



**Office
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Affairs**

THE BRIDGE

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Editor's Message

As we move toward the end of the year, we start to take stock of all the ways that NSU has continued to extend its reach around the globe. We feel proud to be part of this journey and look forward to supporting you to bring even greater impact through knowledge creation and dissemination together with current and new partners in 2024.

May we also contribute to a more peaceful and prosperous world for all.

Editor

Dr. Katherine Li

Reporter

Zafreen Islam

Illustrator

Hafiz Uzzaman

Congratulations NSU on the latest MoUs!



NSU has signed the following 12 new and renewed MoUs in the last two months: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh, University of Tasmania (UTAS), Australia, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, USA (renewal), Asia HRM, Hong Kong, SOS Children's Village International, Bangladesh, British Council, Bangladesh (renewal), Nature Conservation Management (NACOM), Bangladesh (renewal), INTI International University, Malaysia, Contract with CNRS, Bangladesh, Ha-Meem Group, Bangladesh, Startup Grind, USA, Universiti Kebangsaan, Malaysia

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.

Mr. Javed Muneer Ahmad, Chairman, NSU Board of Trustees Visits Stanford and UC Berkeley, USA

Mr. Javed Muneer Ahmad, Chairman of the Board of Trustees at North South University, visited Stanford University and the University of California, Berkeley, USA between September 7th and 13th, 2023. During this exploratory visit, Mr. Ahmad engaged in substantive discussions with various Department Chairs, professors, and researchers at these two prestigious universities.



At Stanford University, Mr. Ahmad met with Dr. Stephen Luby, Professor of Medicine - Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology and Population Health and Professor Michael Snyder, Chair, Dept. of Genetics and Director, Center for Genomics and Personalized Medicine at Stanford University, USA. Notably, Dr. Luby's active involvement with the NSU Genome Research Institute's collaborative works resulted in a Science publication (<https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abi9069#con2>). Interestingly, this research publication also had deep contribution by Dr. Laura Kwong of UC Berkeley whom Mr. Ahmad also met during his visit to Berkeley.

The meetings between Mr. Ahmad and the representatives from Stanford University delved into the manifold opportunities both institutions offer. The purpose of the meetings was to explore collaborative prospects between NSU and Stanford University. Discussions encompassed potential joint research projects, graduate research collaboration,

multidisciplinary research, faculty and staff capacity building, collaboration at Departmental and School levels and various other avenues of mutual benefit. The dialogue emphasized the opportunity of enhancing the global collaboration and possibilities available to researchers and students from both institutions. These productive meetings were foundational in nature with the goal of facilitating a meaningful relationship between NSU and Stanford University.

During Mr. Ahmad's visit to the University of California, Berkeley he met with Professor Karl A. van Bibber, Shankar Sastry Chair for Leadership and Innovation and Professor and Executive Associate Dean for the College of Engineering and Dr. Massimiliano Fratoni, Associate Professor and Chair, Xenel Distinguished Professor of Energy Engineering. Mr. Ahmad also met Dr. Laura Kwong, Assistant Professor, Environmental Health Sciences, at the School of Public Health. It is notable that Dr. Laura Kwong has previously led research work in collaboration with NSU leading to research publication and is hoping to be able to continue further research collaboration with NSU in the near future. Mr. Ahmad also had meetings with Dr. Kenichi Soga, Donald H. McLaughlin Chair in Mineral Engineering and Dr. Nicholas Sitar, Edward G. Cahill and John R. Cahill Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. Mr. Ahmad also visited The Berkeley Artificial Intelligence Research (BAIR) Lab and met with researchers there as well.

The discussions at UC Berkeley revolved around potential collaboration and joint research in the various research and graduate programs with strong opportunities for NSU researchers and students. The meetings also provided an opportunity to review and discuss past collaborations with NSU and other Bangladeshi institutions, capacity building for faculty members in research, collaboration in further joint research and deepening expertise in fieldwork, especially related to climate change, public health and engineering. Professor Nicholas Sitar graciously hosted Mr. Ahmad for a delightful lunch at the Faculty Club of UC Berkeley and gave a grand tour filled with insider historical information and commentary of the beautiful UC Berkeley campus.

The envisioned collaborations of NSU with both Stanford University and University of California, Berkeley seek to amplify the global reach and heighten the potential of NSU students and researchers. The ultimate objective would be to provide NSU Students and researchers with avenues for international exposure and academic growth. The meetings that Mr. Ahmad had at these two prestigious universities in California signify the commencement of promising collaboration, friendship, and potential institutional partnership with NSU, poised to be further explored and deepened in the near future.

NSU Delegation Visit to China



A delegation from North South University participated in the Confucius Institute (CI) board meeting hosted at Yunnan University on October 11, 2023. The meeting was attended by esteemed members of NSU's administration, including Mr. Javed Muneer Ahmad, Chairman of the Board of Trustees at NSU, Professor Atiqul Islam, the Vice Chancellor of NSU, and key directors of various NSU institutes and offices. The board meeting commenced with an address by Mr. Javed Muneer Ahmad, Chairman of the Board of Trustees at NSU, who set the tone for the proceedings. Subsequently, Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice Chancellor of NSU, and Prof. Hu

Jinming, Vice President of Yunnan University, shared their valuable insights with the board members.

The board meeting featured comprehensive discussions on various issues related to the activities and performance of the Confucius Institute for 2022-2023. Ms. Ma Xiaoyan, the Chinese Director of CI at NSU, presented the annual report encompassing the institute's activities and financial status. Dr. Md. Bulbul Ashraf Siddiqi, Local Director of CI at NSU, outlined the work plan and budget for the upcoming year, covering 2023-2024. All the presented reports and plans garnered unanimous approval from the board members, which consisted of representatives from both NSU and Yunnan University.

Several key topics were addressed during the meeting. One of the noteworthy discussions pertained to establishing a joint undergraduate program focusing on Chinese Language and Culture. This initiative involves collaborative efforts from both NSU and Yunnan University. The proposal for the renovation of the speech laboratory within the Confucius Institute at NSU and the construction of a multifunctional smart classroom also received board approval. Financial matters related to these initiatives were deliberated during the planning and budget session.

Additionally, it was decided that NSU would host the next board meeting in November 2024, ensuring continuity in discussions and collaborations between the two institutions. The board explored opportunities to expand the activities of the China-South Asia Centre for Socio-Cultural Studies (CSCSS). Furthermore, discussions revolved around the development of an Interpretation Studies Program encompassing Bangla, Chinese, and English, along with the inception of summer camp



programs, reciprocal dialogues with ambassadors, and the creation of an International Joint Laboratory for Remote Sensing Monitoring of Natural Resources, which involves collaboration between China, Laos, Bangladesh, and Myanmar within the Yunnan Province.

On October 12, 2023, a noteworthy session ensued between NSU and Yunnan University's Department of Ethnology and Sociology to renew the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) initially signed in 2019. Both institutions expressed their commitment to promoting the activities of the China-South Asia Centre for Socio-Cultural Studies (CSCSS). The meeting discussed three pivotal issues, including organizing an international conference in 2024 under CSCSS, encouraging student and faculty exchanges, and initiating collaborative research endeavors between Yunnan University and NSU.



Moreover, Professor Md. Jakariya from NSU held an extensive meeting with Assoc. Prof. Chen Junxu, Vice Dean of the School of Earth Sciences, focusing on the development of the International Joint Laboratory for Remote Sensing Monitoring of Natural Resources, a collaborative initiative encompassing China, Laos, Bangladesh, and Myanmar in the Yunnan Province. This exchange between NSU and Yunnan University exemplifies their commitment to nurturing scholarly interactions and interdisciplinary collaborations for the betterment of academic and cultural engagement between Bangladesh and China.

Falling Walls with DAAD: German Academic Exchange Service



On September 3rd, 2023, North South University hosted Falling Walls Lab Bangladesh 2023. This event provided an exceptional opportunity for students and early professionals to showcase their research projects, business plans, or social initiatives. IEEE NSU Student Branch had the privilege of partnering with this event, held on campus, in collaboration with DAAD and the Federal Foreign Office.



Falling Walls Lab is a unique pitch competition that allows young researchers and entrepreneurs to present their groundbreaking ideas, highlighting their positive impact on science and society. Participants create 3-minute presentation videos to convince an international jury of scientists, entrepreneurs, and founders of their innovative idea.

This Lab is open to students, researchers, and entrepreneurs from Bangladesh, offering a chance to win the first prize: a trip to Berlin, Germany. The winner has the opportunity to pitch at the Falling Walls Lab final and attend the prestigious Falling Walls Conference in November 2023.

MoU Signing Ceremony with Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)



the gathering.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between North South University (NSU) and the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) formally established their partnership for academic and research initiatives. The signing ceremony took place on September 04, 2023, with Professor Atiqul Islam, Honorable Vice-Chancellor of NSU, and Dr. Fahmida Khatun, CPD's Executive Director, signing as representatives of their respective organizations. Various NSU and CPD officials also attended

Professor Atiqul Islam stated the significance of this partnership, noting that this partnership marks a historic moment in NSU's pursuit of excellence in academia and research. He anticipated that working with CPD would produce ground-breaking successes and advance the growth of this nation. CPD Special Fellow Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya emphasized how this partnership fits CPD's mission of advocating for sustainable development and conducting evidence-based policy research. Their objective is to tackle Bangladesh's significant socioeconomic problems using this partnership. Dr. Fahmida Khatun highlighted CPD's dedication to disseminating



cutting-edge information and research, especially with young students. She expressed optimism about the potential benefits of the collaboration for both institutions.

Dr. Katherine Li, Director of NSU's Office of External Affairs, presided over the ceremony while Mr. Md. Shiyam Sadik, a lecturer for NSU's Department of Environmental Science and Management, delivered the opening remarks. For NSU and CPD, this partnership signifies a step toward establishing academic and research actions. Through shared efforts, they aim to address critical issues, promote sustainable development, and foster innovative research, all while engaging closely with students and the wider community.



What's Your Story? (Episode 19)

The nineteenth installment of "What's Your Story" was broadcast via Facebook Live on September 04, 2023. The distinguished guest for this episode was Professor Miraz Rahman, Chair in Medicinal Chemistry, Director of MRC DTP iCASE in Biomedical Sciences, and serving as the Antimicrobial Research Theme Lead at King's College London, United Kingdom (UK).

Prof. Rahman embarked on his academic journey with a Bachelor of Pharmacy (B. Pharm) and subsequently earned a Master of Pharmacy (M. Pharm) in the field of Pharmacy in 2000. Early in his career, he spent three years as a Research and Development Pharmacist at Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd. Following this, he ventured into academia, commencing as a lecturer at Asia Pacific University in 2000. His academic path led him to the University of Dhaka in 2003, where he began as a lecturer and was eventually promoted to assistant professor in 2005.

Prof. Rahman's pursuit of higher education took him to the United Kingdom, where he pursued his Ph.D. in Synthetic and Medicinal Chemistry at UCL School of Pharmacy. After completing his Ph.D. in 2008, he continued his research journey at UCL as a postdoctoral fellow until 2011. During this phase, his research activities were concentrated on the application of advanced computational chemistry, synthetic medicinal chemistry, and chemical biology techniques. These techniques were applied in the design, synthesis, and evaluation of novel drug-like chemical scaffolds, mainly focusing on anticancer and anti-infective agents.

In 2012, Prof. Rahman made a significant move in his career by joining King's College London as a lecturer. Over the years, he progressed professionally, gaining recognition for his contributions. He was promoted to senior lecturer in 2015, followed by attaining the rank of reader in Medicinal Chemistry in 2018. The pinnacle of his academic career was reached in 2021 when he was promoted to Professor and Chair in Medicinal Chemistry.

Substantial achievements have marked Prof. Rahman's academic journey. He holds an impressive tally of 16 patents to his name as an inventor. His scholarly contributions are evident in his authorship of over 90 research publications. His inventorship of 15 patents further exemplifies his innovative mindset. Accumulating more than 15 years of research experience in the fields of Medicinal Chemistry and Biophysical Techniques, Prof. Rahman has made significant strides in advancing these domains.

A notable facet of Prof. Rahman's research endeavors is his focus on pyrrolobenzodiazepine-based DNA binding agents, a field he has been dedicated to for 16 years. Within this area, he has successfully developed PBD-based anticancer and antibacterial agents, some of which have been patented and licensed to university spin-out companies. His research spans early and late-stage drug discovery, and he actively engages in translational research. Prof. Rahman has even co-founded two biotech companies in the realm of oncology, namely Transcriptogen Ltd and Femtogenix Ltd.

Hailing from Faridpur, Prof. Rahman's educational journey led him to various places within Bangladesh, including Kushtia, Khulna, Barisal, and ultimately, Dhaka, where he completed his Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) at Dhaka College. He is one of six siblings. Prof. Rahman generously shared advice for aspiring students. He emphasized the benefits of pursuing education in the UK, where students can experience a more comprehensive and independent educational journey. Prof. Rahman secured a scholarship based on his academic achievements and research publications in UK universities.

As of May 2023, he had submitted his most recent patent. He is currently engaged in two additional patent projects in collaboration with the University of Surrey, focusing on tuberculosis research. Prof. Rahman also plays a pivotal role in leading a module at King's College London related to Medicinal Discovery and Development. He takes charge of one of the most significant industrial case Ph.D. programs in the UK.

His parting words of wisdom for students are to prepare for the unexpected, believe in their capabilities, acknowledge their limitations, and never allow these limitations to hinder their progress. This recounting provides a glimpse into the professional journey of Professor Miraz Rahman, underscoring his remarkable contributions to Medicinal Chemistry and Biophysics and his valuable insights into academic and career advancement.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/212994291491606>



Meeting about Summer Camp with Lovely Professional University (LPU), India



On September 5, 2023, a collaborative meeting took place between Lovely Professional University (LPU) in India and North South University. The meeting was attended by esteemed individuals, including Dr. Katherine Li, Director of the Office of External Affairs; Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director of the Office of External Affairs; and Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer at the Office of External Affairs.

The primary agenda of this meeting revolved around the discussion of potential arrangements for hosting a short study tour by both institutions. Specifically, NSU is in the early stages of planning to host a short study exchange program for international students from partner universities. During the meeting, NSU and LPU engaged in a productive dialogue and reviewed preliminary plans for the exchange tour. Additionally, the first collaborative project planned between NSU and LPU involves establishing a joint architecture studio for students. It was collectively agreed that further discussions and meetings will be necessary to solidify any details before proceeding with the finalization of this initiative.



NSU – BRAC “সমতন্ত্র” Event

On September 11, 2023, North South University's Office of External Affairs orchestrated a remarkably successful event in collaboration with BRAC, focusing on a paramount issue that transcends boundaries and holds a global significance - Gender Justice and Diversity. The event occurred at NSU's main auditorium and brought together prominent figures and enthusiastic students to discuss this vital subject, “সমতন্ত্র”.



The event featured esteemed attendees, including the Honorable Vice-Chancellor of NSU, Professor Atiqul Islam, and the deans and chairs of every department at NSU. From BRAC, notable figures such as Ms. Nobonita Chowdhury, Director of Gender Justice and Diversity (GJD); Mr. Tanvir Islam, Program Manager, GJD; and Ms. Nurunnahar, Manager, Advocacy and Networking, GJD, graced the occasion with their presence.

The event aimed to foster awareness and understanding of gender equity and diversity, strongly emphasizing student engagement. The auditorium was brimming with eager students eager to participate and learn. The session, masterfully led by Ms. Nobonita Chowdhury, commenced with a spirited debate between two NSU teams. The topic under scrutiny was gender discrimination, specifically the argument of whether it is derogatory to encourage women to prioritize home and family over career ambitions. The exchange of arguments and counter-arguments generated enthusiastic debate and dynamic discussion among the audience. Eventually, the debate was concluded with a vote of thanks and the acknowledgment of the team that presented the most compelling arguments.

Ms. Nobonita's session commenced with a thought-provoking speech about gender discrimination, particularly the challenges faced by women. This session was highly interactive, encouraging active participation from students. Male students shared their observations of differential treatment within their families and among their siblings, notably sisters. Students also openly discussed their experiences of gender-based discrimination in various aspects of life, including home, school, friendships, and even within the university.



The discussions delved into critical issues such as gender violence, sexual harassment, and abuse, as well as the actions required to address these concerns and the responsibilities that society bears.



Ms. Nobonita's engaging and insightful facilitation fostered an atmosphere where students could discuss topics often considered taboo in the context of Bangladesh. The session answered pressing questions and outlined planned actions to combat the consequences of a patriarchal society. The impact of this event resonated with the students, reflecting the importance of

open dialogues surrounding gender justice and diversity. It was a momentous occasion marked by enlightenment and inspiration, with Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer of the Office of External Affairs, receiving well-deserved accolades for his coordination efforts. The event concluded with a heartfelt token of appreciation presented to the BRAC team, a testament to their lasting impression on the NSU community.

Delegation Visit from Fairleigh Dickinson University, Canada



**FAIRLEIGH
DICKINSON
UNIVERSITY**

*O*n September 17, 2023, a representative from Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU), Ms. Jeanette Lee, Associate Director of Marketing & Recruitment at FDU's Vancouver Campus, visited North South University's Office of External Affairs (OEA). During her visit, Ms. Lee engaged in a meeting with the team at the Office of External Affairs (OEA), including Dr. Hasnuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA; Ms.

Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA; and Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA.

The purpose of this meeting was for Ms. Lee to provide an introduction to FDU's Vancouver Campus and to share information about their activities in Bangladesh. The discussions during the meeting revolved around exploring potential areas of collaboration between FDU's Vancouver Campus and NSU. These included research initiatives, short-term student exchange programs, and faculty exchange opportunities.

The meeting was highly productive, with fruitful conversations on possible collaborations. It was also agreed that future meetings would be scheduled to solidify these partnership opportunities further. Additionally, there were discussions regarding establishing connections between NSU and FDU's campus in New Jersey, USA.



U.S. Ambassador's Visit to NSU



*T*he Office of External Affairs (OEA) at North South University, jointly with the Center for Peace Studies (CPS) of the South Asian Institute for Political Governance (SAIPG), had the distinct privilege of hosting the esteemed United States Ambassador to Bangladesh, His Excellency Mr. Peter D. Haas, on the occasion of International Peace Day. This event marked a momentous occasion, with Ambassador Haas as the keynote speaker.

Distinguished attendees at this event included the Honorable Vice-Chancellor of North South University, Professor Atiqul Islam, and the former Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor M. Ismail Hossain, alongside other esteemed leaders within the university. Mr. Javed Muneer Ahmad, Chairman of the

Board of Trustees, NSU, was present as a special guest. The focus of the event was a discussion centered on the five pillars of Indo-Pacific peace strategies, which bear universal significance and align with the United Nations' vision of promoting global peace.



Ambassador Haas underscored the U.S. Embassy's active engagement in supporting forthcoming elections in Bangladesh, emphasizing the importance of ensuring fair and equitable polls. This commitment to fostering peace was a recurrent theme throughout the Ambassador's address.

Furthermore, Ambassador Haas elaborated on the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), a cornerstone of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The IVLP is pivotal in building mutual understanding between the United States and other nations through short-term visits facilitating exchanges for current and emerging foreign leaders. Notably, even the founding father of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur



Rahman, partook in the IVLP Program, illustrating the strong ties between Bangladesh and the United States. Ambassador Haas then discussed the five pillars of the United States' Indo-Pacific Strategies: free and open, connected, prosperous, secure, and resilient.

The first pillar, "free and open," encapsulates the belief that peace thrives in an environment where nations exercise autonomy to make decisions aligned with their interests. It emphasizes respecting sovereignty, enabling each country to choose its path, partners, and leadership freely. The United States and Bangladesh jointly advocate for a world where nations' choices are upheld and supported. This commitment extends to promoting common approaches to critical technologies, internet governance, and cyberspace that safeguard privacy and human dignity. As Bangladesh approaches its national election, the pledge remains to ensure a free, fair, and peaceful election process, with a

steadfast stance against the oppression of journalists, media figures, and Nobel laureates who hold their governments accountable.



Moreover, the pillar of "connected" was elucidated as an essential element of global peace and prosperity. Ambassador Haas highlighted the significance of people-to-people relationships, describing them as the linchpin of international cooperation. These connections foster understanding and collaboration within and beyond regions and are facilitated through cultural exchanges, trade partnerships, and educational initiatives.

"Prosperous" is another vital pillar, reflecting the U.S. government's commitment to promoting economic growth to ensure no country is left behind in the 21st century. Economic growth is intrinsically linked to peace, providing opportunities for individuals to improve their lives, alleviate poverty, and reduce the risk of conflicts born out of desperation. The United States and Bangladesh share a vision of economic prosperity for all, characterized by trade, investment, and development cooperation to enhance the livelihoods of their citizens.

The pillar of "security" was highlighted as essential for lasting peace, as it creates a stable environment where countries can thrive without fearing conflict or aggression. Ambassador Haas emphasized the commitment of the United States and Bangladesh to

regional security, acknowledging their collaboration on a range of challenges.

Lastly, "resilience" was deemed a critical pillar, accentuating the importance of tackling global challenges together. Climate change and health crises transcend borders and require joint efforts to build resilience and respond effectively to shared global emergencies. The United States and Bangladesh are dedicated to addressing these challenges collectively.

Ambassador Haas also shared the U.S. Embassy's support for Bangladesh in fighting health and climate crises, including providing 150 million vaccine doses and exchanging healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. He addressed the Rohingya crisis, stressing the global responsibility to create conditions in Myanmar that enable the dignified return of Rohingyas to their homeland. They must be protected, educated, and allowed to live with dignity.

The event concluded with an engaging Q&A session with students, where they raised questions about national and international crises and the U.S.'s role in supporting them. In recognition of his invaluable contributions, a token of appreciation was presented to His Excellency Mr. Haas by the Honorable Vice-Chancellor of North South University.



Presenting a token of appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Haas by the Honorable Vice-Chancellor of North South University.

NSU Delegation Visit to Japan

On September 21, 2023, North South University, represented by the Honorable Vice Chancellor, Professor Atiqul Islam, Professor Mohammad Khasro Miah, Director of the Career and Placement Center (CPC), and Mr. AKM Ahmedul Islam Babu, Director of BASIS, embarked on a significant visit to Miyazaki, Japan, as the honored guests of Miyazaki University. This visit was made possible through the support of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).



The visit began with a highly successful seminar, graced by Professor Atiqul Islam, Professor Mohammad Khasro Miah, and distinguished representatives from Miyazaki University. The primary focus of this seminar was to strengthen collaborative efforts for the B-JET center, the nucleus of two transformative programs: The B-JET (Bangladesh-Japan ICT Engineers' Training Program) and B-MEET (Bangladesh-Miyazaki ICT Engineers' Educational Training Program). North South University's pivotal role as the home base for the B-JET Centre was celebrated as these initiatives have, to date, enabled 85 percent of B-JET graduates to enter the Japanese job market. Through its collaboration with Miyazaki University, NSU-CPC remains ardently committed to implementing and enhancing these programs.

Moreover, Professor Atiqul Islam, during the visit, gained valuable insights into the professional achievements of B-JET graduates, observing their work conditions and adapting to different circumstances. This visit also featured meetings with IT industry leaders, who expressed their satisfaction with B-JET graduates, commending their adaptability. They welcomed continued collaboration for future recruitment initiatives. The visit concluded with a promise from the Miyazaki Mayor to create a cricket field exclusively for Bangladeshi B-JET graduates, ensuring a balanced work-life environment. This visit significantly strengthened the bond between NSU and its Japanese partners and opened up new avenues of collaboration for educational and professional endeavors.



Seminar on "Supply Chain Management: Resilience and Sustainability" by Curtin University

On September 25, 2023, the Office of External Affairs at North South University (NSU) organized a collaborative seminar with Curtin University, Australia. This seminar featured a special lecture by Professor Mohammed Quaddus, Professor School of Management at Curtin University. The focal point of this lecture was "Supply Chain Management: Resilience and Sustainability." The seminar drew attendees from NSU, including both



students and esteemed faculty members. It served as a platform for delving into the world of supply chain management, with Professor Quaddus shedding light on the interplay between resilience and sustainability in this critical domain.



Resilience, as elucidated by Professor Quaddus, pertains to a supply chain's capacity to endure and rebound from disruptions. In his lecture, he elaborated on the various measures that can be undertaken to enhance resilience in supply chain management. These include diversifying the supplier base, investing in redundant capacity, and devising comprehensive contingency plans. Sustainability, on the other hand, is about infusing environmental and social considerations into the fabric of

supply chains. To achieve sustainability, Professor Quaddus highlighted several strategies, such as reducing energy consumption, minimizing waste generation, and raising labor standards.

One pivotal message of the lecture was that resilience and sustainability are not conflicting objectives but rather can complement each other. Sustainable supply chains, with their diverse supplier networks, utilization of renewable resources, and strong stakeholder relationships, often exhibit greater resilience compared to traditional supply chains. Professor Quaddus presented compelling examples that showcased the synergy between resilience and sustainability. Diversifying the supplier base, for instance, not only safeguards against disruptions but also reduces the ecological footprint by incorporating suppliers with varying environmental practices.



Investing in renewable energy sources, aside from reducing the supply chain's dependence on fossil fuels, also enhances resilience to energy price fluctuations and lessens environmental impact. Elevating labor standards not only ensures a more productive and engaged workforce, making the supply chain better equipped to handle disruptions, but also contributes to the social sustainability of the supply chain. This seminar underscored NSU's commitment to imparting relevant and forward-thinking knowledge to its academic community. It encouraged attendees to envision supply chains that are both robust in the face of disruptions and environmentally and socially responsible, reflecting the evolving demands of the modern world.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/837365728054700>

Planning Meeting with Goa Institute of Management, India

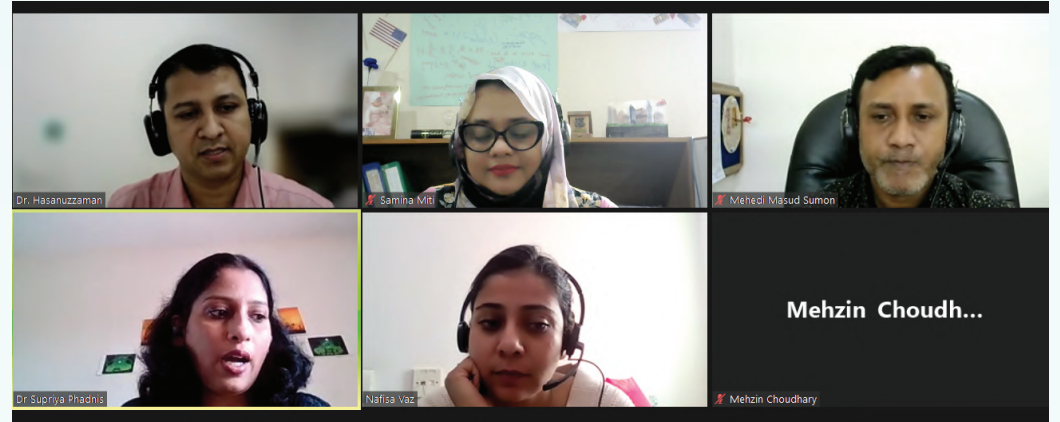


*O*n September 25, 2023, a meeting was convened between NSU's Office of External Affairs (OEA) and Goa Institute of Management (GIM), India, to explore the prospects of a student exchange program to be organized and hosted by NSU. This meeting took place virtually over Zoom and had the participation of key individuals, including Dr. Supriya Phadnis, Assistant Professor, GIM; and Dr. Nafisa Vaz, Assistant Professor, GIM, who is also working with Dr. Phadnis' team for international collaborations; Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA; Dr. Hasanuzzaman

Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA; Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA; and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA.

The primary goal of this meeting was to discuss and strengthen the collaboration between NSU and GIM, with a specific focus on facilitating student exchange programs. NSU is keen to initiate a summer camp-based student exchange program for students from our partner universities, and GIM expressed keen interest in participating. The meeting encompassed deliberations regarding potential program dates and activities that could be incorporated.

It was collectively agreed that further discussions are warranted, and as a result, a follow-up meeting will be scheduled in the near future. The meeting was productive, and both parties are enthusiastic about the potential for this collaboration to flourish.



NSU Alumni Talk Show 128

*T*he one hundred and twenty-eighth episode of NSU Alumni Talk Show, which aired on September 27, 2023, featured Mr. Asif Anwar, a member of the class of 1998. He embarked on his educational journey at North South University, earning a BBA, and later pursued an MBA at Dhaka University. Mr. Anwar's quest for knowledge led him to the Australian National University, where he obtained a master's degree in Public Policy Analysis. Currently residing in Australia, he boasts an impressive professional background, having dedicated 4.5 years of service at Scope (Australia) and currently holding the position of Data Insights & Business Intelligence Manager at Scope, Australia. His career trajectory is a testament to his unwavering determination as he started from a lower position and gradually worked his way up. In his professional growth, Mr. Anwar relied on resources like YouTube and Google to overcome challenges, and now, he operates under the guidance of the CFO at Scope.

Mr. Anwar's discussion extended to his field of expertise, offering valuable advice for those pursuing a similar career path. He emphasized the significance of having fundamental skills and knowledge of various systems and tools, even if not in-depth, to thrive as an analyst. However, for those aspiring to work as developers, acquiring an in-depth understanding is paramount. Essential skills mentioned included learning SQL and comprehending the entire ETL process, delving into Python, mastering Excel with VBA logic, and becoming proficient in Microsoft Power BI and Qlik Sense. He noted that extensive expertise in a few areas often trumps superficial knowledge across many disciplines, making it essential to identify and specialize in one's chosen field.



NSU Art & Photography Club (NSU APC).

Subsequently, Mr. Anwar stressed the importance of academic pursuits and research along with the necessary skills. To excel as a researcher, one must immerse oneself in reading, meticulously studying hundreds of articles, and skillfully employing citations and references in their work. While acknowledging the evolving educational landscape in Bangladesh, he emphasized the transformation in the teaching approach that emphasizes reading as a prerequisite to effective writing. Furthermore, he noted that certificates from various workshops and courses can enhance one's prospects in the job market.

Reflecting on his time as an NSU student, Mr. Anwar shared some cherished memories. He recounted his journey to NSU, which began after he narrowly missed out on admission to the Institute of Business Administration, Dhaka University. In retrospect, Mr. Anwar described his NSU experience as transformative, enriched by the guidance of exceptional teachers who motivated and influenced him profoundly. Although his academic performance started on shaky ground, he eventually secured a scholarship by achieving improved grades. He also contributed to the NSU community by participating in extracurricular activities, notably as an active member of the NSU Athletics Club (NSU AC) and the

In closing, Mr. Anwar provided invaluable advice for current students. He encouraged them to enhance their English speaking and presentation skills, emphasizing the importance of communication in the professional world. Drawing from his internship experience at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Mr. Anwar highlighted the value of practical knowledge and skill acquisition in real-world settings. He remarked that the educational environment at reputed institutions, like NSU, is markedly different and enriching. While discussing the prospect of studying abroad, Mr. Anwar advised students to secure financial support or scholarships since balancing work and study can be challenging. He encouraged students to ask questions and acquire knowledge from their surroundings, concluding with the timeless wisdom that continuous learning leads to personal growth and professional success.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1023909605290631>

Delegation from York University, Canada Visits NSU

YORK U

In a significant move towards fostering international collaborations and academic partnerships, a delegation from York University, Canada, paid a visit to North South University (NSU) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on September 05, 2023. The delegation, comprised of Dr. Pulin K. Mondal, Assistant Professor in Civil Engineering at the Lassonde School of Engineering, and Mr. Harj Singh, International Recruitment Officer, aimed to explore avenues for academic exchange and collaboration between the two prestigious institutions.

Dr. Pulin K. Mondal, an esteemed faculty member from York University's Lassonde School of Engineering, engaged in academic discussions with Dr. Sirajul Islam, Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Director, Center for Infrastructure Research and Services (CIRS) and Members of the Office of External Affairs at NSU, focusing on potential areas of collaboration in research and academic development.

The exchange of ideas and expertise is expected to open up opportunities for joint research projects and academic initiatives that will benefit students and faculty from both institutions.

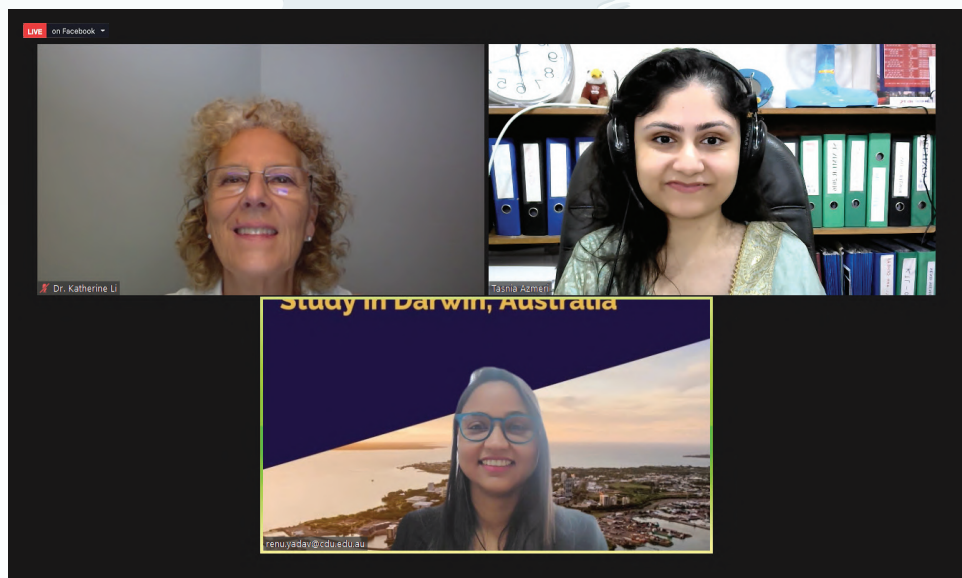


Information Session with Charles Darwin University, Australia

On October 03, 2023, a comprehensive information session was conducted, providing valuable insights into Charles Darwin University (CDU), Australia, by a university representative. Ms. Renu Yadav, the Regional Marketing and Recruitment Manager, South Asia, CDU, Australia, was the key speaker of this virtual event. Ms. Yadav's presentation encompassed various aspects of CDU, including its vibrant campus life, admission procedures, prerequisites, a spectrum of master's and vocational courses, and available scholarships and financial aid options for prospective international students considering CDU for their higher education journey.



A prominent public university situated in the Northern Territory of Australia, CDU boasts multiple campuses across the region, including Darwin, Casuarina, Alice Springs, and Katherine. As the largest university in the Northern Territory, CDU offers an extensive array of undergraduate and postgraduate programs spanning diverse disciplines such as business, education, engineering, health, humanities, and social sciences. The Darwin campus, located at the heart of the city, provides an optimal setting for academic pursuits. Its central location offers convenient access to various amenities, including shops, restaurants, and other essential facilities.



The campus exudes a modern and dynamic atmosphere, boasting resources like a library, a student union, and a sports and recreation center. Beyond Darwin, CDU's presence extends to regional areas of the Northern Territory. The Casuarina campus, located approximately 10 kilometers from Darwin, houses the CDU School of Health and CDU School of Engineering and Technology. In the heart of the Red Centre, the Alice Springs campus accommodates the CDU School of Humanities and Social Sciences and the CDU School of Education. For students venturing to Katherine, situated around 300 kilometers from Darwin, the Katherine campus is home to the CDU School of Primary Industries and Environment.

Aspiring students seeking admission to CDU should know that specific requirements may vary according to their chosen program. However, several general prerequisites apply across the board: completion of a secondary school qualification, such as the Australian Year 12 Certificate or an equivalent international credential; satisfaction of the English language criteria relevant to the selected program; and submission of a comprehensive application form, along with the necessary supporting documents. To initiate the application process, prospective students can visit the official CDU website and create an online account. With this account, applicants can explore their preferred programs and commence the application procedure.

Within its diverse academic offerings, CDU provides an array of master's programs tailored to nurture advanced knowledge and skills in various fields. Notable among these programs are Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Education, Master of Engineering, Master of Health Science, Master of Humanities and Social Sciences, Master of Indigenous Knowledge, and Master of Science. CDU also extends vocational programs in the form of certificates and diplomas designed to equip students with the practical skills necessary to launch careers in specific sectors. Popular vocational programs include Certificate IV in Accounting, Diploma of Nursing, Diploma of Engineering, Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care, Certificate IV in Hospitality, and Diploma of Business.

To alleviate the financial burden of higher education, CDU offers a range of scholarships, each awarded based on distinct criteria. Notable scholarships include the CDU International Student Scholarship, the CDU Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarship, the CDU Regional Student Scholarship, the CDU Postgraduate Scholarship, and the CDU Vocational Education and Training Scholarship. For students seeking additional financial support beyond scholarships, several avenues are available: Australian government loans, student loans from private financial institutions, part-time employment opportunities, and sponsorship from employers or government agencies. The information session on CDU, delivered through this Facebook Live event, is an invaluable resource for individuals considering international education in Australia. It equips them with a comprehensive understanding of the institution, its offerings, and avenues for financial support.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1497259324396952>

Delegation Visit from Carleton University, Canada



On October 03, a delegation from Carleton University, Canada, graced North South University with their presence. Ms. Jessica Morrow, the International Admissions & Recruitment Officer at Carleton University's Admission Services, visited the Office of External

Affairs to engage in a constructive meeting. The focus of this meeting was the exploration of potential academic collaborations between the two institutions.

Representing North South University's Office of External Affairs (OEA), the meeting attendees included Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director; Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer; and Ms. Samina Alam Miti. This collaborative gathering aimed to deliberate on numerous aspects, including prospective students aspiring to pursue higher education in Canada, along with possible collaborations such as student exchange programs, faculty exchanges, joint seminars, and research endeavors.

The meeting harbored fruitful outcomes, as all parties concurred that further discussions and follow-up meetings would be imperative. These future engagements will be organized for more in-depth prospects of this academic collaboration.



Talk by Dr. Nazmul Huda, Macquarie University, Australia

On October 4, 2023, Dr. Nazmul Huda and his team visited North South University to speak with engineering students. Dr. Huda, the Director of Education at the School of Engineering, Faculty of Science and Engineering, discussed the topic of "Innovations in Engineering Education: Preparing Future Engineers for a Changing World." He emphasized the critical role of education in shaping the engineers of the future.



MACQUARIE
University
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Dr. Huda has been a driving force behind various growth initiatives within the School of Engineering over the past decade. He established several postgraduate (PG) and undergraduate (UG) coursework degrees. Moreover, he was crucial in managing the school's higher degree research (HDR) programs, focusing on PhD admissions and scholarships.

Dr. Huda has led significant growth initiatives within the School of Engineering over the past decade. He holds the distinction of being the Founding Director of various postgraduate and undergraduate engineering degree programs. Before joining Macquarie University, he was involved in industry-based research projects, contributing to developing courses that emphasize sustainability in engineering practices, including energy, resources management, circular economy, life-cycle analysis, recycling, and end-of-life considerations in product design. Dr. Huda's academic journey commenced at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and continued with a Master's leading to a Ph.D. from the University of Melbourne.



During the session, Dr. Huda highlighted the multitude of opportunities available for engineering students at Macquarie University. These encompass various engineering programs like electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, mechatronic engineering, and telecommunications engineering. The university emphasizes hands-on experience and offers research opportunities for students to engage in cutting-edge projects alongside faculty members.

Furthermore, Macquarie University collaborates with industry partners to provide internships and work experience, enabling students to apply their engineering knowledge in real-world settings. Students can join engineering organizations, participate in competitions, and benefit from exchange programs with partner universities worldwide. The university boasts advanced engineering laboratories and facilities essential for hands-on learning and research. Macquarie University also offers scholarships, grants, and financial aid opportunities based on academic merit, financial need, or other criteria to support students financially. The career services department assists students with career planning, job searches, resume building, and interview preparation, in addition to organizing career fairs and networking events. The university's industry partnerships connect students to potential employers and career exploration opportunities. The session concluded with an engaging Q&A session, during which enthusiastic students had the opportunity to ask questions and gain further insights.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/987490195700304>

NSU Alumni Talk Show 129

The one hundred and twenty-ninth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show, which aired on October 5, 2023, featured Mr. Shakib Ahmed, a graduate from the class of 1996. Mr. Ahmed's academic journey began at North South University (NSU), where he pursued his undergraduate studies in the Computer Science and Engineering department. After completing his undergraduate degree, he went on to further his education by obtaining an Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) in 2007. Significant roles in renowned organizations such as UNDP, the World Bank, and more have marked his professional journey.

Mr. Ahmed's career story includes his dedication to Evono, where he worked full-time in 2001. At Evono, he and his team developed software solutions exclusively for U.S. clients. This professional chapter continued until 2007, when he transitioned to UNDP as a senior software engineer. His talent and commitment led to his promotion in 2012, making him the youngest project manager at UNDP. His tenure at UNDP spanned until 2015, when he embarked on a new adventure, joining Siemens as the head of IT. Currently, at Vocus, he has the privilege of working with various products, with a present focus on security and SD1 products.

In sharing insights into his field, Mr. Ahmed emphasizes the importance of both a passion for technology and the choice of one's professional circle. He advocates for continuous learning, highlighting the value of certifications, which provide a strong foundation for career growth. However, he notes that not all certificates hold equal weight, and the process of staying updated and gaining new certifications is an ongoing journey. He specifically mentions the rising trend of security certifications in the contemporary world of technology.

Discussing the progress in Bangladesh's technology and network infrastructure, Mr. Ahmed underlines the nation's remarkable growth in the IT sector. The widespread availability of internet connections and their accessibility have played a pivotal role in improving communication and daily life for the people of Bangladesh.

Looking back on his days at NSU during his undergraduate studies, Mr. Ahmed speaks fondly of the university's esteemed reputation. He acknowledges the uniqueness of NSU's tuition fee policy, which, unlike other institutions, was based on semesters and the specific courses or credits taken during each term rather than a yearly fee structure. This innovative approach sets NSU apart. The North American curriculum followed by NSU further attracted students. The diversity of the university's student body and the inspiring educators he encountered at NSU had a profound impact on his life. Maintaining connections with friends from his NSU days, Mr. Ahmed credits the university for propelling him ahead in his generation, thanks in no small part to the rigorous academic environment and the pressure it instilled.

To know more about the event, visit the following link:
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1264915171572421>



Scholarship and Certificate Distribution Ceremony



North South University celebrated the auspicious occasion of IELTS Certificate Distribution on October 09, 2023, in a prestigious gathering that brought together respected guests, distinguished faculty, and honored attendees. The event was made even more special by the presence of the Honorable Vice Chancellor of NSU, Dr. Atiqul Islam, whose unwavering support added to the significance of the day.

The event also welcomed esteemed deans, including Professor Dr. Hasan Mahmud Reza, Dean of the School of Health Science; Professor Dr. Helal Ahammad, Dean of the School of Business & Economics; Professor Dr. Javed Bari, Dean of the School of Engineering & Physical Sciences; and Professor Dr. Abdur Rob Khan, Dean of the School of Humanities & Social Sciences. Their guidance and leadership have played a pivotal role in the success of NSU's students.

The Office of External Affairs at NSU, in partnership with the British Council, hosted this event to recognize the importance of the IELTS certification, which is crucial for academic and immigration purposes. The British Council in Bangladesh, a cornerstone institution, facilitates cultural exchange, education, and English language proficiency. They have conducted successful IELTS exams on NSU's campus, benefiting over a hundred NSU candidates. The Campus Ambassadors from NSU, Ms. Sadia Ayesha Jeesan and Mr. Yaaseen Quader played a significant role in promoting IELTS services and scholarship programs, guiding candidates through the registration process.





During the event, a scholarship of 50,000 BDT was awarded to a deserving IELTS candidate, Ms. Mursalin Hasan Chowdhury Alfie, who exemplified exceptional merit. The event was graced by a distinguished delegation from the British Council, including Mr. Tom Miscioscia, Country Director, Bangladesh, and Ms. Sarwat Reza, Director, Business Development. In the same event, the IELTS Campus Ambassadors received certificates for successful completion of their 1-year tenure.

The event concluded with insightful words from the Honorable Vice Chancellor of NSU, Dr. Atiqul Islam, and an open floor for distinguished guests to share their thoughts. The day celebrated academic achievement, collaboration between NSU and the British Council, and the dedication of those who make it possible.

To know more about the event, visit the following link:
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/833565368772531>

NGO Talk Show (Episode 34)



On October 15, 2023, the NGO Talk Show "Developing Bangladesh: Scope for Research" featured the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in its thirty-fourth episode. The Keynote Speaker, Mr. Nabil Rahaman, Country Programme Analyst at IFAD, shared insights about IFAD's significant work in Bangladesh. IFAD's history in Bangladesh dates back to 1978, established through an agreement between the Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations specialized agency, IFAD. The organization's mission is to provide financial and technical assistance to support rural development and reduce poverty, primarily focusing on the agricultural sector. Over the past 45 years, IFAD's collaboration with the government and various partners has significantly improved the lives of rural communi-

ties and smallholder farmers in Bangladesh.

IFAD's current work in Bangladesh concentrates on two key areas. First, it aims to strengthen climate resilience by investing in infrastructure like flood-resistant roads and bridges and promoting climate-smart agricultural practices to withstand extreme weather events. Second, IFAD focuses on enhancing access to financing, technology, and markets to diversify the economy and generate rural employment. These efforts have increased agricultural productivity, reduced poverty, and created over one million jobs.

Mr. Rahaman emphasized the importance of research in their work. Depending on the context, both action-based and commission-based research can be effective. Action-based research is suitable for generating new information from existing infrastructure, while commission-based research is more appropriate when new solutions are needed. Research integration into all aspects of their work is essential.

He also highlighted the prospects of collaboration between IFAD and NSU. The North South University (NSU) focuses on research, making it an excellent partner for IFAD. The organization offers internship programs and recruits interns based on their requirements. This collaboration extends to research, where endless possibilities exist. NSU's faculty and students can conduct research aligned with IFAD's goals, with IFAD providing support through data or funding for quality research.

Mr. Rahaman addressed why NGOs are attractive to the world, citing Bangladesh's impressive progress and implementation capacity. The country's strong GDP growth, technology integration, and resilience in the face of disasters have made it a remarkable case for sustainable development. Bangladesh's noteworthy development is a valuable lesson for all, showcasing the benefits of preventing and mitigating vulnerabilities on the path to progress.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/3509024889348017>



Delegation Visit from Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada

On October 15, 2023, a delegation from Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada, graced North South University with their presence. This delegation comprised Dr. Bruce McKay, the Dean of Wilfrid Laurier International College within the Faculty of Human and Social



Sciences, and Mr. Ralon

Nazareth, the Director of International Recruitment & Partnerships.



Their visit primarily aimed at exploring avenues for collaboration between the two institutions, with a particular interest in partnering with North South University's School of Humanities and Social Sciences. The discussions encompassed various collaborative opportunities, such as student exchange programs, joint research initiatives, and faculty exchange. The meeting concluded on a positive note, and the fruitful discussions laid the groundwork for a forthcoming, more comprehensive meeting, where the details of this promising collaboration will be discussed.

Collaboration Meeting with MacEwan University, Canada



A collaborative meeting was convened via Zoom between MacEwan University in Canada and North South University on October 17, 2023.

Present from MacEwan University were Ms. Erin Wight, the Director of MacEwan International and a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC); Ms. Nina Christine Delling, the Lead for International Mobility and Partnerships, along with Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Anthropology, Economics, and Political Science. Representing NSU were Dr. Katherine Li, the Director, the Office of External Affairs (OEA);

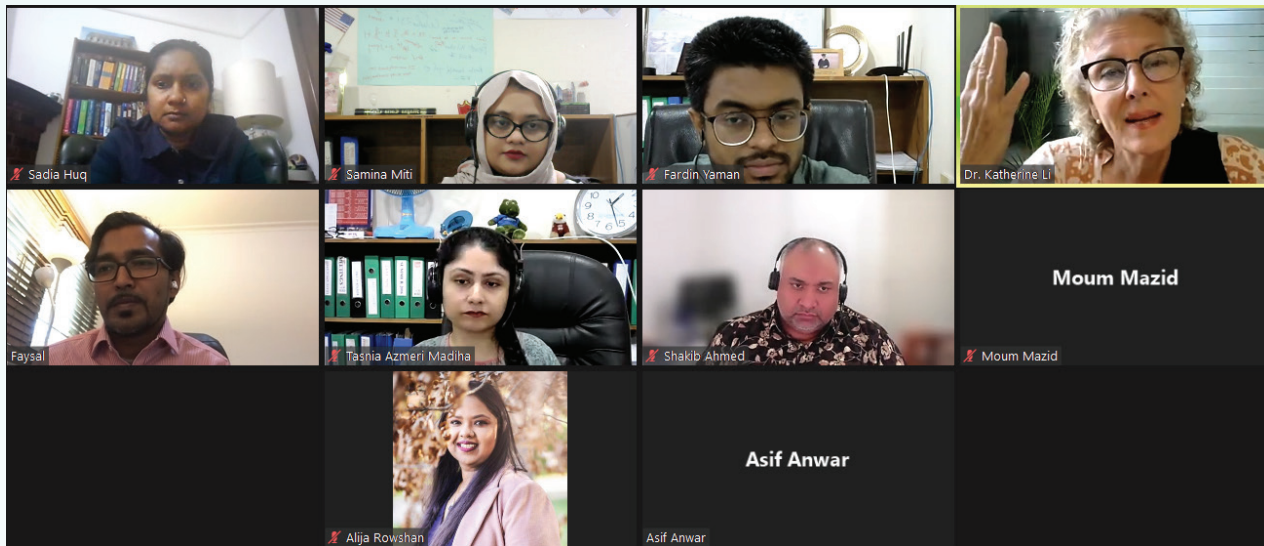
Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, the Assistant Director, OEA; Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA; Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA; and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA.

The primary agenda of the meeting was to discuss study tours that both universities would jointly host under their collaborative partnership. MacEwan University expressed a keen interest in exploring further possibilities for student mobility collaboration in the upcoming months. North South University expressed its openness to the idea of an agreement where NSU could host a small group of students for a study tour, and MacEwan could receive an exchange student for a semester. Of specific interest were the areas of Economics and Business at MacEwan University, which sought NSU's support in organizing a study tour involving ten students and two faculty members, commencing in 2025 and continuing in alternating years. These departments also aimed to understand how NSU could assist in terms of logistical arrangements, planning visits to businesses and NGOs, and facilitating academic and student connections.



In response, NSU presented a draft outlining the details of its short study tour plan for the upcoming months, emphasizing its focus on students interested in the Ready-Made Garment (RMG) sector and sustainable development programs. NSU already has established collaborations with numerous NGOs engaged in work related to sustainable development goals. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was decided that a follow-up meeting would be scheduled once final decisions regarding the study tour plans had been made. Both universities expressed their enthusiasm for bringing this plan to fruition and were content with the progress of the discussions.

Introductory Meeting with NSU Alumni Association (NSUAAA), Australia



On October 17, 2023, a meeting transpired between North South University (NSU) and the NSU Alumni Network in Australia (NSUAAA). The meeting convened the executives of NSU AAA and Mr. Sk. Fardin Yaman, Alumni Officer from the Office of External Affairs (OEA) at NSU. During the meeting, the NSUAAA executives expounded upon their activities in Australia and deliberated on the potential expansion of this platform. The NSUAAA, an integral part of the NSU community, was established to offer invaluable support to NSU students transitioning to academic life in Australia. This initiative provides a warm and accommodating environment for students encountering the challenges and adaptations that accompany studying abroad.

The NSUAAA serves as a bridge between Bangladeshi residents in Australia and NSU students aspiring to study or reside in Australia. Their primary vision is to enhance the global NSU community's engagement, harnessing the passion and loyalty of NSU alumni for the university and the nation. Within this platform, a Mentorship program has been introduced, comprising accomplished alumni from diverse professional fields. Alumni can avail themselves of one-on-one sessions with experienced peers for guidance in career development, knowledge sharing, CV reviews, interview preparation, and more. An employment platform provides early access to job opportunities through connections within the NSU alumni network.

The NSUAAA's role also extends to assisting new NSU alumni in Australia with their settlement process. They offer comprehensive support services encompassing airport pick-up, accommodation arrangements, and job interview preparation to facilitate a smooth transition into the Australian way of life. Moreover, they have initiated an Entrepreneurial Support program, enabling alumni to showcase their products and services. These offerings span a range of fields, including educational consultancy, tax support, and culinary services. These services are categorized for easy access, ensuring members receive promotions and the best value for their money.

All in all, the NSUAAA stands as a vital support network that promotes community engagement, nurtures professional growth, and facilitates the seamless transition of NSU students to Australian academic life. Their efforts underscore the strong bonds that connect NSU alumni across the globe, enriching their collective experience.

Collaboration Meeting with Delegation from TAR UMT, Malaysia

On October 18, 2023, a delegation from Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT), Malaysia visited NSU for a collaboration meeting. The team consisted of Dr. Say Sok Kwan, Vice President-Administration and Internationalisation, Associate Professor; Dr. Karthiyani Shanmugam, Dean, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities; Mr. Wee Chu Kok, Dean, Faculty of Accountancy, Finance, and Business; Associate Professor Dr. Tan Hui Yin, Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences; and Dr. Yeo Kwok Shien, Associate Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Technology.



From NSU, Prof. Ismail Hossain, former Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Professor, Department of Economics; Prof. Dr Helal Ahammad, Dean, School of Business & Economics; Prof. Dr. Javed Bari, Dean, School of Engineering & Physical Sciences; Prof. Dr. Hasan Mahmud Reza, Dean, School of Health & Life Sciences; Prof. Dr. Abdur Rob Khan, Dean, School of Humanities & Social Sciences, Dr. K. M. A. Salam, Director, Office of Admissions, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA); Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA; and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA had attended the meeting.

This visit marked an important milestone in the growing partnership between NSU and TAR UMT, both of which are committed to fostering a collaborative relationship. During the meeting, several promising avenues for collaboration were discussed, with a particular focus on their practicality and execution. The delegation had the opportunity to explore NSU's vibrant campus during a comprehensive tour, gaining insights into the dynamic and engaging campus life that characterizes NSU. This experience left a lasting impression on the delegates and further solidified the enthusiasm for the partnership. The visit was mutually beneficial, reinforcing the commitment of both institutions to realizing the full potential of their partnership, with an eye on the promising future of collaborative endeavors.

MoU Signing Ceremony with Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), USA



*O*n October 18, 2023, a significant event unfolded as a virtual MoU renewal signing ceremony, accompanied by a faculty discussion with Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) - a longstanding and cherished partner of NSU. The gathering, conducted via Zoom, included members from IUP who graced the occasion with their presence.

From IUP, the attendees were as follows: Dr. Lara Luetkehans, Provost and Vice President: Academic Affairs; Dr. Stephen Ferris, Dean: Eberly College of Business; Dr. Michele Petrucci, Associate Vice President:



International Education and Global Education; Dr. Prashanth Bharadwaj, Dean's Associate and Professor: Management; Ms. Shagufta Haque, an IUP undergraduate economics honors track and finance double major in Eberly College of Business.

Representing NSU at this momentous occasion were the esteemed Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Atiqul Islam; Prof. Dr. Helal Ahammad, Dean, School of Business & Economics; Prof. Dr. Norman Kenneth Swazo, Office of Research; Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA); Dr. Hasanuz-zaman Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA; Dr. Atikur Rahman Khan, Chair, Department of Management; Mr. Muhammad Nasiruddin, Senior Lecturer, Department of Accounting & Finance; Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA; and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA. The renewal of the MoU stands as a testament to the enduring partnership between NSU and IUP.



Following the signing ceremony, the Office of External Affairs (OEA) hosted an enlightening seminar led by Dr. Prashanth Bharadwaj, the Dean's Associate and a Professor of Management at IUP. The seminar focused on a topic of great significance: "Opportunities to Study Abroad: Indiana University of Pennsylvania, USA."

The discussion highlighted the myriad opportunities and advantages that studying at IUP can provide, enriching the perspectives of all students attending. To know more about the event, visit the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/307507838676685>

NSU Alumni Talk Show 130

*T*he one hundred and thirtieth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show, which took place on October 19, 2023, featured Ms. Sadia Huq from the batch of 2000. Ms. Huq embarked on her academic journey at North South University (NSU) in 2000, enrolling in the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) program. Her association with NSU continued as she pursued her Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree, which she completed in 2005. Over the years, she has accumulated diverse professional experiences, having worked with notable organizations such as Save The Children Australia, Banglalink, Jobs ICT Ltd, and Therap BD Ltd, among others. Currently, Ms. Huq holds the position of Team Leader of Investment Strategy in the Department of Transport in Melbourne, Australia.

Ms. Huq's professional journey began with her dedicated service as a volunteer receptionist, signifying her commitment to achieving financial independence and her concurrent collaboration with her husband. In a significant role at the City of Melbourne, she served as a Business Systems and Projects Officer for six years. Her career trajectory led her to the Department of Education & Training, Victoria, where she assumed the role of Budget Strategy Lead. In this capacity, she was pivotal in allocating funds to schools and determining which institutions required additional financial support. Her diligent reporting informed her superiors about these essential decisions.

Currently, as part of the Department of Transport, her responsibilities extend to addressing road infrastructure, particularly in areas with high accident rates and substantial population densities. In her role, she manages a substantial portfolio of around 850 projects. Her expertise comes into play as she distills this extensive list to prioritize approximately 50 projects. These top contenders are subjected to a crucial evaluation process involving high-ranking officials, executives, and directors, who collectively select around 30 projects. Her task is to differentiate between projects that can be promptly initiated and those requiring more protracted timelines.



To further advance these initiatives, she must craft comprehensive business cases encompassing aspects such as risk assessment, budget considerations, anticipated gains, risk mitigation strategies, and potential impacts on local ecosystems. These proposals are then submitted for review by the Ministry of Transport. Ms. Huq underscores the importance of appointing team leaders based on experience and qualifications rather than gender, emphasizing the significance of selecting individuals who can guide and assist their team members effectively.

Toward the show's conclusion, Ms. Huq fondly reminisced about her undergraduate days at NSU. She recalled being significantly influenced by her sister, who studied marketing at Dhaka University then. This familial inspiration directed her toward pursuing a BBA degree. As parting advice, she encouraged students to maintain healthy lifestyles, devote themselves to diligent study in preparation for exams, and, after graduation, consider ways to give back to their university. In this spirit, she initiated an online program tailored to NSU students and alumni, offering assistance in securing employment across various sectors. The program provides guidance on crafting compelling CVs and imparts valuable coaching and leadership skills. Ms. Huq's commitment to her university community remains an enduring facet of her journey.

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

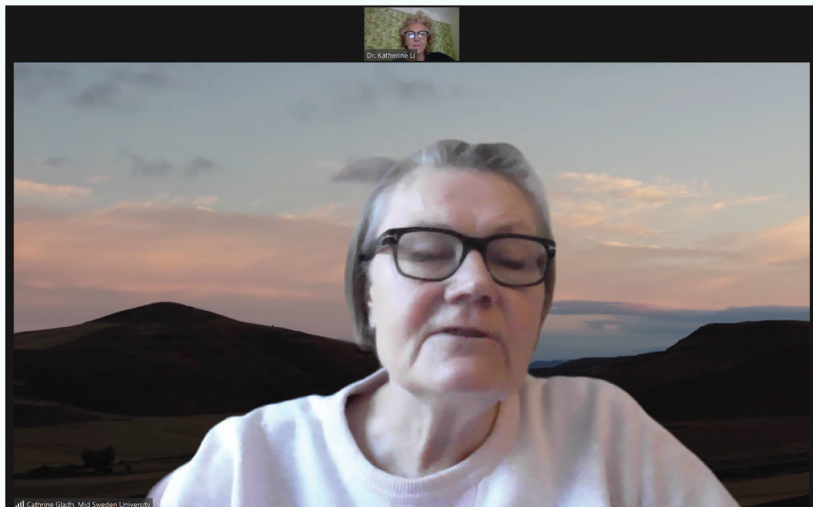
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Brainstorming Session with Mid Sweden University, Sweden

On October 20, 2023, a significant meeting was convened between Mid Sweden University and North South University (NSU) to deliberate on future collaborations, building upon their existing partnership which was formalized during the NSU delegation visit to Mid Sweden University for the MoU signing ceremony which took place on May 29, 2023. The virtual meeting took place over Zoom, with Ms. Cathrine Gladh, International Coordinator from the International Relations Office at Mid Sweden University, and Dr. Katherine Li, Director of the Office of External Affairs at NSU, in attendance.



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The focus of the discussion centered on several key areas of interest: Risk and Crisis Research Centre (RCR), the International Master's Programme in Ecotechnology and Sustainable Development, as well as the Bachelor's program in Ecotechnology and ongoing research activities in Ecotechnology and environmental science at Mid Sweden University. Notably, these areas align well with NSU's strengths, particularly within the Department of Environmental Science And Management.

The potential for collaboration in these domains emerged as a critical point of interest. Given Bangladesh's prominent position as a hub for research in environmental science and sustainable development, both institutions were eager to explore and actualize collaborative initiatives. The meeting, characterized by its constructive and productive nature, has paved the way for promising opportunities. Both universities are enthusiastic about translating these discussions into tangible collaborations in the near future.

NSU Alumni Talk Show 131

The one hundred and thirty-first episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show, which took place on October 19, 2023, featured Mr. Saeem Khan, an alumnus from the Computer Science Engineering batch 2002. Mr. Khan's academic journey led him to acquire a Diploma from Swinburne University of Technology and a Master's in Electrical Engineering from the University of Melbourne. His career primarily resides in the IT and technology sector, currently holding the role of Senior Data Science Professional/People Manager at the Australian Public Service, Australian Bureau of Statistics. His educational path began with a Bachelors in Computer Science at NSU before venturing to Melbourne for his Master's in Electrical Engineering. His career has since evolved to span 15 years, culminating in his current role as a Senior Data Science Professional.



As Mr. Khan delved into his field, he elucidated the requisite skills and knowledge to thrive in data science, a burgeoning discipline encompassing various domains. Data science has evolved, encompassing data collection, research, acquisition, engineering, and analytics. Mr. Khan primarily focuses on data engineering, a pivotal domain at the Australian Bureau of Statistics. His work involves managing raw data, algorithm creation, and optimizing processes for problem-solving and scalability. As a fresh graduate, he underscores the significance of technical skills encompassing proficiencies in Linux, Python, and cloud computing, essential for navigating this dynamic field. Equally vital are coding abilities, a skill set to embrace rather than shy away from. He emphasizes the importance of soft skills, particularly communication and proactivity. In Mr. Khan's view, an aptitude for continuous learning is paramount, underpinned by a strong foundation in principles and fundamentals, serving as a springboard for adaptation to evolving landscapes.

Data science's escalating relevance underscores its impact across various sectors. Data-driven decision-making has become a linchpin for businesses and institutions, transcending traditional boundaries.

institutions, transcending traditional boundaries. Mr. Khan ardently believes in the transformative potential of data science in reshaping decision-making processes, particularly within his role at the Australian Bureau of Statistics. For Mr. Khan, staying current in technology fields necessitates a commitment to perpetual learning and skill enhancement, as evidenced by the myriad of online courses available. Personal initiative in self-improvement is pivotal, portraying candidates as forward-thinkers and lifelong learners.

Mr. Khan's reflections extend to the transformation of the IT sector in Bangladesh since his relocation to Australia. Notably, Bangladesh now boasts a thriving outsourcing sector with abundant opportunities for software development. Startups have undergone a perceptible shift in mindset and capabilities, fostering notable success stories such as Pathao and bKash. However, infrastructure challenges persist, notably in rural areas, where improved internet connectivity remains a priority. Cybersecurity emerges as a pressing concern, with data protection and privacy issues looming large. Mr. Khan identifies a substantial skill gap in cybersecurity professionals in Australia, hinting at opportunities for NSU students to explore this evolving field. He emphasizes that global competition necessitates a steadfast commitment to delivering quality products and services.

In retrospect, Mr. Khan fondly recalls his undergraduate years at NSU. His educational journey commenced in an English-medium school, and, for students like him, the options were limited—study abroad, enroll in the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) at Dhaka University, or choose a private university. At the time and even now, NSU is one of Bangladesh's premier institutions. The smaller campus of his era holds a special place in his heart, and he cherishes visits to the old campus road, a tangible connection to cherished memories. Today's NSU alumni have come a long way, but two decades ago, the future was uncertain for many. Despite past uncertainties, the alumni have succeeded and secured prestigious positions worldwide, transcending initial doubts. Mr. Khan's advice to current students is to focus less on grades and more on ethical practices, emphasizing that dedication to doing the right thing ultimately leads to the right places.

The impact of NSU on Mr. Khan's life resonates profoundly. He not only forged lifelong friendships but also found his life partner within the NSU community. In light of the opportunities and support received from NSU, he now feels a duty to give back. As a result, the Alumni Association of Australia (NSUAAA) was established to provide a supportive network for NSU students arriving in Australia. These newcomers often face significant challenges and sacrifices when transitioning to life abroad. The NSUAAA extends its welcoming arms to ease this transition, offering assistance, guidance, and a robust support system for students as they embark on this new phase of their academic journey.

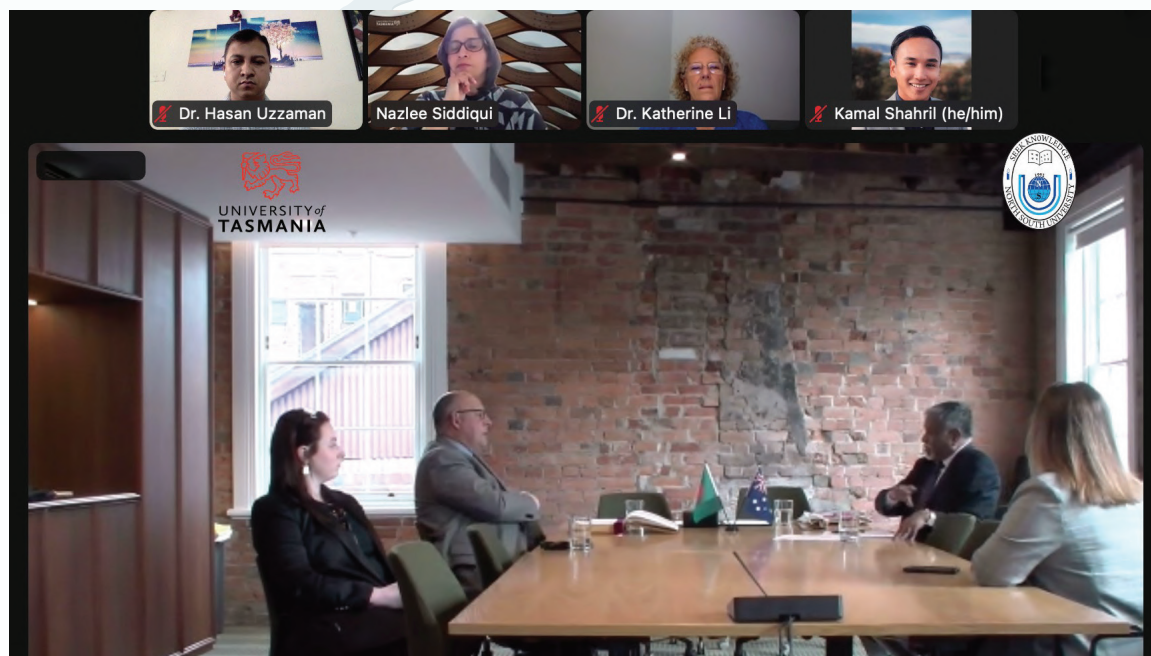
In the closing segment, Mr. Khan emphasizes the art of storytelling, a vital skill in the professional world. To tell compelling stories, one must understand the audience and their needs, constructing narratives that resonate and persuade. Storytelling encompasses building stepping stones in phases rooted in extensive research and profound insights into the audience. Mr. Khan closes with advice for current students, urging them to maintain honesty, embrace opportunities with an open mind, and navigate the evolving landscape of their careers, always striving to learn and work diligently, leading to future success.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/861223258791417>

MoU Signing Ceremony with University of Tasmania, Australia

North South University (NSU) and the University of Tasmania (UTAS) are pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that solidifies their commitment to academic collaboration and research partnerships. The MoU signing ceremony took place at Hobart, Australia, on September 29, 2023, bringing together representatives from both institutions to celebrate this significant milestone.



The Honorable Vice-Chancellor of NSU, Professor Atiqul Islam, and the Executive Dean, Professor Stuart Crispin, from the University of Tasmania, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations. The MoU signing event was also attended by Dr. Katherine Li, Director of the Office of External Affairs (OEA) and Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Director of OEA of NSU and from UTAS; Ms. Julie Henderson, Director of Strategy and Business Development for the College of Business and Economics, and Ms. Tyler Brun, International Engagement Officer.

UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA

The Honorable Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Atiqul Islam, expressed excitement about the potential of this collaboration, stating, "This partnership with the University of Tasmania marks a significant step forward in our

commitment to providing our students with global opportunities and enhancing the quality of education and research at NSU." It is anticipated that this collaboration will open new avenues for doctoral candidates, elevate the reputation of both institutions and contribute to the global knowledge base.

Nobel Laureate Sir Richard J. Roberts discusses "GMO Crops in Bangladesh: Policies and Practices"

The South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) and the NSU-UWA Agribusiness Centre of Excellence (ACE) of North South University organized a distinguished event on October 28, 2023. This significant gathering featured a talk by the Nobel Laureate Sir Richard J. Roberts, who delivered insights on the pertinent subject of 'GMO Crops in Bangladesh: Policies and Practices.' The seminar aimed to critically assess and deliberate upon the existing policies and practices associated with GMO crops in Bangladesh, focusing on recognizing the prominent challenges and advancements in research and production within this domain.

The keynote speaker for this prestigious occasion was Sir Richard J. Roberts, a Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine in 1993, known for his outstanding contributions to science. The session was graced by Professor Atiqul Islam, the Vice Chancellor of NSU, who held the position of session chair. The panel of experts included Mr. Anwar Faruque, Former Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Bangladesh; Professor Dr. Abdul Khaleque from NSU's Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology; Dr. M Mahfuzul Haque, an Associate Professor at SIPG, NSU; and Dr. Md. Shawkat Islam Sohel, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Science and Management at NSU.



Sir Richard J. Roberts brought valuable insights into the conversation, shedding light on the perceived contradictions within the anti-GMO movement. He addressed the pressing global issue of hunger and presented GMOs as a potential solution. Roberts underscored the need for a nuanced perspective on the term 'Genetically Modified Organism,' emphasizing that genetic modification has been an integral aspect of plant and animal breeding practices for centuries, driven by the mechanisms of natural evolution. He further stressed the importance of exercising caution and awaiting scientific validation when considering innovations carrying potential risks without conclusive safety evidence.

Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice Chancellor of NSU, highlighted the challenges in persuading policy makers regarding GM food's potential to combat prevalent vitamin deficiencies among the Bangladeshi population. Mr. Faruque delved into the multifaceted challenges associated with ensuring food security in Bangladesh, while Prof. Khaleque illuminated the pivotal role of biotechnology in fostering agricultural innovations within the nation. Dr. Haque provided comprehensive insights into the GMO policy landscape in Bangladesh, contributing to the overall understanding of this complex field. Dr. Sohel elucidated the environmental concerns that arise from the introduction of GMO crops within the country.

This event stands as a testament to NSU's dedication to fostering informed discussions and collaborations on topics of global significance, underscoring its commitment to advancing knowledge and making meaningful contributions to the field of policy and governance.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/SIPG.NSU/videos/1057116961999850>

Bioactivities of Malaysian Plant Extracts, TAR UMT, Malaysia

On October 30, 2023, an insightful webinar was conducted through Facebook Live, marking a collaborative endeavor between North South University (NSU) and Tunku Abdul Rahman University College, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (TAR UMT), Malaysia. The distinguished keynote speaker for the event was Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sheri-Ann Tan Shu Wei from the Department of Bioscience, Faculty of Applied Sciences at TAR UMT.



Commencing the webinar, an introductory segment cast a spotlight on the Department of Bioscience at TAR UMT, providing an illuminating glimpse into the university's cutting-edge laboratory facilities. Dr. Wei then ventured on an engaging presentation focusing on her pioneering research in phytochemicals and phyto-compounds. Her research pursuits encompass a trifecta of approaches, encompassing phytochemical experiments, cell-based assays, and computational analyses. These methods converge to achieve multifaceted research objectives, including the exploration of antioxidative compounds associated with anti-aging, the inhibition of virulence proteins implicated in age-related disorders like Alzheimer's and rheumatoid arthritis, and the integration of bioengineering methodologies into the realm of natural product research for regenerative medicine. Importantly, these research goals are thoughtfully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Malaysia's natural diversity, brimming with thousands of medicinal plants, offers the potential for deriving medicinal solutions. The development of herbal

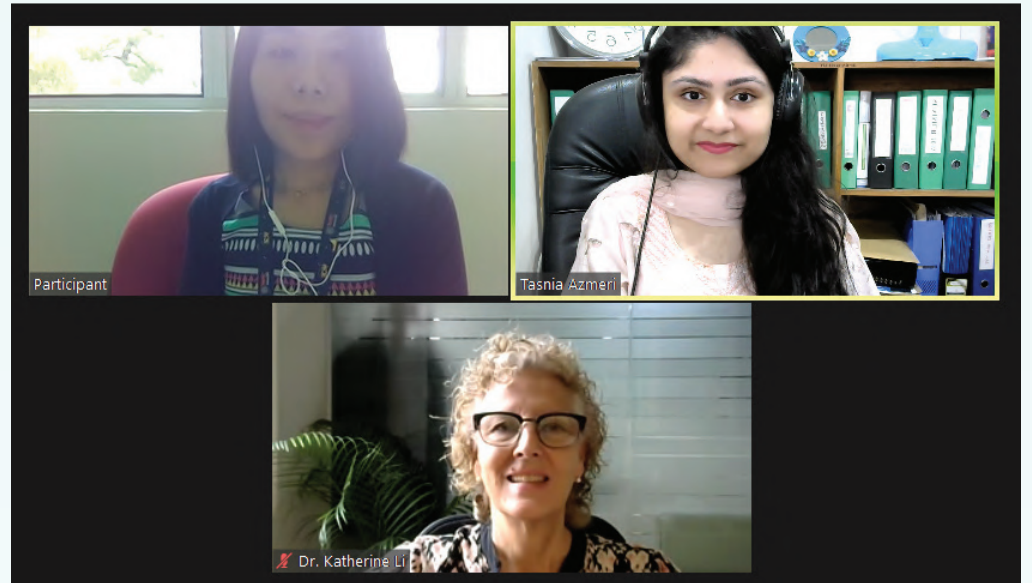
products is also recognized as a catalyst for economic growth, a fact underscored by the Malaysian government. Dr. Wei shared some of her previous research endeavors, which included work with papaya leaf fractions, highlighting their chemopreventive potential on stressed human liver cells. She also delved into her exploration of the antioxidative and photocytotoxic effects of plant extracts, a novel avenue that holds promise for generating oxidative stress in cancer cells, leading to apoptosis.

Furthermore, her research has extended to investigate plant extracts for their liver protective potential, marking an essential advancement in the domain of hepatoprotection. In looking to the future, Dr. Wei aims to contribute to fabricating herbal scaffolds tailored for tissue repair and regeneration, a field in which she has already made notable strides.

Dr. Hasan Mahmud Reza, Dean of the School of Life and Health Sciences, NSU, attended the webinar articulating the parallels between the research endeavors at NSU and TAR UMT. He highlighted the potential for future collaborations, including the possibility of PhD candidates from TAR UMT working at NSU. The establishment of joint research proposals and collaborative funding mechanisms was also explored between the webinar attendees, underpinning the foundations for a flourishing and enduring partnership between the two institutions. His closing words encapsulated the spirit of mutual contribution and the enduring strength of collaborative research endeavors.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/688374573247236>



Alumni Feature



I am *Faysal Bashar* from Melbourne, Australia, an NSU graduate from batch 001. I am a Technology Consultant by profession, with 18+ years of industry experience in technology consulting, digital transformation, technical solution design, product management, and technology transformation strategy development for the latest telecommunication networks/solutions like 3G, 4G, 5G, IoT, and telco-cloud. My first job after finishing my bachelor's from NSU in 2004 was at Sirius Broadband BD Ltd., where I worked to introduce the country's first wireless internet service. My journey in the telecommunication industry started in 2005 by joining HUAWEI, followed by leading global telecommunication company Ericsson in 2007 as an engineer in their Bangladesh offices. In 2009, I became part of Ericsson Southeast Asia, where I led and collaborated in multiple major and complex network transformation projects in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Bangladesh. Since moving to Ericsson Australia in 2012, I have been working as a Solution Architect, where I provide technology consulting services for Ericsson's major customers from Australia and New Zealand (i.e., Telstra and Optus in Australia, Spark in New Zealand).

I started my MBA after taking a long break from my studies and finished it with distinction in 2021 from Melbourne Business School (MBS). MBS has been ranked as the top business school in Australia for many years and one of the leading business schools in world ranking. I have certifications in SAFe® 5 Scrum Master (CSM), SAFe® 5 Agilist, and ITIL Foundation v3. I have completed a course on "Innovation Management (Disruptive strategy)" from the London Business School (LBS) executive education and "Leading Digital Transformation" from the Stockholm School of Economics.

Life at NSU:

I am from the 2000 batch (001) of North South University and studied computer science. I attended the convocation in 2004. During our time, NSU only offered five undergraduate degrees to study (Computer Science, Business Administration, English, Economics, and Environmental Science). We didn't have any option to study telecommunication and not even any engineering degree. However, before I finished my degree at NSU, I was able to do two fourth-year elective courses on Telecommunication Engineering, which later helped me to step into the Telecommunications Industry as an engineer.

As a student at NSU, I was highly involved in many extracurricular activities. I was the founder of the NSU Media Club, which used to publish a monthly newsletter named "NSU News." I organized many activities, including seminars, workshops, picnics, a yearly convention for university reporters, and other student life-related activities. I was involved with organizing the NSU Club fair and NSU convocations.

I live in Melbourne with my wife and one child. My wife is also an NSU graduate, currently working as a Team leader of investment strategy in the Department of Transport of the Victorian state Government, Australia.

Interviewer: Tell us about your extracurricular activities during student life. Why do you think students should actively take part in extracurricular activities during their student lives?

Faysal: I was highly involved in many extracurricular activities during my NSU days. I was the founder of the NSU Media Club, which used to publish a monthly newsletter named "NSU News." I was involved in organizing many activities, including seminars, workshops, picnics, a yearly convention for university reporters, and other

student life-related activities. I organized the NSU Club Fair and Convocations during my time at NSU.

The real-world skills students can learn through participating in different club activities and other extracurricular activities are invaluable. These activities help them learn how to manage their time better and, most importantly, help them develop as a team player. Moreover, extracurricular activities also help students to develop their analytical and problem-solving skills. Participation in Extracurricular activities supports students' character development by giving them skills required for personal success, such as leadership skills, communication skills, and the ability to accept constructive criticism. These activities also help students build a network of acquaintances, which could become helpful in later life. When students finish studying at NSU, they won't have any experience to put in their CV. Extracurricular activities on the resume can be a huge plus when applying for jobs right after coming out of NSU. These activities allow companies to analyze the skills and capabilities of a fresh graduate. These give them an idea of the strengths and weaknesses of a student. Most companies are looking for employees who are team players. New graduates can thus embellish their resumes by showing potential employers their commitment to a task and ability to work hard in a team.

However, over-scheduling in excessive activities can decrease the benefits of participation in extracurricular activities. How do you keep a perfect balance between such activities and studies? My suggestion is not to get into too many clubs and exhaust yourself completely. You will need superhuman capabilities if you are looking to register for more than one (or a maximum of two) clubs at a time, along with study pressure at NSU. Therefore, take on as much as you can absorb. Choose your clubs wisely; you never know, they might even unfold into a career path in the coming years.

Interviewer: How much impact do you think NSU had in your career and life?

Faysal: My time at NSU had an enormous impact on my overall career and life. Whatever I achieved in my career is mostly because of NSU. Exposure to world-class teaching and curriculum and a network of professionally successful, well-established alumni contributed a lot to my professional journey and progress in my career.

In early 2000, NSU was the only university in Bangladesh teaching Telecommunication engineering courses. No University, including NSU, was offering a degree in Telecommunication Engineering. However, at NSU, I had the opportunity to do a few fourth-year elective courses that covered the most advanced technologies of that time. We also had the opportunity to learn from industry experts as the senior engineers/leaders from the telecommunication industry shared how the actual technologies were implemented in those elective classes. The exposure to those subjects opened up the opportunity for me to do an internship with the Radio Network Planning Department of Sheba Telecom (Currently known as Banglalink), where I worked to develop a radio network planning tool. As a result, by the time I graduated from NSU, I was already well ahead in terms of practical knowledge and skills compared to the competition.

In my personal life, what I am today is because of my time at NSU. I met my life partner at NSU. After graduating from NSU and starting both of our careers, we got married and started our family. Eventually, we both decided to move to Australia and live in Melbourne with our only daughter.

Interviewer: What are your plans and goals? Where do you want to see yourself in the future?

Faysal: I have been working in the Telecommunication industry for over 18 years. I have developed deep expertise in technologies in this field. I have recently found myself in a transitional period of my career where I need to transform my profile from in-depth technical roles to a strategy-focused senior leadership pathway. To expedite this journey and push me towards that pathway, I have completed my MBA from Melbourne Business School (MBS) and a few relevant professional courses from London Business School (LBS) and Stockholm School of Economics (SSE). By covering the additional academic side on top of my long experience in technology, I see myself ready to make the next moves toward strategy-focused senior leadership roles in a big corporation.

On a personal side, I'd like to give back to my country in whatever way I can—I recently started a not-for-profit organization here in Australia to promote and showcase Bangladeshi culture, heritage, history, and handicrafts. I am also trying to create a bridge between Bangladeshi businesses and the markets in Australia. Besides that, I'd like to give back to my North South University community. Keeping that in mind, recently established for NSU Alumni under the banner "NSU Alumni Association Australia " (NSUAAA).

Interviewer: Tell us about the newly formed alumni NSU association in Australia and what you want to achieve through this.

Faysal: Today, NSU alumni are thriving around the world, each possessing a unique set of skills and competencies. We believe that by uniting and supporting one another, we can all grow and prosper. To facilitate that support network, we have started a platform under the banner "NSU Alumni Association Australia" (NSUAAA). Our vision is to advance NSU and its alumni by engaging its global community to its fullest potential and cultivating their passion and loyalty to the university and the country.

Within this platform, we have introduced a Mentorship program consisting of notable alumni from different parts of the world across all career choices. Any alumni can seek out experienced peers with the required competencies and skills and book one-on-one sessions. These sessions can cover various aspects, including career guidance, knowledge sharing, resume/CV reviews, interview preparation, job referrals, coaching, and training. We have also implemented a job board that provides members with early access to job opportunities at organizations where our alumni are employed.

Additionally, we offer regular training and coaching sessions. Our alumni conduct these programs and cover various hands-on topics to enhance soft and hard skills. For example, an NSU alumni, currently an Associate Professor at the State University of New York and a leadership trainer, has recently offered free leadership training for NSU alumni through our platform. We also have alumni experts in areas like Artificial Intelligence (AI) who conduct sessions on topics such as Generative AI.

We have specific programs to support newly migrated NSU alumni in Australia. The process of settling in a new country can be challenging, and we aim to provide comprehensive support, ranging from airport pick-up, accommodation arrangement, and preparing for the first job interview. Our goal is to ensure they feel

supported during the transition, providing training and coaching for job placements and connecting them with a broader network. Furthermore, we have initiated an Entrepreneurial support program. Many alumni offer products and services, from educational consultancy to taxation support and home-made catering services. We list these services within our platform, categorized for easy access, ensuring our members receive the necessary exposure, promotion, and the best value for their money, whether as consumers or service providers.

I request all NSU alumni currently residing in Australia or planning to relocate to join our platform "nsuaa.org.au." By doing so, you can support your fellow NSUers and leverage the network to your advantage. Together, we will become a stronger and more connected community.

Interviewer: What would be your suggestions to the current students and fresh graduates of NSU as alumni?

Faysal: My suggestion will be to start making as many connections with NSU alumni as possible in your chosen field before graduation. Not only will this improve your chances of landing a job, but those who know someone in the industry often land more coveted roles than those who just apply to job ads. Entering the job market may feel like being thrown into the deep end, but the key to navigating this stage is to draw on the experience of those who have been through it. Build your network! You will find highly successful NSU alumni in almost every industry globally. If you plan to go for higher studies, try to connect with NSU Alumni in academia in your field of interest. You will even find a lot of NSU alumni are now teaching in universities in the USA, UK, Canada, and Australia. The best way to accelerate your career growth is by finding the right mentor who can help guide you through your early career and beyond. To find the right mentor, use the very supportive alumni network of NSU.

As a current NSUer or freshly graduated alumni, you have had the opportunity to study in one of the best institutions in Bangladesh. Besides academic degrees from NSU, you must possess soft and interpersonal skills to prepare for the job market. Groom yourself and be prepared. You may also find it useful to do professional certifications in your related field. And finally, you already have the privilege to access the NSU alumni network – utilize it!

International Student Feature

*Greetings, I am **Kezang Choden**, currently advancing into my third semester, dedicated to pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and Microbiology at North South University. My origin traces back to the captivating nation of Bhutan, where I received my primary education before venturing into higher studies. My upbringing in Bhutan has instilled in me a profound reverence for the natural world and an unwavering appreciation for the tapestry of cultural diversity.*

Beyond academics, my life is enriched by a medley of interests and hobbies. Reading, an enduring love affair of mine, offers boundless adventures through the realms of literature, science, and philosophy. Equally cherished are my moments of creative expression through the arts, whether bringing my thoughts to life through drawings or weaving emotions into poetry. These artistic outlets allow me to explore the depths of my imagination and communicate my innermost feelings in unique and meaningful ways. These formative interests continue to shape my perspective and fuel my aspirations.

Interviewer: What motivated you to choose North South University for your higher education, especially being an international student from Bhutan?

Kezang: I have always harbored a genuine passion for biochemistry, driven by a profound curiosity about the intricate workings of living organisms at a molecular level. This lifelong fascination has fueled my aspiration to pursue a career in the dynamic and ever-evolving field of biochemistry. When I received the scholarship opportunity from North South University, I realized that the universe was aligning to make my academic dreams a reality.

NSU, distinguished for its unwavering commitment to academic excellence, stands as one of the premier universities, not only in my region but also on the global stage. Its exceptional faculty and cutting-edge resources make it an ideal choice to nurture my academic journey.

Interviewer: What inspired you to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and Microbiology, and what long-term career aspirations do you have?

Kezang: As I move forward in my academic journey, I am not only considering a bachelor's degree but also aspire to undertake a master's program in forensic science, a discipline I have always been drawn to. What makes this ambition even more meaningful is the realization that in Bhutan, there is a scarcity of forensic science professionals. I see this as an opportunity to contribute to my country and address a critical need. Studying biochemistry and biotechnology and eventually specializing in forensic science is not just a personal aspiration but a chance to make a meaningful impact in my homeland.

Interviewer: How has the multicultural environment at North South University enriched your worldview and academic experience?

Kezang: A multicultural environment at North South University helped me understand the wide range of cultures, perspectives, and worldviews. Interacting with my peers from different cultural backgrounds broadened my horizons and helped me develop a more inclusive and global perspective. It allows me to appreciate and understand different cultural norms, traditions, and communication styles, which can be valuable in an increasingly globalized world.

Interviewer: Could you share a memorable experience or tradition from Bhutan that you hold dear and left a lasting impact on your life?

Kezang: : Bhutan, as a whole, is a remarkably giving and peaceful nation, and as I reflect upon it, there are very few aspects I would wish to change about my beloved homeland. The pristine natural beauty, the warm-hearted people, the visionary leadership of our kings, and the harmonious coexistence of all these elements



make Bhutan a true Shangri-La. One practice I hold especially dear in Bhutan is the concept of Gross National Happiness (GNH). This unique measure of progress reflects the deep-seated values of our society, where the well-being and contentment of our people take precedence over economic gains. The emphasis placed on GNH over GDP speaks to the core of Bhutan's identity, and it resonates with my belief in the importance of prioritizing the happiness and welfare of our citizens. In a world often fixated on material wealth, Bhutan's commitment to GNH is a source of inspiration, reminding us that true prosperity is rooted in the happiness and well-being of its people.

Interviewer: How do you think the educational systems in Bhutan and Bangladesh differ, and how has this impacted your academic experience?

Kezang: The education systems in Bhutan and Bangladesh differ in several ways, reflecting the unique cultural, economic, and social contexts of each country. English is the primary medium of instruction in Bhutanese schools and higher education institutions, starting from the primary level. Whereas Bengali (Bangla) is the primary language of instruction in Bangladesh, English being taught as a subject. The Bhutanese education system emphasizes holistic assessment, focusing on continuous evaluation and developing a student's overall personality. In Bangladesh, board examinations, such as the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) exams, are significant milestones in a student's academic journey, and there is a strong focus on exam performance.

Interviewer: What challenges have you faced as an international student, and how have you overcome them in a new cultural and academic environment?

Kezang: The primary challenge I encountered as an international student was the language barrier. However, once I started university, I realized that English was the common communication medium for everyone, making it much more manageable. While Bangladesh and Bhutan share some similarities, I did experience a bit of cultural shock when I first arrived. Being away from home, even though not severely, did take an emotional toll on me. There are moments when I find myself missing the comfort of my home.

Interviewer: Bhutan is known for its unique approach to measuring Gross National Happiness (GNH). How has this Bhutanese philosophy impacted your perspective on life and your studies?

Kezang: The GNH philosophy is rooted in the idea that well-being and happiness should be the primary focus of a nation's development rather than economic indicators like GDP. GNH encourages individuals to prioritize their well-being and happiness. This can lead to a greater focus on mental and emotional health, personal fulfillment, and life satisfaction. GNH places a strong emphasis on community and social relationships. This leads me to value connections with family, friends, and the broader community, which can enrich my life and studies through support and a sense of belonging.

GNH also highlights the importance of environmental sustainability and the preservation of natural resources. This perspective allowed me to be more environmentally conscious and incorporate sustainability into their lives and studies. Incorporating GNH philosophy into one's perspective on life and studies can lead to a more fulfilling and purpose-driven approach. It encourages individuals to seek balance, well-being, and happiness and to consider the broader impact of their actions on the community and the environment. Ultimately, GNH can inspire individuals to find meaning and purpose in their educational and life journey beyond traditional measures of success.

Interviewer: How do you envision the future of your academic and creative journey, both at NSU and beyond?

Kezang: In my academic and creative journey, both at NSU and beyond, I envision a path marked by continuous growth and exploration. At North South University (NSU), I am committed to excelling in my current academic pursuits, which include biochemistry and biotechnology. Beyond NSU, I see my academic journey leading to further specialization, possibly pursuing a postgraduate degree in forensic science to delve deeper into my chosen discipline. I aspire to contribute to meaningful research or projects that can make a positive impact on the academic community or society at large.


On the creative front, I have a passion for writing, art, and music, and I see myself nurturing these talents alongside my academic pursuits. Ultimately, I envision my academic and creative journey as a lifelong pursuit of knowledge, self-discovery, and meaningful contributions. I'm excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and am determined to make the most of the opportunities that come my way.


Interviewer: What advice would you give prospective international students who aspire to study in a foreign country like Bangladesh?

Kezang: I want them to know that before making any decisions, thoroughly research the country, the specific region or city where you plan to study, and the universities or colleges you are interested in. Understand the academic programs, admission requirements, and the cultural and social aspects of the destination. Be prepared for cultural differences and potential culture shock. Learn about the local culture, traditions, and customs to facilitate your adaptation. Engage with local communities and fellow international students. Seek out academic support services available at your university, including academic advisors and tutoring. Establish good study habits and time management skills to excel academically. Studying abroad can be a life-changing experience, providing the opportunity for personal and academic growth. Being well-prepared and adaptable will help you make the most of this unique journey.



Office of External Affairs

 880(2)-55668200

 880(2)-55668202

 oea@northsouth.edu

 <http://institutions.northsouth.edu/oea>

 Office of External Affairs, Level #5,
Administrative Building, North South University,
Dhaka, Bangladesh

