SSLCOMMERZ.

As an experienced HR professional, Mr. Jahangir focused his speech on the implications of modern technology in the field of HR. He highlighted how technology had influenced HR work, mentioning various technological applications and software that have entered the workforce, including AI. During the session, Mr. Jahangir explained how AI and the human workforce coexist in HR and how technology has transformed the job market for HR graduates. In addition, Mr. Jahangir elaborated on strategies for maintaining a competitive edge, analyzing the potential advantages and drawbacks for upcoming HR graduates, and the significance of regularly enhancing one's expertise and understanding in this field. Mr. Jahangir's speech emphasized the essence of the role of HR professionals in the technological age. The HR department, according to him, has to deal with a lot of data, which requires technical assistance. He noted that modern technology has made HR tasks more efficient and freed up HR professionals' time, which they can now use to focus on strategic and innovative HR tasks.



After the speech, an interactive Q&A session was held between Mr. Jahangir and the students. The students, mainly from an HR background, enthusiastically asked questions and received informative responses from the speaker. Mr. Jahangir's insight into the future of HR and the implications of technology in the field was highly informative, inspiring, and thought-provoking.

The NSU HR Club was a partner in this event, and the workshop was aimed at helping students learn from their senior graduates directly. The workshop was well-attended, and Mr. Yeamim Faysal, Training Manager of SSLCOMMERZ, also gave a short speech in the session. Mr. Faysal is also an alumnus of NSU, and his speech further emphasized the importance of technological advancement in HR.

In essence, the NSU Alumni Professional Development Workshop featuring Mr. M. Sabbir Jahangir was an enlightening experience for the students. Mr. Jahangir's understanding of technology's importance in HR was highly informative and motivating, and his speech enabled the students to better understand the modern HR landscape. The interactive Q&A session helped the students clear their doubts and gain further insights into the field. Overall, the workshop was a valuable experience for the students, giving them exciting opportunities to learn from industry professionals.

Delegation Visit from IIM Bangalore, India

On March 19, 2023, a delegation from the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) visited North South University (NSU) as part of its outreach program. The visit was led by Mr. Balakrishna B., Head of the Marketing program, and Ms. Anuradha Shukla, Manager of the Office of International Affairs at IIMB, who expressed a keen interest in collaborating with NSU. During the meeting, NSU officials provided an



overview of their current MoUs with other Indian universities. IIM representatives specifically expressed interest in collaborating on master's programs, leading to the decision to schedule a follow-up meeting to discuss the potential partnership in more detail.



The visit marked a significant milestone in the relationship between NSU and IIM, two renowned academic institutions. The potential collaboration would be an excellent opportunity for students and faculty members to exchange knowledge and expertise and foster research opportunities. Both parties expressed their eagerness to move forward with the proposed partnership

and further explore ways to strengthen their relationship.

Workshop 3: IELTS Last-Minute Preparation



On March 19, 2023, the June session's third and final workshop for IELTS candidates was held. This workshop was considered the most critical of the three consultation sessions. It aimed to provide candidates with a deeper understanding of all four modules and facilitate a last-minute revision. The event was conducted by a British Council expert and covered topics such as marking criteria, sample answers, and engaging activities to clarify candidates' doubts. The workshop enabled candidates to practice and refine their skills through various interactive activities. Additionally, the session included a comprehensive review of the exam's content and solution papers, offering complete guidance to prepare candidates for the IELTS exam. Overall, the workshop provided invaluable support for the candidates' last-minute preparation, ensuring they were well-prepared to achieve their desired band scores.

NSU Alumni Talk Show 112



The one hundred and twelfth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on March 22, 2023, featuring Ms. Raisa Bashar, a distinguished member of the 2010 batch. Ms. Bashar graduated from North South University with a dual degree in Economics and Environmental Science in 2014. After her graduation, she pursued a Master's degree in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics from Durham University, England. Currently serving as a Senior Lecturer in Environmental Science and Management at North South University, Ms. Bashar is also pursuing a Ph.D. in Environmental Science from the University of Surrey. Ms. Bashar's impressive academic journey and professional accomplishments have made her a role model for many aspiring students, and the audience highly admired her insights.

During the show, Ms. Bashar shared insights on her academic journey and current pursuits. Ms. Bashar further explained what she is doing for her Ph.D which focuses on the cultural ecosystem services of indigenous populations. Her research aims to find the monetary value of indigenous locations and people, which may decrease in value over time. Her principal focus is on tourism's economic benefits and aims to find ways to balance environmental conservation and economic growth. Ms. Bashar has been teaching environmental science courses at North South University since 2016, emphasizing the importance of balancing economic and environmental factors in sustainable development.

Additionally, Ms. Bashar imparted insightful knowledge on the skills fresh graduates need to succeed in their careers. Ms. Bashar emphasized the significance of pursuing interdisciplinary skills, such as GIS mapping, NVivo for qualitative research, and software skills like Python. She urged students to begin research from the third year of their academic journey and publish their findings in reputable journals. Ms. Bashar furthermore highlighted the value of networking skills and extracurricular activities for a prosperous academic or fieldwork career. She mentioned that the ESM department at NSU holds workshops that educate students about the diverse career paths available to them.

Ms. Bashar further shared that ESM supervises its students and inspires them to explore career opportunities in academia, NGO or corporate sectors, and government agencies. She also mentioned that many NGOs prefer NSU graduates in Bangladesh. Corporate social responsibility and green banking are also emerging fields for ESM graduates. Ms. Bashar herself has had a successful career in academia and has been involved in Young Economists Forum (YEF) club as the president, and as a teaching assistant at the ESM department. Her advice is a guiding light for fresh graduates, encouraging them to acquire interdisciplinary skills and explore various career paths to success.

Later in the show, Ms. Bashar shared her experiences about her life at NSU and how the university influenced her professional trajectory. As she could not go abroad, she enrolled in NSU, which she described as a progressive and culturally advanced university. NSU has helped her to evolve her public speaking skills through various platforms, including the Young Economists Forum (YEF). She also mentioned how the ESM department students are more frivolous and engaged, which has helped her learn that work can be done through delightful engagements. NSU has played a crucial role in her student and professional life, providing her with inspiration and support. Ms. Bashar participated in the Environmental Olympiad, which helped her discover that she had to combine economics and environmental science to pursue her interests.

She emphasized the importance of patience, perseverance, and skill development. Raisa Bashar faced her fair share of challenges throughout her academic journey, particularly with mathematical concepts during her master's program. However, instead of becoming disheartened, she embraced a growth mindset and persevered through trial and error. She believes this outlook on life has allowed her to develop valuable skills and achieve personal and professional success. As she reflected on her experiences, Ms. Bashar expressed immense gratitude towards NSU for providing an open-minded and engaging environment and for her many opportunities to grow and learn. Her story serves as a reminder of the importance of resilience, self-motivation, and skill development in overcoming obstacles and achieving one's goals.

As a proud alumna and esteemed teacher at NSU, Ms. Bashar had valuable advice for fresh graduates. She emphasized the importance of starting early and seeking opportunities from the final year of university. She also highlighted the significance of developing a well-crafted CV and learning to represent oneself professionally. Additionally, she urged students to participate in extracurricular activities and seek guidance from seniors. Ms. Bashar firmly believes that NSU was the best decision of her life, and she hopes that her guidance will inspire the next generation of graduates to achieve their fullest potential.

To know more about the event, visit the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/955869842431011>

Information Session with DAAD, Germany

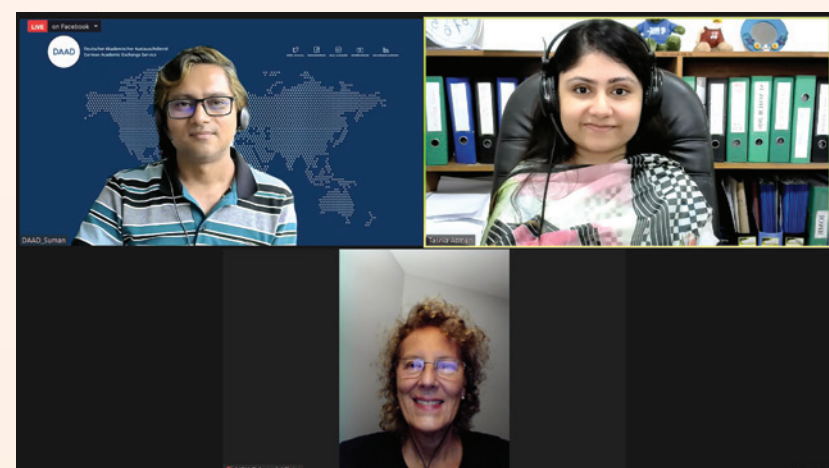


On March 27, 2023, the Office of External Affairs (OEA) of North South University (NSU) held an Information Session with DAAD, Germany. Mr. Md. Mahmudul Hasan Suman, the Regional Officer of DAAD in Bangladesh, was the key speaker of the information session. During the session, Mr. Hasan provided a wealth of information about DAAD, including their mission to recognize and support potential students worldwide and their commitment to strengthening the strategic academic network and providing expertise for international relations since 1925.

DAAD provides funding for potential students with the capacity and capability to pursue higher studies in Germany, including Ph.D. programs. As a result of their support, students gain new insights and experiences that change their perspective and access to the rich diversity of institutions and high academic levels in Germany. With over 400 institutions of higher education in Germany and 12,000 study courses available, students can pursue their educational goals in a supportive and collaborative environment. In Bangladesh, DAAD has been instrumental in promoting academic excellence and fostering collaboration between higher education institutions. Through various initiatives and programs, including the DAAD Bangladesh Information Centre, they have helped students and researchers access valuable resources, connect with peers and mentors, and pursue their academic aspirations. DAAD's commitment to supporting academic excellence and fostering international cooperation has made it a valued partner for students and educational institutions.

Due to several factors, Germany's popularity is a destination for higher studies, especially for MSc and Ph.D. programs. Firstly, the absence of tuition fees in most German universities makes it an attractive option for international students. Furthermore, German universities offer excellent theoretical and practical training in various fields, which leads to professional growth for students. The diverse range of courses available in Germany caters to the interests and needs of a wide range of students. Additionally, Germany is known for its safe and economic environment, making it a favorable option for international students. All these factors, coupled with Germany's robust research and training opportunities, make it a popular destination for students seeking higher education abroad. International students highly favor Germany as it offers many programs across various disciplines, with a strong focus on mathematics and natural science. Additionally, Germany is home to many Nobel laureates in physics, medicine, and economics, making it an attractive destination for students seeking high-quality education and research opportunities. Furthermore, Germany boasts over 2,000 international degree programs for Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral levels, with the language of instruction generally being English. This is further complemented by extensive support and advising services for international students, including language and cultural studies programs. With such diverse academic offerings and support systems, it is no wonder that Germany continues to be a leading destination for international students pursuing higher education.

In Germany, there are over 400 universities, including Technical Universities (TUs) and Universities of Applied Sciences (UASs), which offer a wide range of programs and courses. TUs are specialized institutions focusing on the theoretical and research-oriented aspects of engineering, natural sciences, and computer science. These universities place a strong emphasis on scientific research and theoretical knowledge. On the other hand, UASs offer more practical programs geared towards applied sciences, such as business, engineering, and design. UASs aim to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry-based applications by offering hands-on training and internships. The teaching methodology and curriculum of UASs are more practice-oriented, while TUs concentrate more on theoretical knowledge. Students interested in pursuing a career in research, academia, or scientific fields may prefer TUs, while those seeking more industry-based education may opt for UASs.



During the last parts of the session, Mr. Hasan provided valuable insights about the application process for Bachelor's, Master's, and Ph.D. programs in Germany. He emphasized the importance of language proficiency tests, such as IELTS and TOEFL, and the need to apply to 5-6 universities to increase the chances of acceptance. Mr. Hasan also discussed living expenses and the option of part-time jobs to support oneself. In addition, he highlighted the career opportunities available after completing higher education in Germany, including starting a Ph.D., seeking employment in a company, becoming an independent professional, or working in other EU countries. The session provided a comprehensive understanding of the process and benefits of pursuing higher education in Germany through DAAD.

The DAAD Information Session was highly interactive, with valuable insights on pursuing higher education in Germany. Mr. Hasan's detailed answers clarified the application process, language proficiency requirements, and career prospects. Financial aspects were also covered, describing part-time jobs and living expenses. Students could clarify doubts and understand the various programs available to them. With DAAD's support, students can gain a new perspective and experience in Germany, benefitting their future career growth.

To know more about the event, visit the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1351993095647666>

NSU Alumni Talk Show 113



The one hundred and thirteenth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on March 29, 2023. This episode's guest was Mr. Ehfaz Nowman, an esteemed alumnus of North South University from Batch 2008. After completing his undergraduate studies with a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), majoring in Marketing and International Business, he pursued his MSc. in Marketing at The Manchester Business School, University of Manchester, UK. Ehfaz began his career in advertising, working at reputable agencies such as Grey and TBWA\Benchmark before moving to the UK. He then completed his postgraduate degree in Marketing, with a research focus on Consumer Behaviour in Digital Space. After returning to Bangladesh, he worked in Digital Marketing, handling digital strategies for various brands before joining North South University as a full-time Faculty Lecturer in the Marketing and International Business department at the School of Business and Economics. Ehfaz's diverse career experience and educational background make him a valuable asset to the university and a testament to the quality of education provided at North South University.

During the talk show, Mr. Ehfaz Nowman shared his motivation for joining North South University (NSU) as a full-time faculty lecturer, stating that he wanted to give back to the institution that had significantly shaped his career. He reminisced about his days as a student and the memories he made and expressed his honor in being a part of the faculty at NSU. When asked about pursuing marketing as a major and what required skills, he emphasized responding quickly in any given context. As marketing involves working with multiple brands and companies, being cool-headed and able to make fast decisions is a sought-after skill. Mr. Nowman teaches digital marketing and ensures that his lectures are up-to-date. As a teacher, he believes that students should deeply understand digital marketing and data analysis which are now essential skills in the field. Overall, Mr. Nowman's experience as a marketer and lecturer highlights the significance of both practical skills and academic knowledge in marketing.

As the show progressed, Mr. Nowman discussed the steps to pursue higher studies abroad and how to secure good scholarships. According to him, universities in the UK rely more on practical activities than just lectures to provide a more practical understanding of marketing concepts. This approach is different from what is being followed in universities in Bangladesh. Therefore, one should focus on activities and practical learning while preparing for higher studies abroad. He also emphasized the importance of starting the preparation procedure early, preferably 6-8 months before the application deadline. This allows sufficient time to research and identify the universities and scholarships and apply for them promptly. These steps can help students secure good scholarships and improve their chances of admission to their desired universities.

Amidst the conversation, Mr. Ehfaz Nowman talked about his future ambitions. He mentioned that he is working towards his doctorate and is interested in digital marketing and artificial intelligence. As a faculty member at the School of Business and Economics, North South University, he teaches digital marketing, and his research interests lie in advertising, consumer behavior, and digital marketing. His future goals revolve around these areas, as he hopes to continue advancing his knowledge and skills in digital marketing and AI while researching the latest developments and trends. His devotion to his field of work and his passion for learning and teaching are evident in his plans for the future.

During the show's final segment, Mr. Ehfaz Nowman was asked to share his thoughts on his time at North South University. He spoke fondly of the camaraderie between his batchmates and how they have remained connected and supportive of each other. He also acknowledged the invaluable guidance and encouragement provided by his teachers, who were instrumental in shaping his academic and professional journey. Although he did not participate in any clubs, he participated in various club events and competitions, enriching his overall university experience. Mr. Nowman advised students who aspire to pursue a master's degree to apply early and to engage in extracurricular activities. He also encouraged them to attend as many interviews as possible and not to be too selective. His reminiscences of NSU were filled with nostalgia as he shared how the university had played a significant role in shaping his life and career.

To know more about the event, visit the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1250117692378729>

NSU Alumni Talk Show 114

The one hundred and fourteenth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on April 02, 2023. Md. Khalid Hassan, a prominent alumni of North South University (NSU) from the 2013 batch, was the guest speaker for this episode. Mr. Hassan graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration, majoring in marketing, and has had a commendable professional journey. He started his profession as an apprentice in customer experience and service at Grameenphone Ltd, followed by an internship in internal m-commerce at bKash Limited. Currently, he is a Regional Executive for Search Operations at Daraz, overseeing operations in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Myanmar. He holds a data analyst role and works with Alibaba's in-house data studio to extract data using SQL programs. Mr. Hassan's valuable experience in the corporate world and his position as an interim head officer for search operation and regional executive make him an inspiration for NSU graduates.



During the show, he discussed his current role as a Regional Executive in the business team at Daraz, an e-commerce venture operating in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Myanmar. He explained that working at Daraz has been a delightful experience as he collaborates with people from diverse

backgrounds and countries. Mr. Hassan also highlighted that the Daraz search engine is unique compared to other e-commerce platforms. He mentioned his love for working with data, as it allows him to create data stories and analyze data using Microsoft Excel. Mr. Hassan started his journey with Daraz as a junior executive and has since evolved into an integral part of the team. Overall, his experience at Daraz has been enriching, and he is ecstatic to be a part of this growing organization.

Moving along the episode, Mr. Hassan sheds light on the future of e-commerce and its challenges. He pointed out that Bangladesh's e-commerce industry is still growing, with a consumer base of five crores and two crore merchants. The logistics team, such as Pathao and RedEX, play a significant role in building the infrastructure of e-commerce. However, he also identified the most critical challenge the e-commerce industry faces: trust. Many consumers are still reluctant to shop online. Consumers are not confident that they will receive the authentic product they ordered or will be delivered on time. Mr. Hassan emphasized the need for a law to address fraudulent vendors on Daraz and across all e-commerce platforms. Additionally, he stressed the importance of government support for e-commerce companies and encouraging people to shop online to achieve the goal of a digital Bangladesh.

Md. Hassan shared that he was influenced by a senior who recommended NSU as the ideal choice for higher studies. Recognized as Bangladesh's best private university, NSU boasts one of the most elaborate BBA programs, comparable to DU IBA. Additionally, NSU is the only university that offers numerous clubs, providing ample opportunities for students to engage in extracurricular activities. As a debating enthusiast, he joined the Debate Club at NSU and even served as an organizer. He also described the faculty members as being kind-hearted and sometimes challenging. Notably, NSU graduates hold prominent positions in various companies, and organizations prefer recruiting NSU graduates as they possess excellent communication skills and overall skills, making them qualified for any job role. Mr. Hassan highlighted that NSU had prepared him for job preparation by honing his communication and analytical skills, which are in high demand in the business sector. The university acted as a pillar, providing graduates with a significant edge in the job market. The fond memories he had of NSU, coupled with the skills acquired, played a crucial role in shaping his career.

By the end of the show, Mr. Hassan emphasized the importance of data-driven and analytical skills, specifically proficiency in Microsoft Office and Excel, as well as programming languages such as Python. He mentioned that these skills are indispensable for the business sector as companies are increasingly data-driven. However, he also noted that these skills are not typically part of academic curriculums and that students should actively learn them in university. In addition to technical skills, he stressed the significance of strong communication skills, which are vital in all business sectors. Mr. Hassan is an exceptional and talented NSU alumni with a wealth of experience and expertise in the business sector. His insights and guidance on the industry and job preparation have been invaluable, making him an incredible and treasured addition to the NSU alumni community.

To know more about the event, visit the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/906986550545308>

Delegation Visit from Arctic University, Norway

On April 03, 2023, a delegation representing the UiT, The Arctic University of Norway, the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Dhaka visited the North South University campus. The purpose of their visit was to explore potential collaborations between the institutions. The delegation was warmly welcomed by Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of NSU, and members of the Center for Peace Studies (CPS).



One of the highlights of the visit was a research talk delivered by Mohammad Musfequs Salehin, an Associate Professor at CPS and UiT Norges arktiske Universitet, Norway, and a Senior Researcher at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO). His talk was entitled "The 'Local' Turn, 'Hybridity,' and 'Friction' in refugee governance: An Ethnography of Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs) in the Rohingya Refugees Camps in Bangladesh." Mr. Salehin's presentation was engaging and informative, touching on important issues in managing refugee crises.

UiT, The Arctic University of Norway, is a leading institution of higher education in Norway, focusing on the Arctic and northern issues. UiT is renowned for its innovative research in various fields, including peace and conflict studies, which is why they were crucial in the delegation. The meeting was an excellent opportunity for NSU and UiT to explore ways to collaborate to further their mutual research interests, including joint research projects, student and faculty exchanges, and other academic collaborations.

Visit from President, OzNSUers, Australia



The Office of External Affairs (OEA) at North South University (NSU) welcomed Mr. Shams Maudood, the President of the Aussie NSUers Association (OzNSUers), on April 04, 2023, for a meeting to explore collaboration opportunities between the Australian NSUer community and NSU. From OEA, Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director; Mr. Fardin Yaman, Alumni Affairs Officer, and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, attended the meeting with Mr. Maudood. The primary objectives of this collaboration include providing support to NSU students who travel to Australia for educational or migration purposes, organizing networking events, and establishing effective relationships with NSUers located throughout Australia.

The Aussie NSUers Association was established in January 2011 to promote effective relationships between NSU alumni residing in Australia. As a non-profit organization, it provides communication and networking tools, social programming, career mentorship programs, and many more. The

The association has been registered with the Department of Fair Trading, NSW Government, and aims to bring all NSUers under one community to facilitate job placements, business prospects, and social benefits. The network of NSUers is expanding, and the association is dedicated to boosting the community's reputation through leadership and accomplishments in various community sectors. OzNSUers cultivate positive and productive relationships with all NSUers and strive to serve its members with information, training, lobbying, and social services.

OzNSUers aims to enhance the educational experiences and opportunities for NSU students who travel to Australia by collaborating with NSU. Additionally, they seek to promote cultural exchange and foster positive relationships between the two countries. During the discussion, Mr. Shams Maudood emphasized establishing and maintaining reliable connections between the Australian NSUer community and NSU. He strongly wanted to support NSU students and facilitate opportunities for cultural exchange and educational advancement. The OEA members welcomed these ideas and discussed potential avenues for collaboration, including organizing joint events and workshops, promoting academic opportunities, and supporting student initiatives.



Dr. Tania Islam and Dr. Mohammad Ali Tareq Visit from University of Malaya, Malaysia

On April 05, 2023, Dr. Tania Islam, a senior lecturer and public health physician from the Department of Surgery at the University of Malaya, Malaysia, visited NSU to initiate talks about a possible collaboration. In the first meeting, Dr. Islam expressed her interest in joint and faculty research work, primarily in the research sector. Later, Dr. Mohammad Delwer Hossain Hawlader, the Associate Professor & Chair of the Department of Public Health, joined the discussion, and they agreed to schedule another meeting. During the second meeting, both universities' representatives discussed possible collaboration opportunities, mainly focusing on faculty and student exchange programs, initiating MoUs, and research opportunities.



Dr. Mohammad Ali Tareq, the Founder and Associate Member of the International Joint Intellectual Property Laboratory and the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Centre Associate Member, also visited NSU on April 5th. He met with Dr. Mahmud Hassan, the Associate Professor & Chairman of the Department of Marketing & International Business, and discussed opportunities for collaboration. The main focus of the meeting was on both-way student exchange programs, initiating MoUs, and faculty exchange programs. Both parties expressed their interest in cooperation and agreed to schedule further discussions.

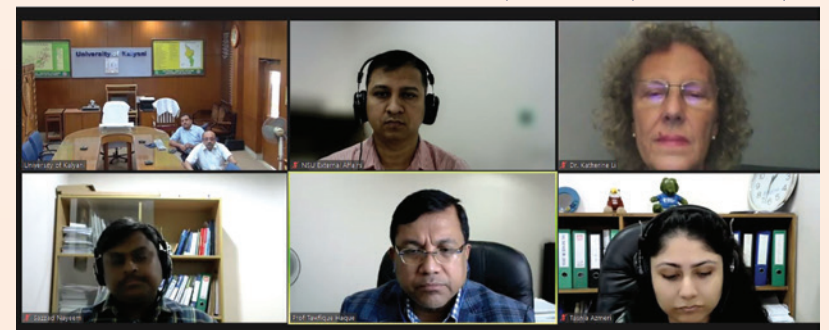
The visit by these esteemed visitors represents an exciting opportunity for NSU to engage in fruitful partnerships with renowned international academic institutions. The collaborations will allow for student and faculty exchanges, joint research initiatives, and other areas of educational cooperation, leading to enhanced learning outcomes and increased global visibility for NSU. Further discussions will take place to formalize the partnerships and establish the foundation for successful collaboration between the institutions.

Collaboration Meeting with University of Kalyani, India



On April 06, 2023, a virtual meeting over Zoom was held between representatives from North South University (NSU) and the University of Kalyani to discuss possible collaboration in joint research, publication, research funding, student funding, and faculty exchange programs. Representing the University of Kalyani were Dr. Swati De, Professor, Department of Chemistry; Dr. Pratip Chatterjee, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Political Science; Ms. Indrani Karar, Deputy Registrar and Dr. Sumit Mukerji, Professor, Department of Political Science. The meeting attendees from NSU were Professor Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Chair, Dept. of Political Science and Sociology and Director, South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SAIPG); Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs; Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, Office of External Affairs; Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, Office of External Affairs; and Mr. Sazzad Nayem, Research Assistant, SAIPG.

The meeting commenced with an introduction of the representatives from both universities and a brief discussion on the purpose of the meeting. The agenda for the meeting was then presented, which included identifying areas of potential collaboration and discussing the modalities for establishing partnerships in these areas. Several areas of collaboration were identified, including joint research projects, co-authored publications, and sharing of research facilities and resources. The representatives from both universities expressed interest in exploring opportunities for research funding and grant applications, focusing on interdisciplinary research areas.



The representatives from NSU provided an overview of their research center, the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG), which conducts research, publishes policy briefs, and runs academic programs such as the Master in Public Policy and Governance (MPPG) and the Executive Masters in Policy and Governance (EMPG). SIPG aims to develop professional leaders in policy and governance, generate research-based knowledge, and create a network of partnerships with national and international institutions.

During the meeting between North South University's South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) and the University of Kalyani, Professor Tawfique outlined the significant areas of interest, to which the University of Kalyani concurred and highlighted their involvement in a multi-disciplinary workshop on migration. Professor Pratip Chatterjee proposed various areas of collaboration, including faculty and research scholar exchanges, student visits for educational purposes, and collaborative seminars and workshops on topical issues. Professor Tawfique expressed NSU's willingness to provide research funding and encouraged cross-border research collaboration between the two institutions. The meeting concluded with a mutual interest in pursuing joint research, publication, and educational initiatives between NSU and the University of Kalyani.

Furthermore, both universities' representatives expressed their eagerness to establish student and faculty exchange programs, enabling students and faculty members to gain exposure to different academic and cultural environments. They also discussed the modalities for ensuring the smooth functioning of these exchange programs. In conclusion, the NSU and the University of Kalyani delegates expressed their mutual interest in establishing partnerships and collaborations in the identified areas of interest. They agreed to continue discussing and exploring possible collaborations to foster more outstanding academic and research partnerships between the two institutions.

Introductory Meeting with BASA Foundation



On April 10, 2023, an online exploratory meeting was held between North South University (NSU) and the Bangladesh Association for Social Advancement (BASA) Foundation. The meeting was conducted through Zoom and included the following members: Mr. A. K. M. Shirajul Islam, Executive Director of BASA Foundation; Dr. Katherine Li, Director of the Office of External Affairs at NSU; and Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer of the Office of External Affairs at NSU. The meeting's agenda discussed potential collaborations between NSU and BASA Foundation. Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon invited Mr. Islam to introduce the BASA Foundation and shed some light on the sectors the organization is focusing on for the development of Bangladesh.

Mr. Islam began by introducing the BASA Foundation, established in 1991. BASA Foundation, a non-profit organization based in Bangladesh, has actively worked in various sectors to promote sustainable development. Regarding water and sanitation, BASA has successfully implemented multiple projects with the support of renowned international organizations such as the European Commission, World Bank, UNICEF, CIDA, Water Aid, DPH, and Bangladesh WASA. Through these projects, BASA has focused on providing clean water, improving sanitation and hygiene practices, and raising community awareness about the importance of water and sanitation. The organization has also been involved in improving the healthcare system in Bangladesh by implementing innovative programs, such as community healthcare projects, maternal and child health, family planning services, infectious diseases, installation of water-sealed sanitary latrines, and arsenic-free tube wells. By doing so, BASA Foundation aims to improve the population's health status and reduce the prevalence of diseases in the country.

Another significant program implemented by BASA is microfinance. The organization's microfinance program aims to reduce poverty, increase GDP, create job opportunities for unemployed men and women, and empower women for sustainable socio-economic development. The program is operated through the Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) fund. BASA Foundation has also been actively involved in environmental conservation and sustainability efforts. The organization has implemented programs related to solid waste management, reduction of carbon emissions, and social afforestation. Through these initiatives, BASA aims to protect the environment and promote sustainable development practices in the country.

In the agricultural sector, BASA Foundation aims to produce agro products by expanding and improving cultivation and training farmers, and ensuring the supply of agricultural inputs. By doing so, BASA Foundation hopes to promote sustainable agriculture practices and support the growth of the agricultural sector in the country. BASA Foundation has also implemented the Samridhi (enrichment) program, an integrated development program in Durgapur Union in Kapasia, Gazipur. The program aims to improve the socio-economic conditions of the communities living in the area by providing them with access to essential services such as health-care, education, and livelihood opportunities.

The organization has also significantly promoted beekeeping in the country through its Aadi Honey program. BASA Foundation has trained beekeepers on proper honey extraction and marketing techniques to help them sell their products more efficiently while maintaining proper sanitation. Finally, BASA Foundation provides various training opportunities to its staff and the communities it serves to improve their skills and enhance their livelihoods. The organization aims to improve its services and marketing strategies while developing its staff's capacity through these training activities, turning BASA Foundation into a viable enterprise.

NSU believes that the opportunity for people to visit the BASA Foundation training center is an exciting opportunity to learn from the experts involved, and students and researchers of North South University would be interested in visiting and experiencing it firsthand. NSU has some expert faculty members from the School of Humanities and Social Sciences interested in meeting with Mr. Islam and pinpointing specific ways to develop collaboration between NSU and the BASA Foundation.



Prof. Haque appreciated the future partnership and stressed the advantages of a consortium relationship. NSU has experienced social researchers and faculty members who undertake research that is published nationally and globally. Prof. Haque underlined the significance of practical, field-based experiences in conducting successful international research projects, and he outlined prospects for collaborative research and publications, resource and funding mobilization, student internships, and the interchange of research findings and academic information. He added that integrating NSU's experience in social issues with BISR Trust's concentration areas will create a win-win situation for both parties. Following a thorough discussion, the two parties agreed to establish an Agreement to launch their academic partnership. This collaboration will involve joint research projects, publications, and funding proposals. Moreover, this collaboration will provide NSU students with training and internship opportunities.

Delegation Visit from Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland

On April 11, 2023, the Student Recruitment Manager of Queen's University Belfast, Ms. Afshana Hoque Jafri, graced North South University (NSU) with her presence. The purpose of the visit was to establish and introduce the Queen's University of Belfast to NSU's students and officials, focusing on exploring potential collaboration areas between the two universities, specifically in research activities. The visit marks an important milestone in the ongoing efforts to create a mutually beneficial partnership between the two institutions.



During her visit, Ms. Hoque was given a comprehensive tour of the NSU campus and was briefed on the various departments and courses offered by the university. The delegation was impressed with the quality of education provided by NSU and expressed an interest in more detailed discussions in the future. NSU officials highlighted their commitment to providing a conducive environment for research and innovation, which piqued the interest of the delegation. The visit was a step in the right direction towards a collaborative partnership that could have far-reaching benefits for both institutions. As research has emerged as an area of focus for both universities, the prospects of a future collaboration seem bright. NSU officials expressed their eagerness to work with the Queen's University of Belfast in joint research projects, student exchange programs, and faculty exchange programs. Ms. Hoque praised the NSU officials for their enthusiasm and emphasized the importance of collaboration in the global academic community.

In conclusion, the visit of Ms. Hoque to North South University was an essential step towards establishing a fruitful partnership between NSU and the Queen's University of Belfast. The willingness of both institutions to engage in collaborative research activities is a positive sign for the future of academic exchange between Bangladesh and the United Kingdom. The meeting marked the beginning of what is hoped to be a long and fruitful collaboration between NSU and Queen's University of Belfast.

NSU Alumni Talk Show 115

The one hundred and fifteenth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on April 11, 2023. This episode featured Mr. Jawwad Jahangir, Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Shuttle Bangladesh. Mr. Jahangir is an NSU BBA batch of 2011 graduate who completed his degree in 2014. In 2018, he ventured into the transportation sector and established Shuttle Bangladesh, a transportation service dedicated to women workers. Mr. Jahangir's work highlights his commitment to empowering women through safe and reliable transportation services. As a successful entrepreneur and NSU alumnus, Mr. Jahangir's insights into the transportation sector and his experiences in establishing a successful business provide valuable lessons to aspiring entrepreneurs and NSU students alike.



As the show commenced, Mr Aktab summarized his academic and career odyssey. Since joining the Japanese engineering consultancy company in March 2020, he has completed a rigorous six-month training program and secured a permanent position. Mr. Aktab has been involved in numerous projects, including Consultancy Services for Management, Design & Supervision for Haor Flood Management & Livelihood Improvement Project (BWDB Part), MRT Line 5 North Project under Utility Survey Department, and the Industrial and Economic Zones Sector Development Plan for Moheshkhali-Matarbari Integrated Infrastructure Development Initiative (IEZ-SDP). Nippon Koei Bangladesh Ltd., a subsidiary of Nippon Koei Co., Ltd (Japan), was established to emphasize the importance of projects in Bangladesh and abroad. With experienced professionals, Nippon Koei aims to contribute to developing infrastructure for both public and private sectors through excellent engineering services based on advanced technology and abundant project experience. As Japan's No. 1 International Engineering Consultants, Nippon Koei has been committed to providing consultancy services since 1946. The company has been providing consulting services for infrastructure projects in various fields. Furthermore, Nippon Koei Bangladesh Ltd. is associated with numerous mega-projects in Bangladesh, including the notable metro rail project, Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport terminal 3 projects, and special economic zone project.

During the show, Mr. Jahangir revealed the fascinating story behind establishing his successful transportation venture. Mr. Jahangir started his entrepreneurial journey in university as the Vice President of NSU YES in 2013-2014. After completing his studies, he founded Outbox Events, a marketing and event management startup, but felt dissatisfied with his work. Mr. Jahangir's desire to make an impact and solve a social problem led him to the transportation sector, which he knew was challenging but had immense growth potential. After conducting market research, he and his co-founder launched Shuttle Bangladesh for women's transportation,

initially with only two manually-operated vehicles running between NSU and Uttara. Within just 15 days of the trial period, the service was in high demand, directing to developing an application and expanding into the corporate sector.

Despite the challenges encountered during the pandemic, Shuttle Bangladesh continued to operate and boost its services, providing a safe and affordable transportation option for both men and women in Dhaka. When asked about the plans for Shuttle, Mr. Jahangir disclosed their dream to expand their service throughout Dhaka and Chittagong. In addition to their current offerings, they have recently launched a day rental service called Shuttle Rental and are continuing to create new products to serve their consumers better. They aspire to broaden their operations beyond Bangladesh's borders, positioning Shuttle as a leading participant in the global transportation industry.

Moving along the show, Mr. Jahangir was asked about the obstacles he faced while forming Shuttle Bangladesh and how he overcame them. When he commenced, he revealed that the startup concept was new in Bangladesh, and there was no startup ecosystem then. Family and friends were skeptical of his risky path and advised ensuring more secure jobs. However, he emphasized the importance of having the right mindset and being confident in your ideas. Moreover, he pointed out that the startup ecosystem is now growing, and plenty of local and foreign investors are available for those with good ideas and a scalable business model. Investments will be sufficient if the market size is reasonable and the idea is promising. In essence, the success of a startup depends on the entrepreneur's perseverance, inventiveness, and mindset, as well as the availability of funding and a supportive ecosystem.

During the interview, Mr. Jahangir was asked about the necessary skills and qualities an entrepreneur must possess. He urged fresh graduates new to the startup world to connect with alums with experience in this field. Regarding the skills and qualities entrepreneurs need, passion and a strong mindset are fundamental. Startups are challenging, and weathering the ups and downs requires perseverance and resilience. Additionally, an openness to change is necessary. A rigid mindset can hinder progress, and being ready to pivot and adapt to customer feedback and market trends is vital. Networking with alums and participating in club activities can be valuable for those considering entrepreneurship. This was the case for Mr. Jahangir, who overcame his introverted nature and developed leadership and public relations skills through his involvement in NSU YES Club and as a former Vice President of the club. Aspiring entrepreneurs can hone the skills and mindset necessary for success by staying connected and engaged. In terms of advice for those pursuing a job, Mr. Jahangir advised them to identify their unique skill set, acquire work experience through internships or part-time jobs, and develop exceptional skills to stand out in the job market. On the other hand, for those interested in pursuing a business or a startup, it is essential to recognize a societal problem, conduct thorough research and development, and convert the solution into a profitable venture. He recommended initiating this approach during student years or even earlier to attain an advantage in business.

When reflecting on why he chose to attend NSU, the guest speaker expressed that it was and still is the best private university in the country. As a newcomer to Dhaka and NSU, he initially lacked confidence, but joining clubs aided him in making friends and developing fundamental skills. For him, NSU life was defined by both clubs and classrooms. His club experience provided the foundation for his confidence and success in his existing venture. Faculty members also played an important role in his success by offering guidance and support, even outside NSU. Memories of working with faculty on the NSU School of Business & Economics logo and at the Outreach Events office are particularly cherished. Mr. Jahangir remembers those times as precious and unforgettable and will eternally hold a special place in his heart.

The education and skills he gained at NSU profoundly impacted him, giving him the confidence to pursue his entrepreneurial dreams. He wanted to make his mark in society before graduation, so he started his venture early, driven by a desire to impact society. However, as he progressed, he realized he needed to create something more prominent and sustainable to make a lasting impact. This realization led him to embark on his Shuttle journey, which could change public transportation in Bangladesh and beyond. His journey with Shuttle is a testament to the transformative power of education and the entrepreneurial spirit.

To know more about the event, visit the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/3526817710971549>

What's Your Story? (Episode 15)



Dr. Waliul Khan, MBBS, Ph.D., FRCPath, CAGF, a world-renowned professor and clinical scientist, was the esteemed guest on the 14th episode of "What's Your Story," aired on April 13, 2023. Dr. Khan is the Professor and Division Lead of Clinical Pathology at the Department of Pathology & Molecular Medicine, McMaster Farncombe Family Digestive Health Research Institute at McMaster University in Hamilton. Additionally, he serves as a Clinical Scientist and Consultant Immunologist at the Laboratory Medicine, Hamilton Health Sciences.

Dr. Khan earned his MBBS degree from Dhaka Medical College and a Ph.D. in Immunology and Parasitology from Akita University in Japan. He completed his postdoctoral training in Immunology at Manchester University in the UK and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists in the United Kingdom. Before joining McMaster, Dr. Khan worked at BIRDEM General Hospital, National Healthcare Network, an enterprise of the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh. He has dedicated his research career to mucosal immunology, inflammation, and host defenses. His work has garnered millions of dollars in research funding from prestigious institutions such as the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), Natural Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada (NSERC), Crohn's and Colitis Foundation, USA (CCFA), Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG), and Crohn's and Colitis Canada (CCC). Dr. Khan's groundbreaking research has resulted in 117 publications in high-impact journals such as Nature Medicine, Nature Communications, Nature Immunology, Science Advances, Gastroenterology, PNASUSA Gut, FASEB Journal, and Mucosal Immunology. He has an impressive H-index of 50 and has received several academic awards, including the Wellcome Trust UK International Fellowship, the Japanese Society of Promotion of Science Visiting Scientist Award, the McMaster University Innovator of Distinction, and the CIHR New Investigator Award.

Dr. Khan's expertise is widely sought after. He has served on several grant review panels, including CIHR, NSERC, German Research Foundation, European Science Found Grants, French National Research Agency, Irish Research Council, Broad Found USA, and Wellcome Trust UK. He is also a dedicated teacher, instructing students in immunology, microbiology, and clinical biochemistry and supervising graduate students, MSc and Ph.D. students, postdoctoral fellows, undergrad thesis students, clinical lab rotations of med residents, and clinical fellows. In his current clinical role, Dr. Khan supervises and provides consultation for diagnostic tests in the Clinical Immunology Laboratory of Hamilton Health Sciences at McMaster University. Dr. Khan's groundbreaking research, teaching excellence, and unwavering commitment to advancing the field of clinical immunology have firmly established him as a leader in his field, and his contributions to science and medicine will continue to be felt for generations to come.

Dr. Waliul Khan was born in Khulna, Bangladesh. After the liberation war, his family moved to Dhaka, where he attended the University Laboratory School. He cherished the memories of his school days, with great teachers and a disciplined focus on academic excellence. His parents were his role models, with his father inspiring him in sports, including soccer and chess, and his mother taking care of the family and school activities. He attended Akita University in Japan, where he found great mentors in his Ph.D. and postdoctoral supervisors in the UK and Canada. Despite the distance, he maintains close relationships with his childhood friends from school and enjoys catching up with them when he returns to Dhaka.

During the conversation with Dr. Khan, he shared his reasons for choosing immunology within clinical pathology. He considers it a unique and exciting area of medical science at the forefront of significant breakthroughs in healthcare. The recent developments in immunotherapy, new diagnostic tools, and vaccines make it an opportunity to work in various medical research and clinical service areas. Dr. Khan was particularly attracted to the field because of its constant evolution and vast unknowns. He enjoys challenging work and the combination of opportunities, ranging from research to teaching to clinical service. Currently, Dr. Khan is fulfilling his responsibilities by being involved in both clinical service and academia.

Dr. Khan's passion for uncovering the unknown aspects of diseases and disorders led him toward advanced research in medical science. After completing his medical studies, Dr. Khan became curious about the unknown causes and mechanisms of diseases and conditions, leading him to research to explore and contribute to medical science. Due to limited opportunities in Bangladesh, he explored the possibility of studying abroad and applied to many universities and professors. He eventually received a full scholarship to pursue his Ph.D. in Japan and then pursued a postdoctoral fellowship in the UK. Dr. Khan found the Akita University in Japan and the University of Manchester in the UK to have more interactive and engaging learning environments than Dhaka Medical College. Despite the challenges of cultural and language differences in Akita, he enjoyed learning Japanese and appreciated the supportive and great supervisors. He found a supportive and joyful environment in the UK with high-quality faculties. Dr. Khan believes that his experiences in Japan and the UK enriched his knowledge and skills and expanded his cultural horizons. The teaching atmosphere was excellent in all the institutions he attended, and he is grateful for the opportunities and support that enabled him to further his education and research.

Upon returning to Bangladesh in 1990, Dr. Khan found limited opportunities in the private health sector and joined the immunology department at BIRDEM Hospital as a Senior Research Fellow. The department was involved in clinical diagnostic testing, teaching, and research, providing a supportive and cooperative environment for its staff. Dr. Khan was later appointed as an Immunology Consultant for the national health network, where he established a successful diagnostic laboratory and supervised other immunology labs. Dr. Khan's passion for medical research led him to pursue a Ph.D. in Japan after completing his internship in Bangladesh. Following his return, he worked at the BIRDEM General Hospital, where he became a senior research fellow and established a diagnostic laboratory. Despite enjoying his work, Dr. Khan pursued a postdoctoral fellowship in the UK to advance his research further. Upon completing his fellowship, he returned to Bangladesh but found limited opportunities for advanced research, leading him to accept a faculty position at McMaster University in Canada. Despite initially intending to return to Bangladesh, Dr. Khan ultimately decided to remain in Canada due to career opportunities and family considerations. His experiences in Japan, the UK, and Canada provided him with valuable exposure to diverse cultures and advanced research techniques, which he continues to apply in his work today.

Dr. Khan's research interests have always focused on immunology, inflammation, and host defense mechanisms in the intestines. After becoming a faculty member and independent investigator, he had to develop an independent research program by integrating all his research interests. He was previously told that he could not continue the research he had done during his postdoc, so he had to select a new area. He started reading extensively and eventually came up with a new idea focused on serotonin, a hormone/neurotransmitter that plays a part in various body parts. Dr. Khan's current research focuses on understanding how serotonin is produced in the gut and its role in chronic diseases like Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS), Crohn's disease, and Ulcerative Colitis. He has made some significant discoveries about serotonin's involvement in the severity of inflammation in the gut and blocking its synthesis can reduce inflammation. He found that consuming Allura Red, a common food dye, increases the severity of inflammation in animal models, and blocking serotonin synthesis can facilitate the development of obesity and diabetes in animal models. Overall, Dr. Khan's research has made significant advances in immunology and inflammation, potentially impacting public health.

Dr. Khan is a highly motivated individual driven by a strong desire to achieve his goals. He is dedicated to being the best in everything he does, which has helped him to stay motivated through hard work and determination. He takes his responsibilities seriously and always strives to do his best, never giving up in the face of challenges. Dr. Khan has found immense pleasure in reaching his goals, which motivates him to keep pushing forward. Dr. Khan has faced some significant challenges in his life. The loss of his father during his third year of medical college was a significant hurdle. He had to support his younger brothers and mother, who handled everything remarkably well. The first few years were difficult as a faculty member, with limited resources and many responsibilities. However, with the support of his family, he was able to overcome these challenges. Dr. Khan advises students to create a proper plan based on their interests and goals, be sincere and persistent, and remain enthusiastic about their work. He encourages them not to give up when faced with challenges but to overcome them with determination and willpower. Dr. Khan welcomes NSU students to McMaster University for MSc and Ph.D. degrees, with the possibility of collaboration and scholarship support. Dr. Khan dreams of returning to Bangladesh and contributing to research, teaching, or clinical studies. His passion for his work and dedication to his goals make him an inspiring figure in the field of immunology.

To know more about the event, visit the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/217902984170947>

Ambassador Talk Series (Session 2): Norwegian Ambassador

The South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance's Center for Peace Studies (CPS) and NSU's Office of External Affairs (OEA) jointly arranged the second session of the Ambassador Talk Series on April 30, 2023. The distinguished speaker at this event was H.E. Espen Rikter-Svendsen, the Ambassador of Norway to Bangladesh. Professor Atiqul Islam, the Vice Chancellor of NSU, was also present during the session. The Ambassador Talk Series is an initiative to foster meaningful dialogue and engagement between foreign diplomats and the academic community to promote mutual understanding and cooperation.

H.E. Espen Rikter-Svendsen is a distinguished career diplomat from Norway who commenced as Norway's Ambassador to Bangladesh on September 01, 2020. With over 30 years of experience in the Norwegian Foreign Service, he has spent much of his career on postings across Europe and Asia. His last foreign posting was as Consul General in Guangzhou, China, from 2012 to 2017. While in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he has worked extensively on Asian issues, focusing on China and South Asia. Espen holds a Professional Law Degree (Cand. Jur.) from the University of Oslo and an LLM from the University of London. Apart from his mother tongue, he is proficient in English, French, Italian, and German, with basic Vietnamese and



Mandarin Chinese skills. He is also an avid amateur photographer and a musician who loves singing and playing the piano. Espen is keen on learning Bengali while serving in Bangladesh.

During the Ambassador Talk Series, Session II, H.E. Espen Rikter-Svendsen, the Norwegian Ambassador to Bangladesh, discussed Norway's peacebuilding efforts and why the country is regarded as an effective peace facilitator. Ambassador Rikter-Svendsen highlighted that Norway had been globally involved in peace and reconciliation efforts. Several factors drive Norway's role as a peace mediator or facilitator. One of the most significant reasons is its proven track record in resolving conflicts through peaceful means. As a small and prosperous country that has maintained internal peace for over two centuries, Norway has gained international recognition for promoting peace and reconciliation in war-torn regions. Moreover, Norway's history of solidarity with developing countries and its non-colonial past have earned it respect and trust among nations. Its commitment

to upholding human rights, democratic principles, and the rule of law further strengthens its position as a trusted mediator. Norway's wealth and affluence and its reputation for impartiality make it an attractive partner for conflict resolution. Norway has played a critical role in various peace processes worldwide as a peace facilitator. Notable examples include the Oslo Accords of 1993, which aimed to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. His Excellency also included other examples of the peace negotiations in Afghanistan, the Philippines, Nepal, Myanmar, Colombia, Sri Lanka, and Venezuela, where Norway has served as a mediator or facilitator.

Norway's role as a facilitator of peace processes is based on its ability to offer impartiality, expertise, and a neutral forum for negotiations. The Norwegian government recognizes that successful peace processes must be locally owned and led. Therefore, the Norwegian facilitator acts as a trusted intermediary to build trust, foster communication, and encourage negotiations between conflicting parties. Focusing on inclusivity, sustainability, and conflict sensitivity characterizes Norway's approach to mediation. It emphasizes that all parties, including women and marginalized groups, should be included in the process to ensure that the agreement addresses the root causes of the conflict. Norway has also recognized that successful peace processes require a long-term commitment, and it continues to support the implementation of agreements after they have been signed. Norway's efforts have helped advance peace and stability in conflict-affected regions worldwide, making it a respected and influential actor in global peacebuilding efforts.

Further into the talk series, His Excellency thoroughly discussed Norway's approach to peace facilitation, guided by nine criteria for successful peace engagement. Firstly, the arrangement must be requested by both parties involved in the conflict. Secondly, it must have a long-term view and a willingness to engage in dialogue with all parties. Thirdly, it must be based on impartiality and neutrality, clearly understanding the parties' interests. Fourthly, it must be flexible and adaptable, able to respond to changing circumstances. Fifthly, it must be persistent, willing to take political risks, and pursue alternative approaches if necessary. Sixthly, it must have a clear and well-defined mandate, emphasizing building trust and confidence between the parties. Seventhly, it must have a robust analytical capacity, with the ability to identify critical issues and opportunities for progress. And for the eighth criterion, it must have a clear communication strategy emphasizing transparency, inclusivity, and disseminating accurate and timely information. Finally, it must have a sound operational and logistical capacity, with the ability to provide support and resources to the parties involved. In conclusion, Norway's success as a peace mediator or facilitator stems from its proven track record, non-colonial past, values and principles, affluence, and commitment to impartiality and neutrality. Its role in various peace processes around the world highlights its expertise and dedication to promoting peaceful solutions to conflicts. Norway's nine criteria for successful peace engagement provide a valuable framework for conflict resolution and underscore the importance of dialogue, trust-building, and inclusivity in achieving lasting peace.

According to His Excellency, Norway's success as a peace facilitator is primarily due to its systematic approach to breaking down complex issues into minor, more manageable problems. This requires carefully organizing the topics to be discussed and preparedness for setbacks. One key aspect of Norway's success has been its ability to bring all parties involved in the conflict to the negotiating table, thus ensuring that all voices are heard and represented in the peace process. Additionally, keeping communication channels open and actively listening to each party's grievances and concerns are critical components of Norway's approach. Another noteworthy aspect of Norway's peace facilitation is the inclusion of women in the process. Norway has recognized that including women in peace processes is essential for ensuring that the resulting agreements are sustainable and address the root causes of the conflict. Therefore, Norway actively encourages women's participation in peacebuilding efforts and provides their representation at the negotiating table. Norway has developed a reputation as a highly effective and successful peace facilitator through these various methods.

The insightful presentation about Norway's peacebuilding process concluded with a lively question-and-answer session. In recognition of his valuable insights, His Excellency Ambassador H.E. Espen Rikter-Svendsen was presented with a small token of gratitude by Dr. Katherine Li, Director of the Office of External Affairs.

To know more about the event, visit the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/center.for.peace.studies/videos/604117831662631>



Special Feature



Dr. Sakib Bin Amin Along with Two NSU Econ Graduates Wins a Best Paper Award at the 6th International Conference on Business and Economics at Dhaka University:

Dr. Sakib Bin Amin, Associate Professor of the Department of Economics at North South University, along with his economics graduate students Farhan Khan and Faria Manal Rahman, won a Best Paper Award at the 6th International Conference on Business and Economics. The conference was organized by the Faculty of Business Studies (FBS) at the University of Dhaka and held on March 1 and 2, 2023. The theme of the conference was "Global Economic Vulnerability and Business Sustainability" and the title of the award-winning paper was "Does Technology Have a Lead or Lag Role in Economic Growth? The Case of Selected Resource-Rich and Resource-Scarce Countries". The outstanding paper and two cases were given awards by the conference committee out of over 70 selected publications. The award-winning paper discusses the role of technology in economic growth across countries and finds that resource-scarce countries perform better in terms of adopting and utilizing technology for greater social welfare. Previously, Dr. Sakib won another Best Paper Award in this flagship

conference of FBS in 2017 with his supervised research student, Farhan Khan..

International Student Feature

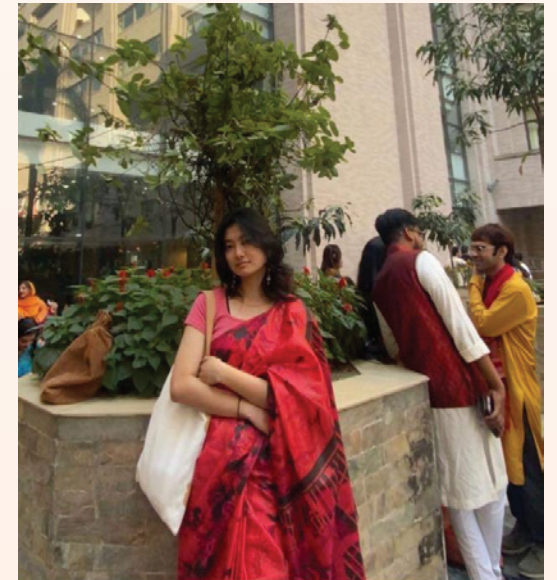
Born to a Buddhist family from the glorious Kingdom of Bhutan, I am Nima Seldon Lhazom. Bhutan is a lush Himalayan country nesting between two mighty nations, China and India, ruled by our benevolent king, His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. It truly is a marvelous nation where education and health services are free, with breathtaking views and good-willed people; Bhutan truly is one of the happiest nations.

My family consists of my dotting father and mother, who gave me everything I desired and supported me in every decision I took, I stand here today all by virtue of their prayers and hopes. Everything I am today is all thanks to them; no words are enough to describe my gratitude.

Regarding me? There is nothing special about me; I am just like any other child trying to be successful and make their parents proud. Pursuing a degree at North South University has been a blessing to me, as it is my first step in making my loved ones proud.

And North South University is a wonderful place with a beautiful campus, good-natured faculty, and students. Everyone has treated me wonderfully and equally. I had never studied abroad and was worried at first, but alas! I was afraid for no reason. I am grateful for the opportunity to study here.

Lastly, I thank the External Affairs Office for this fantastic opportunity to be able to write this.



Interviewer: How did growing up in Bhutan influence your worldview?

Nima Seldon Lhazom: Born in a country where healthcare and education are free, and people are good-willed, I have always been grateful, enthusiastic, and positive. Although I came to a realization that not everything will go your way and that there will be obstacles. I have seen my peers succeed, and some fail to achieve what they want. Yet I have seen them continue to work hard and focus on their goals despite failing numerous times; people rise back up. Thus, I perceive the world as a place where despite its flaws, people aim to become better. No one is perfect, and that's the beauty of life and this world.

Interviewer: Can you share a little about your family and how they have supported you?

Nima Seldon Lhazom: I was born to a loving family where my father was a professor at a university in Bhutan, and my mother was a housewife. My father was busy most of the time as he was the breadwinner. Thus, I spent more time with my mother. Being the family's only child, I always had a privileged upbringing. Given everything I desired and required, I did not have to struggle, and thus I am forever grateful to them for their hard work and love.

Interviewer: What made you choose North South University for your undergraduate studies?

Nima Seldon Lhazom: I chose North South University, as upon research, I saw it was the number 1 private university providing numerous opportunities to its students and faculty. It was a well-known university in Bangladesh and other countries as well. All the faculties here have a Ph.D. or master's from renowned universities; thus, I decided I would not let go of this golden opportunity.

Interviewer: What has been your favorite part about studying at North South University?

Nima Seldon Lhazom: My favorite part would be the people here; everyone has been thoughtful and friendly. The faculties, as expected, are experienced and well-versed in their field. When in need, everyone was willing to help. Again, I thank the Office of External Affairs for all the help rendered. Truly, NSU is blessed with good-willed people.

Interviewer: Can you describe your biggest challenge during your studies?

Nima Seldon Lhazom: I genuinely have not felt any massive challenge in my studies, as all the lessons are taught in English and are easy to comprehend. I thought that the language barrier would be a problem. However, that is not the case.

Interviewer: How has studying in a different country and culture affected you?

Nima Seldon Lhazom: Studying in a different country gives me the experience and the conversation skills I will need in the future. Learning about a new culture helps me view situations from a whole new perspective, molding me to be a better person.

Interviewer: Can you share a memorable experience you have had during your time at North South University?

Nima Seldon Lhazom: The spring festival was one of the most memorable moments, as I was in a saree for the first time and enjoyed it with my friends. Everyone was wearing a saree, and there were just good vibes.

Interviewer: What do you hope to achieve after completing your degree at North South University?

Nima Seldon Lhazom: After completing my degree, I hope to pursue a master's degree and continue studying to achieve my goal of being a successful person and making my parents proud.

Interviewer: How does Bhutan's education system compare to Bangladesh's?

Nima Seldon Lhazom: I am not well-informed about the education system of Bangladesh. Nonetheless, I heard that in Bangladesh, private schools provide a better education than public schools and that there is an English medium and Bangla medium. The only difference would be that public schools are preferred in Bhutan as they are free and provide quality education, and every subject is taught in English.

Interviewer: What are some cultural differences you have experienced between Bhutan and Bangladesh?

Nima Seldon Lhazom: Culture-wise, other than the religion, dress, and language, I do not see any differences. People are kind and respectful, and when distraught, they do not hesitate to help, so there are not many differences in habits and ethics. Not once have I felt outcasted or different, as people here are always welcoming.

Interviewer: How has studying at North South University helped shape your future goals and aspirations?

Nima Seldon Lhazom: North South University has given me the opportunity to pursue an honorable degree, thus laying down the platform for me to work hard on. It has given me the probability of achieving my dreams. Therefore, I am grateful to be here.

Interviewer: What advice would you give other international students considering studying at North South University?

Nima Seldon Lhazom: Do not hesitate to choose NSU. I do not regret choosing it, and neither will you. Take the chance.

Alumni Feature



Economics Division (GED) as a key research document.

Ms. Mehrin Karim finished her bachelor's in science in Economics from North South University in 2008. She was the Vice President of the Young Economist Forum (YEF) in 2007-2008. She pursued her Master of Arts in Economics from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo, graduating in 2011. She then desired to contribute to the development of her country and returned to Bangladesh and joined as a Senior Research Associate in one of the leading think tanks Policy Research Institute (PRI), where she worked with renowned economists. Ms. Mehrin worked on crucial government policy documents such as the 7th Five-year plan, the Delta plan, etc. She also has expertise in working in various fields, such as climate change, trade, and social protection. Ms. Karim has also attended various scholarship training in countries such as Belgium, Sweden, Nepal, India, and Thailand on a variety of macroeconomic issues such as children's rights, trade facilitation, and capital markets. She is currently working as a Research Officer in UNDP-Bangladesh in the Social Protection Policy Support Project as a Research Officer. She is providing technical support in implementing the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS). The life cycle strategy under the NSSS aims to create an inclusive social security system that would effectively tackle poverty and inequality and advance human development, employment creation, and economic growth covering all the SDGs, especially SDGs 1, 8, 10. She is also extensively working on the rights of persons with disabilities, where she coordinated with other Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) to hold a series of workshops and seminars attended by senior government officials. Her research paper, Situation Analysis of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Bangladesh, was published by the General

Aside from her professional life, Ms. Karim is an animal lover who enjoys traveling, reading books, and playing sports such as basketball, table tennis, and handball.

Interviewer: Please tell us about your current role as a Research Officer of the Social Protection Policy Support Project at UNDP. What are the things that you like about your job?

Mehrin Karim: I am assisting the cabinet division and all 39 ministries in implementing the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS). It is an integral part of the government's sustainable development policy, covering all the SDGs, especially no poverty, reducing inequality, and zero hunger. My primary role is to track,

research, and analyze policy developments concerning social protection. I am actively involved in the implementation of the projects; preparation of project documents' drafts, work plans, progress reports, policy briefs, position papers, and proposals on implementation arrangements. Social protection systems are at the heart of boosting human capital and empowering people. They help individuals and families, especially the poor and vulnerable, cope with crises and shocks, find jobs, improve productivity, invest in the health and education of children, and protect the aging population.

I returned to my country right after finishing my Master's in the USA to give back to my country, and this was an excellent platform for me to reach a diverse group of people. I am actively working with Persons with Disabilities and bringing them under social protection with their rights. Persons with Disabilities are lagging in access to health care, education, and employment at alarming rates. Although almost 100% enroll in primary education at the national level, only 40.55% of children with disabilities can go to school. Only 27.21% of the disabled participate in any economic activity. I am working closely with the NGOs, government, and other stakeholders to bring people with disabilities into the mainstream of the economy by increasing their access to education and turning them into human resources to increase social security coverage and access to treatment for them. Seeing that my work is being recognized and heard gives me a sense of accomplishment.

Interviewer: You have participated in multiple policy formulations and development with the government. What were your learnings from those projects? What are your suggestions for young economics graduates to get a good career progression?

Mehrin Karim: I have been actively involved in several Policy formulations, such as the 6th, 7th, and 8th Five-year Plans. To get a comprehensive idea about the dynamics of the policy-making process, it is important to analyze interactions among groups involved in the process arena or policy network. Policy networks vary from one policy to the other, depending on certain factors like a constellation of interests and distribution of resources. Working on all these projects helped me understand clearly the policy-making process in a country and how a particular policy needs to be carefully examined. Organizations remaining outside the government process carry out a great deal of policy formulation. In round table forums, these organizations bring together the leadership of corporate and financial institutions, leading intellectuals, and influential figures in the government to examine policy options. Everyone has an integral part to play. A good well-articulated policy will hold everyone accountable, and it will have better outcomes which will, in turn, bring success to the country.

Economics majors are well-positioned in an ever-changing world because they have problem-solving and analytical skills that enable them to succeed in various career paths, including law, risk management, finance, foreign affairs, public administration, politics, policy analysis, entrepreneurship, and so on. NSU's Economics graduate programs provided building blocks for any self-conscious young adult committed to their education. I had outstanding lecturers during my bachelor's at NSU; my passion for economics came from my teachers, and when I went for my Masters in the USA, it was a smooth journey.

I recommend that you be conscientious and diligent for good career advancement. There are no shortcuts to success. Stay updated with the latest skills, and keep adding value to yourself. Always have a thirst for knowledge. You need to establish your own sales proposition and explore new possibilities. Increase engagement, build networks, and strengthen your communication skills. One needs to challenge oneself and strive to take on greater responsibility constantly.

Interviewer: You were actively involved in the Young Economist's Forum (YEF) as Vice President of the club. How much did that experience help you later in your professional life? How do extracurricular activities help students develop perspectives about responsibilities?

Mehrin Karim: I always advise students to get involved in club activities as it provides them with the skill sets needed to operate in real life. One cannot learn only from going to a classroom and getting a straight CGPA of 4.00. Of course, grades are important, but getting involved in clubs is a great way to meet new people, enjoy your time at university, and ensure you balance studying and social life.

When I was Vice President of YEF, during my tenure, we hosted an International Seminar at which students from neighboring countries presented their papers, and our magazine was published. We were all up all night organizing it. We did not abandon our studies. Our Economics department had a high level of competition, and we juggled both studies, and the event was also a success. It helped me a lot in my professional career by providing me with a plethora of practical examples, which I still demonstrate in my work. It helped me in bringing out the leadership qualities in me. Extracurricular activities help students to learn about themselves and develop and use their skills and knowledge in different contexts. By participating, you'll build long-lasting friendships and connections, meet students from diverse backgrounds, and gain transferable skills such as communication, teamwork, organization, problem-solving, and time management. It will also improve your confidence. Such activities are an essential element of the university experience.

Interviewer: Who is your role model? What are the things that inspire you?

Mehrin Karim: My father is my inspiration. The qualities I most admire and have attempted to emulate are a strong work ethic, unwavering honesty, and simplicity. My father has always encouraged my sisters and me to be self-sufficient and has always given me the confidence to pursue anything I have ever desired. He was the Managing Director of the Bangladesh Diesel Plant and was always well-organized, soft-spoken, patient, and had a positive attitude toward life. He attended Faujderhat Cadet College and instilled that discipline in us. He was always willing to help others and handled everything with poise. He traveled to various places for training, and I also got many full scholarships and training opportunities in many countries. My father always taught me to strive for better and that the only competition is with ourselves. He always smiled and treated everyone with respect. When I was hurt by other people's behavior, he always told me the famous line from Shakespeare's play, "Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none." This is the motto I live by, and it has helped me.