



**Office
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THE BRIDGE

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Editor's Message

The Monsoon Season is here and as the old saying goes, "When it rains, it pours". And so it is with NSU. We are now experiencing life almost as it was before COVID and this issue of The Bridge reflects the dramatic increase of international exchange, new collaborations and much more.

We hope you will enjoy learning about the new opportunities available for NSU faculty, staff and students.

Happy reading!

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Congratulations NSU on the latest MoUs



NSU has signed the following 12 new and renewal MoUs in the last two months: Niigata University, Japan (renewal), Sejong University, Korea, United Nations, Mid Sweden University, Sweden, Arctic University, Norway, University of Bergen, Norway (renewal), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), University of Western Sydney (renewal), Crony, Curtin University, IU – International University of Applied Sciences, and the Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development (InM) (renewal).

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

NSU Delegation Visit to Norway and Sweden

A delegation from North South University, led by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Atiqul Islam, embarked on a week-long visit to Norwegian and Swedish universities as part of an outreach program and to establish partnerships. The visit proved successful, resulting in significant collaborations between NSU and the University of Tromsø (UiT-Arctic University), Norway, the University of Bergen (UiB), Norway, and Mid Sweden University, Sweden. The delegation engaged in fruitful discussions, signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and fostered strong relationships with the respective institutions. These partnerships hold great promise for future academic endeavors, research collaborations, and student and faculty exchange programs. The visit catalyzed expanding international cooperation and enhancing the global footprint of North South University.



On May 24, 2023, a delegation from NSU visited the University of Tromsø (UiT-Arctic University), Norway, as part of their ongoing partnership established in 2020. The delegation had the opportunity to visit the Center for Peace Studies (CPS) and other schools within the Arctic University. During the visit, two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed, one at the department level and another at the university level, solidifying the institution's collaboration. Discussions were held with various Deans and Heads of Departments, focusing on identifying potential areas of partnership. It was decided that NSU and UiT's peace centers would jointly apply for the NORPART and European Union research projects by August 2023. Additionally, efforts will be made to explore opportunities for joint Ph.D. programs, double degrees for Master programs, and organize joint webinars and an international conference on "Contemporary Issues in War and Peace" in 2023, in collaboration with UiB.

During a visit on May 26, 2023, the NSU delegation held meetings with various departments and the Rector's Office at the University of Bergen (UiB), Norway. The visit culminated in the signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two universities. It was agreed that the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) at NSU and the Department of Government at UiB would collaborate on project applications. Specifically, they planned to jointly apply for the ERASMUS Plus project, an initiative funded by the European Union. Additionally, the SIPG and the Department of Government intended to submit a joint proposal for a new NORPART project by September 2023, focusing on student exchange and collaborative research activities.

The NSU delegation engaged in fruitful discussions with public health researchers and faculty members from Uppsala University, Karolinska Institute, and the University of Gothenburg on May 27, 2023. The meeting centered around collaborative research ventures and potential Ph.D. opportunities for NSU faculty members and students. The Vice-Chancellor of NSU extended an invitation to the Swedish researchers and faculty members, inviting them to visit NSU and further explore the possibilities for collaboration.

The NSU delegation visited Mid Sweden University on May 29, 2023. An MoU was signed, fostering research collaboration in public health, bio-science, engineering, and social sciences. Both universities agreed to seek research funding jointly and develop a joint Ph.D. program. They also committed to organizing joint webinars and seminars in Life Sciences. Fruitful discussions were held with the Rector, Vice Rector, and academic leaders of Mid Sweden University, solidifying the partnership.



Collaboration Meeting with University of Ottawa, Canada

On May 02, 2023, a virtual meeting took place between the Office of External Affairs (OEA) at North South University (NSU) and the University of Ottawa (UOttawa) from Canada. The meeting was conducted via Zoom and aimed to explore potential educational collaborations between the two esteemed institutions. From UOttawa, Mr. Connell Monette, Director, Global Partnerships; Ms. Jinny Wu, Manager, International Partnership Development - Asia; and Mr. Marc-André Gougeon, Manager, International Market Development for South Asia and the Middle East, were present. From NSU OEA, Dr. Katherine Li, Director; Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director; and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, joined the meeting.



This meeting marked the second interaction between NSU and UOttawa, highlighting the growing interest in establishing a fruitful collaboration. Both institutions demonstrated their commitment to fostering international partnerships and expanding their educational networks. The discussions revolved around potential areas of cooperation, including student and faculty exchange programs, joint research initiatives, and the development of academic programs that cater to the needs of both institutions.

The meeting provided a platform for exchanging ideas and exploring opportunities to enhance academic excellence and cultural understanding through mutual cooperation. The participants acknowledged the importance of such collaborations in promoting global education and fostering a diverse and inclusive learning environment. The meeting concluded with a positive outlook and a commitment to explore potential partnerships between NSU and UOttawa further, leveraging their respective strengths and resources to benefit students, faculty, and the academic community.

Field Visit to BASD-Caritas Projects with HU University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands



On May 02, 2023, a joint visit was conducted by the team from North South University (NSU) and HU Netherlands to the project site of the Bangladesh Association for Sustainable Development (BASD) and Caritas in Ichapura union, Sirajdikhan upazila, Munshiganj. From HU University, Mr. Menno de Lind van Wijngaarden, Researcher and Chair, Institute of International Business Studies, and Ms. Ankan Siddiquee, Lecturer & Coach, International Business joined the field visit. Alongside from NSU, Dr. Asad Karim Priyo, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Economics; Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA, were present. This collaborative project focuses on three key activities aimed at sustainable development: firstly, providing subsidized ICT training to college students; secondly, offering training on good agricultural practices to farmers; and finally, delivering essential services to migrants and returning migrants.

During the visit, the team actively participated in a thought-provoking "Uthan Boithok" session with a group of farmers, where they had the opportunity to listen and learn about implementing sustainable and environmentally friendly farming practices in the village. One of the highlights of the visit was the observation of a farm belonging to the exemplary farmer, Md. Alamgir Shekh, which was a remarkable floating farm. The team also had the privilege of visiting Malobdia Moddho Para Village, known as a "Migration Spouse Village," where the male population has migrated primarily to the Middle East, Malaysia, and Singapore, leaving the women and children behind. Despite the geographical separation, these families appeared to be thriving financially, thanks to the remittances sent by the migrant workers.

The experience was indeed fascinating, leaving both the guests from the Netherlands and the visiting NSU team in awe of the warm hospitality demonstrated by the Bangladeshi village community. The visit provided invaluable insights into the successful implementation of sustainable practices and the resilience of these communities in the face of migration challenges. It further reinforced the importance of international collaborations in addressing societal issues and fostering sustainable development for a better future.



Meeting with 11 Partner NGOs of NSU & Delegates of HU University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands



On May 03, 2023, a momentous meeting of great importance took place between North South University (NSU) and its 11 partner non-governmental organizations (NGOs), in collaboration with delegates from HU University, skillfully organized by the NSU Office of External Affairs (OEA). The meeting witnessed the distinguished presence of Mr. Menno de Lind van Wijngaarden, Researcher and Chair of the Institute of International Business Studies, and Ms. Ankan Siddiquee, Lecturer & Coach specializing in International Business, representing HU University. The meeting also brought together notable delegates from the partner NGOs, including Mr. Md. Harun-or-Rashid, Founder & Chief Executive, Light House; Mr. Shibu Kanti Das, Director of Social Development & Program, PROSHOKA; Mr. Md. Raihanus Saadat, Director (ICT & RM), Gram Unnayan Karma (GUK); Ms. Sumaiya Afroj, Youth Engagement Facilitator, Arannayk Foundation (AF); Mr. Arsalan Zaman, Executive Director, SNAD Foundation Bangladesh (SNADF); Mr. Boniface S. Gomes, Executive Director, Bangladesh Association for Sustainable Development (BASD); Mr. Mohon Kumar Mondal, Executive Director, Local Environment Development and Agricultural Research Society (LEDARS); Mr. Khandaker Jahurul Alam, Executive Director, Center for Services and information on Disability (CSID); Mr. Ashfaqe-Ul-Kabir, Executive Director, Tauri Foundation; Dr. M. Khurshed Alam, Chairman, Bangladesh Institute of Social Research (BISR) Trust; and Professor Ishrat Shamim, President, Centre for Women and Children Studies (CWCS). Representing NSU, the attendees included Dr. M. Ismail Hossain, the Honorable Pro-Vice-Chancellor of NSU; Dr. Bulbul Siddiqi, Associate Prof. and Director, Confucius Institute; Dr. Shazzad Hosain, Prof. & Director, NSU Startup Next (NSUSN); Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA; Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA; and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA. This monumental gathering served as a platform for fostering collaboration, exchange of ideas, and potential partnerships to advance research, knowledge, and sustainable development agendas. The convergence of these esteemed individuals and organizations underscored the commitment and collective determination towards achieving common goals and positively impacting society.



The meeting commenced with a gracious welcome by Dr. Li, extending her greetings to all participants and providing a comprehensive introduction of the esteemed attendees. Emphasizing the spirit of collaboration, all stakeholders and partners were cordially invited to engage in fruitful information exchanges regarding their respective organizations, fostering an environment of warmth and camaraderie. Ms. Ankan Siddiquee from HU University adeptly initiated the discussions, posing insightful queries concerning the nature of the NGOs' endeavors, the challenges they confront, and the prospects for internships available to students and researchers. Subsequently, the conversation gracefully traversed around the table, with each NGO representative eloquently elaborating on their organization's current undertakings, effectively highlighting the impactful work.

The conversation commenced with Mr. Khandaker Jahurul Alam, the Executive Director of the Center for Services and Information on Disability (CSID), providing insights into his organization's mission and objectives. The Center for Services and Information on Disability (CSID) in Bangladesh is a phenomenal organization dedicated to empowering individuals with disabilities and championing their rights. Through its multifaceted work, CSID has significantly impacted Bangladesh by creating inclusive opportunities and fostering an enabling environment for people with disabilities. CSID's extensive efforts encompass advocacy, awareness campaigns, capacity-building programs, and the provision of essential services to enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities. By promoting social inclusion, accessibility, and equal rights, CSID has played a pivotal role in transforming attitudes, dismantling barriers, and improving the overall well-being of people with disabilities in Bangladesh. Additionally, CSID offers internship opportunities that provide aspiring professionals with firsthand experience in disability-related fields, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to the organization's mission while developing their skills and understanding of disability issues. Through its innovative initiatives and unwavering commitment, CSID continues to pave the way toward a more inclusive and equitable society for all individuals in Bangladesh. Then, Mr. Shibu Kanti Das, the Director of the Social Development & Program at PROSHIKA, took center stage, shedding light on the remarkable accomplishments of PROSHIKA and its transformative initiatives. PROSHIKA, an esteemed organization, has tirelessly worked towards social development and empowerment, focusing on poverty alleviation, education, and sustainable livelihoods. Through its innovative approaches, PROSHIKA has played a pivotal role in uplifting marginalized communities and creating opportunities for socio-economic growth. Moreover, Mr. Das emphasized PROSHIKA's commitment to fostering knowledge-sharing and experiential learning, notably through its well-structured internship program. This program offers aspiring individuals a unique platform to gain practical insights, contribute to PROSHIKA's impactful projects, and develop their skills to become change-makers in their respective fields.



During the meeting, Dr. M. Khurshed Alam, the esteemed Chairman of the Bangladesh Institute of Social Research (BISR) Trust, provided an insightful overview of the notable endeavors undertaken by the trust and shed light on its impact in the realm of social research. BISR Trust, known for its commitment to advancing knowledge and promoting evidence-based solutions, has significantly contributed to social development through rigorous research, policy advocacy, and capacity-building initiatives. Dr. Alam further highlighted that BISR Trust extends its internship opportunities to domestic students and aspiring individuals from renowned international universities. The trust takes pride in offering highly competitive internships, including prestigious institutions like Columbia University in the USA, providing a valuable platform for students to gain cross-cultural exposure, engage in cutting-edge research, and contribute to the Trust's mission of fostering positive social change. Consequently, centered in the spotlight was Mr. Ashfaque-UI-Kabir, the Executive Director of the Tauri Foundation, who passionately articulated the foundation's core missions and shed light on the challenges encountered along its transformative journey. Tauri Foundation, committed to building a more inclusive society, has tirelessly persevered to empower marginalized communities through various impactful initiatives. Mr. Kabir emphasized the foundation's innovative approach, mentioning the development of advanced applications that aim to address societal gaps and enhance access to essential services. Acknowledging the significance of professional expertise, he candidly addressed the challenges stemming from the scarcity of professionals and professionalism. However, Mr. Kabir emphasized that these hurdles are being effectively mitigated through comprehensive training programs, enabling Tauri Foundation to continually improve its services and make a substantial difference in the lives of those they serve.



During her address, Professor Ishrat Shamim, the President of the Centre for Women and Children Studies (CWCS), eloquently shared insights about the organization's remarkable journey, unwavering mission, and notable accomplishments. As a distinguished research institute, CWCS adopts a holistic approach towards empowering women and advocating for the rights of both children and women. Prof. Shamim highlighted the internship opportunities available at CWCS, enabling students and researchers to contribute to their initiatives and gain invaluable experience actively. Additionally, she shed light on the challenges faced by CWCS, emphasizing the need for improved monitoring of water bodies to combat trafficking, as well as the importance of proper training for law enforcement personnel to address issues of harassment during inspections. Prof. Shamim's impassioned words resonated with the audience, showcasing her exceptional dedication and inspiring others to follow in her footsteps. Undoubtedly, her visionary leadership and unwavering commitment inspire more women to strive for excellence and contribute to the betterment of society. Afterward, Mr. Md. Harun-or-Rashid, the esteemed Founder and Chief Executive of Lighthouse, captivated the audience with an insightful overview of the organization's impactful initiatives. Lighthouse, driven by its commitment to fostering positive change,

actively engages youth volunteers, harnessing their passion and energy to inspire and involve more young individuals in NGO work. With a steadfast focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Lighthouse contributes to the holistic development of Bangladesh. Furthermore, Lighthouse offers exciting internship opportunities, providing aspiring students and researchers hands-on experience in various projects and programs. These internships serve as a platform for young minds to actively participate in Lighthouse's endeavors and gain valuable insights into sustainable development. By nurturing the spirit of volunteerism and instilling a deep sense of responsibility, Lighthouse empowers the youth of Bangladesh to become catalysts for positive change and active contributors to the nation's development through service learning.

Subsequently, Mr. Arsalan Zaman, the esteemed Executive Director of SNAD Foundation Bangladesh (SNADF), shed light on the organization's commendable endeavors in the health sector and its overarching missions. SNADF is dedicated to improving healthcare accessibility and quality for marginalized communities in Bangladesh. Through their innovative programs, they strive to address pressing health issues like disease prevention, maternal and child health, and primary healthcare services. SNADF offers enriching internship opportunities, providing aspiring students and researchers with valuable hands-on experience in the field of healthcare. These internships enable individuals to contribute meaningfully to SNADF's mission, learn from experienced professionals, and make a tangible impact on the lives of underserved populations. SNADF's unwavering commitment to advancing healthcare and promoting well-being exemplifies its dedication to building a healthier and more equitable Bangladesh. Following that, Mr. Boniface S. Gomes, the esteemed Executive Director of the Bangladesh Association for Sustainable Development (BASD), shed light on the organization's profound commitment to sustainable development and its efforts in Bangladesh. BASD plays a fundamental role in addressing pressing environmental challenges, with a particular focus on climate change resilience programs in the face of the escalating global warming crisis. As Bangladesh is in a red zone at heightened risk, BASD's initiatives strive to enhance climate change adaptation, promote sustainable practices, and build resilient communities. The Association offers valuable internship opportunities, inviting aspiring individuals to actively participate in pioneering projects, research, and

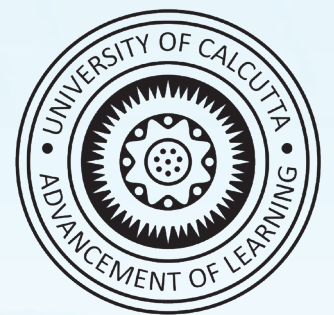
community-driven initiatives. By combining visionary leadership and proactive engagement, BASD demonstrates its pivotal role in fostering a sustainable future for Bangladesh, championing environmental conservation and socio-economic advancement hand in hand.

Continuing the discussion, Mr. Md. Raihanus Saadat, the Director of ICT & RM at Gram Unnayan Karma (GUK), elucidated the organization's ongoing projects and an overarching objective. GUK, driven by its mission, promotes rural development through sustainable initiatives. With a strong emphasis on information and communication technology (ICT), GUK harnesses technology to empower marginalized communities and enhance their socio-economic conditions. The organization provides valuable internship opportunities for individuals seeking hands-on experience in community development, research, and innovative ICT solutions. GUK's transformative endeavors and commitment to empowering rural areas signify its dedication to fostering inclusive growth and sustainable progress, ultimately contributing to the holistic development of Bangladesh. Following that, Ms. Sumaiya Afroj, the Youth Engagement Facilitator at Arannayk Foundation (AF), seized the spotlight to shed light on the organization's impactful initiatives and the pivotal role of youth involvement. Arannayk Foundation (AF) is dedicated to creating meaningful opportunities for young individuals to actively participate in their projects, fostering personal and professional growth. The Foundation also offers valuable internship opportunities, enabling young minds to gain practical experience and contribute to the Foundation's noble cause. Through its dynamic engagement strategies and commitment to youth development, Arannayk Foundation (AF) cultivates a vibrant and empowered youth community, working towards positive social change and environmental sustainability. Concluding the discussion, Mr. Mohon Kumar Mondal, the Executive Director of the Local Environment Development and Agricultural Research Society (LEDARS), elaborated on the organization's commendable initiatives and their significant impact. LEDARS is dedicated to fostering sustainable environmental practices and conducting cutting-edge research in agriculture. The society offers rewarding internship opportunities, allowing individuals to contribute to sustainable development projects energetically. LEDARS has profoundly influenced Bangladesh's environmental conservation and agricultural development through its collaborative efforts and innovative research, paving the way for a greener and more thriving future.

During the ensuing discussion, the meeting attendees engaged in a productive brainstorming session, focusing on the potential challenges that students from HU University might encounter while participating in internship programs offered by the NGO network through NSU. Language barriers emerged as a prominent concern, emphasizing the importance of language proficiency to ensure effective communication and engagement. Additionally, the students' potential feelings of homesickness were acknowledged, as these internships typically span 6-10 months. It was emphasized that maintaining motivation throughout their stay in Bangladesh is essential. Financial constraints or funding for projects were also recognized as a significant obstacle, necessitating a viable solution to address the unavailability of funds. While the security system was deemed relatively stable, it was underscored that timely communication with the local police would ensure cooperation and assistance if needed. Notably, implementing a buddy system was discussed to provide support and guidance to the interns, enhancing their overall experience and sense of belonging. Furthermore, a comprehensive cultural orientation program was proposed to facilitate the students' integration into the new environment and foster a welcoming atmosphere. The meeting proved highly successful, leaving a lasting impression on the delegates from HU University. As the meeting drew close, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor delivered a brief speech expressing gratitude and appreciation. Subsequently, participants engaged in informal conversations, fostering a cordial atmosphere. The event culminated with a delightful luncheon, providing an opportunity for further networking and camaraderie among the attendees.

Delegation Visit from the University of Calcutta, India

On May 07, 2023, a distinguished delegation from the University of Calcutta, India, graced North South University (NSU) with its presence to commemorate the momentous signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two esteemed institutions. The occasion was celebrated with great zeal over a three-day program, coinciding with the joyous commemoration of 'Rabindra Jayanti', the birth anniversary of the legendary Rabindranath Tagore. Tagore, an eminent polymath of the 20th century, stands as a towering figure whose legacy resonates profoundly in literature, music, and philosophy. As the first non-European Nobel laureate in literature, his words possess a captivating power that transcends the boundaries of geography and language. Tagore's profound insights on love, nature, and the complexities of the human condition continue to inspire and enlighten generations. Moreover, he made exceptional contributions as a social reformer, advocating for education and women's rights. Tagore's enduring impact on Indian culture, his embodiment of humanism and universalism, and his unwavering commitment to artistic brilliance and progressive thought make him an everlasting symbol of inspiration and enlightenment. The celebration of the newly minted MoU and 'Rabindra Jayanti' at NSU marked a moment of enthusiasm and appreciation for the remarkable legacy of Tagore, fostering a spirit of collaboration and cultural exchange between the University of Calcutta and NSU, symbolizing the collective spirit and rich, shared heritage of Bengali culture.



On the same day, the NSU Cine and Drama Club (NSUCDC) orchestrated a captivating theatrical performance titled "Raktakarabi" at the NSU Main Auditorium, commencing at 6 pm. This masterful production served as a glorious tribute to the legendary Rabindranath Tagore in honor of the esteemed occasion of 'Rabindra Jayant'. "Raktakarabi," an exceptional play authored by Tagore himself, immersed the audience in a mesmerizing narrative set within a fictional kingdom. The plot revolves around Nandini, a courageous and defiant young woman who dares to challenge the oppressive rule of a tyrannical king. Her path intersects with Raja, a revolutionary poet leading a clandestine movement against the despotic regime. As the tale unfurls, the play delves into profound themes of liberty, love, and the transformative power of art to combat authoritarianism. "Raktakarabi" emerges as a thought-provoking critique of social and political oppression, amplifying the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity. The NSUCDC exhibited extraordinary talent in portraying the characters, skillfully bringing their expressions to life while harmonizing seamlessly with the drama's evocative music and overall ambiance. The performance resonated deeply, leaving an indelible impression on the audience. With finesse and dedication, the NSUCDC brought forth an awe-inspiring rendition of Tagore's timeless work, encapsulating the essence of his literary prowess and the enduring relevance of his artistic vision.

The NSU field was transformed into a vibrant spectacle as the Baishakhi Mela unfolded in all its glory on May 08, 2023. The vivid décor, lively booths, and magical environment of this annual celebration pulsated with the essence of Bengali culture. The air became alive with the beautiful sounds of traditional music among the sun-kissed fairgrounds, while the delicious fragrances of street cuisine penetrated the ambiance, encouraging all to enjoy its wonderful offerings. Brimming with intricate handloom garments and artistic crafts, the stalls showcased the rich tapestry of Bengali creativity and craftsmanship. Adding to the cultural splendor, NSU's



student clubs and various offices contributed to the affair by hosting stalls offering an array of items, from thirst-quenching cold drinks to mouthwatering pitha, snacks, jewelry, and clothing. Later in the evening, the NSU Main Auditorium came alive with a mesmerizing cultural program presented by performers from the esteemed University of Calcutta. All who came were left with a lasting image of the great beauty and energy that comes from commemorating customs and shared heritage. Later in the evening, the NSU Main Auditorium came alive with a mesmerizing cultural program presented by performers from the esteemed University of Calcutta. The program, comprising captivating music, enthralling dance performances, and a riveting drama, showcased the artists' immense cultural richness and skill, leaving the audience spellbound. These extraordinary events left an indelible impression on all who attended, reminding them of the profound beauty and vibrancy emanating from celebrating traditions and shared heritage.

On May 09, 2023, a significant Joint Research Collaboration Meeting occurred between the University of Calcutta and NSU's Department of History and Philosophy. This meeting aimed to explore potential ways for collaboration and partnership. In honor of the distinguished delegates from Calcutta University, a special seminar titled "Aspects of Bengal/West Bengal/Bangladesh History, Heritage, and Environment" was conducted. This seminar was an introduction to the forthcoming joint collaborative research endeavors between Calcutta University and North South University. Eminent faculty members from both institutions presented papers on various pertinent subjects. Professor Dr. Kingshuk Chatterjee delivered a thought-provoking presentation on the multicultural nature of Kolkata, while Professor Dr. Sharif Uddin Ahmed shed light on the historical significance of Dhaka City as the Queen of the East. Furthermore, Professor Dr. Emadul Huq, Professor Dr. Amit Kumar Dey, and Professor Dr. Sirajul Islam shared their expertise on topics such as society and culture in medieval Bengal, as well as the impact of climate change on West Bengal and Bangladesh. This three-day event concluded harmoniously, symbolizing the fruitful and mutually beneficial collaborative partnership between NSU and Calcutta University, paving the way for future academic endeavors.

Later in the evening, NSU Sangskritik Sangathan orchestrated a captivating cultural program centered around Rabindra Sangeet. The audience, including the esteemed delegation from the University of Calcutta, was enthralled by the extraordinary talent showcased by NSUSS, featuring exceptional artists like Taimum Islam Turzo on guitar, Tamal Basu on tabla, and Tanvir Alam Tamim on bass, alongside a group of immensely remarkable singers. Their mesmerizing performances left an indelible impression on all who witnessed them. The program reached its grand finale with an awe-inspiring dance performance by artists from the University of Calcutta, further enhancing the overall show's splendor. This remarkable event brought immense delight to the attendees, symbolizing the power of cultural exchange and artistic brilliance in fostering meaningful connections and appreciation.

MoU Signing with Sejong University, South Korea

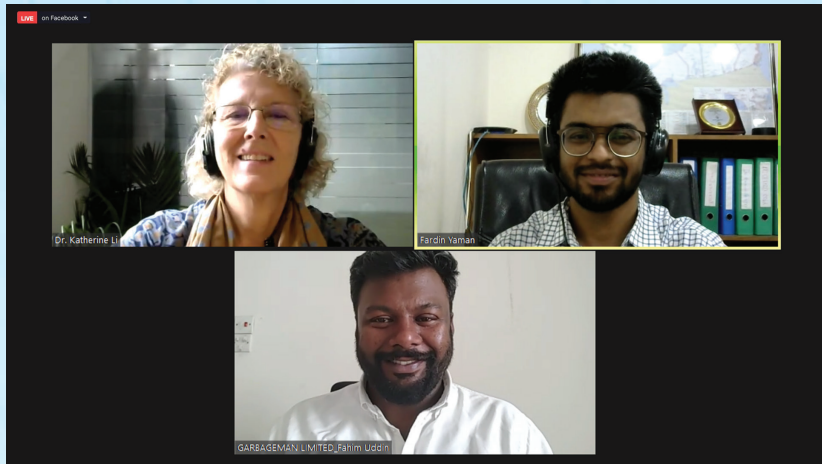


On May 08, 2023, the MoU signing ceremony between Sejong University and NSU was successfully held. The esteemed representatives from Sejong University, including Dr. Seungbin MOON, Vice President; Dr. Jinwoon CHO, Dean of International Affairs; Jinhwan MOON, Director of International Affairs; Hyosik Yang, Department Head of Computer Engineering; and Julie Anne Pineda, International Affairs

Officer, were in attendance. NSU was represented by Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor; Dr. Katherine Li, Director of the Office of External Affairs; and Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director of the Office of External Affairs. Additionally, Mr. Lim Kyung Rae, the Cultural Attaché from the Korean Embassy in Dhaka, graced the event. Following the formalities, an open discussion took place to establish short-medium and long-term strategies aimed at fostering the growth of this partnership. The ceremony concluded with the signing of the MoUs, marking a fruitful and significant milestone in the collaboration between Sejong University and NSU.



NSU Alumni Talk Show 116



The one hundred-and-sixteenth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on May 09, 2023, and featured Mr. Fahim Uddin. Mr. Uddin's extraordinary journey began with his pursuit of a Bachelor's degree in Architecture, which laid the foundation for his illustrious career. With a diverse professional background, including notable roles as a National Consultant at United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), an Innovation Consultant at the World Food Programme (WFP), and an Assistant Architect at A+AA Architects, Mr. Uddin has consistently demonstrated his exceptional expertise and dedication to his craft. Additionally, his entrepreneurial spirit has propelled him to establish "GarbageMan Limited", where he serves as the Founder and Managing Director, revolutionizing the waste management system in Bangladesh. Mr. Uddin's phenomenal achievements and unwavering commitment to innovation has made him an exceptional role model for aspiring professionals in his field.

During the conversation, Mr. Fahim Uddin shared captivating insights into his groundbreaking venture. Inspired by his course in environmental science and management at NSU, Mr. Uddin embarked on a mission to revolutionize waste management. With relentless determination, he sought guidance from industry giants and diligently studied previous projects to learn from their failures. He expressed deep gratitude to such faculties at NSU for providing invaluable support and unending vision. Balancing a full-time job with his waste management venture, Mr. Uddin was actively involved in NSU Canvas Club, serving as a founder member, Vice President, and eventually President. His exceptional pitch landed him support from Startup Bangladesh, leading to the birth of GarbageMan in 2017. Starting small, Mr. Uddin collected waste from tea stalls, restaurants, and a local market, swiftly expanding operations and commercially producing compost. Notably, his remarkable achievements caught the attention of organizations like UNDP and WFP, recruiting him and his company for impactful collaborations. Driven by his passion and admiration for Batman, Mr. Uddin aims to implement digital mapping and an impact calculator to optimize waste conversion, with a long-term vision of handling plastics independently. Demonstrating his innovative spirit, he emphasizes the potential of private sector involvement in waste management and actively seeks partnerships to enhance his mission further.

In addressing the pressing issue of waste disposal management in Bangladesh, Mr. Fahim Uddin sheds light on the magnitude of the problem. While GarbageMan's impact may have been modest initially, the scale of the challenge is significant, with North and South Dhaka alone generating 4,000 tons of waste daily. To encourage responsible waste management, GarbageMan provides households with bags for recyclable materials like paper, plastic, and glass. Expanding their focus to corporate clients, Mr. Uddin now prioritizes B2B collaborations. Thanks to initial funding from Startup Bangladesh, GarbageMan's capacity has grown from handling just one ton of waste per month to an impressive three tons per day. In his commitment to creating a positive impact, Mr. Uddin supports informal workers by assisting them in obtaining necessary permits, complying with regulations, and establishing bank accounts, thereby discouraging child labor. Additionally, he encourages individuals to maintain cleanliness in their neighborhoods by practicing basic hygiene and mindful consumption, as desires often surpass actual needs. Leading by example, Mr. Uddin personally initiated the collection of cigarette butts around the NSU campus, setting a precedent for proactive environmental stewardship.

When asked about overcoming the challenges on his path to success, Mr. Uddin shared insightful perspectives. He highlighted that entrepreneurs face unique obstacles, unlike those working traditional 9-5 jobs with set formats. One of his biggest challenges was the mindset, as societal expectations often prioritize secure employment. Additionally, acquiring a suitable workspace and securing funds posed significant hurdles. Despite not having a business administration or environmental studies background, Mr. Uddin sought guidance from startups and NSU faculties to gather valuable insights. Demonstrating his commitment to personal growth, he dedicates time to reading at least two pages of books daily for self-development.

When reflecting on his choice of NSU during the show's conclusion, Mr. Uddin shared his appreciation for the university's vibrant environment and positive vibes. Having a cousin in NSU's environmental science program also influenced his decision. Despite having the option to choose the Islamic University of Technology (IUT), he made a clear choice to start his academic journey at NSU. Although the architecture program was a five-year course, Mr. Uddin took six years to complete it. Balancing studies with extracurricular activities proved challenging, particularly for an architecture student. Still, he found solace in the NSU Art and Photography Club, which had evolved from the previous NSU Canvas Club. Mr. Uddin expressed gratitude towards all the teachers in the architecture department and fondly recalled Plaza Area as a fantastic place to hang out and make lasting friendships. His parting advice highlighted the importance of continuous learning and sustaining a good CGPA.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1623489051448426>

Delegation from University of Adelaide, Australia



The second meeting between NSU and the University of Adelaide was held on May 14, 2023, focusing on progressing the opportunities discussed during their initial meeting in Delhi. Present from the University of Adelaide's Faculty of Arts, Business, Law, and Economics were Mr. Mark Pickford, Executive Director; Dr. Rajeev Kamineni, Academic Director at The Academy by Deloitte; Ms. Jacqui Stockley, Project Manager; and Ms. Amy Underdown, Project Officer. Representing NSU's Office of External Affairs were Dr. Katherine Li, Director, and Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director.

Both institutions expressed a keen interest in further advancing their collaborative efforts during the meeting. NSU outlined its priorities with the University of Adelaide, which included co-training initiatives in education for NSU staff and exploring opportunities for Ph.D. collaborations, with an initial focus on the field of business.

An area of opportunity identified during the discussions was the upskilling of NSU faculty members, particularly in the business school. It was highlighted that a significant number of NSU academics possess master's degrees rather than Ph.D.s. This presented an opportunity for joint upskilling efforts with the University of Adelaide, where a model for co-supervision and potential staff travel funding could be developed. NSU's Faculty of Business, which consists of over 200 full-time staff members, could greatly benefit from this collaboration. As both institutions continued to work together, the meeting was essential in progressing the shared objectives discussed during their initial meeting. The ongoing dialogue and partnership between NSU and the University of Adelaide promise to enhance academic and research opportunities, particularly in business, and foster mutual growth and development.

NSU Alumni Talk Show 117

The one-hundred-and-seventeenth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was aired on May 15, 2023. The spotlight shone on the accomplished Mr. Mirza Asif, a distinguished member of the Batch of 2003. Having earned his Bachelor's degree in Computer Science in 2007 from NSU, he further honed his expertise by pursuing a Master's degree at the prestigious Georgia Institute of Technology. Mr. Asif's illustrious career path showcases his proficiency as a Software Architect at Revel Systems, Development Lead and Technology Consultant at LegacyChamp and Bongo, as well as Chief Technology Officer roles at Ekhanei.com and Remediant, Inc. Presently, he serves as the Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer at JBT Games and Infrablue Technology. His current position as a senior manager at Collective Health, based in the United States, entails strategizing and executing technical roadmaps, emphasizing people management for individual growth and career progression. Notably, Collective Health excels in streamlining American healthcare services, offering comprehensive financial responsibility management for mid-tier and larger enterprises, including esteemed clients such as Netflix and SpaceX.



Moving along the episode, when questioned about the crucial skills necessary for software engineers and IT specialists in the corporate realm, the insightful Mr. Mirza Asif emphasized the paramount importance of communication, teamwork, and time management. He underscored the significance of critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and logical reasoning. He believes possessing a curious mindset is vital as the software landscape evolves rapidly, necessitating continuous learning and adaptability. Mr. Asif emphasized that outdated skills are insufficient in today's fast-paced world, advocating for a relentless drive for knowledge and skills to thrive in the long run. He firmly reasoned that IT is an indispensable core competency for business survival and growth, as technology is the bedrock for organizations aspiring to achieve long-term success.

During the closing segment of the show, Mr. Mirza Asif reflected on his NSU journey, sharing his reasons for choosing the university, which was influenced by the positive experiences of his older brother and cousin. He praised NSU for its robust and up-to-date curriculum in computer science, positioning it as a leading private institution. Mr. Asif fondly recalled participating in a computer fair at NSU, where he and three friends developed a game, leading to a fortuitous encounter with a Finnish individual who offered him a part-time job. This opportunity propelled him to establish his own company in 2005. He advised fresh graduates and emphasized the importance of starting early and not waiting for graduation. Mr. Asif commended NSU for nurturing essential soft skills, enhancing communication abilities, fostering language proficiency, and cultivating a professional work environment, qualities that continue to benefit students.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/617011817018661>

NGO Talk Show with Speak Up For The Poor (Episode 30)

The thirtieth episode of the "NGO Talk Show" aired on May 17, 2023, with Speak Up For The Poor, a transformative and impactful organization dedicated to empowering and advocating for marginalized communities worldwide. With an unwavering commitment to social justice, they strive to alleviate poverty, address systemic inequalities, and give a voice to those who have been silenced. The title of the event was "Developing Bangladesh: Scope for Research" with Speak Up For the Poor. The keynote speaker for this episode was Mr. Troy Anderson, Founder & International Director of Speak Up For the Poor. From North South University (NSU), Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs, was present as a Special Guest, and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA, hosted the live talk show.

SPEAK UP FOR THE POOR



The event began with briefly introducing Mr. Anderson. Mr. Anderson, the Founder and International Director of Speak Up, is a distinguished leader who divides his time between Bangladesh, Thailand, and the USA. With a degree from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law, and prior experience as a Deputy District Attorney, Mr. Anderson brings a wealth of expertise to his humanitarian work. Over the past seven years, he has dedicated himself to serving marginalized communities in Thailand and Bangladesh through Speak Up. With a background in international affairs and having grown up in four countries and visiting nearly 70 countries, he has profound insights that inform his impactful speeches on critical issues like poverty, child marriage, and human trafficking. His remarkable global upbringing and commitment to justice make him a highly respected advocate for change.

When asked about the origins of Speak Up Foundation, Mr. Troy Anderson shared his inspiring journey. Having founded the non-profit organization in 2004, his vision was to combat issues like human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and the plight of sexually abused girls in poverty. Currently based in Khulna, he is actively engaged in a girls' education and empowerment project. Recognizing the significance of educational support for girls in poverty, especially in government schools where it is lacking, Speak Up provides tutoring and academic assistance. In the context of Bangladesh's development, Mr. Anderson highlighted the valuable role of registered NGOs, particularly in empowering poor women through microloans and skills training. Amidst the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Speak Up initiated an education program to bridge the educational gap caused by school closures. By providing academic support and tutoring, NGOs like Speak Up are helping underprivileged children who lack resources for external coaching. Notably, Mr. Anderson acknowledged Bangladesh's commendable progress in improving schools and infrastructure within the educational realm over the past decade.

In exploring potential collaborations between NSU and Speak Up for the Poor, Mr. Troy Anderson proposed various avenues for joint engagement. He highlighted the opportunity for NSU students to participate in internships or volunteer work, allowing them to gain firsthand experience and familiarity with the organization's ongoing efforts. Furthermore, Mr. Anderson emphasized the transformative impact of enabling girls from the foundation to access elite institutions through scholarships or resources provided by NSU. He encouraged the establishment of a girl's empowerment program or center at universities where students could engage in volunteer work and research, thereby expanding the scope of their current initiatives. Additionally, he suggested organizing conferences where girls from rural areas could be given a platform to share their experiences and insights, shedding light on the realities of the most remote parts of their villages. These collaborative endeavors create meaningful opportunities for mutual learning and empowerment.

During the concluding segment of the talk show, Mr. Anderson shared his perspective on the significance of learning more about the current work of NGOs in Bangladesh. He emphasized the importance of highlighting the stories of vulnerable girls who, without the assistance of NGOs, may have been forced into early marriages and denied opportunities for education and personal growth. Mr. Anderson expressed the need to shift the focus from the more significant successes of NGOs to the impactful work being done by smaller organizations that are making a difference in the lives of these girls. By acknowledging and amplifying the voices of these girls, their aspirations to become nurses or pursue alternative paths can be realized, enabling them to break free from societal constraints and shape their destinies.

To know more about the event, visit the following link:
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/790053722431519>

MoU Signing Ceremony with Canadian University, Bangladesh



In a significant development for the private universities of Bangladesh, the Canadian University of Bangladesh (CUB) and North South University (NSU) have forged an alliance through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on May 17, 2023, hosted at NSU. This partnership marks a new chapter in the country's educational landscape, fostering collaborative efforts and paving the way for a range of joint initiatives. CUB believes this alliance will substantially benefit its students, opening doors to enhanced educational opportunities.

The MoU solidifies a shared commitment to various areas of collaboration, surrounding joint research endeavors, student exchange programs, teacher exchange programs, and engagement in sports and club activities. By embarking on these initiatives, the partnership aims to create a dynamic and mutually enriching environment that elevates the educational experience for students, fostering holistic development and promoting excellence. During the signing ceremony, Dr. H. M. Jahirul Haque, the Vice-Chancellor of CUB, expressed his optimism and enthusiasm for the alliance, recognizing its immense potential for advancing academic and

research pursuits. Similarly, Prof. Atiqul Islam, the Vice-Chancellor of NSU, resonated these sentiments, emphasizing the shared vision and unwavering commitment to excellence that supports the partnership.

Looking ahead, CUB and NSU are eagerly embracing this journey of collaboration, driven by a collective desire to expand the horizons of their joint efforts continuously. With a firm belief in the transformative power of education, both institutions are determined to make a lasting impact on the educational landscape of Bangladesh, contributing to the progress and development of the nation. By nurturing a healthy and enduring partnership, CUB and NSU aim to shape a brighter future defined by academic excellence and meaningful contributions to society.



MoU Signing Ceremony with Evercare Hospital Dhaka

On May 18, 2023, North South University (NSU) and Evercare Hospital Dhaka sealed their partnership through the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU). The ceremony witnessed the presence of esteemed individuals from Evercare Hospital Dhaka, including Mr. Vinay Kaul, Chief Marketing Officer; Mr. A M Abul Kashem Rony, Head of Corporate Marketing; and Ms. Yamin Ara Anjila, Sr.



Executive - Corporate Marketing. NSU was represented by Prof. Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor; Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs; and Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, Office of External Affairs.

Evercare Hospital Dhaka is renowned for its commitment to excellence in healthcare, offering state-of-the-art facilities and a highly skilled team of professionals. With a focus on personalized treatment and utilizing cutting-edge technology, the hospital delivers exceptional medical care to its patients. It fosters a comforting environment, combining warmth and innovation, and serves as a beacon of hope, healing, and a brighter future for patients in Dhaka and beyond. The MoU between NSU and Evercare Hospital Dhaka is poised to yield fruitful outcomes, benefiting both institutions. This partnership holds great promise for collaboration and mutual growth.

Information Session with Sushant University, India



NSU's Office of External Affairs held an engaging and informative information session on May 18, 2023, about Sushant University, India, conducted by Ms. Sehba Saleem, Assistant Professor of the School of Art and Architecture. As a premier institution, Sushant University is committed to providing a transformative and holistic education experience that prepares students for success in their chosen fields.

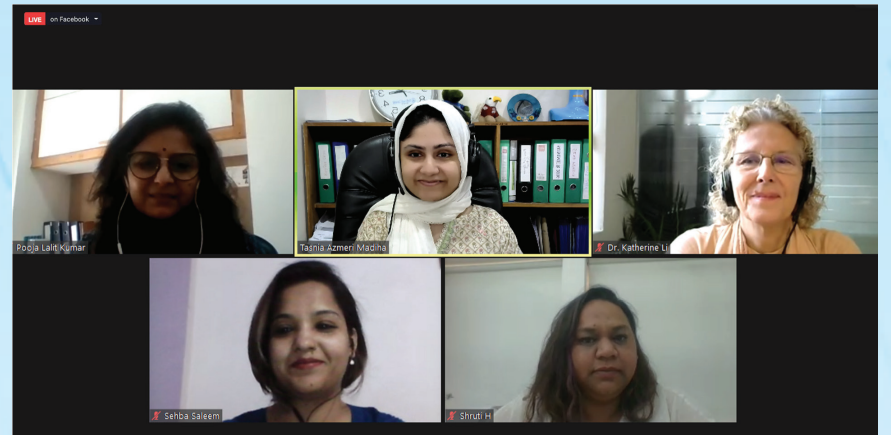
Sushant University, located in India, is a prestigious institution known for providing a transformative and holistic education experience. With a strong focus on academic excellence, cutting-edge research, and global exposure, Sushant University has emerged as a preferred destination for higher education seekers. The campus of Sushant University is a vibrant hub of innovation and creativity. It boasts modern classrooms, well-equipped laboratories, state-of-the-art design studios, and extensive libraries that offer a wealth of academic resources. The university places equal importance on extracurricular activities, providing sports facilities, clubs, and cultural events that foster overall personality development and a healthy work-life balance.

At Sushant University, students have a wide range of disciplines to choose from, including engineering, law, design, management, journalism, and more. The university offers undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programs, ensuring aspiring students find the right path for their educational journey. Renowned for its industry-focused curriculum, Sushant University equips students with practical skills and theoretical knowledge necessary to excel in their careers. The admissions process at Sushant University is rigorous and merit-based, ensuring the selection of deserving candidates who demonstrate academic potential and a passion for learning. Prospective students can apply online or offline, submitting their academic credentials and, if applicable, appearing for entrance examinations. The university's transparent and unbiased admission process ensures fairness and diversity among its student body.

One of the key advantages for international students at Sushant University is access to world-class faculty who blend academic expertise with industry experience. This combination provides students with valuable insights and mentorship, preparing them for the challenges and opportunities in their respective fields. The university's global collaborations with renowned academic institutions and industry partners also open doors to international internships, exchange programs, and research opportunities, enriching the learning experience and broadening horizons. Sushant University offers numerous advantages to international students. They have access to world-class faculty members who blend academic expertise with industry experience, providing valuable insights and mentorship. The university's global collaborations with renowned academic institutions and industry partners offer international internships, exchange programs, and research opportunities, enriching the learning experience and broadening horizons.

Sushant University is dedicated to nurturing future leaders, entrepreneurs, and change-makers. It aims to instill critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and a global perspective in its students. The university's strong industry connections and collaborations ensure students receive practical exposure through internships, industry visits, and guest lectures by renowned professionals. In conclusion, Sushant University stands as an exemplary institution offering a world-class education experience. With its academic excellence, global outlook, diverse student community, and comprehensive support services, it provides students with a fulfilling and rewarding higher education journey. At Sushant University, students have the opportunity to acquire knowledge, skills, and experiences that will shape their futures and empower them to make a positive impact in their chosen fields.

To know more about the event, visit the following link:
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/939319260708263>



MoU Renewal Meeting with Texas A&M, USA



A meeting was convened on May 18, 2023, between NSU and Texas A&M, USA with Professor Shawn G. Gibbs, Dean School of Public Health at Texas A&M University. From NSU, Dr. Hasan Mahmud Reza, Dean of Life and Health Sciences; Mohammad Delwer Hossain Hawlader, Dean of Public Health; Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA; Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA; Ms. Samina Alam Mitu, International Affairs Officer, OEA; and, Mr. Mehedi Masud



Sumon, Officer, OEA, to discuss the potential renewal of their expired MoU. The primary objective of the meeting was to explore the feasibility of renewing the MoU while also considering new areas of collaboration and potential changes to the renewed agreement. The meeting proved to be productive, and further updates regarding the renewal will be deliberated upon at a later stage.

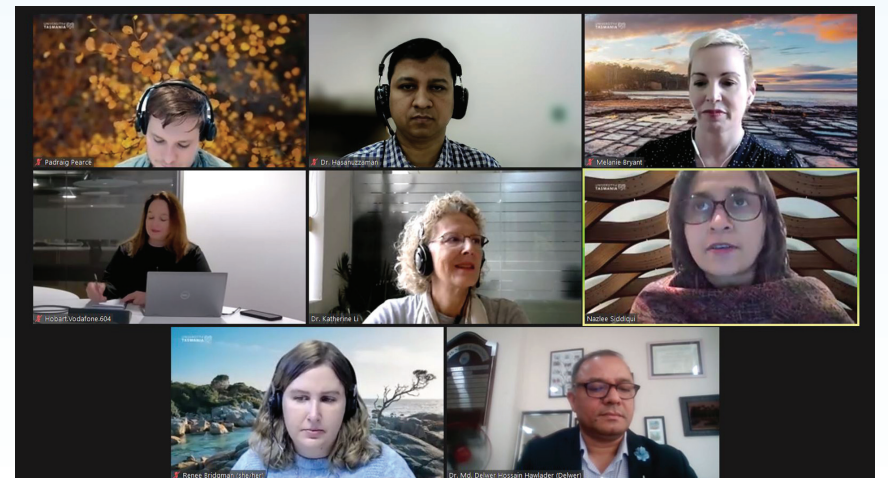
Collaboration Meeting with AIHSM/CoBE, University Of Tasmania, Australia



On May 22, 2023, an introductory meeting took place between the University of Tasmania, Australia, AIHSM/CoBE (Australian Institute of Health Services Management/College of Business and Economics), and NSU. Attending from the University of Tasmania were Ms. Melanie Bryant, Head of the International School at the College Office - CoBE; Mr. Pdraig Pearce, from the School Administration Office; Renée Bridgman, School Business Manager at AIHSM, College Office - CoBE; and Nazlee Siddiqui, Senior Lecturer in Health Service Management/Discipline Lead at AIHSM, College Office - CoBE. Representing NSU were Dr. Md. Delwer Hossain Hawlader, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Public Health; Dr. Katherine Li, Director of the Office of External Affairs; and Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director of the Office of External Affairs.

The primary objective of the meeting was to explore potential areas of collaboration between the two institutions. Discussions were held to identify common interests, expertise, and resources that could be leveraged to foster meaningful partnerships. The meeting provided an opportunity to share insights and perspectives on various aspects of health services management and business economics. Both parties expressed enthusiasm and a commitment to explore further and develop collaborative initiatives.

The meeting laid the foundation for future collaborations that could advance research, academic exchange, and joint programs by bringing together the expertise and resources from the University of Tasmania and NSU. The meeting concluded with optimism, acknowledging the potential benefits of a strong partnership between the two institutions. Further discussions and follow-up actions are planned to explore specific collaborative opportunities and solidify the partnership between AIHSM/CoBE, the University of Tasmania, and NSU.



Delegates Visit NSU from Lovely Professional University (LPU), India



On May 22, 2023, as part of their outreach program, a delegation from Lovely Professional University (LPU) visited North South University (NSU) to explore opportunities for collaboration between the two institutions. The delegation, led by Mr. Arpit Kaushal, Senior Officer from the Division of International Affairs at LPU, engaged in productive discussions with NSU representatives. The meeting served as a platform to discuss potential areas of collaboration and foster mutual understanding. Mr. Kaushal also had the opportunity to tour the NSU campus, gaining valuable insights into the facilities and infrastructure.



The interaction between the delegates from LPU and NSU was characterized by warmth and positivity, resulting in a fruitful exchange of ideas and a promising foundation for future collaborations.

Delegation Visit from University of Western Sydney, Australia



A delegation from the University of Western Sydney, Australia, visited NSU on May 22, 2023, as part of an outreach program to foster collaboration and discuss the possibility of renewing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NSU.

The purpose of the visit was to explore partnership opportunities and determine if any updates or modifications were necessary for the renewed MoU. The meeting was fruitful, facilitating constructive discussions and strengthening the bond between NSU and the University of Western Sydney.

The visit provided an opportunity for both institutions to exchange ideas, share their respective strengths and expertise, and explore avenues for joint initiatives in research, academic exchange, and other areas of mutual interest. Further updates and progress regarding the MoU renewal will be discussed in subsequent meetings, highlighting the commitment of both institutions to nurturing a long-lasting and beneficial partnership.

Collaboration Meeting with BML Munjal University, India

On May 22, 2023, an influential virtual meeting between North South University and BML Munjal University took place, with the esteemed presence of Dr. Anusree Paul, Associate Professor, Area Chair - Economics, and Professor in charge of International Affairs at the School of Management, BML Munjal University. Representing NSU's Office of External Affairs were Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA; Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA; and Rusafa Abedin Sumaiya, Student Worker, OEA. The primary focus of the meeting was to explore opportunities for increased faculty involvement in research projects at NSU. At the same time, BML Munjal University expressed its interest in initiating student exchange programs between the institutions.



The primary focus of the meeting was to explore avenues for increased faculty involvement in research projects at NSU and to initiate student exchange programs between the two universities. A mutual interest in conducting joint workshops and symposiums was also expressed, fostering opportunities for collaborative research endeavors involving NSU's Startup Next program. To facilitate these initiatives, designated faculties from both institutions will engage in further discussions.

Additionally, the meeting briefly addressed NSU's plans for a short-term summer/winter camp, serving as an avenue to enhance educational experiences for students. As the meeting concluded, both universities expressed their commitment to continue discussions and to formalize a comprehensive and functional Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to solidify their partnership

and promote academic growth and exchange between NSU and BML Munjal University.

Introductory Meeting with Frankfurt School Immersion Programme, Germany

On May 25, 2023, Dr. Katherine Li, the Director of the Office of Education Abroad (OEA), engaged in a promising Zoom meeting with Mr. Andreas Emser, Director of International Executive Education, and Mr. Sajith Ranasinghe, Project Manager of the esteemed Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, Germany. The meeting was a stimulating exploration of potential collaborative opportunities. The Frankfurt School's highly successful and globally acclaimed student immersion program emerged as a captivating prospect, fostering excitement for future joint initiatives that promise to enrich educational experiences for students worldwide. Frankfurt School offers immersive programs like International Immersion Program (IIP), the International Executive Campus (IEC), and the International Leadership Academy (ILA), catering to students, executives, and senior managers. These programs provide valuable learning experiences, networking opportunities, and skill enhancement in various areas of interest. Frankfurt School's immersion programs are renowned for their excellence and offer exciting personal and professional growth prospects.

The International Immersion Program (IIP) provides an enriching experience for students, typically spanning one whole week, although it can be tailored to meet specific requirements. During this program, students have the opportunity to attend half-credit courses of their choice and visit industrial and corporate locations, as well as historically significant sites. Open to students from around the globe, the IIP offers a unique platform to explore German culture and business practices while enabling participants to pursue courses aligned with their field of study. Taught in English by esteemed faculty members of Frankfurt School, these courses cover a wide array of subjects encompassing finance, management, economics, and law. Alongside the academic component, students will visit corporate headquarters, cultural attractions, and historical landmarks within Frankfurt and its environs. The IIP not only imparts an international perspective to students' academic pursuits but also facilitates networking opportunities with peers from diverse backgrounds, fostering valuable connections. By participating in the program, students demonstrate their adaptability to new cultures and aptitude for learning in a foreign language, enhancing their resumes and bolstering their future career prospects. For more information and to express interest in the IIP, please visit the official Frankfurt School website.

Along with IIP, the International Executive Campus (IEC) at Frankfurt School presents a dynamic week-long program tailored for middle to senior executives aspiring to elevate their management and leadership competencies. The IEC convenes at Frankfurt School's state-of-the-art campus in Frankfurt, Germany, encompassing a diverse array of topics such as leadership, strategy, innovation, project management, sustainability, and women in business. The campus, symbolically represented by five towers embodying a continent, offers an inspiring environment complemented by the "Zeil of Knowledge" central meeting space, seminar rooms, library, and restaurant. Drawing accomplished professionals from various industries and countries, the IEC fosters a vibrant learning milieu, encouraging knowledge exchange and mutual enrichment. The program is facilitated by esteemed faculty members from Frankfurt School and other renowned universities and boasts subject matter experts who impart their wealth of knowledge and experience. Empowering participants to thrive in today's competitive business landscape, the IEC equips them with valuable insights, refined skills, and a profound understanding of contemporary finance and management trends. By partaking in the IEC, executives can expect to broaden their perspectives, amplify their leadership acumen, tackle real-world case studies, and fortify their career trajectories, all while forging global professional connections.

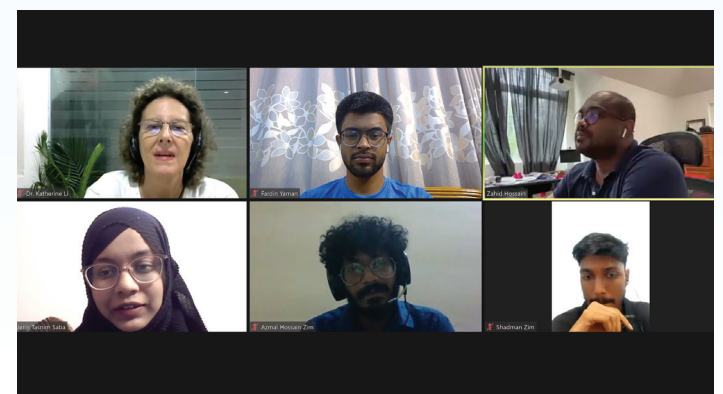
The International Leadership Academy (ILA), curated for accomplished senior managers in banks and corporations, offers a transformative five-day program that seeks to elevate their leadership capabilities. Embracing interactive workshops, case studies, and personalized coaching sessions, the ILA empowers participants with invaluable insights and practical expertise. Guided by a distinguished faculty from Frankfurt School and esteemed universities, the program boasts seasoned experts in leadership development, ensuring a wealth of knowledge and experience enriching the learning journey. The ILA is an exceptional platform for senior managers to sharpen their leadership acumen, glean wisdom from experienced leaders worldwide, and stay abreast of cutting-edge leadership trends. Engaging in real-world case studies, executives gain hands-on experience, augmenting their resumes and propelling their career trajectories in today's fiercely competitive business landscape. By joining the ILA, senior managers open doors to new possibilities and embark on a thrilling quest toward transformative leadership excellence.

BdAF Scholarship Recipients' 3rd Quarterly Meetup



The Office of External Affairs facilitated the third quarterly meeting between the members of Bangladesh Alumni Foundation (BdAF) and the scholarship recipient students on May 27, 2023. From the Office of External Affairs, Dr. Katherine Li, Director; and Mr. Sk. Fardin

Yaman, Alumni Affairs Officer was present.



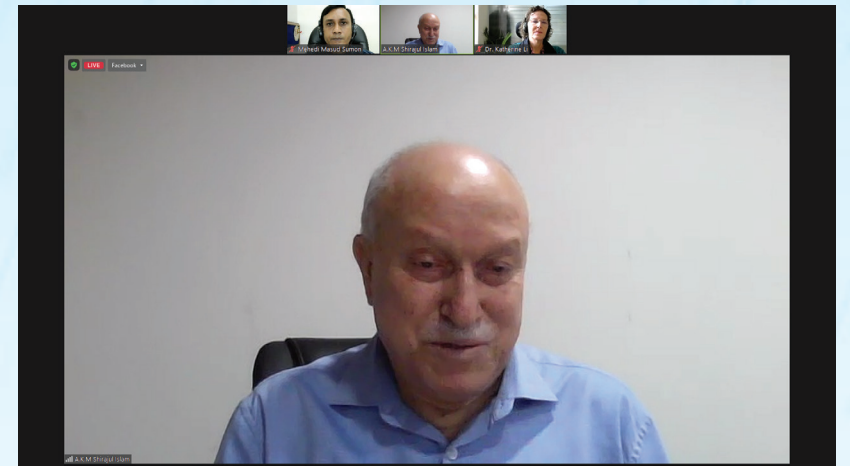
According to the initial arrangement, BdAF members engage in regular interaction with the students to learn their academic updates, plans for future and more. Scholarship recipients from the second intake of this program, Shadman Shadid and Azmal Hossain joined for the first time in this arrangement, and met with students of the first intake. Different conversations were held among the students, BdAF members and members of OEA. Dr. Zahid Hossain, President of Bangladesh Alumni Foundation attended the meeting on behalf of his team and took updates from the students. He was delighted to learn about the progress of their scholarship recipients.

NGO Talk Show with BASA Foundation (Episode 31)



The thirty-first episode of the "NGO Talk Show" aired on May 28, 2023, with BASA Foundation, a non-governmental, non-political, and non-profit organization dedicated to empowering the distressed and underprivileged by improving their quality of life through comprehensive development initiatives. The episode was titled "Developing Bangladesh: Scope for Research" with BASA Foundation, with the key speaker being Mr. A. K. M Shirajul Islam, Executive Director of BASA Foundation. A. K. M Shirajul Islam completed his undergraduate and postgraduate studies at Dhaka University, earning a Bachelor of Arts (Honors) and a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Economics, as well as a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree. Subsequently, he pursued further studies in the Netherlands, obtaining a Postgraduate Diploma (P.G. Diploma). BASA Foundation is committed to a non-directive, bottom-up, and participatory development approach, focusing on capacity building, education, poverty alleviation, food security, water and sanitation, health promotion, and environmental sustainability. With established working relationships with government agencies and international partners, BASA Foundation operates in 20 districts across diverse geographical regions of Bangladesh, benefitting over 100,000 primary beneficiaries. The organization maintains its head office in Dhaka and has 70 local offices spread across working areas, employing over 550 dedicated staff. BASA Foundation's vision is to create a society free from poverty, oppression, and deprivation, fostering peace, communal harmony, and equitable resource distribution.

The establishment of the BASA Foundation holds a deeply personal connection to Mr. Islam's life, driven by a profound desire to assist rural communities. Initially working in the intelligence sector, he was compelled to take action after witnessing the plight of workers. Following diverse experiences, he returned to his village to understand the needs of ordinary people and embarked on a mission to aid them. In 1998, he founded the Bangladesh Association for Social Advancement (BASA) with invaluable support from his wife and brothers. A defining moment came when the European Commission expressed interest in collaborating solely under his leadership, prompting him to resign from his 11-year service. Thus, this esteemed NGO's journey commenced in his village, reflecting his unwavering commitment to uplifting marginalized communities.



In the context of Bangladesh, Mr. Islam discussed that the engagement of NGOs in assisting the population is significant and widespread. The country boasts many registered NGOs dedicated to social welfare, although it is acknowledged that some may only undertake a limited number of events before discontinuing their efforts. Nonetheless, numerous NGOs have consistently worked for the betterment of society since the nation's independence, with some organizations proudly serving for several decades. NGOs acquire funds from donors and the government, which they effectively utilize for the welfare of the people, often surpassing the efficiency of governmental utilization rates. Notably, NGOs like BASA Foundation and Water Aid collaborate to tackle environmental crises through innovative approaches like fecal sludge management, while organizations like PKSF contribute to the economic elevation of villagers by introducing income-generating ventures such as crab farming for export. NGOs play a pivotal role in uplifting communities and fostering sustainable development in Bangladesh through various means, including employment creation.

BASA Foundation plays a pivotal role in the growth and development of Bangladesh, driven by a deep-rooted commitment to serving and uplifting its people. With an unwavering dedication to innovation, the foundation has spearheaded initiatives in water sanitation, fecal sludge management, and agricultural advancements. Notably, BASA Foundation's efforts have significantly contributed to addressing food shortages that once affected 70 million people, fostering resilience during challenging times such as the COVID-19 pandemic and conflicts like the Ukraine war. The foundation's focus on safe food production has helped bridge the knowledge gap among farmers regarding chemical usage and insecticides, ensuring the production of safe and sustainable food. BASA Foundation's impact extends to the environmental sector as well, through the establishment of biogas plants and the development of fuel-efficient stoves. Furthermore, the foundation has actively supported honey farmers by providing a processing plant, facilitating clean and efficient honey extraction. By introducing innovative farming equipment and comprehensive training programs, BASA Foundation empowers farmers and catalyzes agricultural progress, paving the way for a prosperous and sustainable future for Bangladesh.

During the talk show's conclusion, Mr. Islam highlights the potential for collaboration between BASA Foundation and NSU in research endeavors. The two organizations can tap into funding opportunities by joining forces and leveraging BASA Foundation's extensive research data resources. This collaboration holds excellent promise as NSU boasts a pool of scholars who can contribute valuable insights and gain practical knowledge through field studies. Recognizing the importance of bridging theory and practical application, such a partnership would not only enrich the academic experience of NSU students but also generate impactful research outcomes for the benefit of society. Conclusively, this collaborative effort has the potential to foster more incredible innovation and advance knowledge in the field of social development.

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

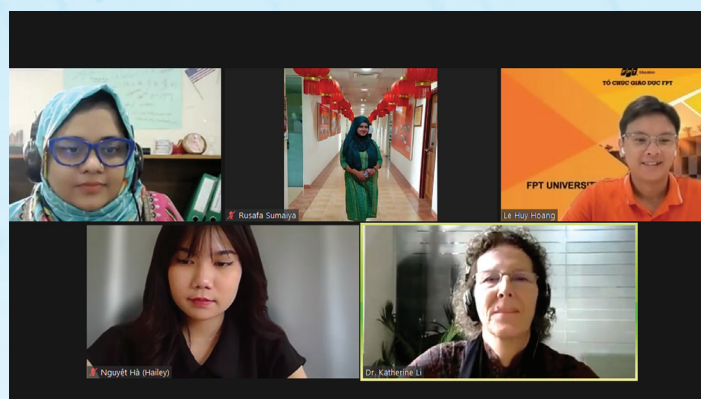
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/3426068947720814>

NSU External Affairs' Zoom Meeting with FPT University, Vietnam

NSU Office of External Affairs held a fruitful virtual meeting with FPT University on May 30, 2023, utilizing the Zoom platform. The purpose of the meeting was to engage in constructive discussions regarding the ongoing implementation of their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and to explore the exciting possibilities surrounding short study tours between the two esteemed institutions. The focal point of the meeting was to thoroughly examine the intricacies of the proposed summer and winter camps, which aim to facilitate educational exchanges for students from both NSU and FPT University.



FPT EDUCATION GLOBAL



NSU has meticulously designed an exceptional summer camp program tailored for students from its partner universities, providing them with an extraordinary learning experience combined with unforgettable adventures. The summer camp program offers three captivating themes: NGO Sector, RMG Sector, and Sustainability. Each theme encompasses a range of academic activities, cultural explorations, and exciting excursions. These carefully crafted programs aim to provide students with hands-on exposure to various sectors, fostering their understanding of real-world challenges and enhancing their skills and knowledge in their respective fields of interest.

The summer camp not only promises excellent learning opportunities and also includes an array of exhilarating adventures. Students can expect a well-rounded experience filled with unforgettable moments. They will have the chance to engage in academic workshops, interact with industry experts, and visit renowned organizations operating within their chosen sector. Furthermore, cultural activities and excursion trips will provide a

glimpse into Bangladesh's rich heritage and natural beauty.

Students will engage with renowned industry experts, scholars, and professionals, further expanding their understanding of the chosen sectors. Through interactive workshops, seminars, and site visits, students will gain invaluable insights into the challenges and best practices within these fields. The program also encourages networking and fosters lifelong friendships among students from diverse backgrounds. Additionally, the summer camp provides ample opportunities for students to explore Bangladesh's vibrant landscapes, historical landmarks, and natural wonders. Excursion trips to renowned attractions will allow participants to immerse themselves in the beauty and cultural tapestry of the country, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

The meeting with FPT University served as a platform to discuss potential dates and exchange further information about the summer/winter camp. NSU and FPT University are excited about the prospects and will continue collaborating closely to ensure a remarkable and enriching experience for all participants. NSU invites students from FPT University and other partner institutions to embark on this captivating journey, where education meets adventure and personal development intertwines with unforgettable memories. The summer/winter camp at NSU promises an immersive and transformative experience, offering an irresistible blend of academic excellence, cultural immersion, and exciting exploration. More comprehensive details about the camp will be shared in the near future, promising an extraordinary journey filled with exceptional learning opportunities, personal growth, and unforgettable adventures.

NSU Delegation Visit to Malaysia

As part of North South University's Office of External Affairs' outreach initiatives, a delegation led by Professor Dr. Hasan Mahmud Reza, Dean of the School of Health & Life Sciences, visited Malaysia on May 29-30, 2023. The visit aimed to establish bilateral relationships with prominent universities and institutions for academic and research collaboration. The delegation held meetings with the leadership of four esteemed Malaysian universities: Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Malaya (UM), and Taylor's University Malaysia. The discussions focused on potential areas of cooperation, including research projects, joint supervision of Ph.D. students, and knowledge exchange.

The first meeting was with Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT). Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT) is renowned for excellence and innovation. Established in 1969, TAR UMT offers diverse departments in Business and Finance, Engineering and Technology, Arts and Design, Hospitality and Tourism, and Information Technology. With a focus on research and industry collaboration, TAR UMT has achieved recognition in global rankings, placing in the 801-1000th position of QS World University Rankings and the Times Higher Education Ranking. TAR UMT's commitment to producing skilled graduates and fostering cutting-edge research sets it apart as a distinguished university. From TAR UMT, Dr. Tan Hui Yin, Associate Professor, Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences; Dr. Ler Hui Yin, Associate Professor, Deputy Dean (Research & Collaboration), Faculty of Applied Sciences (FOAS); and Dr. Chan Kai Quin, Associate Dean, Dept. of Sport Science had attended the meeting. During the TAR UMT meeting, the focus was on establishing an MoU for collaboration. TAR UMT's associate deans aim to identify researchers for joint projects, utilizing NSU's seed funding. Joint Ph.D. supervision was discussed, with TAR UMT as a principal supervisor and NSU as a co-supervisor. Collaboration in public health programs, specifically nutrition, and health, was explored. Dr. Ong and Dr. Chan were encouraged to pursue research collaborations in these areas. An upcoming online meeting will introduce researchers, fostering productive discussions. This initiative aims to promote academic growth, exchange ideas, and strengthen TAR UMT-NSU ties.



The meeting between Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK) and North South University (NSU) laid the groundwork for a potential Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate collaboration and cooperation. Established in 1970, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) is a renowned institution of higher education. With a wide range of departments covering diverse fields of study, UKM boasts exceptional academic offerings. Its commitment to research and innovation has earned it international recognition, reflected in its impressive rankings. UKM holds the 129th position in the QS World University Rankings and 30th in the Asian University Rankings, establishing its status as a premier academic institution. The meeting was attended by Dr. Isa Naina Mohamed, Head of the Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety Unit, Research group leader (drug efficacy and safety), Medical Faculty. Both institutions strongly desired to establish an MoU, focusing on joint research projects, publications, and Ph.D. supervision. The identified projects highlighted shared research interests and expertise, forming a solid foundation for fruitful collaborations. The commitment to joint publications underscored their shared goal of contributing to the academic community and exploring the possibility of collaborative Ph.D. supervision to provide interdisciplinary research opportunities for students. Additionally, joint funding opportunities were discussed, offering avenues for innovative research and postgraduate studies. As the meeting concluded, UKM and NSU are poised for an exciting collaboration driven by their shared vision of academic excellence, research, and global knowledge exchange. Both institutions are committed to working closely together to make impactful contributions in their respective fields.

Subsequently, a meeting was convened with esteemed representatives from Universiti Malaya (UM), namely Prof. Dr. April Roslani, Dean, Faculty of Medicine; Dr. Vairavan Narayanan, Associate Professor, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine; and Dr. Kiew Lik Voon, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology, to discuss matters of mutual interest and collaboration. Founded in 1905, Universiti Malaya (UM) is Malaysia's oldest and most esteemed university, known for its academic excellence and research endeavors. UM offers diverse departments and faculties covering arts, sciences, engineering, medicine, and social sciences, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and holistic learning. Ranked 70th in the QS World University Rankings and 351-400th in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, UM's global recognition reflects its commitment to teaching, research, and societal impact. With its rich history, broad disciplines, and exceptional rankings, UM continues to attract top talents and shape leaders across various fields, fostering intellectual growth and impactful contributions. The fruitful discussions between Universiti Malaya (UM) and North South University (NSU) have resulted in a prospective Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signifying their commitment to collaborative endeavors. Identified areas of cooperation include joint research projects, co-authored publications, and Ph.D. supervision. The meeting concluded with a clear plan of action, emphasizing the importance of the forthcoming MoU. This partnership promises knowledge exchange, innovative research, and academic growth, benefiting researchers, faculty, and students. The envisioned collaboration aims to contribute significantly to advancing knowledge and society, fostering interdisciplinary engagement and global impact.

Lastly, a meeting was conducted with Taylor's University, Malaysia, wherein Ms. Tan Huey Kuan, Senior Director of International Business Development & International Office, and Ms. Sumana Lum, Manager of International Partnerships, were in attendance. Founded in 1969, Taylor's University Malaysia is renowned for its excellence in education with a diverse range of programs and a student-centered approach that provides a comprehensive learning experience. The university's international recognition, including impressive rankings in the QS World University and Asian University Rankings, reflects its commitment to exceptional education and research opportunities. Taylor's University Malaysia's state-of-the-art facilities and experienced faculty create a dynamic and supportive environment for students to thrive and succeed. During discussions, Taylor's University and NSU identified collaborative opportunities, including joint projects, publications, and Ph.D. supervision. Emphasis was placed on health and life science research collaborations. The meeting concluded positively, with participants expressing enthusiasm and agreeing on action items. Both universities sought to identify its first actionable project under the newly established MoU. This alliance strives to promote knowledge advancement, research, and health and life sciences academic excellence.

'Ignite Your Future'/Agribusiness Center Opening

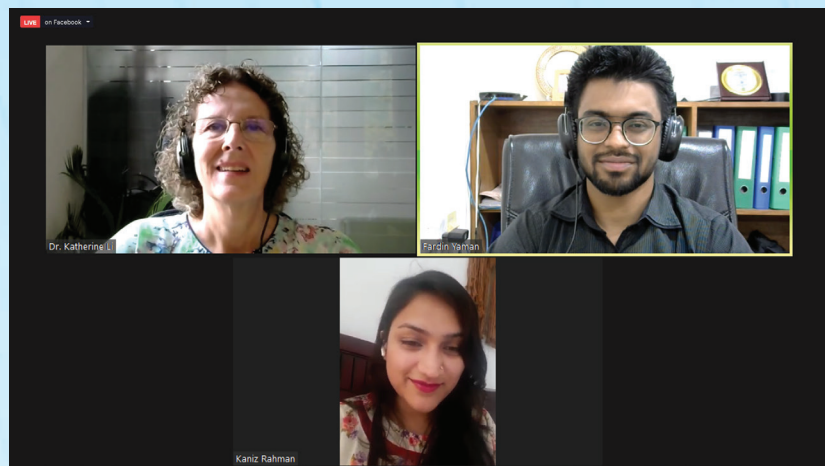
North South University's Office of External Affairs hosted a delegation from five Western Australian universities and Australian government officials on May 31, 2023. The interactive session, titled "Ignite your Future: Unleashing the power of Western Australian Higher Education," focused on studying abroad in Australia, particularly in the Western region. Hon. David Templeman, Minister for Culture and the Arts; Sport and Recreation; International Education; Heritage, Government of Australia, attended as Chief Guest. H.E. Mr. Jeremy Bruer, Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, graced the session. Academic heads from prestigious universities, including the University of Western Australia and Murdoch University, were present. NSU's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Atiqul Islam, chaired the event. The session aimed to inform students about studying in Western Australia, covering requirements and processes. It emphasized NSU's commitment to international education and collaboration. The event facilitated knowledge exchange, enabling students to explore educational opportunities and make informed decisions. By hosting this session, NSU strengthened partnerships and showcased its dedication to academic excellence and global perspectives. This interactive gathering reinforced NSU's commitment to fostering international collaboration and promoting educational growth for its students.



On May 31, 2023, North South University (NSU) and the University of Western Australia (UWA) jointly inaugurated the "NSU-UWA Agribusiness Centre of Excellence". The center aims to establish global standards in agribusiness innovation and translate research findings into practical applications. Distinguished guests, including Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, MP, Honorable Minister for Agriculture, Government of Bangladesh, and Hon. David Templeman, Honorable Minister for Culture and the Arts; Sport and Recreation; International Education; Heritage, Government of Western Australia, graced the event. Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of NSU, chaired the session, which featured keynote speeches by Professor Nazrul Islam and Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque on future food supply and security. The event, broadcast live via Zoom to UWA, highlighted the collaborative efforts between NSU and UWA. Hon. David Templeman and Professor M. A. Sattar Mandal also delivered speeches as special guests. Professor Atiqul Islam concluded the event by presenting tokens of gratitude to the distinguished guests. The inauguration signifies the commitment of NSU and UWA to advancing agribusiness research and fostering international collaboration.

To know more about the event, visit the following link:
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/106670632441054>

NSU Alumni Talk Show 118



In the one-hundred-and-eighteenth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on May 31, 2023, the spotlight was on Ms. Kaniz Rahman, an inspiring individual from the Batch of 2012 at NSU. Ms. Rahman's academic journey at NSU began with her pursuit of a B.A. in English as a Literature major from the Department of English and Modern Languages (DEML), which she completed in 2015. Driven by her passion for education, she furthered her studies and obtained a Master's in Applied Linguistics and TESOL from Macquarie University, Australia. Currently, Ms. Rahman serves as a lecturer in the Department of English at the International University of Scholars, where she not only imparts knowledge but also dedicates herself to motivating and counseling students. Her genuine love for teaching and unwavering commitment to student growth has made her an invaluable asset to the academic community, and she has

continued to make a positive impact in the lives of her students for nearly three years now.

When asked about the essential skills for fresh graduates aspiring to become teachers, Ms. Rahman shared invaluable insights. She emphasized the importance of having a genuine passion for teaching and a commitment to self-development. Creating a conducive classroom environment and incorporating diverse activities to engage students were highlighted as crucial aspects. Patience was identified as a critical virtue for teachers, along with open-mindedness and eagerness to learn continuously. Effective communication and presentation skills were deemed essential for effective teaching. Ms. Rahman's advice resonates with the genuine dedication and inspiration she brings to her teaching practice, emphasizing the need for continual growth and the ability to adapt to positively impact students' lives.

When asked about the impact of studying at NSU on her master's degree, Ms. Kaniz Rahman expressed that the major course content in her first year was very similar. However, she acknowledged that NSU's strict grading policy, where achieving 93% is challenging, helped shape her competitive mindset. Familiarity with assignments from her time at NSU also made the transition easier. Looking ahead, Ms. Rahman shared her aspirations of teaching in underdeveloped countries and pursuing a Ph.D. Her motivation to inspire, share knowledge, and help students learn shines through her love for teaching. Ms. Rahman's genuine passion and dedication serve as an inspiration to educators, reminding them of the transformative power of education and the profound impact it can have on their students' lives.

Moving along the show, Ms. Kaniz Rahman reflected on the similarities in course content during the first year and the impact of studying at NSU on her master's program. However, she acknowledged NSU's higher academic standards and more challenging grading policy, where achieving a 93% grade was no easy feat. Studying at NSU helped her develop a competitive mindset and made assignments in her master's program more manageable due to her familiarity with the workload. Looking ahead, Ms. Rahman expressed her aspirations to teach in underdeveloped countries and pursue a Ph.D. Her genuine passion for teaching shines through as she shares her motivation to inspire, share knowledge, and empower her students. Ms. Rahman's dedication to teaching and her genuine desire to motivate and uplift her students encourage aspiring educators.

During the concluding part of the show, Ms. Kaniz Rahman shared her heartfelt sentiments about her NSU experience and the reasons behind choosing the university. Her love for the English language and the beautiful campus made NSU the perfect choice for her, which she considers one of her best decisions. Ms. Rahman actively participated in the Earth Club and discovered her passion for drawing, forming meaningful friendships along the way. She acknowledged the effective teaching style at NSU, which significantly contributed to her growth. Ms. Rahman emphasized the importance of following one's dreams, thinking big, and relentlessly pursuing them. Her sincere and inspiring words encourage others to believe in themselves and work diligently towards their goals.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1517305259030296>

ClimateScience Information Session

ClimateScience Information session was held on June 01, 2023, by Mr. Mahiat Shan, an ambitious sophomore undergraduate student pursuing a degree in the School of Business and Economics at North South University (NSU). Demonstrating a deep commitment to climate activism and youth advocacy for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Mahiat actively contributes to shaping a better future for Bangladesh. From his first year, Mr. Shan has garnered valuable experience working as a Sustainability Executive at Walton, the country's largest tech manufacturer, and as a Branding Executive at Bangladesh Bondhu Foundation (BONDHU), a prominent climate tech nonprofit in Asia. With a track record of successful internships at esteemed startups and



ClimateScience



multinational corporations, Mahiat combines his passion for creating measurable impact with a keen interest in exploring emerging technologies. Mr. Shan's recent noteworthy contribution to advancing the SDGs involved his partnership with ClimateScience, the world's largest Climate Education platform, as NSU's Campus Coordinator for the global Climate Science Olympiad (CSO) 2023. As the sole Campus Coordinator at NSU, he diligently mobilized the student community to combat Global Warming by devising innovative climate change mitigation ideas for this year's CSO. Through proactive efforts, Mr. Shan successfully organized an information event with the support of the Office Of External Affairs and enlisted an impressive 225 participating teams from North South University, positioning him as the second most successful Campus Coordinator globally.

In collaboration with the Office of External Affairs (OEA), a virtual information session regarding CSO23 was explicitly organized for North South University students. The session featured Ms. Raseel Arora, Co-Director of the global CSO, who joined as a distinguished guest, provided comprehensive details about the CSO23, and graciously addressed inquiries from the NSU audience. ClimateScience is a prominent non profit organization dedicated to educating and empowering young individuals to address the critical issue of climate change. One of its flagship programs, the ClimateScience Olympiad, stands as a global competition designed for high school students to showcase their profound knowledge of climate science and innovative abilities in devising solutions to climate challenges.

Open to students worldwide, the 2022 edition of the Olympiad witnessed the impressive participation of over 55,000 students from more than 190 countries. The competition comprises two challenging phases: a rigorous written exam and a final presentation round. During the final presentation, student teams tackle complex climate problems, formulating comprehensive proposals for effective and practical solutions. This enriching experience provides participants unparalleled opportunities to learn from esteemed climate science experts, connect with like-minded peers sharing their passion for climate change action, and enhance essential problem-solving and public speaking skills. Looking ahead, the highly anticipated 2023 ClimateScience Olympiad was scheduled for June. High school to university students keen on making a meaningful impact in climate science are encouraged to explore the Olympiad further and register for this exceptional opportunity. In essence, the ClimateScience Olympiad serves as a beacon of inspiration, cultivating a new generation of climate leaders driven by knowledge, innovation, and a resolute commitment to combat the challenges of climate change.

The session was a dynamic and interactive conversation, with Ms. Arora sharing valuable insights on securing a fully sponsored trip to COP28 in Dubai, accompanied by a substantial prize pool of USD \$10,000 for those progressing to the CSO23 Finals. Additionally, participants gained awareness about ClimateScience, its accessible climate education resources, and the opportunity to obtain a certificate for their participation. Dr. Katherine Li, Director of the Office of External Affairs, concluded the session with inspiring closing remarks, and interested students registered for the Olympiad using a shared QR code provided by Mr. Shan. To know more about the event, visit the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/930031961387681>

Western Australia Networking Event

NSU received a cordial invitation from Western Australia to participate in the esteemed "Invest & Trade WA Networking Onusthan, Dhaka" event on June 2, 2023. The event aimed to foster collaboration and enhance connectivity between Western Australia and Bangladesh, in the presence of Hon. David Templeman, Minister for Culture and the Arts; Sport and Recreation; International Education; Heritage, and Ms. Nashid Chowdhury, Investment & Trade Commissioner for India-Gulf region, Government of Western Australia. The gathering brought together prominent dignitaries to explore opportunities for mutual cooperation. Notably, the event featured the expertise of Ms. Kishwar Chowdhury, a renowned culinary artist and finalist of MasterChef Australia 2021. Ms. Chowdhury curated a delightful menu for the networking event, adding a touch of gastronomic excellence to the occasion. The event provided a platform for meaningful discussions and collaborations to strengthen the ties between Western Australia and Bangladesh, fostering potential growth and mutual benefits in various sectors. Attendees from NSU were highly impressed with the arrangements of the evening.



OEA Booth

The Office of External Affairs (OEA) at North South University (NSU) orchestrated its quarterly information booth at the NSU Plaza



Area. The primary objective of this booth is to offer comprehensive guidance on the application process for universities abroad, highlight NSU's partnered universities, and provide general information on pursuing higher education overseas. Assisting at the booth were Ms. Sumaiya Abedin Rusafa, Ms. Zafreen Islam, and Mr. Hafiz Uzzaman Tuhin, dedicated student workers from the OEA. Furthermore, NSU's IELTS campus ambassadors were present, extending their support by delivering IELTS-related services such as information dissemination and facilitating IELTS registrations. The booth garnered tremendous success, attracting a significant influx of students seeking these valuable services. Due to overwhelming demand, the OEA extended the booth's availability until June 08, 2023, ensuring continued accessibility to the information

STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES
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and assistance sought by NSU students.

NSU Alumni Talk Show 119

On June 05, 2023, the one-hundred-and-nineteenth episode featured the remarkable Mr. Dedarul Chandan, an alumnus of NSU's Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering (ETE), graduating in 2008. He pursued his Master of Science (MSc) in Telecommunications Engineering from Queen Mary University of London in 2019. Currently, he holds the esteemed position of Senior Service Manager- Cloud and IPN at Nokia. With an impressive career trajectory, Mr. Chandan contributed significantly to Bangladesh's telecommunications sector for nearly three years before venturing to Australia. Joining Nokia in Australia, he dedicated five years to gaining extensive experience and confidence, culminating in the establishment of his own venture, Open Hive, where he currently serves as Director, a pioneering initiative that is now in its exciting developmental phase. His remarkable journey exemplifies his exceptional abilities and dedication to advancing the field of telecommunications.



In his current role at Nokia Australia, Mr. Dedarul Chandan leads a team of 78 professionals, overseeing the dual aspects of product sales and service provision. As a proficient manager, he actively engages in cloud management and collaborates with sponsors to identify and address challenges, leveraging his problem-solving abilities to deliver effective solutions. With a keen focus on internal and external IPN and Cloud operations, Mr. Chandan plays a pivotal role in driving the success of Nokia's telecommunications endeavors. Nokia is diligently preparing for a transformative and groundbreaking future in 2030. Recognizing the growth potential, Mr. Chandan believes that Bangladesh's telecommunications sector can benefit from studying the practices and achievements of advanced economies, thereby minimizing the need for trial and error and accelerating progress. Encouraging the adoption of cloud-based platforms, he envisions inspiring and cultivating a technological landscape in Bangladesh that reflects international standards of excellence.

When asked about developing skills as an ETE graduate and the critical attributes for success, Mr. Dedarul Chandan emphasized the significance of cultivating the right mindset in line with the rapidly evolving technological landscape. He noted that approximately 80% of knowledge acquisition occurs through job training, underscoring the importance of practical experience. Additionally, Mr. Chandan highlighted the criticality of networking knowledge, recognizing its pivotal role in the industry. Moreover, he stressed the need for continuous self-development to stay abreast of advancements and remain competitive. By focusing on these aspects, ETE graduates can position themselves for success in their professional journey.

Toward the end of the conversation, Mr. Chandan reminisced about his time at NSU, which holds a special place in his heart. He fondly recalled how NSU was the pioneering university introducing a dedicated degree program in telecommunications, aligning perfectly with his passion for the field. Opting for NSU as his first choice was a natural decision for him. During his university days, he and eight of his friends ventured into entrepreneurship, creating a thriving business that enriched their academic journey and honed their interpersonal skills. The vibrant campus life at the old NSU campus left an indelible impression on him, and he cherishes the incredible memories he made there. NSU provided him with a platform to connect with diverse individuals, teaching him valuable lessons in understanding and effectively communicating with people from different walks of life. Reflecting on his journey, Mr. Chandan emphasized the importance of fresh graduates gaining real-world experience by working in organizations to understand how systems operate comprehensively.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/978776139977467>

Bangladesh Education Expo 2023



On June 05, 2023, North South University left an unforgettable mark at the esteemed Education Expo, organized by the Education Reporters Association of Bangladesh (ERAB), held at the prestigious Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) in Dhaka. The event garnered widespread attention, drawing numerous public and private universities, polytechnic institutes, and educational institutions, showcasing their research, publications, and innovations. Among the participants, NSU stood out as the number 1 private university in Bangladesh, exemplifying its academic prowess and unwavering commitment to excellence.

As the chief guest, the Education Minister, Dr. Dipu Moni, MP, graced the occasion with her prominent presence. She commended the advancements made by private universities in Bangladesh and emphasized their vital role in shaping the nation's educational landscape. Professor Atiqul Islam, the Vice-Chancellor of NSU, conveyed his pride in the university's accomplishments through a thoughtful video message as a special guest, underlining NSU's dedication to delivering exceptional education and fostering academic brilliance.

In addition to the university's leadership, Professor Dr. Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Chair of the Department of Political Science and Sociology and Director of the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) at NSU, shed light on the significance of Ph.D. programs and research initiatives in private universities. His impassioned speech emphasized NSU's commitment to fostering a research-driven academic environment, encouraging intellectual curiosity, and nurturing future leaders.

Mr. Javed Munir Ahmed, a prominent member of the Board of Trustees of NSU, delivered a captivating closing ceremony speech, reflecting on the tremendous success of the expo. He highlighted how the event played a pivotal role in providing comprehensive information to aspiring students, not only within Bangladesh but also to those pursuing higher education opportunities on an international scale. The Education Expo exemplified NSU's dedication to promoting access to quality education and nurturing the intellectual potential of the nation's youth.

The event highlighted NSU's achievements and served as a testament to Bangladesh's educational sector's unrelenting progress and commitment. By actively participating in such prestigious events, NSU reaffirms its position as a trailblazer in Bangladesh's higher education realm. With a relentless commitment to excellence, NSU continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of education and contributing significantly to the academic growth and development of the nation.

Delhi Dhaka Dialogue 2

On June 06, 2023 Professor Sehba Saleem, Associate Professor in the School of Art and Architecture at Sushant University, visited Bangladesh on short notice to conduct a two-day workshop with the Civil and Environmental Engineering students at North South University (NSU). The workshop focused on addressing the challenges posed by urban heat and exploring strategies for mitigation. Accompanied by Dr. Nadim Reza Khandaker, Associate Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and NSU students, Professor Saleem embarked on a field trip to a rural environment. During the visit, she actively engaged with an adult education outreach program for women aimed at promoting sustainable development and addressing their unique needs. This interactive experience profoundly impacted the NSU students, who greatly appreciated Professor Saleem's presence, kind demeanor, and wealth of knowledge. Her visit inspired young female engineering students, who found her to be a true role model. The depth of Prof Saleem's expertise and her genuine interest in connecting with the students were highly valued and appreciated by all involved. This collaborative activity marks the initial step of a series of planned initiatives under the new academic collaboration between NSU and Sushant University.



2nd Meeting with Padakhep Manabik Unnayan Kendra (PMUK)



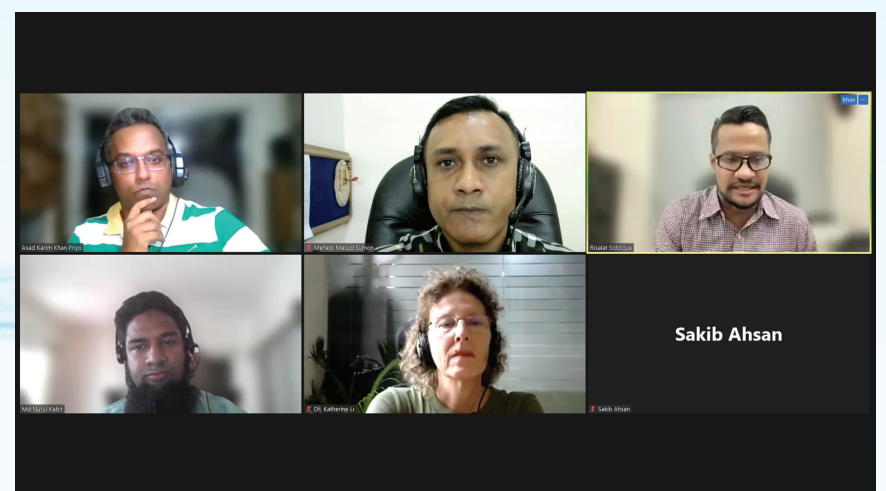
The second follow-up meeting between NSU and Padakhep Manabik Unnayan Kendra (PMUK) was convened virtually via Zoom on June 06, 2023. PMUK was represented by Mr. Risalat Siddique, Director of Microfinance, Programme & Enterprise, and Mr. Sheikh Shakib Ahsan, Assistant Director of Branch & Communication. From NSU, the attendees included Dr. Asad Karim Khan Priyo, Associate Professor & Chair of the Department of Economics; Dr. Nurul Kabir, Associate Professor & Chair of the Department of Accounting & Finance; Dr. Katherine Li, Director of External Affairs (OEA); and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer of OEA. The agenda focused on exploring potential collaboration in joint research, publication, research funding, student internships, and training opportunities between the two institutions.

During the meeting between NSU and Padakhep Manabik Unnayan Kendra (PMUK), Mr. Risalat Siddique, Director of Microfinance, Programme & Enterprise at PMUK, expressed gratitude to the Office of External Affairs (OEA) for exploring a potential collaboration. Mr. Siddique provided an overview of PMUK's work, which began in 1986 with a focus on holistic development in rural and urban areas, aiming to uplift disadvantaged and vulnerable populations, particularly women and children. PMUK has been actively involved in various sectors, including education, healthcare, microfinance, women's empowerment, and agriculture. Mr. Siddique highlighted PMUK's adoption of the Holistic Development Approach (HDA), a multi-dimensional and participatory strategy that addresses poverty through community-focused interventions. He emphasized PMUK's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the government's poverty reduction strategy, aiming to leave no one behind. He also discussed the organization's extensive project portfolio, funded by national and international donor organizations, focusing on areas such as microfinance, agriculture, health, education, and disaster management.

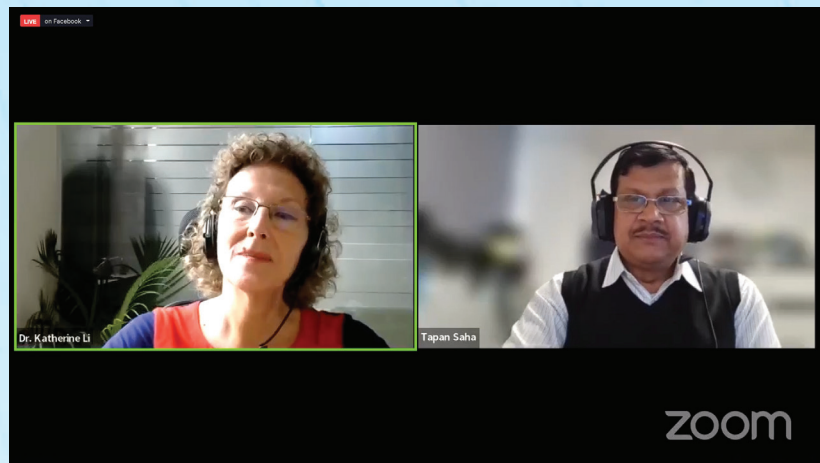
Regarding the collaboration, Mr. Siddique expressed PMUK's interest in participating in international calls for research and acknowledged NSU's reputation as the top-ranked private university in Bangladesh. He believed an MoU between the two institutions would facilitate the joint implementation of significant international projects, expanding beyond local or regional endeavors. He emphasized the potential for collaborative research, publication, research funding, student internships, and training opportunities, particularly in areas of economics and accounting & finance.

Dr. Asad Karim Khan Priyo further acknowledged the potential collaboration scope, highlighting opportunities for research papers, field studies, internships, and joint funding involving qualified researchers from NSU. He also emphasized the possibility of NSU students interning at PMUK. Dr. Nurul Kabir agreed with the importance of NSU's involvement in research projects and the potential for external funding. Dr. Katherine Li discussed the university's dual degree program with the University of Adelaide, Australia, which includes a new camp allowing international students from partnered universities to engage with NGOs. Dr. Li expressed NSU's interest in action learning and emphasized the need for practical experiences alongside textbook learning.

After a comprehensive discussion, NSU and PMUK agreed to initiate an academic collaboration through an MoU. This collaboration aims to facilitate research collaboration, joint publications, research projects, external funding proposals, and training and internship opportunities for NSU students. In conclusion, the meeting between NSU and PMUK proved fruitful, with both parties expressing enthusiasm for future collaboration. The discussion highlighted the potential for joint research projects, publication opportunities, student internships, and training initiatives. The agreement to establish an MoU signifies a commitment to harnessing the strengths of both institutions and promoting academic excellence and research advancement.



What's Your Story? (Episode 16)



The sixteenth episode of "What's Your Story" was broadcasted live on the official Facebook page of the Office of External Affairs (OEA) at NSU. The esteemed guest for this episode was Professor Tapan Saha, a distinguished academic holding reputable positions and accolades. Prof. Saha's educational journey spans Bangladesh, India, Canada, and Australia, culminating in his current role as the Power, Energy, and Control Engineering Discipline Leader at the School of IT & Electrical Engineering, The University of Queensland (UQ), Australia. With an impressive career trajectory, Prof. Saha has been serving as a Professor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering in Queensland since 2005, starting his academic journey as a lecturer in 1996. Notably, he has also contributed to the academic landscape of BUET and James Cook University of North Queensland in Australia. His educational accomplishments include a B.Sc in Electrical & Electronic Engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), an M.Tech from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, and a Ph.D. from the University of Queensland, Australia, all in the field of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Prof. Saha's influence extends beyond academia as he leads a prolific research group comprising more than 60 academics, post-doctoral research fellows, and Ph.D. students specializing in power systems. His expertise and contributions have been recognized internationally, earning him the prestigious Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) fellowship. In his illustrious career, he has supervised 56 Ph.D. and 11 M.Phil students to completion, while his prolific scholarly output includes publishing over 620 technical papers in renowned peer-reviewed journals and conferences. Prof. Saha maintains a close collaboration with the Australian electric supply industry, leveraging his expertise to drive advancements and innovations in the field. Notably, he has been honored with notable awards, including the ALTC Citation, MA Sergeant Award, and the ACPE-CIGRE Outstanding Academic Award, recognizing his exceptional contributions to teaching, research in electrical power engineering, and his significant impact on industry and CIGRE activities. Prof. Tapan Saha's remarkable achievements and unwavering commitment to his field make him an inspiring figure in academia and the power systems domain.

At the commencement of the interview, Prof. Saha shared that he spent his formative years in a village situated to the northeast of the capital city, Dhaka. Despite the rural setting of the late 60s and early 70s, devoid of modern amenities like electricity, pursuing education remained a paramount priority in his middle-class family. The lack of contemporary conveniences did not hinder the young Professor's curiosity and determination to seek knowledge, fostering a stimulating and engaging environment for personal growth and learning. Regarding his role models, Prof. Saha recounted how they evolved over time. During his schooling years, he found inspiration in national leaders amid the backdrop of the Bangladesh Liberation War. Later, he encountered an impressive physics teacher in high school whose impact steered him toward studying electrical engineering. This mentor not only sparked his interest in the subject but also motivated him to pursue the field as a career path. Prof. Saha's journey reflects a blend of sweet nostalgia and insightful wisdom, highlighting individuals and circumstances' profound influence on shaping one's aspirations and life choices. When discussing his decision to pursue Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE), Prof. Tapan Saha highlighted the negative and positive aspects that influenced his choice. Like many engineering students, he possessed a fondness for physics and mathematics. However, his profound curiosity specifically lay in exploring electrical systems. In the initial year of his studies, the university provided him with a solid foundation and comprehensive understanding, further motivating him to specialize in EEE. As he delved into various engineering disciplines, such as mechanical and civil, he found himself particularly disinterested in their respective drawings. This process of elimination reinforced his resolve to focus solely on EEE, showcasing his talent and inclination toward the field.

Prof. Tapan Saha's desire to study abroad was born from his early fascination with academia. Even in his youth, he found joy in explaining complex concepts to younger students, igniting their admiration for his teaching abilities. The ambition to become a university teacher and researcher steered him towards pursuing higher education. After completing his first degree in EEE from BUET, he sought greater fulfillment and changed multiple engineering jobs within a year. Sensing the need for academic growth, he seized the opportunity of a government scholarship to pursue a Master's of Technology at the prestigious IIT in New Delhi, India. Impressed by the academic environment and excelling in his studies, he returned to Dhaka and yearned to venture abroad. A full scholarship offer for a Ph.D. program in Canada marked the beginning of his international academic journey. Eventually, a life-changing offer of permanent residency in Australia compelled him to make the pivotal decision to relocate to Australia and embark on a fresh Ph.D. at the esteemed University of Queensland (UQ). His remarkable journey exemplifies his success and determination in academia and research. While discussing the differences between BUET, IIT New Delhi, and Australia, Prof. Tapan Saha refrained from making direct comparisons. He acknowledged BUET as the premier engineering university in Bangladesh, cherishing his time there and maintaining strong bonds with colleagues and classmates. However, his knowledge of BUET research remains limited. In contrast, UQ offers a comprehensive range of disciplines, including humanities, social sciences, medicine, business, and engineering, making it one of Australia's oldest and most esteemed universities. With a strong focus on research and teaching, UQ has provided numerous opportunities over the years. As for IIT New Delhi, a top engineering institution in India, Prof. Saha highlighted the collaborative research efforts between UQ and IIT, with joint Ph.D. programs and supervising students across both institutions. Regarding settling abroad, Prof. Saha cited the challenging political situation in Bangladesh during the 80s, prompting him to seek better career prospects and research opportunities abroad. He emphasized the significance of considering economic conditions, political stability, and human rights when contemplating a move to another country, emphasizing that timing and careful selection play vital roles in the decision-making process.

Prof. Tapan Saha expressed his passion for academia and the ever-evolving nature of his field. Initially, he focused on electrical systems, particularly equipment, and devices in electricity networks, delving into monitoring conditions and predicting the lifespan of these components. However, in the past 15 years, his research has shifted dramatically due to the urgent need for sustainable energy systems amidst climate change. Prof. Saha's work has centered around addressing the challenges of renewable energy, specifically solar photovoltaics and wind power, concerning their intermittency and variability based on environmental conditions and location. This endeavor has allowed him to contribute to Australia's efforts in renewable energy, such as solar and wind power initiatives. He has built advanced infrastructures within the university, trained students and researchers, and collaborated with exceptional minds worldwide. Being a member of professional organizations like IEEE has greatly benefited his career, enabling him to travel extensively, present his work at international conferences, and collaborate with outstanding academics and engineers worldwide. He has also played a vital role in fostering connections between IEEE and local professional organizations in Australia, enhancing his understanding of his profession, and engineering ethics, and enabling him to think globally. Prof. Saha's motivation stems from his genuine enjoyment of his work, finding excitement in the opportunity to contribute to teaching, research, and professional services. By inviting industry experts and maintaining active industry engagement, he ensures his work remains relevant to real-world challenges, bridging the gap between academia and industry. His achievements extend beyond academia, as he has successfully commercialized technologies and licensed intellectual property, leading to the production and marketing of products by multinational

companies. Prof. Saha attributes his success to hard work, passion, and the exceptional individuals he has had the privilege to collaborate with, emphasizing his commitment to his career and his team's success.

When reflecting on his life's challenges, Prof. Tapan Saha acknowledges that while academic hurdles like funding and student supervision are significant, his greatest challenge has been balancing his family life and work commitments. Juggling the responsibilities of a devoted husband and father of three children alongside his professional pursuits has been a constant endeavor, one that he now better understands after three decades of experience. If given the opportunity to turn back time, he would approach this challenge with a greater emphasis on finding a harmonious equilibrium between the two domains, recognizing the invaluable support he has received from his family, particularly his wife, and children, who have made significant sacrifices. In concluding the show, Prof. Saha advises NSU students, faculty, and staff. He emphasizes the importance of hard work, urging against shortcuts, and advocating for challenging oneself and the surrounding environment. Prof. Saha encourages thoughtful decision-making and forming like-minded teams that can contribute collectively. Furthermore, he highlights the significance of prioritizing quality over quantity in academic outcomes, emphasizing the value of producing impactful research publications. Looking ahead, Prof. Saha's lifelong dream is to continue diligently working towards advancing technology for the betterment of humanity, ensuring that his contributions have a lasting and positive impact on society. His remarkable journey inspires, demonstrating that passion and hard work are instrumental in achieving exceptional heights.

To know more about the event, visit the following link:
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/177077478664464>

Live Qualifier ClimateScience



On June 08, 2023, a live qualifier round of the Climate Science Olympiad 2023 (CSO23) was held at Syndicate Hall, meticulously organized by Mr. Mahiat Shan in collaboration with the Office of External Affairs (OEA) at North South University. Following the earlier mentioned information session, the live qualifier was initiated. In preparation for the event, Mr. Shan, the dedicated and sole Campus Coordinator of NSU, diligently placed CSO23 banners across the university campus, with invaluable assistance from his team of friends, aptly named the Impact Diplomats. Concurrently, an event was created on the official OEA Facebook page, inviting all NSUers to join the live qualifier round on the specified date.

The Syndicate Hall resonated with the energy and enthusiasm of numerous climate activists and olympiad participants from NSU, who collectively engaged in the Qualifier Round of CSO23. The event proved highly successful, with several participants showcasing exceptional performance, advancing to the Quarterfinals and even the Semi-Finals of the prestigious Olympiad. For those who faced challenges during the qualifier, Mr. Shan and the organizing team offered reassurance, encouraging them to make further attempts to succeed.

Following the exhilarating competition, the keynote speaker, Dr. Katherine Li, Director of OEA, graced the occasion with her inspiring speech, congratulating Mr. Shan and expressing her appreciation for all the participants' dedication to such a noble cause. In a heartfelt gesture of gratitude, Mr. Shan and his team, Impact Diplomats, presented Dr. Li and her team with a lovely token of appreciation, acknowledging their unwavering support in making the event a resounding triumph. The live qualifier round of CSO23 at NSU demonstrated the university's commitment to environmental advocacy and served as a testament to the collective determination of its students to drive positive change in the face of climate challenges.

To know more about the event, visit the following link:
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/633204092026901>



NSU Delegation Visit to Australia



The Vice-Chancellor of North South University, Professor Atiqul Islam, visited Australia from June 05 to 09 2023, to attend the AACSB Asia Pacific Accreditation Conference and some other collaboration meetings with Western Sydney University and Macquarie University in Sydney. Notably, the visit also marked the signing of an MoU renewal between NSU and Western Sydney University.

The Vice-Chancellor attended the AACSB Asia Pacific Accreditation Conference hosted by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) at the University of Technology Sydney from June 05, 2023, to June 07, 2023. The AACSB Asia Pacific Accreditation Conference is a prestigious event that convenes esteemed academic leaders and educators from leading business schools in the Asia Pacific region. The conference facilitated valuable interactions between the NSU School of Business and Economics (NSU SBE) and representatives from top business schools, allowing for meaningful knowledge exchange. Workshops and sessions covered various topics, including iSER preparation, intellectual contributions, Assurance of Learning (AoL) systems, faculty development, and societal impact. Additionally, the Vice-Chancellor had a special meeting with AACSB executives, inviting them to visit North South University to learn from best practices in accreditation and continuous improvement.

On June 09, 2023, Professor Atiqul Islam visited Western Sydney University (WSU) to conduct a collaboration meeting and sign the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two institutions. The original agreement was signed on June 07, 2019, and various joint activities, including webinars, have been organized since then. The meeting was attended by Professor Barney Glover AO, Vice-Chancellor and President; Professor Amir Mahmood, Dean of the School of Business; Ms. Jie Xu, Senior Coordinator for Agreements & Operations; and Ms. Catherine Reed, International Delegations Coordinator. Both parties stressed the

need for collaboration in various sectors, particularly scholarly and research exchanges, during the conference. NSU and WSU will collaborate on publications, share academic resources, and investigate opportunities for faculty and student exchanges to increase international exposure and foster collaboration in teaching and research under the terms of this agreement. WSU's notable offering is a Ph.D. scholarship opportunity for a faculty member from NSU's Business School. The program illustrates WSU's commitment to fostering a collaborative academic environment and strengthening the two schools' cooperation.

On June 09, 2023, Professor Atiqul Islam, the Vice-Chancellor, visited Macquarie University, Sydney, for collaboration meetings, signifying the mutual commitment of both institutions to foster international cooperation and uphold academic excellence. Dr. Jonathan Wylie, Vice-President for Strategy, Planning, and Performance; Professor Chris Patel, from the Department of Accounting & Corporate Governance; Professor Grant Michelson, from the Department of Management at Macquarie Business School; Dr. Nazmul Juda, Senior Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering at the Science & Engineering School; and Mr. Tanveer Shaheed, Deputy Director of International, represented Macquarie University during the collaboration meeting. Discussions included an overview of the existing partnership, collaborative initiatives, joint programs, and student exchanges. The significance of joint publications, research grants, and collaborative research centers was emphasized as fruitful avenues for collaboration, culminating in a vote of thanks from the Vice-Chancellor of NSU and an optimistic perspective for the future of this partnership.

Collaboration Meeting between NSU Law Faculty and St. John's University, USA



**ST. JOHN'S
UNIVERSITY**

On June 8, 2023, Dr. Katherine Li, Director of the Office of External Affairs (OEA), conducted a follow-up virtual meeting with Professor Michael A. Simons, Dean of the Law School, and Mr. Carl Olson, Associate Director for Graduate Admissions and Global Engagement at St. John's University. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the intricacies of an academic collaboration between the two institutions. An exciting initial proposal emerged, focusing on organizing a short-term exposure visit to St. John's University for law students from NSU who express interest in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). This collaboration presents a promising opportunity for knowledge exchange and cross-cultural learning, facilitating the development of students' expertise in the field of ADR. Further discussions will be held to refine the details and ensure a successful implementation of this collaborative endeavor.

MoU Signing Ceremony with BUET

On June 11, 2023, North South University and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) formally established a partnership by signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU). Professor Satya Prasad Majumder, Vice-Chancellor of BUET, and Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of NSU, graced the ceremony.



**Bangladesh University of
Engineering and Technology**



The MoU outlines the collaborative efforts between the two institutions, encompassing research endeavors, joint publications, academic partnerships, and other mutually beneficial activities. Notably, the MoU emphasizes the research and development of Artificial Intelligence (AI), with BUET's Research and Innovation Centre for Science and Engineering (RISE) taking the necessary measures in conjunction with NSU. Following the signing, both teams engaged in a joint discussion to deliberate on future directions and forthcoming steps.

Professor Satya Prasad Majumder expressed his belief that this MoU marks a significant milestone in developing partnerships between public and private universities, and he expressed his satisfaction that BUET could assume a pioneering role in this endeavor. Professor Atiqul Islam affirmed NSU's unwavering dedication to research and innovation, noting that this agreement would undoubtedly bolster the pursuit of such objectives while also expressing hope for further collaborations between public and private universities in the future. High-ranking officials, including Deans and department chairs from both institutions, attended the program, highlighting the significance and commitment associated with this partnership.

NSU Alumni Talk Show 120

On June 12, 2023, the one-hundred-and-twentieth episode of the show featured the remarkable Ms. Anika Azam, esteemed alumna of NSU. Ms. Azam pursued a Bachelor's degree in Economics from NSU, graduating in 2007. Her dedication to personal growth led her to complete her Master's in Development Studies (MDS) from NSU in 2017. In 2009, fueled by her passion for event management, she established Kri Events by Anika Azam. Over the past 14 years, Ms. Azam's organization has orchestrated an astounding number of over 5000 events with resounding success. Notably, her visionary approach led her to create the prestigious event venue, Tarius, in the prominent Kemal Ataturk Avenue of Banani. As an event planner, Ms. Azam meticulously orchestrates every detail, ensuring budget-friendliness without compromising excellence. Starting with her friends' weddings, her exceptional business acumen and exceptional execution quickly garnered attention, propelling Kri Events by Anika Azam to become a renowned name in the industry. Ms. Azam's expertise and passion for perfection shine through with each event, leaving a lasting impression on clients and attendees alike.



During the conversation, Ms. Anika Azam astutely addressed the dynamics of the event management market and provided insightful reflections on the industry. She acknowledged the challenging nature of venturing into this field, particularly for newcomers, emphasizing the importance of mental preparedness. The demanding nature of the business often requires sacrificing personal time, with lunch or dinner becoming a luxury. Ms. Azam stressed the paramount significance of prioritizing clients and executing tasks promptly, underscoring the criticality of time management in this domain. While acknowledging the progress made in empowering women in Bangladesh to pursue careers and establish businesses, she highlighted that there is still progress to be made. Witnessing the success of accomplished women in the country remains an inspiration, despite prevailing gender discrimination. Ms. Azam's resilience and achievements testify to the changing landscape and her indomitable spirit within the industry.

Ms. Anika Azam fondly reminisced about her time at NSU during the closing moments of the talk show. Her decision to choose NSU was motivated by its proximity to her home and the presence of her cousins studying there. She spoke passionately about her love for Economics, a subject she had cherished since her O Levels and A Levels. Opting for Economics over the more popular BBA program, she found the department's teachers exceptionally supportive and nurturing. Notably, in 2006, she held the esteemed position of General Secretary at NSU Social Services Club (NSU SSC). During this period, the club organized its inaugural picnic, an event that connected her with inspiring individuals and allowed her to hone her people skills. Ms. Azam's journey at NSU played a pivotal role in shaping her into the remarkable and accomplished individual she is today, evoking a sense of nostalgia for the cherished moments she experienced during her university days. To know more about the event, visit the following link:
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/277583508084000>

Coordination Meeting with BRAC NGO

On June 12, 2023, the Office of External Affairs (OEA) and the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) at North South University (NSU) jointly organized a campaign and dialogue session on "Gender Equality" for the students of NSU. The session, held in the Office of Student Affairs Conference Room, was aimed at raising awareness about gender-related issues and women's empowerment. From BRAC NGO, Ms. Nobonita Chowdhury, Director, Gender Justice and Diversity, Preventing Violence Against Women Initiative; Ms. Nurunnahar, Manager, Advocacy and Networking, Gender Justice and Diversity Programme; and Ms. Zarfisha Alam, Manager, Communications, Gender Justice and Diversity Programme attended the



meeting. Representing NSU, Prof. Dr. Gour Gobinda Goswami, Professor, Department of Economics & Director, Office of the Student Affairs (OSA); Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA) & Advisor, Center for Peace Studies (CPS), SPPG; Dr. Zerina Shabnaz Akkas, Asst. Prof. Dept. of History & Philosophy & Faculty Advisor, Ethics and Diversity Club; Mr. Omar Nasif Abdullah, Lecturer, Department of Marketing & Int'l Business & Faculty Advisor, Debate Club; Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Asst. Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA); Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination officer, Office of External Affairs (OEA) and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, Office of External Affairs (OEA) was present at the meeting.

Ms. Nobonita Chowdhury, Director of Gender Justice and Diversity introduced the NGO's activities and initiatives, focusing on their commitment to social equality with the "Shomotontro" program, advocating for "Equality for All." During the session, Ms. Chowdhury voiced her intention of turning the "Shomotontro" program into a movement, emphasizing the significance of discussing and accepting societal changes. She proposed several topics for the dialogue session, such as LGBTQ+ matters, redefining the meaning of transgender for future generations, and advocating for transgender rights and people's opportunities to express their orientations openly. The session structure was envisioned as a TED talk-style conference with active audience participation.

Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon highlighted NSU's efforts to collaborate with various NGOs and INGOs in Bangladesh, mentioning the NSU's existing MoUs with 26 such organizations. The coordination of the dialogue session will involve the participation of the NSU Debate Club, which will play an essential role in selecting a curated set of topics for discussion. Subsequently, BRAC NGO is responsible for choosing the conversation starter and facilitating an interactive engagement with the audience.

The tentative date for the event was set for July 27, 2023, with a coordination meeting planned for the first week of July, headed by the honorable Pro-Vice-Chancellor of NSU. Ms. Chowdhury encouraged the event's promotion through various university departments to engage as many students as possible. The registration process was scheduled to begin after the Eid holidays, and the organizers intended to collaborate with the NSU Art and Photography Club for a photography exhibition centered around the theme "What does Shomotontro mean to you?"

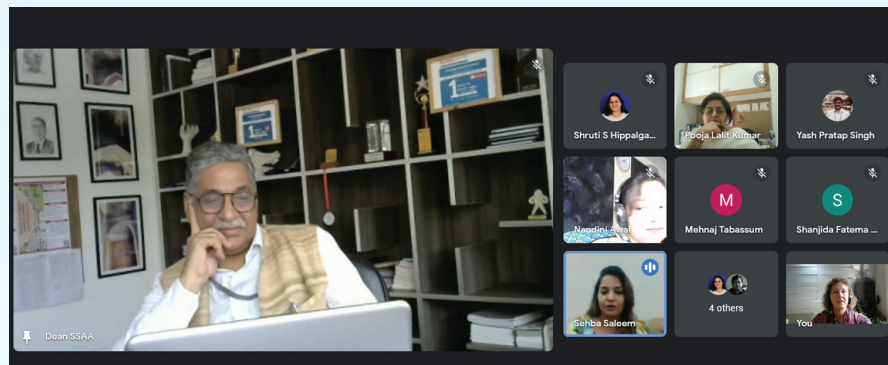
Prof. Dr. Gour Gobinda Goswami assured providing infrastructural, participant, and academic support for the event. The meeting concluded with Ms. Chowdhury showcasing a video of her speech at the BRAC Hope Festival, further highlighting the essence of the "Shomotontro" Program. The campaign and dialogue session on "Gender Equality" organized by the Office of External Affairs (OEA) and the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) at North South University (NSU) in collaboration with BRAC was a significant step towards promoting awareness and discussion on gender-related issues among NSU students. The meeting concluded with plans for further coordination, active student engagement, and the incorporation of artistic elements, ensuring a dynamic and impactful event to foster a culture of inclusivity and acceptance at NSU.

Faculty from Sushant University, India Meet NSU Faculty



A virtual meeting was convened with participants from Sushant University and NSU on June 12, 2023, to facilitate an introduction between faculty members from both institutions and outline a concrete course of action for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on March 23, 2023. Representing Sushant University were Dr. Sehba Saleem, Assistant Professor of the School of Art and Architecture; Dr. Shruti S. Hippalgaonkar, Associate Professor, Program Head: Masters in Architecture [Landscape Architecture], School of Art and Architecture; Dr. Pooja Lalit Kumar, Professor, School of Art and Architecture; and Dr. Yash Pratap Singh Shekhawat, Associate Professor, School of Art and Architecture. From NSU, the attendees included r. Nandini Awal, Associate Professor & Chairman, Department of Architecture; Ar. Shahriar Iqbal Raj, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture; Dr. Mujtaba Ahsan, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture; Ms. Shanjida Fatema Shamma, Senior Lecturer, Department of Architecture; Mehnaj Tabassum, Lecturer, Department of Architecture; Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs; and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, Office of External Affairs.

After engaging in a thoughtful discussion, the attendees determined that establishing a collaborative joint studio for students from both universities would present a remarkable opportunity for academic synergy and mutual growth. This joint studio initiative aims to foster an environment conducive to interdisciplinary learning, where Sushant University and NSU students can collaborate, exchange ideas, and work on projects together. The studio will serve as a platform for shared knowledge, creative exploration, and cultural exchange, nurturing the development of students' architectural skills and broadening their perspectives.



To facilitate the successful implementation of the joint studio, further deliberations and planning sessions will be conducted involving faculty members from both institutions. The goal is to finalize the collaborative studio program's structure, objectives, and logistics, ensuring seamless coordination and a meaningful educational experience for the participating students. By leveraging the expertise and resources of both universities, this collaborative endeavor seeks to enrich the learning outcomes and contribute to the advancement of architectural education and practice.

MoU Signing Ceremony with Crony



On June 18, 2023, Professor Atiqul Islam, the Vice-Chancellor of North South University (NSU), and Neela Hosna Ara, co-founder and chairperson of Crony Group and Director of BGMEA, conducted a formal document exchange ceremony after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the university campus. The MoU aims to facilitate employment prospects for NSU graduates and alumni in the global job market, fostering professional growth and enhancing career opportunities. This collaboration between NSU and Crony Group/BGMEA signifies a commitment to mutually beneficial cooperation in empowering and connecting NSU's talented individuals with prospective employment avenues worldwide.



Information Session with Lovely Professional University (LPU), India



On June 19, 2023, North South University's Office of External Affairs organized an informative virtual session via Facebook in collaboration with Lovely Professional University (LPU). The session, led by Mr. Manish Kumar Aery, Assistant Director, International Student Recruitment, Division of International Affairs; Mr. Arpit Kaushal, Senior Officer, Division of International Affairs; and Mr. Rahul Chhabra, Senior Officer, Division of International Affairs, covered various topics essential for international students interested in applying to LPU. The discussion encompassed subjects such as the application process for international students, the advantages available to students from partnered universities at LPU, living in India while pursuing higher studies, scholarship opportunities, and other potential avenues for personal and academic growth.

Lovely Professional University (LPU) is a prestigious private institution in Phagwara, Punjab, India, established in 2005. Boasting a massive student body of over 30,000 individuals, LPU offers a diverse range of over 150 undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programs spanning various disciplines, including engineering, business, medicine, and law. For international students seeking a unique educational journey, LPU is an attractive choice with its remarkable attributes. Accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), LPU guarantees a high-quality education that meets global standards. Additionally, the university maintains partnerships with esteemed institutions in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, providing students with invaluable international exposure and collaborative opportunities. Embracing cultural diversity, LPU warmly welcomes countless students from more than 40 countries, creating a lively and inclusive campus atmosphere. This diverse mix fosters an enriching environment for intercultural learning, promoting the understanding and appreciation of various perspectives and traditions.

A vibrant campus life awaits international students at LPU, offering an array of student clubs, organizations, and cultural events. From participating in stimulating debates to showcasing artistic talents, students can immerse themselves in extracurricular activities, creating memorable experiences and forming enduring friendships. At LPU, dedicated faculty and staff extend unwavering support to international students. Comprehensive academic counseling, language assistance, and cultural orientation programs ensure a smooth and fulfilling educational journey, helping students to adapt seamlessly to their new surroundings. The application process for international students is simple: complete an online form, provide official transcripts, test scores, and a recommendation letter. TOEFL or IELTS results demonstrate English proficiency. Successful applicants undergo an interview, either online or in person. Accepted students must submit a tuition deposit and initiate the visa application process, with LPU offering support throughout for a smooth transition to studying in India.

LPU offers a host of exclusive benefits for students from partnered universities, further enhancing their academic journey. These privileges encompass guaranteed admission to LPU, access to scholarships based on merit and financial need, the possibility of credit transfer, and participation in tailored orientation programs that facilitate seamless integration into university life. Furthermore, living in India during higher studies opens the door to a profoundly rewarding experience. With its rich cultural heritage and diverse landscape, India presents a tapestry of opportunities for international students. Exploring India's traditions, interacting with locals, and relishing the country's cuisine makes for an unforgettable and transformative experience. Though challenges may arise, such as adjusting to the climate or overcoming language barriers, LPU stands ready to support international students in overcoming obstacles. Embracing the Indian way of life can lead to profound personal and intellectual growth, enriching the journey.

LPU extends a range of scholarship opportunities to international students, celebrating their academic achievements and diverse talents. Merit-based, need-based, sports and cultural scholarships are available, covering a portion or the entirety of tuition and fees. Applying for scholarships requires an online application, along with official transcripts, test scores, and a compelling essay showcasing why the applicant deserves the scholarship. Scholarship application deadlines vary, so international students should refer to the LPU website for detailed information and timely submissions. In conclusion, Lovely Professional University presents an exhilarating opportunity for international students seeking a high-quality education in a vibrant and inclusive environment. With its guaranteed admission, scholarships, credit transfer options, and orientation programs, LPU promises an extraordinary academic journey that extends beyond borders. Embrace this transformative experience, and allow LPU to shape your future while immersing yourself in the rich cultural tapestry of India.

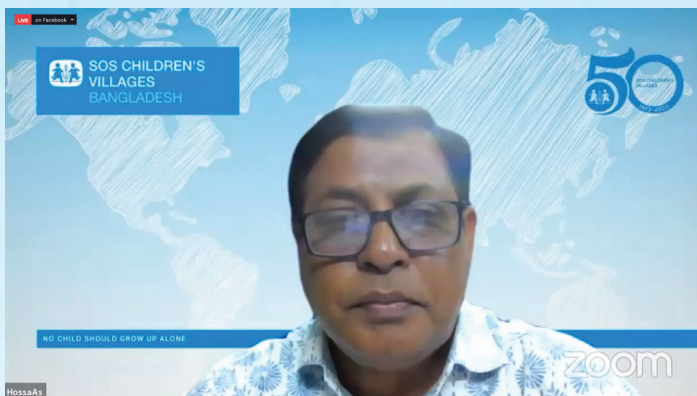
To know more about the event, visit the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1436569253826564>



NGO Talk Show (Episode 32)

The thirty-second episode of the "NGO Talk Show," aired on June 21, 2023, featured SOS Children's Village International, Bangladesh, a resilient, compassionate, and transformative organization dedicated to empowering and nurturing children in need while fostering inclusive and sustainable impact on a global scale. Gracing the show as the esteemed key speaker was the remarkable Dr. Md. Ashraf Hossain, Director of the Programme at SOS Children's Village International in Bangladesh. Driven by a profound passion for social development, Dr. Hossain holds an illustrious academic background, having earned a Bachelor of Social Science (BSS) and a Master's degree in Anthropology from Jahangirnagar University, followed by a Ph.D. in the same field. With valuable expertise in healthcare and poverty reduction, Dr. Hossain's insightful contributions showcased his exceptional knowledge and dedication to creating positive change within the community. Through their extraordinary work and the remarkable leadership of Dr. Hossain, SOS Children's Village International, Bangladesh continues to leave an indelible impact on the lives of countless children, shaping a brighter and more prosperous future for generations to come.



During the talk show, Dr. Ashraf Hossain passionately recounted the founding history of SOS Children's Village International in Bangladesh. Established by the eminent Austrian philanthropist Dr. Hermann Gmeiner in 1949, the organization emerged as a response to the sufferings of orphaned and abandoned children in the aftermath of World War II. Dr. Gmeiner's visionary approach led to the creation of the first SOS Children's Village in Imst, Austria, based on the principles of long-term family-based care and holistic development, providing a loving and stable home environment for children in need. Driven by a deep desire to extend this transformative model worldwide, Dr. Gmeiner sought opportunities to support vulnerable children across different countries. Amid the backdrop of the Bangladesh Liberation War, in 1972, he met with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founding father of Bangladesh, who was inspired by Dr. Gmeiner's dedication and vision. Subsequently, SOS Children's Village International found its roots in Bangladesh, with the first village inaugurated on May 17, 1972, and several more established in Rajshahi, Khulna, Chattogram, Bogura, and Sylhet.

SOS Children's Village International in Bangladesh operates with the core objective of providing a nurturing and secure environment to children deprived of parental care, ensuring their emotional, social, and educational well-being. Through comprehensive care, individualized support, and access to quality education and healthcare, the organization empowers these children to grow into self-reliant and responsible individuals ready to embrace a meaningful life. Dr. Hermann Gmeiner's unwavering commitment to love, care, and support continues to be the driving force behind SOS Children's Village International, empowering countless children in Bangladesh and across the globe, fostering a brighter and more promising future for the vulnerable young generation.

In response to the inquiry about how SOS Children's Village International contributes to the growth of Bangladesh, Dr. Ashraf Hossain highlighted the organization's multifaceted programs and initiatives. These encompass family-like care, family-strengthening programs, emergency response, food and nutrition assistance, and advocacy work. With a focus on families facing economic challenges, SOS Children's Village International provides crucial support to ensure their stability and well-being. Recognizing that Bangladesh's sizable youth population holds immense potential for the nation's progress, SOS places significant emphasis on nurturing children's future prospects. This includes addressing their physical and mental health needs and facilitating their growth and development. Moreover, SOS Children's Village International actively promotes awareness on critical topics such as personal hygiene, breast, and cervical cancer, underscoring its commitment to comprehensive well-being. In alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), SOS Children's Village International works diligently to realize these global objectives, amplifying its impact and furthering the progress of Bangladesh.

During the discussion on potential collaboration with North South University (NSU), Dr. Ashraf Hossain emphasized the importance of action and commission research. While SOS Children's Village International already conducts impact assessments on successful endeavors, including action research would further enhance their initiatives. Presently engaged in commission research, Dr. Hossain expressed enthusiasm for the transformative possibilities arising from a partnership with NSU. The existing collaborations with other esteemed institutions, such as Dhaka University and Eden Mohila College, involving student internships, illustrate the potential for fruitful engagements with NSU students through their Career & Placement Center (CPC). With NSU's expertise and resources, SOS can benefit from English language proficiency enhancement programs and educational seminars, empowering the children in their care for a brighter future. The prospect of joining hands with NSU holds promising possibilities for amplifying the impact of SOS Children's Village International and fostering positive change for the children of Bangladesh.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/526352582911495>

NSU Alumni Talk Show 121



On June 22, 2023, NSU Alumni Talk Show aired its one-hundred-and-twenty-first episode, showcasing the remarkable achievements of Mr. Mizanur Rahman, a distinguished member of the 1999 batch, who pursued his Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Engineering, graduating in 2003. Demonstrating his commitment to continuous growth, Mr. Rahman re-enrolled at NSU in 2006 to pursue an MBA in Finance and Management. Throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Rahman has held esteemed positions, including Senior Software Engineer at Relisource Technologies, Founder & CTO of Informatix Technologies, and Head of Engineering at Telenor Health, among others. Currently residing in the USA, Mr. Rahman is the Head of Engineering at CHEQ Mobile Solutions, showcasing his exceptional talents and expertise in driving technological advancements. His impressive journey exemplifies his unwavering dedication to professional development and his ability to excel in diverse roles across the globe, making him an inspiration to aspiring professionals in the field.

During his engaging conversation, Mr. Mizanur Rahman graciously shared insights about his current role and the notable organization he is associated with, CHEQ. As a technical advisor, he has been integral to CHEQ, a distinguished social payment platform, for the past two years. CHEQ specializes in providing innovative payment and service solutions, catering to prominent sports companies, stadium owners, and renowned clients such as Inter Miami, NBA, NFL, and MLS. Mr. Rahman proudly highlighted the absolute pinnacle of his experience, having witnessed the involvement of legendary footballer Lionel Messi. Currently, CHEQ's exceptional engineering team comprises talented individuals from Bangladesh, fostering a sense of national pride. Beyond his contributions at CHEQ, Mr. Rahman's passion for teaching shines through as he globally imparts knowledge on agile methodologies, scrum, DevOps, and management 3.0 as a Certified Scrum Developer (CSD), Lead Agile Trainer, and Management 3.0 Facilitator. His talents and extensive industry expertise make him an exemplary professional admired for his valuable contributions to technology and education.

When asked about the essential skills for fresh graduates to thrive in the real world, Mr. Rahman offered his wise insights. He emphasized that while the requirements remain relatively consistent for those seeking local employment, the landscape shifts when aspiring to work globally. Mr. Rahman underscored the significance of professionalism and strong communication skills as indispensable traits. Acknowledging the well-updated curriculum at NSU, he suggested focusing on emerging fields such as data science and artificial intelligence (AI), acknowledging their growing relevance in the modern job market and remaining relevant in the ever-evolving landscape. Furthermore, Mr. Rahman emphasized the importance of academic excellence, as a solid foundation in one's chosen field catalyzes success in the professional environment. His experienced perspective encourages aspiring graduates to equip themselves with the necessary skills and knowledge, enabling them to navigate the ever-evolving global job market with confidence and competence.

Reflecting on his time at NSU and why he chose the university, Mr. Rahman fondly recalled his enrollment at NSU was serendipitous. While initially aspiring to study abroad, his parents' wishes as their only child led him to stay in Bangladesh. Exploring academic options, he found limited choices for studying math, ultimately leading him to NSU. He treasures the memories of exceptional teachers who ignited his passion for mathematics and significantly influenced his journey. During his time at the university, Mr. Rahman actively engaged in various extracurricular activities, serving as the Secretary of the North South University Computer and Engineering Club (NSU CEC) and participating in the Art & Photography Club (NSU APC) and Debate Club (NSU DC). NSU's supportive environment empowered him to pursue a successful career, with dedicated faculty providing immense guidance. Mr. Rahman noted the favorable job market for software engineers in Bangladesh, feeling fortunate to be part of this dynamic field.

Looking back, Mr. Rahman's NSU experience bears a sense of nostalgia, which has played a pivotal role in shaping his professional trajectory. His journey from unintended admission to embracing NSU's opportunities has proven rewarding and fulfilling. As he continues to thrive in his role at CHEQ Mobile Solutions and make a global mark, Mr. Rahman cherishes the memories and learnings from his alma mater, affirming NSU as a foundation for his accomplishments. To know more about the event, visit the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/771855544487329>

THE Asia Conference in Hong Kong

Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of North South University, visited Hong Kong to attend the prestigious Times Higher Education (THE) Asia Universities Summit 2023.



The summit, held at the prestigious Chinese University of Hong Kong campus from June 22 to 24, 2023, served as a distinguished platform for academic leaders, policymakers, and industry professionals to convene and engage in fruitful discussions, fostering the exchange of innovative ideas and insights concerning various aspects of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region. Professor Islam attended the summit's Gala dinner, which featured the much-anticipated announcement of THE Asia University Rankings 2023. The institution's excellent commitment to academic quality and continual growth in higher education was clearly recognized, as the university obtained an impressive 192nd position in the rankings among 669 universities spanning 31 territories across Asia.



A key highlight of the summit was Professor Islam's active participation in a session centered on "Widening Access to Higher Education in Asia." He eloquently

presented NSU's groundbreaking initiatives and exceptional practices to encourage inclusivity and equal opportunities for all students, regardless of their different backgrounds, in this informative lecture. Simultaneously, the Vice-Chancellor seized the chance to take in invaluable insights and best practices from other esteemed university leaders, thus augmenting his understanding of innovative approaches to address the challenges related to higher education accessibility in the Asian context.

On June 22, 2023, Prof. Atiqul Islam had an intimate discussion with Mr. Gareth Cresswell, the respected Subscriptions Director of Times Higher Education. This historic meeting strengthened NSU's relationship with Times Higher Education, paving the way for future collaborations and increasing NSU's global visibility and active participation in the international higher education community. Professor Islam met with Professor Amin Taleeb, Director of Strategy and Applied Projects at the respected Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS), on June 24, 2023, to engage in a profound debate and exchange vital ideas in the spirit of continuing scholarly growth. The SUSS is esteemed for its rich legacy of inspiring lifelong education and effecting positive societal transformations through applied social sciences.

During this much-anticipated meeting, the distinguished delegates examined several collaboration options between the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) and NSU. The discussions included the potential for research collaboration, student exchange programs, faculty and researcher exchanges, and the prospect of jointly offering academic degrees. Discussions also focused on arranging joint conferences, seminars, and workshops, which would provide an opportunity for students and faculty members from both universities to collaborate on academic and scholarly efforts. The knowledge, insights, and potential collaborations gained from these remarkable experiences will undoubtedly push NSU's continued rise as a leading institution within the dynamic Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

Special Faculty Feature



Dr. Asad Karim Khan Priyo obtained his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Toronto, Canada, and completed his M.A. in Economics from York University, Canada. He completed his Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) with a major in Finance and a minor in Economics from North South University, Bangladesh, and received the Chancellor's gold medal from the President of Bangladesh for being the valedictorian of the class of 2004.

Dr. Priyo's research interests include Macroeconomics, Development Economics, ICT4D, Economic and Social Impacts of Digital Platforms, Information Ethics, Behavioral & Experimental Economics, Bank Finance, and Corporate Finance. His research works have been published in several national and international journals, including the Journal of Information, Communication & Ethics in Society, Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics, Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries, and The B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics.

Dr. Priyo joined the BBA Program at NSU as a Lecturer in September 2006. He took a study leave in September 2007 to pursue his Ph.D. and rejoined NSU as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Economics in January 2015. He is now an Associate Professor of Economics and has been serving as the Chair of the Department of Economics since January 2021.

Interviewer: Please tell us about your educational journey from the beginning.

Dr. Priyo: I started my educational journey when I was three years old at Parijat Shikhhangon, a neighborhood school on Kalabagan Bashiruddin Road. I studied there from Play Group to Class Three. I remember getting a double promotion from K.G. to class two, skipping class one. Then, for a year, I went to BCSIR School. In Class Five, I got admitted to St. Joseph High School. I passed the SSC exam in 1997 and entered Notre Dame College, from where I passed HSC in 1999. My education at St. Joseph and Notre Dame have been instrumental in my academic journey.

Interviewer: Who was your role model?

Dr. Priyo: My role model was my maternal grandfather, the late Mr. M. A. Karim. Throughout his school life, he was the first boy in his class. From a small village school in Pirojpur, Barisal, Bangladesh, he managed to get a university degree in English from the prestigious Presidency College, Kolkata, India. I would always see him surrounded by books reading avidly and attentively in his study room. He ingrained the philosophy of 'plain living and high thinking' among all his children and grandchildren, and I admire him greatly for that.

Interviewer: How did you discover your passion for Economics?

Dr. Priyo: My uncle (phupa), the late Dr. Shahadatullah, a Harvard Ph.D. and a prominent economist who played a key role in developing the first five-year plan of Bangladesh, inspired me a lot to study Economics. Also, we had to take several Economics courses in the BBA program at NSU. The Department of Economics at NSU, from its very inception, has been very strong and consisted of excellent, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic faculty members. I found the economics courses intriguing, e.g., the idea of making choices at the margin seemed novel; the idea of constrained optimization in making decisions seemed rational; and the concepts of incentive compatibility and individual rationality seemed prudent. All in all, I felt drawn toward the subject and its intricate inherent philosophy. Because of that, in the BBA program at NSU, I chose to minor in Economics in addition to my major in Finance and later moved on to pursue graduate studies in Economics.

Interviewer: What made you choose to come to NSU for your BBA? How was your experience?

Dr. Priyo: After passing HSC in 1999, initially, I was planning to get into a public university such as the University of Dhaka or BUET for my undergraduate education. At that time, my maternal uncle Omar Khasru was working in an administrative position at North South University (NSU). He suggested I think about studying at NSU. Having studied in several top-notch North American universities, he informed me that NSU follows a North American education system and has no session jam, which used to be a matter of great concern among university students during that era, and motivated me to get into NSU. He had, in fact, instilled in me a positive impression of NSU the previous year by taking me to watch the Annual Cultural Evening organized by NSU Shangshkritik Sangathan (NSUSS) at Osmani Milonayoton. It was a spectacular show and interestingly, played an important role in my decision to join NSU the following year. Khasru mama also convinced my grandfather and he also advised me to study at NSU. NSU's School of Business (now named School of Business and Economics) started to become quite prominent at that time, and its BBA program had an innovative curriculum with great job market prospects for its graduates. As a result, I ended up getting enrolled in NSU's BBA program.

My experience as an NSU undergraduate student was fantastic. I found the teachers to be knowledgeable, friendly, and helpful. The lectures, in general, were engaging, and I got motivated to study regularly and diligently. As a result, my grades were excellent, which in turn motivated me even more to put in the effort. Moreover, NSU provided me with many opportunities to excel in extracurricular activities. I played cricket for my batch team and represented NSU in the first-ever Inter Private University Cricket Tournament, where we became the champions. I was the president of the NSU Debate Club during 2002-03, went as an adjudicator to the World Universities Debating Championship in 2003 held in Stellenbosch, South Africa, represented NSU and Bangladesh in SAARC Television Quiz Competition in 2003, and participated as a short-term scholar in the 'American Studies Institute for South Asian Undergraduate Student Leaders' (June 20 – July 28, 2004) organized by Washington College, Chestertown, Maryland, USA and sponsored by the U.S. State Department.

All in all, I would say that during my undergraduate years at NSU, I was truly able to spread my wings and gain the confidence that helped me flourish in my career later in life.

Interviewer: What is the story behind going to Canada for your higher studies?

Dr. Priyo: When I was an NSU student, Dr. Mahmudul Anam, Professor of Economics at York University (York U), Toronto, Canada, used to teach at NSU as a visiting professor during the Summer semesters. From him, I learned about York U's graduate program, applied to their Master's program in Economics, and got in with an international tuition fee scholarship and TA ship. I completed my M.A. in Economics from York U with a CGPA of 9/9, which enabled me to get into the coveted Economics Ph.D. program at the University of Toronto (U Toronto) with full funding.

Interviewer: Tell us about your story of joining NSU as a faculty member. How does it feel to be a faculty member of the same institution where you were once a student?

Dr. Priyo: I have wanted to become a teacher since I was in Class 8. That inspiration primarily came from my mother, Dr. Sanjida Akhter, who has been in the teaching profession for 41 years and happens to teach Bangla (BEN 205) at NSU as a part-time Professor. My father, Mr. Abed Khan, was also very supportive throughout and encouraged me to pursue an academic career. My intention of becoming a teacher at NSU developed when I was a student here. I clearly remember our Business Law teacher asking us in her first class what career we want to pursue. My response to her question was that after graduating, I would like to work for a year or two in the industry, then pursue a master's abroad and come back and teach at NSU as a Lecturer. I did exactly that. Right after I graduated from NSU, I worked as an International Marketing Coordinator in the International Marketing and Communications Division of Bangkok Hospital, Pattaya, Thailand, for a year, went to York U for my Master's, came back to Bangladesh, and joined the BBA program of NSU as a Lecturer in September 2006. I went back to Canada with a study leave from NSU for my Ph.D. at U Toronto in August 2007. I rejoined NSU as an Assistant professor at the Department of Economics in January 2015.

It feels great to teach at NSU, where I once was a student. A few of my teachers are now my colleagues. It is primarily my teachers at NSU whose dedication and motivation got me to where I am today. I love to do the same for my students. I want to inspire them, and over the course of the 9.5 years that I have been teaching at NSU, I have tried my best to do so. Most people feel a strong connection with the institution where they study during their undergraduate years, and I am no different. I got a lot from NSU when I was a student here, and now it is my turn to give back. I have been trying to serve the institution to the best of my ability and will continue doing so as long as I can.

Interviewer: Tell us about the experience of receiving the Chancellor's gold medal from the President of Bangladesh for being the valedictorian of the class of 2004. Why did you receive it and how did it feel receiving it?

Dr. Priyo: There were several excellent students in my cohort. Both the students who stood first and second in the HSC board exams (Commerce) were my classmates. So was a student from St. Joseph, my alma mater, who was performing brilliantly at NSU. There was fierce competition among the four of us, and we used to push each other to work harder. In the end, it was between me and the other boy from St. Joseph with one course to go. Both of us had the same CGPA at that time. We took Strategic Management (MGT 489) with the same teacher in the same semester. I ended up with an A and he received an A-, and I became the valedictorian of the class of 2004 with a CGPA of 3.99/4. My competitor decided not to attend the 2004 convocation and deservedly became the valedictorian of the class of 2005. I received the Chancellor's gold medal from the President of Bangladesh for being the valedictorian. It felt wonderful, almost surreal receiving it after such intense competition and in front of my parents and a few other close relatives and loved ones.

Interviewer: What motivates you to be a high achiever?

Dr. Priyo: I don't explicitly try to be a high achiever. I follow my passion (teaching is and has been my passion for a long time), set goals, work diligently and honestly, and give my best effort towards achieving those goals. Results automatically follow.

Interviewer: You are very active in several academic partnerships between NSU and other universities. Can you describe some of them? How do they benefit the students?

Dr. Priyo: I want to mention the ones that have direct benefits for the students:

Dual Degree Award Agreement between North South University (NSU) and the University of Adelaide (UoA):

NSU and UoA signed a dual degree award agreement between the Master in Development Studies (MDS) program at NSU and the Master of Public Policy (MPP) program at UoA. Under the agreement, students will study one year in the MDS program at NSU and one year in the MPP program at UoA and receive both degrees from the respective institutions.

MoU between North South University and Innovision Consulting Private Limited:

An MOU between NSU and Innovision Consulting Private Limited has been signed to establish a strong evidence-based knowledge hub with a long-term focus on burning national and international topics relevant to the economy and businesses. Innovision Consulting is an international advisory and management company facilitating the private and public sectors, working to make economies, societies, communities, and industries more inclusive and sustainable. Under this MoU, NSU students can do internships at Innovision and/or participate directly in field work for the research projects that Innovision undertakes.

MOU between North South University and the Gram Unnayan Karma, Bogura:

An MOU between NSU and the Gram Unnayan Karma (GUK), Bogura, commences the scope of joint research/publication, internship/training opportunities, grants mobilization for research and other academic activities. GUK is an NGO that acts as a social activist to create opportunities for underprivileged people by providing multi-dimensional support services for their sustainable socio-economic growth and development. Like the previous one, this MoU also allows NSU students to pursue internships at GUK and/or participate directly in fieldwork for the research projects that GUK undertakes.

MoU between North South University and CSR Center, Bangladesh:

An MOU between North South University (NSU) and CSR Centre, Bangladesh, has been developed to enhance the employability of NSU students by fine-tuning their analytical and professional skills, thereby reducing the skill gap between graduating students and the job market. Established with private sector start-up funding to raise awareness about Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), the CSR Centre aims to promote sustainable development through responsible business practices.

Interviewer: What advice do you have for students to prepare themselves to be global citizens upon their graduation? What kind of a mindset do they need to have?

Dr. Priyo: You must keep an open mind and learn to accept diversity in all its forms. Do not jump to conclusions. Ask questions, seek evidence, dig deep, study, analyze, research, think, then decide. Try to choose a career that matches your passion. Work sincerely and honestly. Success will follow. And, most importantly, always be kind.

International Student Feature

Bali Raj Subba comes from the beautiful Dagana district in Bhutan. From a young age, he has always had a deep passion for coin collection and an insatiable curiosity to explore new things. This love for coin collection and exploring new things has shaped his life's journey.

Bali Raj Subba is currently 20 years old and pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Biotechnology and biochemistry at North south university. It has been an excellent experience for him to learn about the wonders of life at the molecular level. The different possibilities and innovations that biotechnology holds have constantly amazed him, and he is determined to contribute to its advancements in the future.

In his journey so far, he has been fortunate to receive tremendous love and support from various individuals who played vital roles in shaping his life. Firstly, he owes a debt of gratitude to his beloved King, His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck, whose visionary leadership has provided him with opportunities for growth and education. His parents have been pillars of strength, instilling in him values of integrity and compassion. Their belief in his abilities has been a constant source of motivation.

Furthermore, he is indebted to his teachers, who have imparted knowledge and guided him, through his academic pursuits. Their mentorship and dedication have shaped his intellectual curiosity and fuelled his ambition to make a difference in the world of science.

Last but not least, as he embarks on this journey through life, he is filled with a deep sense of gratitude for all those who have helped him along the way. Their love, guidance, and support have laid the foundation for his personal and academic achievements with their continued encouragement.



In conclusion, Bali Raj Subba is a young and ambitious individual from Bhutan. With a passion for science, a love for coin collection, and a thirst for exploration, he is poised to embrace the opportunities that lie ahead.

Interviewer: How has growing up in the beautiful Dagana district in Bhutan shaped your worldview and perspective on life?

Bali Raj Subba: Growing up in the beautiful Dagana district of Bhutan has had a significant impact on shaping my perspectives and outlook on my life. As a child, I experienced and witnessed firsthand how the people in our district value community, family, and spirituality over material wealth. I have learned to appreciate the simple things in life and develop a sense of contentment and gratitude for what I have instead of always striving for more. Moreover, Bhutan is a multiethnic nation where people from different ethnicities, regions, and backgrounds coexist, and I have learned to appreciate and celebrate diversity.

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

Bali Raj Subba: I have twelve family members. Having a lot of family members can be both a blessing and a challenge. However, having supportive parents can make all the difference in navigating life as a large family. Financially, my parents have worked tirelessly to ensure that we all had the basic necessities of life. My parents have taught me the value of hard work and financial responsibility, guiding me toward making wise financial decisions. All in all, growing up as a son of a farmer has presented challenges, but my parents and my brothers played a vital role in providing the financial and moral support needed to succeed in my life. Their guidance and support likely contributed to shaping me into the person I am today.

Interviewer: Aside from your parents and the King, who has been your role model? Can you share more about how they have inspired you?

Bali Raj Subba: Barack Obama is my role model. As the 44th president of the United States, he exemplified strong leadership, resilience, and the ability to bring about positive changes. Obama's journey to becoming the president is inspiring on its own. Born to a mixed-raced family, he faced various challenges and obstacles throughout his life. Yet, he never let those barriers define him. Instead, he used his experiences to understand and emphasize the struggles of others, making him a compassionate and relatable figure.

Interviewer: What made you choose North South University for your undergraduate studies, and how has been your journey so far?

Bali Raj Subba: I decided to pursue my undergraduate degree at North South University since it is the top-ranked private university in Bangladesh and offers a wealth of options to students. And many of the faculty members have earned PhDs and master's degrees from internationally renowned universities. Bangladesh is a multiethnic nation, so I anticipated learning more about the various cultures, people, and places here. So, I made the decision to choose North South University.

Interviewer: How has the education system and learning environment at North South University supported your academic and personal growth?

Bali Raj Subba: The education system here at North South University is quite different from Bhutan. But once I began meeting fresh individuals and learning more about educational systems, everything went smoothly. North South University offered me areas for independent studies and faculty support as needed.

Interviewer: How has your cultural background from Bhutan influenced your perspective on science and education?

Bali Raj Subba: Bhutan is known for its unique approach to education, incorporating both modern education systems and its traditional Buddhist principles. In Bhutan, the concept of Gross National Happiness (GNH) is highly valued, which emphasizes holistic well-being rather than just material wealth. This approach to happiness includes considering environmental conservation, cultural preservation, and spiritual development. This holistic view has influenced my perception of sciences and education, as I see them not only as tools for personal and societal progress but also as means to achieve balance and harmony in all aspects of life. Moreover, Bhutan's deep spiritual roots are influenced by Buddhism, which has instilled a sense of curiosity and reverence for nature and the universe. This has led me to have a more interconnected and holistic perspective on sciences, viewing them as a means to understand the intricate workings of the world.

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

Bali Raj Subba: I have been a student at North South University for four months. I have had numerous unforgettable moments, but giving a presentation in the 101 class may stand out as the most vivid. Despite not being my first presentation, it was a very different experience for me. Since everyone was new, it was also the best chance for me to teach my friends something new.

Interviewer: Can you share any specific challenges you have faced as an international student and how you overcame them?

Bali Raj Subba: In my experience as an international student, there were a few difficulties. But for me, the most significant obstacle was linguistic hurdles. As time went on, I was able to get past those difficulties by finding new Bangladeshi friends who were bilingual in English and Bangla.

Interviewer: Can you tell us more about your passion for coin collecting and how it has influenced your life?

Bali Raj Subba: It is not easy to collect coins. It requires a lot of patience and perseverance. I have a wide variety of coins I have been collecting since I was nine years old. I learned more about the historical context of each coin, which helped me to develop patience. I research many kinds of coins whenever my mind wanders. In the end, this imparts information to me and enables me to make the most of my time.

Interviewer: What has been the most interesting and favorite coin you have collected so far? Can you tell us the story of that coin collection?

Bali Raj Subba: Locally known as "MA-TAM," has been the most interesting and most favorite coin I have collected so far. When I was a child, my grandfather gave me the coin. "MA-TAM" is a medieval Bhutanese hammered copper coin. Most of it was created in the 19th century.

Interviewer: What are your aspirations and goals within the field of biochemistry and biotechnology? How do you hope to contribute to its advancements in the future?

Bali Raj Subba: My primary focus is improving my research skills and pushing the boundaries of knowledge. By pursuing these goals, I aim to contribute to

advancements in biotechnology and biochemistry that will positively impact various aspects of human life and the environment. I am deeply intrigued by the intricate mechanisms of life at the molecular level and fascinated by the potential applications of this knowledge. My ultimate aspiration is to become a proficient researcher in biochemistry and biotechnology, equipped with the expertise to address complex challenges and develop groundbreaking solutions.

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

Bali Raj Subba: The ideal place to learn and appreciate the diversity of people is at North-South. The atmosphere is welcoming, and learning is at its finest here.

Alumni Feature



Nusrat Hasan joined NSU in the spring of 2007 as a BBA student. From the beginning, she was more inclined toward marketing and management, leading her to pursue a double major in HRM & Marketing. Having completed her schooling across India, the USA, and Bangladesh, Nusrat cherishes her four years at NSU the most, as it provided her with the perfect blend of academic studies and extracurricular activities. Throughout her time at the university, she actively participated in NSUSS and regularly performed in cultural events.

Reflecting on her time at NSU, Nusrat fondly remembers the classes she took in Marketing and HRM, with many of the learnings still resonating with her to this day. Though it feels like only yesterday, a decade has already passed since her last class at NSU campus. Over the past 12 years, she has built a successful career, working in major hair oil brands, sugar confectionery brands, household products, and footwear. In 2011, Nusrat embarked on her corporate journey as a Management Trainee at Marico Bangladesh Ltd., where she spent nearly five years working in brands. She then transitioned to Perfetti Van Melle Bangladesh, initially focusing on market research and media and later assuming the role of Senior Category Manager. After four years at Perfetti, she joined Godrej Household Products Ltd as the Marketing Lead, overseeing a diverse portfolio of insecticides, personal care, and household care.

Seeking new challenges, Nusrat ventured into the world of organized footwear retail, joining one of the leading footwear brands in the country, Bata. Her experience in core FMCG had prepared her to take on this role, allowing her to stretch her comfort zone. She spent a fruitful 1.5 years at Bata, which granted her the opportunity to lead the Marketing department. Furthermore, she recently took on the additional responsibility of Interim Regional Marketing Head, coordinating marketing activities across Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand, as part of the APAC region.

Interviewer: Do you feel your extracurricular activities helped you later in your professional life? How much do you think students should actively take part in ECA to develop themselves?

Nusrat Hasan: Of course, it helped me a lot. The first advantage you get by taking part in ECA is the development of interpersonal skills. Because you interact with so many people from diverse backgrounds, you become exposed to different kinds of opinions, making you more open-minded. Then by participating in various events and projects, you develop the skills to work in teams and enhance your leadership skills. The last part I would say you get from ECA is a network and a lasting relationship with the people you work with. Academically NSU functions in a pattern where we come across different students/partners each semester. But through ECA, you can establish a continued relationship with your seniors and juniors, which will be very beneficial later in your work life.

Interviewer: Who is/are your role model/s? What are the things that inspire you in life?

Nusrat Hasan: I don't have any role models in particular. I strongly believe there is something to learn from everyone you come across in your life. From a career perspective also, I have interacted with so many from whom I felt I could learn something, and I have consciously done so.

Inspiration in life has evolved over time for me. When I started my career, my parents were my inspiration to work hard and build a career. I wanted to do something which will make them proud, and I will create an identity for myself. In the current stage of life, my daughter is my inspiration. There is so much to learn from kids, one of them is how you can bounce back and be happy with the simplest things.

Interviewer: What are your future plans?

Nusrat Hasan: Rather than calling it a future plan, I would say I have aspirations. I aspire to be an enriched marketer and become a people-centric leader. It's a process that can only happen with more responsibility, exposure, and time.

Interviewer: What would be your suggestions for current students of NSU?


Nusrat Hasan: My suggestion to current students of NSU would be to read books and be invested in gathering knowledge of what's happening around us socially, culturally, and politically. While social media has revolutionized communication, it has also distracted us; we have become involved in momentary entertainment in social media. Instead, use social media for holistic constructive conversation.


Academically while having a high GPA and degree is important, but students need to understand the true meaning of learning. University is a place where students can develop ideologies by participating in meaningful discussions- this needs to happen more, and the university also must facilitate that.

Last but not least, there is no alternative to hard work, and nothing comes easy. The outside world is not always so kind, and students must be mentally prepared for that.



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