



**Office
of External
Affairs**

THE BRIDGE

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Editor's Message

As we say farewell to 2023, we reflect upon the activities supported by the OEA which included 50 MoU signings, 30 NSU Alumni Talk Shows, 11 Information Sessions with our partner institutions and 7 NGO Talk Shows. As such, our outreach is really starting to pay off. We hope that you will take advantage of all of these new opportunities for research and collaboration. Stay tuned for more as we welcome 2024!

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Congratulations NSU on the latest MoUs!



**KYUSHU
UNIVERSITY**



প্রথম আলো



INNOCISION



**BRITISH
COUNCIL**

N SU has signed the following 8 new and renewed MoUs in the last two months: Kyushu University, Japan, Universidad de Monterrey (UEM), México, Prothom Alo, Bangladesh, Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, India, OP Jindal, India (renewal of exchange agreement), INNOVISION, Bangladesh, MIS Business School, Singapore, British Council (renewal).

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

Seminar on "Energizing Bangladesh's Youth Workforce for Global Success"



North South University's Office of External Affairs hosted a specialized seminar on December 14, 2023, at its campus, focusing on "Energizing Bangladesh's Youth Workforce for Global Success." The event was organized to delve into the challenges and prospects of preparing the youth for successful global employment.

The Chief Guest for this significant occasion was H.E. Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Chief Patron of the Bangladesh Foreign Employment Council. Professor Abdur Rob Khan, Treasurer of NSU welcomed the seminar as the opening speaker and Mr. M Nayeem Hossain, President of the Bangladesh Foreign Employment Council talked about the opportunities. Mr. Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, Patron of the Bangladesh Foreign Employment Council, delivered a keynote address, shedding light on critical aspects of global placement and the role of youth preparation in meeting international standards. Mr. Javed Muneer Ahmad, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of NSU and CEO of Aprosoft, presided over the seminar.



Various ideas were discussed during the seminar, emphasizing the need to invest in the empowerment and enhancement of Bangladesh's large and vibrant young population. The overarching goal is to help these young individuals learn new skills, foster their personal growth and enable them to secure promising employment opportunities globally. This, in turn, is envisioned to position Bangladesh as a dynamic contributor to the world economy.



The primary objective is to equip Bangladeshi youth with essential skills, knowledge, and opportunities to thrive in the global workforce. This initiative seeks to bridge the gap between education and industry by fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and global employability among the youth.

The components of this initiative include the implementation of comprehensive skill development programs aligned with the demands of evolving industries. These programs emphasize technical and soft skills essential for success in diverse career paths, focusing on emerging sectors such as technology, green energy, digital marketing, and advanced manufacturing.

Furthermore, establishing entrepreneurship and innovation hubs is envisioned to nurture an entrepreneurial spirit among the youth. These hubs will provide mentorship, resources, and networking opportunities, fostering the creation of startups and innovative ventures.

Facilitating partnerships between educational institutions and industries is pivotal to creating relevant and practical exposure. Internship programs, industry-academia symposiums, and collaborative research initiatives will bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. Creating avenues for Bangladeshi youth to explore global opportunities through exchange programs, international internships, and exposure to diverse cultures is also prioritized. This exposure broadens their perspectives, enhances cross-cultural competence, and fosters a global mindset.

Additionally, promoting digital literacy initiatives is crucial to ensure youth can leverage technology for personal and professional growth. Training programs on emerging technologies, coding, and digital platforms will be integral to this effort.



The anticipated outcomes of this initiative include enhanced employability, fostering an entrepreneurial ecosystem, global competitiveness, and contributing to economic growth by leveraging the potential of the youth population as a driving force for overall development and prosperity in Bangladesh.

NSU Delegation Attends Times Higher Education Campus Live Southeast Asia Event in Manila, Philippines



A delegation from North South University (NSU) participated in the esteemed Times Higher Education Campus Live Southeast Asia event at De La Salle University campus in Manila, Philippines, on November 22, 2023. Led by Mr. Javed Muneer Ahmad, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and accompanied by Vice-Chancellor Professor Atiqul Islam, the delegation engaged in discussions on emerging trends and challenges in higher education across Southeast Asia.



Throughout the event, Mr. Ahmad and Professor Islam actively participated in discussions, seminars, and networking sessions. They contributed valuable insights to various panels, shedding light on the evolving landscape of higher education, innovative teaching methodologies, and the role of technology in academia.



The delegation held a productive meeting with Mr. Ritin Malhotra, General Manager and Regional Director (Asia), Times Higher Education (THE) and participated as panelists in a roundtable discussion sponsored by Schmidt Science Fellows. The discussion focused on fostering interdisciplinary scientific research collaboration across South East Asia through a data-led approach.

A special dinner hosted by Ms. Simone Dilena, President of Asia Pacific Region of Times Higher Education, provided an opportunity for the NSU delegation to interact with academic leaders. This event served as a platform to forge collaborations with international institutions, potential partners, and industry leaders, thereby enhancing NSU's global academic network.

During the event, NSU showcased its dedication to academic excellence, research advancements, and its pivotal role in shaping future educational paradigms. The participation in Times Higher Education Campus Live Southeast Asia exemplified NSU's commitment to staying at the forefront of global higher education discourse.

Delegate Visit from Goa Institute of Management, India



During a delegation visit on November 01, 2023, Dr. Kingshuk Sarkar, Associate Professor from the Goa Institute of Management (GIM), India, engaged in a productive meeting with Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA); Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA; and Ms. Sadia Ayesha Jeesan, International Ambassador, OEA.

The discussions centered around the exploration of dual degree programs, the introduction of certification-based courses, and the facilitation of student and faculty exchange programs. Leveraging the online infrastructure developed during the pandemic, the proposal envisions faculty members conducting classes from their respective countries, enhancing flexibility and convenience in academic collaboration.

The conversation further delved into the diverse programs offered by both institutions, focusing on joint research initiatives, particularly in the field of sustainability. Plans for annual joint conferences and seminars were expressed to alternate hosting responsibilities between the two parties and benefit their respective student communities.

A significant highlight of the meeting was organizing a summer camp/study tour opportunity, which Ms. Samina Alam Miti proposed. This initiative entails a group of graduate-level students from GIM embarking on a journey to various sectors of Bangladesh, including sustainability and the Readymade Garment industry. Students gain firsthand insights into operational workflows through field visits to NGOs and garment factories. Additionally, participants engage in club activities and attend classes conducted by the esteemed faculty members of North South University. This comprehensive approach aims to provide students with practical field knowledge and strengthen the ties between GIM and NSU.



The meeting also touched upon the cost of GIM's MBA program, amounting to 21 lac rupees for tuition fees, including meals and residential accommodation, covering 36 credits in total. Possibilities of dual degree certificates were discussed, with plans to initiate this program with a select group of around five students. The collaborative initiatives discussed during the meeting promise to ensure the continued growth of this meaningful partnership between the Goa Institute of Management and North South University.

Nepalese Student Recruitment Meeting

In a meeting on November 02, 2023, NSU strategically discussed the recruitment of international students from Nepal, focusing on a comprehensive approach. The meeting delineated a multi-faceted strategy involving engagements with university representatives, collaboration with agencies, and selecting reputable education consultancies to strengthen NSU's global presence, specifically targeting Nepal, Myanmar, and other nations.

These chosen agencies are anticipated to act as intermediaries, fostering connections between NSU and international students. The emphasis is on promoting distinctive graduate programs, such as Master of Public Health (MPH), Master of Public Governance (MPG), and Master in Development Studies (MDS), tailored for Nepali students and other global students engaged in Bangladesh's public and private sectors. The meeting also recognized the potential of the Department of Pharmaceutical Science and emphasized the promotion of engineering programs as a strategic enrollment tactic.

A crucial element of the strategy includes establishing a dedicated point of contact for NSU in Nepal. The meeting explored alternative admission testing methods to streamline and enhance recruitment efforts, contemplating online admission processes and interviews in collaboration with NSU's IT department. The meeting also addressed the necessity of a defined financial structure, presenting a budget report to support different recruitment agencies, education expos and fairs, and promotional activities like video promotions, Facebook ads, and newspaper advertisements. Acknowledging the indispensable role of the Public Relations Office, the meeting emphasized their support in maximizing outreach. The meeting spotlighted the significance of a focused and inclusive strategy, offering specific directives for recruitment, promotion, and enrollment at NSU.

Delegation Visit from Villa College, Maldives

On November 05, 2023, Professor Abdulla Sadig, Deputy Vice Rector (Academic & Students) of Villa College in the Maldives, visited North South University to explore potential collaborations with NSU. In attendance were Dr. Katherine Li, Director of the Office of External Affairs (OEA); Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA; Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA; and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA.



The primary focus of the meeting centered around exploring potential areas of collaboration between NSU and Villa College. A key highlight of the conversation was the prospect of engaging in collaborative research initiatives aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Both institutions expressed interest in jointly contributing to research projects that address and promote the SDGs.

Additionally, discussions touched upon the possibility of organizing a joint conference in the future, providing a platform for scholars and researchers from both institutions to share insights, findings, and knowledge on SDG-related topics. With its active engagement in SDG-focused research across various departments and existing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with NGOs dedicated to SDG initiatives, NSU stands poised for meaningful collaboration in advancing sustainable development.

The meeting aimed to establish a framework for meaningful collaboration between NSU and Villa College, fostering an exchange of ideas, resources, and expertise. The envisioned partnership seeks to contribute to the advancement of research on SDGs, further reinforcing the commitment of both institutions to addressing pressing global issues through collaborative academic endeavors.

Meeting with Volunteers Association for Bangladesh (VAB)



The second meeting between NSU and the Volunteers Association for Bangladesh (VAB) occurred on November 05, 2023. The meeting was attended by Dr. A.Q.M.A. Rahman Bhuiyan, Professor and Chair, Dept. of English and Modern Languages (DEML), NSU; Dr. Sukanto Roy, Asst. Professor, Dept. of English and Modern Languages (DEML), NSU; Mr. Md. Mehedi Hasan, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of English and Modern Languages (DEML), NSU; Dr. M. M. Zahid Hassan, Country Director, Volunteers Association for Bangladesh (VAB); Mr. M. A. Alim Khan, Assistant Country Director, Volunteers Association for Bangladesh (VAB); and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, (OEA), NSU.

Dr. M. M. Zahid Hassan provided a comprehensive overview of the organization's founding principles and developmental initiatives established in 1998 by Non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) in the USA. The focus of VAB's efforts revolves around providing quality education and skills training to the poorest children in rural Bangladesh. VAB's multifaceted approach encompasses teacher development, student development, school development, and community development. Beyond traditional academic education, VAB offers subject-based training, co-curricular and extracurricular activities, and diverse programs for students and non-students, emphasizing the importance of English proficiency, technology, and environmental awareness.

Presently overseeing 60 schools and impacting around 30,000 students across different districts of Bangladesh, Mr. M. A. Alim Khan elaborated on the various clubs and training programs initiated by VAB. These initiatives, including graphic design courses, conversational English programs, and robotics training, aim to empower students in rural regions. Recognizing the potential for collaboration, he proposed various avenues, including practicum classes, English training programs, and internship opportunities for NSU students. Dr. Sukanto Roy and Mr. Md. Mehedi Hasan from DEML highlighted the scope for collaboration between NSU's numerous clubs and VAB's initiatives.

Dr. Bhuiyan stressed the capabilities of NSU's Office of Research, Research Coordinators, and expert faculty members, offering support for successful research collaboration, joint publications, and training opportunities. The meeting concluded with an agreement to initiate academic collaboration through an MoU between NSU and VAB, paving the way for fruitful research projects, joint publications, and shared opportunities for students of both institutions.

NSU Alumni Talk Show 132

In the one hundred and thirty-second episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show, which aired on November 08, 2023, the featured guest was Mr. Arif Sobhan, an alumni of NSU's Computer Science batch of 1999. Currently serving as the Senior Scrum Master of the Department of Education & Training in Victoria, Australia, Mr. Sobhan shared insights into his professional journey. Having relocated to Melbourne in 2005, Mr. Sobhan collaborates with business analysts, developers, and testers to ensure timely and budget-conscious project delivery. His responsibilities involve project initiation, risk assessment, and detailed planning, with a notable focus on Customer Relationship Management (CRM) projects. He recently concluded a project centered around childcare centers.

Mr. Sobhan also delved into his early career experiences in Australia, where he commenced as a part-time employee in a Big Four bank, specializing in internal counseling. During the interview, he offered valuable advice to students, emphasizing the importance of acquiring technical knowledge, self-development through platforms like YouTube, and honing interpersonal and soft skills. He highlighted the significance of foundational courses like ENG 103 and 105 for developing essential skills in writing and presentation. Confidence and a positive attitude were underscored as fundamental attributes for success.

The discussion transitioned to Mr. Sobhan's insights on migrating overseas, particularly for students. Stressing the challenges faced without a full-time work permit, he recommended gaining work experience in Bangladesh before venturing abroad. Networking was emphasized locally and through alumni connections in the chosen country. Mr. Sobhan advocated leveraging LinkedIn profiles and engaging in internships to enhance one's prospects.

Towards the conclusion of the show, Mr. Sobhan reflected on his undergraduate days at NSU in 1999. After choosing NSU due to its reputation as the best private university, he initially aimed for a Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA) at the Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka. Still, Mr. Sobhan opted for CSE at NSU after facing rejection. While acknowledging the academic sector as a foundation, he highlighted the transformative role of extracurricular activities (ECA) in personal development. Recognizing that grades become less critical later in life, Mr. Sobhan emphasized the importance of practical learning gained from coursework.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/655458413115062>



Collaboration Meeting with O.P. Jindal Global University, India

On November 08, 2023, a collaborative meeting between O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) and North South University (NSU) took place, aiming to address inquiries related to an upcoming exchange program in Spring 2024. Representatives from O.P. Jindal included Dr. Sushmita Roy, Deputy Manager of the Office of International Affairs & Global Initiatives, and Dr. Akhil Bhardwaj, Director of International Affairs. From NSU's Office of External Affairs (OEA), Dr. Katherine Li, Director; Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer; and Ms. Sadia Jeesan Ayesha, International Ambassador, participated in the fruitful discussion.



The primary focus was to clarify the exchange program details, aligning the courses offered by JGU with NSU's degree requirements. The discussion encompassed the specifics of CGPA conversions, credit transfers, scholarship opportunities, credit limitations per semester, eligibility criteria, and the budget plan for the student exchange program. This included considerations for tuition fees, accommodation, meals, on-campus facilities, and the renewal of the exchange program agreement.

After the comprehensive discussion, Mr. Bhardwaj extended an invitation to Dr. Katherine Li to participate in the upcoming Exchange Program, expressing confidence in her representation of NSU within the JGU academic community. He assured smooth arrangements, including accommodation provisions.

During the meeting's conclusion, Ms. Miti provided an overview of the NSU Summer Camp for JGU students. The summer camp offers opportunities to explore various sectors in Bangladesh, including NGO involvement, sustainability initiatives, and insights into the Ready-Made Garment industry. The collaborative meeting established the foundation for a Semester Exchange Program between NSU and JGU, fostering cultural enrichment and academic collaboration for the participating students.

Exploratory Conversation with SDG Academy

SDGacademy

On November 09, 2023, Ms. Nur Amirah Binti Abdul Majid, Manager, National and Regional Networks at the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network's Kuala Lumpur office, facilitated a meeting between Ms. Shannon Kobran, Regional Team Lead for Asia, and Ms. Sherlina Kaur, Education Manager of the SDG Academy, and Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), and Dr. Nazlee Siddiqui from the College of Business and Economics (COBE) at the University of Tasmania, Australia. The purpose of the meeting was to explore collaborative opportunities for developing a joint certificate course as part of the new partnership with North South University (NSU).

During the meeting, participants engaged in a fruitful discussion on integrating SDG Academy's curriculum into an upcoming introductory course on Sustainable Development, slated to be launched in 2024. The focus of the conversation revolved around developing a comprehensive and impactful certificate program that aligns with the goals of sustainable development and leverages the expertise of both institutions. The collaboration strives to offer students a valuable educational experience and contribute to advancing knowledge and awareness of sustainable development principles. The meeting laid the foundation for a collaborative initiative that promises to enrich the educational offerings in the field of sustainability at NSU.

NSU Delegation Attends Seminar at the University of Calcutta, India



On November 10, 2023, Prof. Atiqul Islam, the Vice-Chancellor of North South University (NSU), led a delegation consisting of Dr. Abdur Rob Khan, Dean of the School of Humanities & Social Sciences; Dr. Gour Gobinda Goswami, Director of Student Affairs; Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director of the Office of External Affairs, and ten NSU students on a visit to the University of Calcutta, as per the established agreement between the two institutions.

During their visit, the NSU delegation had the honor of meeting with Prof. Santa Dutta, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta, along with Dr. Amit Dey and Sir Asutosh, Professor of Medieval and Modern Indian History in the Department of History at the University of Calcutta. A workshop on "Heritage Tourism: Entrepreneurship & Employability" was attended by the NSU team, where professionals and educators delivered insightful presentations on the subject.

The culminating day featured a cultural program organized by NSU students and presented to the University of Calcutta. Members of NSU's Shangskritik Shangathan showcased Bangladeshi culture through music and dance performances. The visit proved memorable and fruitful, contributing significantly to enhancing the relationship between North South University and the University of Calcutta.



Delegates from Canadian High Commission Visit NSU



On November 13, 2023, the Office of External Affairs (OEA) at North South University received a visit from Ms. Debra Boyce, Senior Trade Commissioner, and Mr. Quazi Gulam Farhad, Trade Commissioner, representing the Canadian High Commission. Present at the meeting from NSU's OEA were Dr. Katherine Li, Director; Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director; Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer; and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer.

During the deliberations, Ms. Boyce highlighted the Canadian Trade Commission's collaborative efforts with Canada's international education sector. They aim to attract more international students to Canada and foster partnerships between universities in Bangladesh and Canada. Ms. Boyce acknowledged NSU's existing Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with Canadian universities and expressed a keen interest in expanding these partnerships. She emphasized her commitment to facilitating collaborations with well-recognized universities and institutions in different provinces.

Furthermore, Ms. Boyce committed to actively promoting NSU's profile while interacting with various Canadian universities. She wants to encourage these institutions to contact NSU to establish new collaborations. The meeting concluded positively, with both parties expressing satisfaction over the productive discussions. Evidently, the Canadian High Commission's support would be instrumental in creating new avenues for collaboration, reinforcing the prospects of fruitful partnerships between NSU and Canadian universities soon.



Delegate Visit from INTI International University, Malaysia

On November 16 2023, Dr. Md. Munir Hayat Khan, Senior Lecturer from the Faculty of Engineering & Quantity Surveying (FEQS) at INTI International University, Malaysia, conducted an exploratory visit to North South University. During his visit, Dr. Khan engaged in discussions with Dr. Mohammad Nazmul Islam, Chairman of Structural Engineering in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) at NSU. The purpose was to gain insights into NSU's department and explore potential areas of collaboration.



Subsequently, Dr. Khan visited the Office of External Affairs (OEA) where he met with Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA; Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA; and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA. The discussions revolved around the possibility of establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NSU and INTI, with a particular focus on collaboration opportunities within the CEE department.

NSU and INTI are currently in the process of finalizing the MoU, and subsequent follow-up meetings are anticipated to delve into the finer details of the collaboration. The meeting was deemed fruitful and contributed to strengthening the collaborative bond between the two universities.

Introductory Meeting with Shakti Foundation



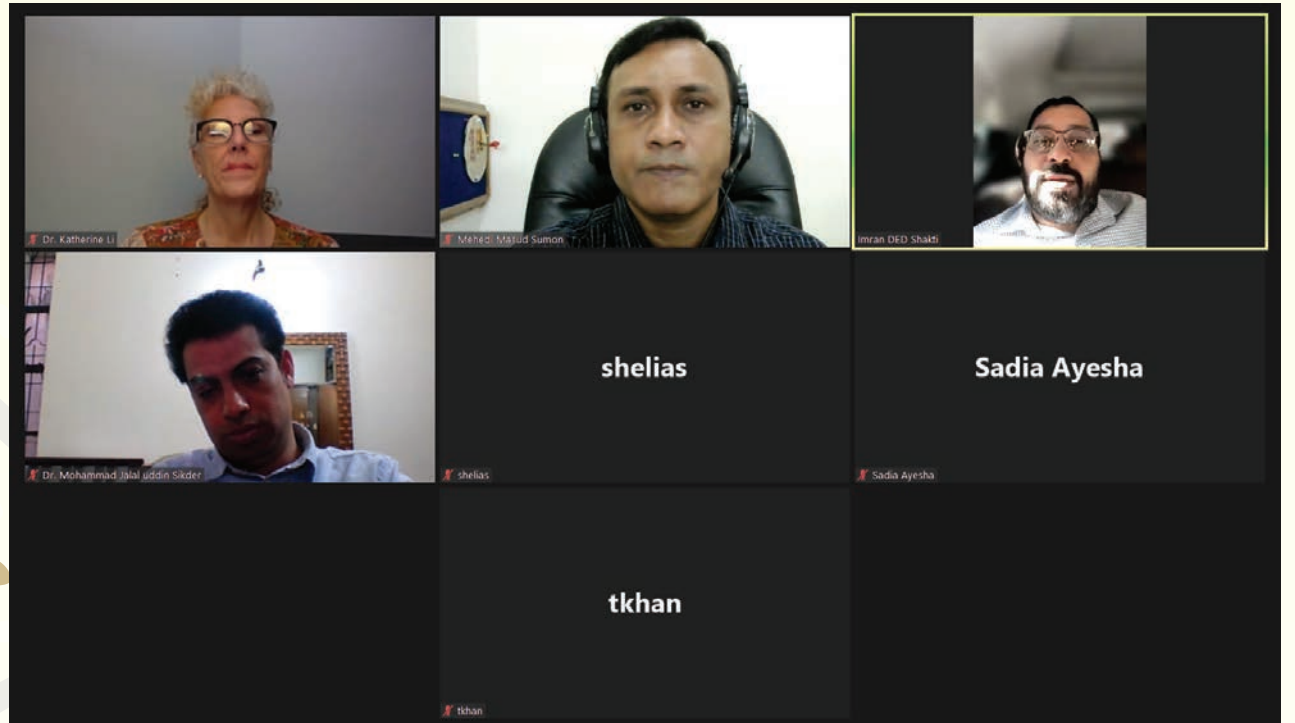
An introductory meeting between the Shakti Foundation and the Office of External Affairs (OEA) of North South University (NSU) was held on 19 November 2023 via Zoom. The meeting was attended by Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), NSU; Mr. Imran Ahmed, Deputy Executive Director, Shakti Foundation; Ms. Sohani Huq Elias, Director, Head of Climate Change Program, Shakti Foundation; Dr. Mohammad Jalal Uddin Sikder, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Sociology, NSU; and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, (OEA), NSU.

The meeting commenced with Mr. Imran Ahmed expressing gratitude for the opportunity presented by NSU for collaborative endeavors. Providing insight into Shakti Foundation's laudable initiatives, Mr. Imran Ahmed shed light on the organization's multifaceted programs, each meticulously aligned with Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs). These include the Microfinance Program, Health Program, ENRICH Program, Climate Change Program, Women Empowerment Program, and Disaster Response Program. Notably, the Microfinance Program caters to Bangladesh's unbanked population, emphasizing financial inclusion for women from low-income households.

An integral aspect of the discussion focused on potential academic collaboration between NSU and the Shakti Foundation. Mr. Imran Ahmed expressed Shakti Foundation's interest in collaborating with NSU on ongoing and forthcoming projects, highlighting the synergies that could create a mutually beneficial scenario. Ms. Sohani Huq Elias emphasized the prospect of engaging NSU students in ongoing projects, leveraging their enthusiasm and energy. Dr. Mohammad Jalal Uddin Sikder brought valuable experience from his extensive work with international non-governmental organizations. He expressed keen interest in monitoring, program evaluation, and knowledge-based research, envisioning collaborative efforts between NSU faculty, students, and the Shakti Foundation.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to formalize the collaboration between NSU and the Shakti Foundation through an MoU. Dr. Li highlighted the university's robust infrastructure, including the Office of Research, Research Coordinators, and expert faculty members, to support successful research collaboration, joint publications, and training opportunities. This collaborative venture represents a promising synergy between academic expertise and grassroots initiatives, fostering a platform for impactful research, joint publications, and shared objectives for the socio-economic development of Bangladesh. The ensuing MoU is poised to formalize and enhance this collaborative spirit.



Delegate Visit from Massey University, New Zealand

On November 20, 2023, North South University welcomed Dr. Ajmol Ali, a delegate from Massey University. Dr. Ali, Professor of Sport and Exercise Science and Associate Dean - International at the School of Sport, Exercise, and Nutrition, visited NSU for a follow-up and exploratory meeting. The meeting transpired at the Office of External Affairs, where Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sobhail, Assistant Director, OEA, and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA, were present.



his readiness to act as a coordinator if Massey University expressed interest in collaborating with NSU's School of Business and Economics or any other department.

The discussions during the meeting were highly productive, focusing on potential collaborations and future initiatives. All participants expressed optimism and eagerness for further follow-up meetings to solidify plans before collaborating. The dialogue laid the foundation for potential partnerships between the two universities, fostering an environment of cooperation and shared academic pursuits.



NSU Alumni Talk Show 133

In the one hundred and thirty-third episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show, aired on November 21, 2023, the limelight was on Mr. Mirza Asif Haider, a Telecom and Software Specialist hailing from the Computer Science batch of 1998. Boasting an exceptional career of nearly 18 years at Ericsson, Mr. Haider has been instrumental in selling services related to both hardware and software to telecommunications operators, having steered through ten distinct roles within the company. Mr. Haider found his life partner during his time at NSU, and they have been happily married for almost two decades. Despite graduating in Computer Science, he pursued an MBA at Dhaka University, proving his dedication to continuous learning. His professional journey led him to work in three different locations, with his current post at Ericsson Australia.

During the talk show, Mr. Haider generously shared beneficial insights and advice for students entering their professional lives. He emphasized the importance of having basic skills in tools like PowerPoint and Excel, highlighting the ubiquity of IT skills in today's education and professional landscape. Encouraging students to tackle technical roles early in their careers to boost confidence, Mr. Haider stressed the indispensability of combining technical and commercial knowledge. He cited AWS certification (supporting cloud expertise) as an illustrative example and advocated for self-directed learning, including coding skills development.

Towards the episode's conclusion, Mr. Haider fondly reminisced about his time at NSU. Guided by his father's aspiration for an international-standard education in Computer Science, he participated in a cricket tournament representing NSU, securing victories against teams from other private universities. Acknowledging NSU's pioneering core, he praised the university's courage in introducing JAVA learning at a time when it was an innovative venture. Endorsing honesty in one's career and suggesting a focused professional trajectory, Mr. Haider's reflections on NSU highlighted the university's flexibility, innovation, and foundational role in shaping his career, like many others.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1350979802178785>



NSU Signs MoU with the Universidad de Monterrey (UDEM), México



On November 22, 2023, a significant event unfolded as North South University (NSU) and Universidad De Monterrey (UDEM) formalized their collaboration through the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU). The virtual signing ceremony, conducted over a Zoom conference, saw the participation of key representatives from both institutions.

Present from UDEM were Mr. Carlos Basurto, VP of Liaising, Effectiveness, and Academic Services; Mr. Alejandra Yañez, Director of International Programs; and Ms. Karina Hernández, Coordinator of International Linkages and Communication. Representing the Bangladesh embassy in México, Mr. Miguel Gomez, the Honorary Consul of Bangladesh, also graced the event. Representing NSU were Prof. Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor; Dr. Katherine Li, Director of the Office of External Affairs (OEA); and Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Director, OEA.

The discussion preceding the MoU signing covered various collaborative aspects, encompassing student exchange initiatives to enrich academic and cultural experiences. Plans for internationalization at home projects, incorporating Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) activities, were explored to enhance students' educational journeys. The framework for summer or short-term programs, allowing students from both institutions to attend courses at each other's campuses, was deliberated. The Embassy of México, along with Mr. Gomez, expressed significant interest in the student exchange programs. Mr. Gomez proactively engaged in the meeting pledging his unwavering support and offering to expedite visa applications to ensure the program's success.

Additionally, the parties discussed strategies for cultural and language immersion, aiming to enhance students' experiences through activities, language classes, and local excursions. Opportunities for joint research projects, faculty mobility, and resource exchange, including libraries and databases, were also explored. The collaboration extended to community development projects, contemplating collaborative efforts on social development initiatives within local communities. The signing of the MoU solidified the commitment of NSU and UDEM to fostering a multifaceted collaboration encompassing academic, cultural, and research dimensions, thereby establishing a foundation for a robust and mutually beneficial partnership.



NSU Receives World Bank Project Grant through Innovision Consulting Private Limited

On November 23, 2023, North South University formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Innovision Consulting Private Limited, a distinguished international firm committed to fostering inclusive and sustainable growth in Bangladesh and beyond.



Innovision Consulting collaborates with governments, businesses, NGOs, and communities to conceptualize, oversee, and assess solutions addressing economic and social challenges. Their areas of proficiency encompass market systems development, value chain analysis, project management, and training.

A significant milestone was achieved through the collaborative efforts of Women & e-Commerce Trust (WE) and Innovision Consulting Limited, culminating in the signing of the MoU. This transformative agreement in which NSU has been granted a fund for training Women Small and Medium Enterprise (WSMEs), paves the way for establishing the Women Entrepreneurs Business Support Centre at NSU. The initiative, a pivotal component of the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (WeFi) by the World Bank, signifies a remarkable stride towards empowering women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh.

Initiative (WeFi) by the World Bank, signifies a remarkable stride towards empowering women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh.

NSU Signs MoU with Prothom Alo



In a historic collaboration to strengthen the bond between academia and media, North South University and the renowned Bangla newspaper, Prothom Alo, have officially formalized a partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on November 27, 2023.

The MoU signing ceremony took place at the Prothom Alo Headquarters in Dhaka, where Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of NSU, and Mr. Matiur Rahman, the Editor of Prothom Alo, formally endorsed the agreement. This collaborative initiative introduces a distinctive scholarship program to financially support two meritorious students. One scholarship will be awarded in the Spring Semester and the other in the Summer Semester of 2024. These scholarships are exclusively dedicated to students securing top positions during the admission process for the Bachelor of Social Sciences in Media, Communication, and Journalism (BSS in MCJ) program at NSU. The four-year undergraduate degree scholarship will be equally funded by both NSU and Prothom Alo, exemplifying a 50:50 partnership in this educational endeavor.

Expressing his gratitude, Professor Atiqul Islam acknowledged the significance of this collaboration, emphasizing its historic nature in bridging the gap between academic learning and practical experience in journalism. Mr. Matiur Rahman, Editor of Prothom Alo, expressed high hopes for NSU's role in delivering world-class education in journalism and underscored the importance of building trust in the field.



The signing ceremony witnessed the presence of faculty members from the Department of Political Science and Sociology, including Dr. Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Chair of the Department, and Dr. Md. Harisur Rahman, Coordinator of the MCJ Program. Prothom Alo's Joint Editor, Mr. Sohrab Hassan, Associate Editor; Mr. Anisul Hoque, Executive Editor; Mr. Sajjad Sharif, Ms. Merina Yasmin of Prothoma, Feature Editor; Ms. Shumona Sharmin, and other senior journalists attended the event, further solidifying the collaborative spirit of this partnership.

NSU Alumni Talk Show 134

In the one hundred and thirty-fourth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show, aired on November 29, 2023, the featured guest was Mr. Prakash Regmi, the Principal of Nepal Tourism and Hotel Management College. Having completed his Masters in Public Policy and Governance from NSU in 2015, Mr. Regmi holds a Bachelor's degree in Hotel Management from the Nepal Academy of Tourism and Hotel Management College. He is a seasoned professional in the hospitality and tourism sector, currently residing in Kathmandu.

During the episode, Mr. Regmi shared insights into the crucial aspects of his profession, emphasizing the paramount importance of customer service in the hospitality and tourism industry. He underscored the necessity of efficient communication skills, teamwork, and the virtues of humility, rationality, and responsibility in



acknowledged the financial support provided by NSU for celebrating festivals like Holi, fostering a sense of community among Nepalese students in Bangladesh. Mr. Prakash Regmi's journey at NSU was marked by a positive and enriching experience, underlining the university's commitment to diversity and exclusivity and supporting its international student community.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1040101867040048>

creating lasting experiences for patrons.

Reflecting on his experiences as an international student in Bangladesh, Mr. Regmi outlined the challenges he encountered, starting with language barriers. The bustling streets and crowded roads posed transportation challenges. Yet, he found the local people, teachers, and friends remarkably helpful and kind, facilitating his adjustment to the new environment.

Offering valuable advice to current NSU students and graduates, Mr. Regmi suggested aligning with contemporary trends, emphasizing efficient communication skills, and maintaining strong public relations. He encouraged new graduates to navigate their professional journeys with adaptability and resilience.

In the concluding segment, Mr. Regmi fondly reminisced about his time at NSU, citing the university's prestigious status as the first private university in Bangladesh with a high ranking. He expressed his satisfaction with NSU's warm and welcoming atmosphere, dispelling any preconceived notions about Bangladesh being a strict Muslim country. Mr. Regmi appreciated the support and assistance he received from the Office of External Affairs and the NSU Ethics and Diversity Club (EDC). Notably, he

Meeting on Joint SDG Certificate Course with University of Tasmania, Australia



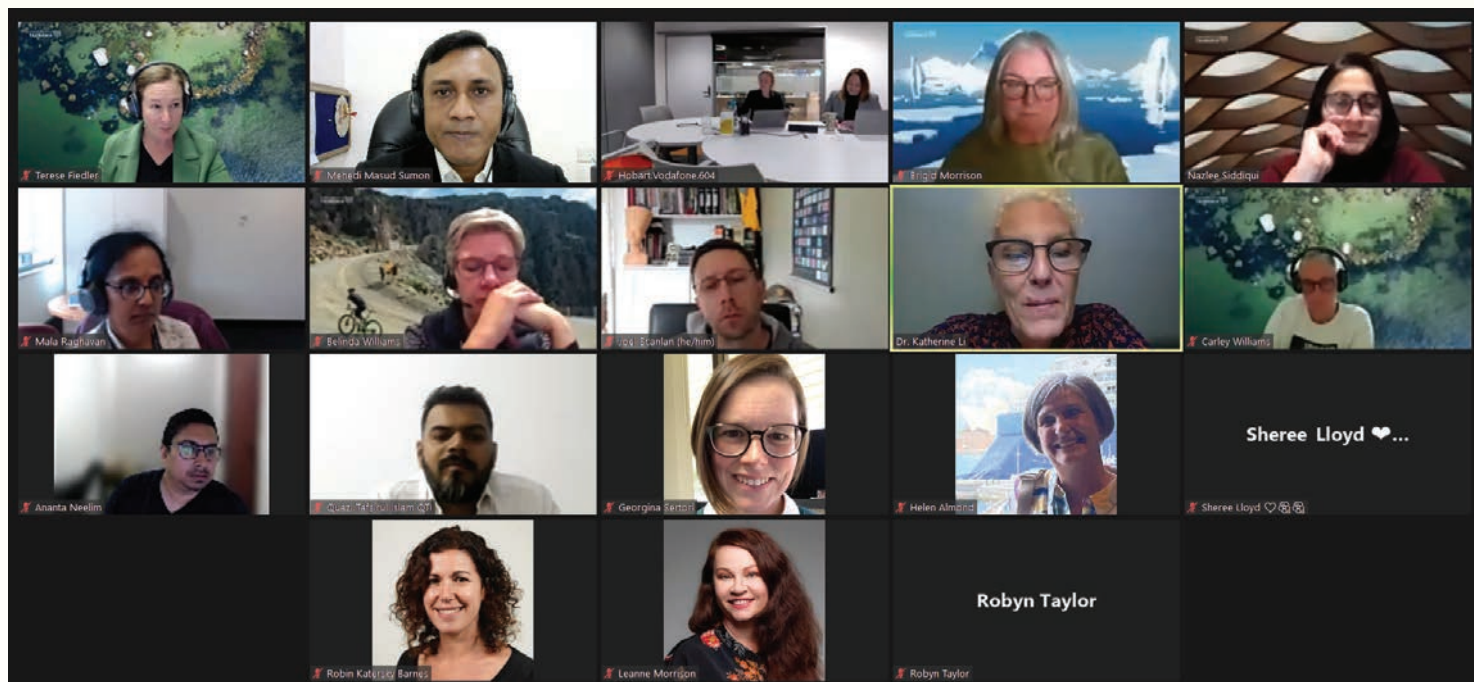
On November 29, 2023, a virtual meeting transpired over Zoom, fostering collaboration between North South University (NSU) and the University of Tasmania, Australia (UTAS). The primary agenda of this meeting was to activate the recently signed MoU between the two institutions to establish a joint certificate course dedicated to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA

The esteemed attendees comprised representatives from both NSU and UTAS. Dr. Nazlee Siddiqui, Discipline Lead in Health Services Management, Ms. Julie Henderson, Director of Strategy and Business Development, and Ms. Carley Williams, Manager of Strategy, represented UTAS. From NSU, Dr. Katherine Li, Director of the Office of External Affairs (OEA), Mr. Quazi Tafsirul Islam, Senior

Lecturer in the Department of Management (SBE), and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer at OEA, actively participated.

Under Dr. Katherine Li's leadership, Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA has orchestrated partnerships with an extensive network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), aligning with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. The potential collaboration opens avenues for UTAS/COBE academics to co-design projects, leveraging the extensive work of the NGO network in conjunction with NSU. Various possibilities for collaboration were explored during the meeting. Projects could manifest as research collaborations between individual academics from NSU and COBE/UTAS or materialize as capstone study/research initiatives for UTAS undergraduate and postgraduate students, both domestic and international.



During the session, Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, who has been closely involved with these NGOs and instrumental in facilitating MoUs, provided a comprehensive overview of the NGO network's work through a PowerPoint presentation. Noteworthy contributions from NSU, such as the Master in Development Studies (MDS) and Master of Public Health (MPH), were highlighted and intricately designed in alignment with SDGs and the developmental sector. Additionally, NSU's existing joint course with the University of Adelaide, Australia, underscored the promising prospects for developing a joint certificate course.

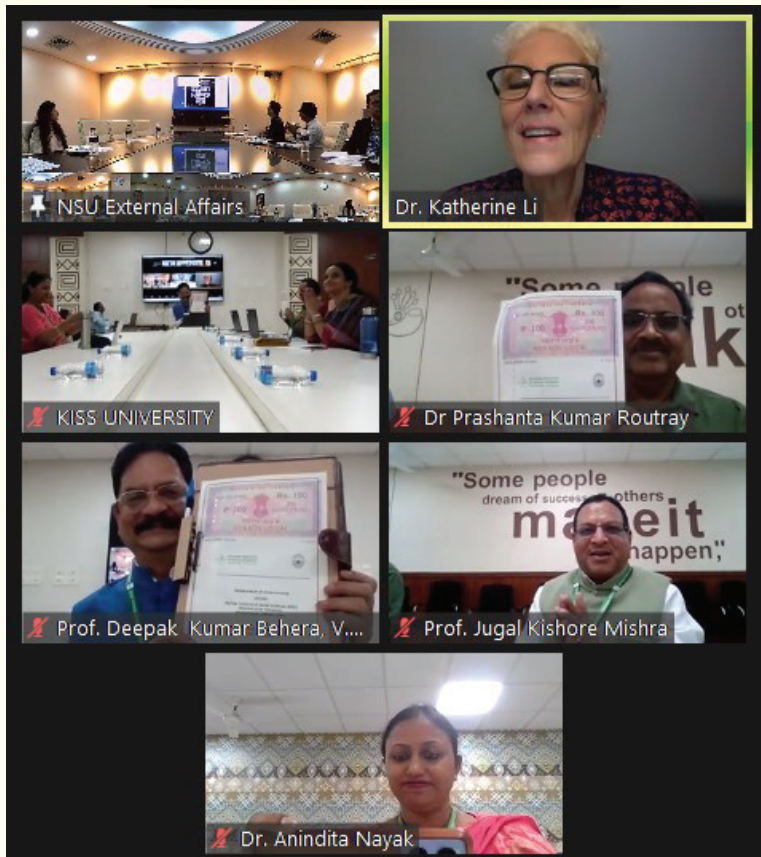
The meeting culminated with an engaging discussion and a question-answer session, reflecting the commitment and enthusiasm of both institutions. Anticipating the need for further in-depth discussions, both parties eagerly look forward to a subsequent meeting, marking the commencement of a collaborative journey toward culminating a joint certificate course on Sustainable Development Goals.

MoU Signs MoU with Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, India

On November 29, 2023, a significant event marked the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between North South University (NSU) and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences Deemed to be University (KISS-DU), conducted over Zoom.



MoU signing was officiated by Professor Deepak Kumar Behera, Honorable Vice-Chancellor, KISS-DU, and Professor Atiqul Islam, Honorable Vice Chancellor, NSU. The event was attended by key representatives from both institutions, including Dr. Prashanta Kumar Routray, Registrar; Prof. Jugal Kishor Mishra, Director of Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC); and Dr. Anindita Nayak, Assistant Professor in the Program of Anthropology from KISS-DU. Representing NSU were Dr. Ahmed Tazmeen, Registrar; Dr. S.K. Tawfique M. Haque, Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science Sociology; and Dr. Katherine Li, Director of the Office of External Affairs (OEA). Additionally, Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA; Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA; and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA, joined the virtual MoU signing ceremony.



KISS-DU is a pioneering institution dedicated to igniting academic excellence among marginalized tribal youth. Guided by the resolute principle of "Eradicating hunger through Education," KISS University empowers its students, offering a transformative journey that spans from kindergarten to postgraduate studies. This fully-funded, world-class educational experience, encompassing the largest residential school for tribal students globally, stands as a testament to KISS University's unwavering commitment to social upliftment and equitable access to knowledge. The signed MoU is anticipated to foster significant collaboration between the two institutions, with both parties expressing satisfaction and looking forward to fruitful outcomes.

NSU Participates in Education Fair in Yangon, Myanmar



In a remarkable initiative, the Bangladesh Embassy in Yangon organized the inaugural "Bangladesh Education Fair" in the capital of Myanmar, generating great enthusiasm. Distinguished public and private universities from Bangladesh, including Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agriculture University (BSMARU), American International University Bangladesh (AIUB), Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST), and North South University (NSU), participated in the fair on December 02, 2023.

Representing NSU, Prof. Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, and Prof. Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Chair of the Department of Political Science and Sociology and Director of the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG), attended the education fair. Prof. Haque delivered presentations highlighting the available courses and facilities at NSU.



Subsequently, prospective students and guests engaged with NSU representatives to seek information about courses and admission requirements.

Ambassador to Myanmar, Dr. Md. Monwar Hossain, emphasized that these esteemed higher education institutions offer a range of quality undergraduate and postgraduate courses at affordable prices. The fair, attended by Myanmar students, representatives of Yangon-based higher educational institutes, academicians, parents, and professionals, is expected to enhance bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Myanmar and foster stronger people-to-people connections.



MoU Renewal Meeting with Rhine-Waal University, Germany



A collaborative meeting took place over Zoom between Dr. Katherine Li, Director of NSU's Office of External Affairs (OEA), and Prof. Dr. Oliver Serfling, Professor of Economic Policy and Development Economics at Rhein-Waal University, on December 04, 2023. The purpose of the meeting was to explore the development of a joint Master's degree in Development Studies between NSU and Rhein-Waal University. This envisioned program aims to capitalize on NSU's extensive NGO network

During the meeting, Dr. Serfling introduced the International Officer, Dr. Anne Temple, and the Study Program Manager for the M.A. Sustainable Development Management, Dr. Carina Goldbach. Both parties expressed keen interest in renewing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) previously established between the two institutions. This current collaborative effort seeks to enhance academic cooperation and create opportunities for students in Development Studies.

The meeting concluded with plans for further follow-up discussions and actions to move forward with the proposed joint Master's degree program and the MoU renewal. This collaborative initiative signifies a commitment to strengthening ties between North South University and Rhein-Waal University for mutual academic benefits.



NSU Alumni Talk Show 135



In the one hundred and thirty-fifth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show, broadcasted on December 05, 2023, the focus was on Ms. Sayma Rahman, Founder and CEO of SR Ventures & Consultancy. Graduating with a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) from NSU in the batch of 2001, Ms. Rahman embarked on her professional journey with an internship at Robi Axiata. Subsequently, she dedicated over 14 years of service to Grameenphone Ltd, exploring multiple facets within the organization. In 2021, she took a bold step, leaving her position as the Head of Retail Partnership to establish her consultancy firm, SR Ventures & Consultancy.

Ms. Rahman elaborated on her consultancy firm, which primarily aids individuals lacking specific skills in startups or those seeking guidance in launching new ventures. Emphasizing the importance of gaining knowledge and experience by working in a company before venturing into entrepreneurship, she shared valuable insights into the intricacies of startup initiation.

Concerning NSU's current state, Ms. Rahman expressed observations on the increasing student intake, noting a decline in the quality of students over the years. Proposing effective measures to enhance student quality, she recommended the establishment of an alumni association, fostering a continual connection between NSU and its graduates, leading to new opportunities for the institution and its students.

Further delving into entrepreneurial pursuits, Ms. Rahman outlined essential criteria for aspiring entrepreneurs. Stressing the significance of building extensive knowledge and experience while working in a company, she advised preparing for entrepreneurship while employed, emphasizing networking and financial preparedness.

In the final segment, Ms. Rahman fondly reminisced about her NSU days. Selecting NSU as the premier university, she initially enrolled as an engineering student, later transitioning to BBA. Highlighting the practicality of courses involving presentations, she acknowledged their long-term benefits. Active participation in the Youth Entrepreneurship Forum (YEF) as a member and editor enriched her network. Ms. Rahman also commended NSU's career placement program for guiding students in crafting effective CVs. Ms. Sayma Rahman's journey from an NSU alumna to a successful entrepreneur showcased her dedication to continuous learning and imparted valuable insights for aspiring professionals and entrepreneurs alike.

To know more about the event, visit the following link:
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/221605340885361>

Collaboration Meeting with Arizona State University, USA

On December 07, 2023, Professor Javed Bari, the Dean of the School of Engineering & Physical Sciences at North South University (NSU), initiated a collaborative discussion with Arizona State University (ASU). The discussion encompassed various aspects of potential collaboration, including joint research initiatives, joint applications for national and international research funding, collaborative supervision for both Master's (MS) and Ph.D. programs, joint partial capstone design projects, and sharing research facilities.



The Zoom meeting included notable participants such as Professor Kamil Kaloush, the FORTA Professor of Pavement Engineering and Program Chair of Civil Engineering at Arizona State University, and Professor Ram Pendyala, the Director of TOMNET, a Tier 1 USDOT University Transportation Center, and a Professor in the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment. Also present in the meeting were Professor Nazmul Islam, Chair of Civil Engineering at NSU, and Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director of the Office of External Affairs.

The key agenda discussed during the meeting included the prospect of a student and faculty exchange program between NSU and ASU. Additionally, a 4+1 MS model was explored, allowing NSU students to pursue a one-year MS program in the USA after completing a four-year bachelor's degree at NSU. This model involves waiving two graduate-level courses through a department-level evaluation of the equivalency of two 400-level courses taken at the bachelor's level. The collaborative efforts aspire to facilitate academic partnership, research advancements, and student opportunities between NSU and Arizona State University. The meeting concluded with plans for further discussions to solidify the collaborative framework.

NSU Vice-Chancellor Attends Confucius Conference in Beijing, China

The Honorable Vice Chancellor of North South University, Professor Atiqul Islam, participated in two distinguished international forums in China. On December 07, 2023, he attended the World Chinese Language Conference in Beijing. Organized by the Chinese International Education Foundation, this conference brought together prominent figures in the field of language education.



Accompanied by Ms. Ma Xiaoyan and Dr. Bulbul Siddiqi, both directors of the Confucius Institute, Professor Atiqul Islam played a pivotal role as a distinguished guest. During the conference, he delivered a noteworthy speech addressing the "Role of Language Education in Bangladesh's Internationalization of Higher Education."

In his speech, Professor Islam emphasized that true internationalization transcends merely increasing the number of international students and faculty. It involves introducing an international curriculum, study materials, concepts, and training aligned with global standards. Proficient language learning is a vital component of this process. Across the globe, providing opportunities for students to learn different languages has become a priority for universities.

Highlighting the significance of language, Professor Islam noted that it serves as a primary communication tool and a bridge for cross-cultural communication. Learning languages enhances students' skill sets, enabling them to demonstrate competencies at various higher education levels.



Professor Islam underscored the crucial role played by the Confucius Institute at North South University in promoting Chinese language courses and culture. Over its 17-year history, the Confucius Institute has reached tens of thousands of students across Bangladesh. Many of its graduates secured employment in Chinese organizations, while others pursued higher studies in China, experiencing world-class teaching and research activities. The Confucius Institute at NSU has achieved recognition as one of the best Confucius Institutes, particularly in 2016. Professor Islam concluded his speech by highlighting the institute's efforts to foster people-to-people exchange by celebrating Chinese festivals and cultural events at NSU.

Information Session with Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), USA



An enlightening information session, broadcasted live on the Facebook page of the Office of External Affairs (OEA), featured Dr. Prashanth N. Bharadwaj, Dean's Associate, Professor, and Director of the School of International Management at the esteemed Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), on December 13, 2023. Situated in the picturesque college town of Indiana, IUP stands as a distinguished beacon of academic excellence since its establishment in 1871. Dr. Bharadwaj shed light on the application process, scholarships, and diverse opportunities available at IUP, emphasizing the university's commitment to fostering a multicultural atmosphere and providing outstanding resources for academic success.

With a student population exceeding 9,000 across its main campus and three branch locations, IUP is renowned for its academic breadth. Offering over 160 undergraduate and 50 graduate programs spanning diverse disciplines, IUP provides tailored education in fields ranging from STEM to social sciences and creative pursuits. IUP strongly emphasizes personal and professional growth, offering over 300 student organizations, intramural sports, and a robust athletics program. The university prioritizes experiential learning, offering internships, research opportunities, and study abroad programs that equip students with real-world skills.

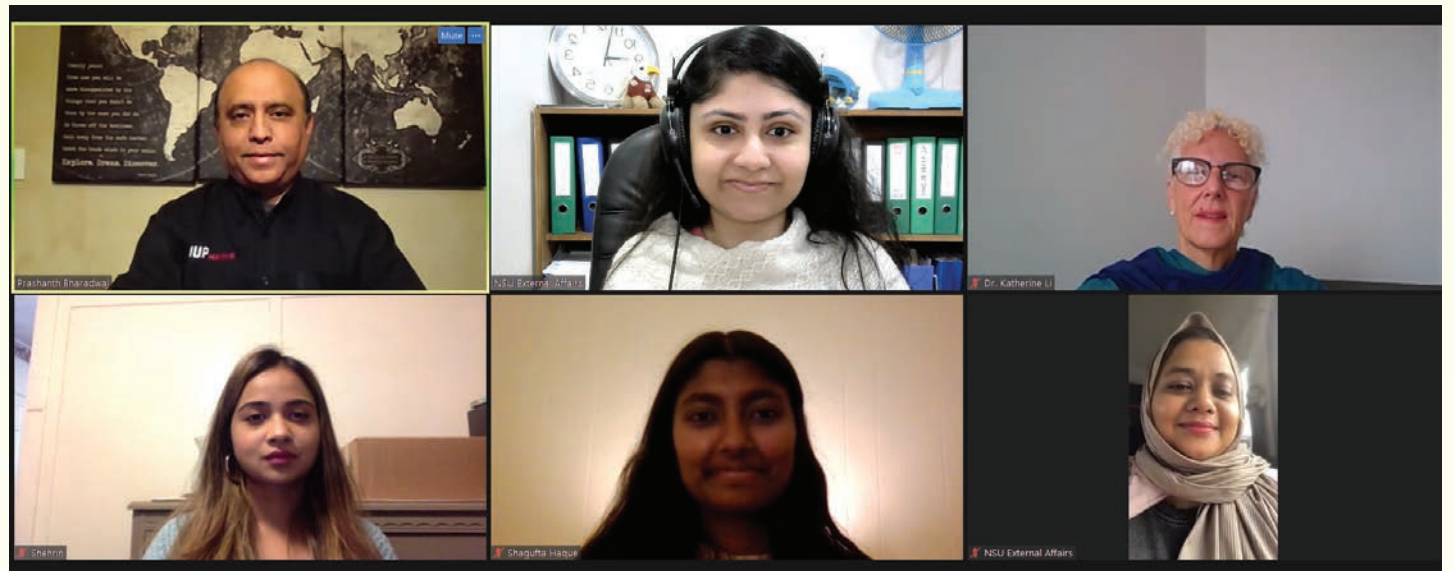
International students receive dedicated support services, including assistance with visa and immigration processes, academic advising, and cultural programs. The International Student Association fosters a welcoming community, aiding the integration of new arrivals into vibrant campus life. Understanding the financial challenges faced by international students, IUP offers a generous scholarship program. The Merit-Based International Student Scholarship awards up to \$10,000 annually to high-achieving students, complemented by the Global Diversity Scholarship, which provides financial support to students from diverse backgrounds.

Eligibility criteria for admission consider factors such as leadership activities, internships, undergraduate degrees, and letters of recommendation. The International Education Office compiles resources, including off-campus accommodation facilities. The average off-campus living cost is estimated at \$500 per person for three months, with a semester cost of \$2,000. On-campus meal expenses are available, and the International Hospitality Center offers groceries at an affordable rate of \$100 per semester. For prospective undergraduate students pursuing a BBA, there is an opportunity to complete up to 75 credits at NSU and transfer to IUP for \$26,000. Similarly, graduate students pursuing an MBA can complete up to 18 credits at NSU and transfer to IUP at a cost of \$18,000.

Overall, IUP emerges as an ideal destination for international students seeking a dynamic and enriching academic experience. Its diverse academic offerings, supportive environment, and commitment to financial aid position IUP as a premier destination for ambitious global students.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1684385501967044>



Collaboration Meeting with Aberystwyth University, UK

On December 14, 2023, a virtual meeting transpired between Aberystwyth University and the Office of External Affairs (OEA) at North South University. Present from



NSU were Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA; Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA; and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA, along with a representative from Aberystwyth University.



The meeting encompassed discussions on potential areas of collaboration across various departments in both universities. Although the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Aberystwyth University was recently renewed, there haven't been joint activities executed to date. The primary objective of the meeting was to address this gap and strategize for upcoming collaborative projects. Notably, Aberystwyth University expressed keen interest in collaboration with NSU's Department of Computer Science and Engineering, among other departments. Both institutions have committed to subsequent discussions to plan and execute joint activities in the near future.

NSU Vice-Chancellor Attends the South and Southeast Asian University Presidents Forum in Kunming, China

Professor Atiqul Islam, the esteemed Vice Chancellor of North South University, played a significant role in the Southeast Asian University Presidents Forum held in Kunming, China, on December 14, 2023. Invited by the South and Southeast University Network at Yunnan University, Professor Islam delivered a keynote speech at the 3rd South and Southeast Asian University Presidents Forum at Yunnan University, Kunming, China.



The central theme of his keynote address was 'Prospects and Challenges in Chinese Language Education in Bangladesh.' During the speech, Professor Islam highlighted the tremendous potential for expanding the Chinese language program in Bangladesh. As a rapidly developing country with a projected development by 2041, Bangladesh's economy is expanding at a remarkable pace, hosting numerous Chinese companies engaged in various mega infrastructure projects.

With hundreds of Chinese-funded enterprises operating in Bangladesh and a growing demand for Chinese language skills, Professor Islam emphasized the need for career-oriented Chinese courses. Despite this demand, there exists a certain reluctance among students to learn the Chinese language, partly due to a lack of media coverage and awareness about China and Chinese universities in Bangladesh.

Furthermore, Professor Islam stressed the importance of expatriate Chinese native teachers in Bangladesh being well-versed in the local language, culture, and history to teach effectively in context. He acknowledged the competitive advantage Western countries have in attracting bright students from developing nations with promises of world-class education, job opportunities, and eventual settlement.



In addition to his keynote address, Professor Islam actively participated in a roundtable discussion, emphasizing key issues such as organizing education fairs in South Asian countries to attract exceptional students to pursue higher education in China (Yunnan). He proposed initiatives such as building the China Study and South Asia Study Think Tank Team, conducting international joint seminars and field research, implementing faculty and student exchange programs, expanding the Youth Summer Camp, and introducing a high-quality vocational education system to South Asian countries. His engagement in these forums reflects Professor Atiqul Islam's commitment to fostering academic exchange, dialogue, and collaboration between South Asian countries and China, contributing to the broader goals of educational and cultural cooperation.

NSU Participates in the "Bangladesh Decides: The Youth Speaks" Event at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia



In a collaborative effort between the HerNet Foundation and the European Union Embassy in Bangladesh, the HerNet Foundation successfully concluded the fifth episode of its impactful series, "Bangladesh Decides The Youth Speaks" (BDYS), at the Royal Saudi Arabia Embassy on December 24, 2023. The event marked a significant commitment to addressing the challenges faced by Bangladeshi youth. The inaugural session featured an introduction by Professor Atiqul Islam, Honorable Vice-Chancellor of North South University.



Bright students, carefully selected by the Office of External Affairs, represented North South University on the HerNet TV platform. The event, broadcast live on HerNet TV, focused on "Global Dynamics: Foreign Aid, National Sovereignty, and the Roles of Public and Private Sectors in Development" from a Bangladeshi perspective. H.E. Essa Youssef Essa Al Duhailan, the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Bangladesh, chaired the session, with Professor Atiqul Islam serving as the chief guest.



Distinguished guests included Dr. Bernd Spanier, Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh, Dr. Sadeka Halim, Vice-Chancellor of Jagannath University, and M. Rafiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of IUT, among others. The Saudi Arabian Ambassador highlighted significant investments by Saudi Arabia in Bangladesh and emphasized the importance of collaboration between organizations like HerNet Foundation and Saudi Arabia to leverage the youth demographic.

The European Union's Deputy Ambassador, Dr. Bernd Spanier, praised Bangladesh's transition from aid to trade and emphasized the need for skill development and education reform. Participants, expressing unique perspectives on envisioning Bangladesh, engaged in insightful discussions on societal challenges and proposed solution-oriented approaches.

The event concluded with closing remarks from influencers, followed by the distribution of gifts and certificates of appreciation. Professor Atiqul Islam expressed satisfaction with the university's role in producing employed graduates but identified a gap in youth engagement with stakeholders. Collaboration with HerNet was proposed to address this issue, reinforcing the commitment to empowering youth and driving social change.

MoU Signing Ceremony with Marketing Institute of Singapore Business School, Singapore

*O*n December 26, 2023, North South University (NSU) and the Marketing Institute of Singapore (MIS), Singapore, formalized a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The Honorable Vice-Chancellor of NSU, Professor Atiqul Islam, and Dr. Roger Low, Chairman of the Academic Board at MIS, officiated the signing ceremony.



The primary objective of this MoU is to strengthen the relationship between the two institutions, fostering opportunities for academic training, cultural exchanges, research collaboration, and other cooperative activities. Both parties are eagerly anticipating the implementation of initiatives outlined in the MoU, aimed at benefiting students from both institutions, and are optimistic about the promising prospects of this collaboration.

Seminar on "AI in Action: Transforming the Marketing Landscape with Generative Intelligence"

*T*he Office of External Affairs at North South University orchestrated a significant seminar on December 27, 2023, delving into the convergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and marketing. A delegation from the Marketing Institute of Singapore, including their Chairman, Dr. Roger Low Kit Fai, attended the event. Vice-Chancellor Professor Atiqul Islam of NSU also graced the seminar. The event, titled "AI in Action: Transforming the Marketing Landscape with Generative Intelligence," unfolded on the NSU campus, featuring Dr. Low Chin Yong, the distinguished General Manager and Academic Director at the Marketing Institute of Singapore Business School, as the keynote speaker. Dr. Yong, renowned for his expertise, shared profound insights into the impactful role of Generative Intelligence in reshaping contemporary marketing strategies.



During the seminar, Dr. Yong emphasized the importance of preparing students at a primary level, drawing parallels with the educational practices in China and Singapore. He highlighted the success of Singapore in delivering relevant education, contributing to its consistently high ranking. The Marketing Institute of Singapore Business School, a non-profit organization, offers a range of diplomas and graduate-level programs. Dr. Yong also highlighted a fast-track program for postgraduate studies after completing a bachelor's degree, reducing the time required to attain a master's degree.

The seminar concluded with an interactive session, allowing students to engage with Dr. Yong and explore various facets and influences of AI in marketing. Professor Islam commended the timely selection of the topic, emphasizing that AI in marketing represents not merely technological evolution but a strategic amalgamation of data-driven insights and human creativity. The seminar concluded on a positive note, fostering an enriched understanding of the transformative potential of AI in the marketing landscape.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/2522984981215636>



NSU Alumni Talk Show 136



In the one hundred and thirty-sixth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show, broadcasted on December 27, 2023, the spotlight was on Mr. Faruq Dahir Salad, currently serving as the Head of Planning and Policy Development at Puntland Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. Mr. Salad earned his Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from NSU in the class of 2015.

During the episode, Mr. Salad addressed pressing environmental and climate change issues confronting Puntland, Somalia. The region contends with severe droughts and erratic floods intensified by climate change, posing threats to water security and agricultural sustenance. Deforestation, driven by charcoal production, contributes to desertification, eroding valuable grazing lands and displacing pastoral communities. Coastal communities face risks from rising sea levels and storm surges, impacting fisheries and

infrastructure and compounding food insecurity and displacement challenges.

Reflecting on his academic journey at NSU, Mr. Salad appreciated the environmental science courses and associated field trips that enriched his learning experience. He highlighted NSU's warm and welcoming environment, recounting his initial struggles in Bangladesh, primarily attributed to language barriers and cultural differences. Despite these challenges, Mr. Salad cherished his time at NSU and acknowledged the university's rigorous curriculum and structure as instrumental in shaping his career successfully.

Mr. Faruq Dahir Salad's trajectory from NSU to his impactful role in environmental policy and planning in Puntland attests to the university's commitment to academic excellence and preparing students for meaningful contributions to their respective fields.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/687014993578160>

Delegate Visit from Aberystwyth University, UK

*O*n December 28, 2023, North South University (NSU) welcomed Dr. Faisal I. Rezwan, a distinguished delegate and Senior



Lecturer in Bioinformatics at Aberystwyth University. The esteemed guest engaged in a productive meeting with NSU's Office of External Affairs (OEA) representatives, including Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, and Ms. Sadia Ayesha Jeesan, International Ambassador.



During the meeting, Dr. Rezwan expressed his interest in fostering collaborative research and joint publications, particularly in the field of Artificial Intelligence using Biomedical data, with faculties and students at NSU. Discussions also revolved around the tuition fees and available scholarships for Ph.D. programs, specifically within the Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) department.

Furthermore, Dr. Rezwan highlighted the regular organization of hackathons and workshops at Aberystwyth University and encouraged NSU students and faculties to consider participating. The conversation delved into comprehensive details about the diverse courses and programs offered for both Bachelor's and Master's degrees at Aberystwyth University.

The visit and discussions aimed to foster academic collaboration and knowledge exchange between NSU and Aberystwyth University, enhance research opportunities, and promote educational pursuits among students and faculty from both institutions.

Alumni Feature



My name is Upendra Raj Dhakal, hailing from Nepal. I am proud to be a 2020 graduate of North South University (NSU), majoring in Biostatistics and Health Service Management. Prior to enrolling at NSU, I conducted extensive research to find a university that not only offered quality education but was also affordable. My journey took me across various states in India, where I received numerous recommendations for NSU from students and faculty alike. I was particularly impressed by the credentials of the faculty at the School of Health and Life Sciences, many of whom are alumni of globally recognized universities.

As an international student, I found the class schedules at NSU to be very accommodating. The evening classes were particularly beneficial for local students and working professionals who wished to pursue their education alongside their jobs. The weekend classes also provided a great platform for those with busy schedules. NSU offers a wide range of subjects for specialization, presenting students with ample opportunities to explore their interests. The systematic approach to subject enrollment ensures that no student misses a class.

I completed my Bachelor of Public Health (BPH) in Nepal and pursued several degrees in Nepal and India. I have been working in the field of Public Health for a considerable period. When I decided to pursue a Master of Public Health (MPH), NSU emerged as the ideal choice. The MPH degree at NSU has significantly broadened my knowledge in Public Health. I obtained my Masters of Public Health License from NHPC and have since worked in COVID prevention at SSBH under ABT Associates Inc. Currently, I am employed as a Quality Assurance Officer at Jhpiego

As an alumnus of NSU, I wholeheartedly recommend the university for pursuing an MPH degree. The option to take a double specialization, which extends the credit hours and duration of the studies, is a unique feature that sets NSU apart.



Enjoying in cox beach

Interviewer: What were your reasons to choose Bangladesh to pursue your higher studies?

Upendra: I consider myself a dedicated student of public health, and I was in search of an opportunity to earn a degree abroad. Bangladesh, with its environment similar to Nepal and more affordable living costs, appealed to me. What drew me in further was the warmth, respect, and care shown towards Nepalese students within the university. The proximity of the university to my residence was an added advantage, as it was close enough for me to commute by bus.

Interviewer: Why did you think North South University was the right choice for you?

Upendra: Before enrolling, I meticulously reviewed the curricula and fee structures of various universities. My top priority was to find a university with an up-to-date curriculum and globally recognized faculty members and found NSU as the best university. Whenever I encountered difficulties with the course content, I had the freedom to visit the faculty chambers for discussions. The student-friendly environment and the supportive faculty at NSU ensured that I never regretted my decision to join. As an alumnus of NSU, I carry a sense of pride in being part of such a prestigious institution. Very supportive Office of External Affairs and Graduate Admission Section eased my procedure and every difficulty, and I am really impressed with them. Even after completing my degree, the Office of External Affairs is supporting me in getting my documents verified from ministries and embassies.



Enjoying with friends

Interviewer: What was your initial impression when you first arrived in Bangladesh? What were your general thoughts throughout your time of stay in this country?

Upendra: Upon my arrival in the country, I was warmly greeted by my colleagues. They had thoughtfully prepared my apartment, allowing me to settle in immediately. My friends took the time to familiarize me with the local lifestyle, language, societal norms, and other general activities, which were in line with my expectations. I spent approximately two years in Dhaka, during which I forged numerous friendships. My time in Dhaka was truly golden. The affection and camaraderie I experienced from my friends always brings a smile to my face when I reminisce about my stay. Even three years after completing my studies, memories of Dhaka and life at NSU cross my mind daily. I have formed a close-knit family with many brothers and sisters from Bangladesh who continue to stay in touch. Some of them are currently pursuing further studies, including Master's and PhD programs in the US. I find myself constantly missing NSU and the wonderful times I had there.



Petha Market

Interviewer: What were the challenges that you faced during your time here? In terms of culture, how similar do you think Bangladesh and Nepal are?

Upendra: Culturally, I found myself perfectly at ease in Bangladesh. I encountered no issues during my stay there. However, I did face a few challenges, one of which was the language barrier. Despite my efforts, I was only able to pick up a few words, while my friends were fluent speakers. Another issue was the heavy road traffic. The cultural environment in Bangladesh is quite similar to that in Nepal. The climatic conditions and lifestyle in Dhaka are akin to those in the Terai region of Nepal. Having spent a considerable amount of time with the Muslim community in Nepal, I faced no difficulties or objections in Bangladesh. As a secular individual, I was comfortable and enjoyed immersing myself in any culture or religion.

Interviewer: What are your suggestions for international students who are pursuing and are interested in pursuing higher studies in Bangladesh?

Upendra: As an international student, I wholeheartedly endorse North South University as an excellent choice for further studies. Having connections with alumni and support from current students can make the transition smoother. I would particularly encourage students from Nepal to consider NSU. The process of obtaining a license is straightforward, especially if one opts for a double major, keeping in mind the time requirements set by the Nepal Health Professional Council (NHPC). As someone who has successfully navigated this process, I can attest to its feasibility.



Roaming around Dhaka with friends

International Student Feature

My name is *Nadarajah Pasdevan*, and I am delighted to have the opportunity to introduce myself to you. I was born and raised in Hatton, Sri Lanka, a place that holds a special corner in my heart for its cultural heritage and warm community. Growing up, I was surrounded by a loving family that instilled in me the values of honesty, perseverance, and kindness.

I developed a keen interest in Tamil literature and sports from an early age, which has become a significant part of my life. Whether it's first place in the movie review competition (Tamil) at Culture Centre University of Colombo in 2021, Second Place in a short-story writing competition at the Faculty of Arts, in 2019, Taekwondo inter-faculty champion at the University of Colombo, 2019. I find immense joy and fulfillment in pursuing my passion.

In terms of education, I completed my degree in Sociology at the University of Colombo. During my academic journey, I gained valuable knowledge in my field and cultivated essential skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication. I lead several clubs and communities, those are Vice-President of the Hindu Society at the University of Colombo, President of Eco-Volunteer at the Department of Sociology, Assistant Secretary of Diversity Community at the Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo, and Member of the Student Union at the Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo. Now I am pursuing a Master's degree in Public Policy and Governance at the NSU. My research publications are based on poverty, social impact, pandemics, livelihood, caste, and mythology in Hinduism.

On the professional front, I have had the privilege of working in the National Peace Council of Sri Lanka (NGO) as a project officer for the past year. I am responsible for ensuring the effective implementation of the project's activities and tasks assigned to attain the goals and objectives of the Plural Action for Conflict Transformation (PACT) project. Travels to the responsible districts (Jaffna, Vavuniya, Puttalam, and Batticaloa) overseeing project work-plan performance, participating in project planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring, reporting, and program development on the project site.

Finally, I would like to say that I am someone who values integrity, embraces lifelong learning, and seeks to make a meaningful difference in the world. I am eager to connect, collaborate, and learn from the diverse experiences and perspectives that others bring to the table.

Interviewer: How did your upbringing in Hatton, Sri Lanka influence your values and perspectives?

Nadarajah: Hatton serves as a gateway to Adam's Peak (Sri Pada) and Sinharaja Forest reserve but is a better-known place for its brand of Ceylon tea. My parents and most of my relatives are tea pluckers. However, I enjoyed my childhood with my family and friends. My family is Indian Tamil in Sri Lanka. My country's welfare system allowed me to have free education until my degree. In my childhood, I realized that my community had a problem and the war impact as Tamil Speaks Sri Lankan. However, Sri Lanka has significantly shaped my perspectives and outlook on my life. Sri Lanka is a multicultural society. There are many ethnic and religious people living in the country. However, some political issues violated social harmony after the independence period. I got opportunities to learn the other communities' traditions, beliefs, and values. I understood humanities values are essential for life, not religious or ethnic values. This thought made me an atheist in Ambedkar and Periyar's way. Thus, celebrating diversity, humanity and self-respect is essential for the world's social harmony.

Interviewer: As the former Vice-President of the Hindu Society and President of Eco-Volunteer, how did you balance your academic pursuits with your leadership roles in these organizations?

Nadarajah: Balancing academics and extracurricular activities is often challenging for students. In this case, I had good mentors and friends in each situation to win. I also follow some principles to balance my academic and club activities.

1. Prioritized and Set Goals: Identified to give priorities and set clear goals for academics and organization activities. I determined the most essential tasks and allocated the time.
2. Created a Schedule: Developed a detailed schedule with dedicated time slots for club and academic activities. Be realistic about the time required for each task and ensure sufficient time for studying and completing assignments.
3. Delegated and Collaborated: I delegated tasks to other club members and collaborated with my team. Effective delegation can help distribute the workload and ensure that responsibilities are shared.
4. Good communication: I maintained good communication with club and academic friends and mentors. The decisions were not taken based in an autocratic way. The communication helped me to manage several conflicts and confusion in academic and club activities.
5. Self-motivation: I motivated myself. I listened to songs, traveled to new places, met new people, and ate new dishes. These activities refreshed me and gave me a clear mindset to achieve my tasks.



Interviewer: Your research focuses on poverty, social impact, pandemics, livelihood, caste, and mythology in Hinduism. How do these themes intersect, and what inspired your research choices?

Nadarajah: Since childhood, I have been interested in solving social problems. I observed several issues not/ less focused on an academic platform. For this curiosity, I choose Sociology to focus the problem on scientific methods. My research topics are based on South Asian contemporary social problems. My inspired persons' thoughts motivated me to take those research areas.

Interviewer: What motivated your decision to pursue a Master's degree in Public Policy and Governance at NSU?

Nadarajah: In every country, public policy plays a crucial role in forming the guidelines and principles of a society, so they're a necessary part of governing and politics. Since public policy is formed as a collective effort between governments, institutions, and even regular citizens, it's an essential and effective way to have people's voices heard. There are better public policies and countries' systems are better functioning at the economic and social levels. However, weak policy policies countries' systems are not functioning well in all sectors. Especially at economic, Human Rights, and social levels.

In Sri Lanka, we are facing a lot of issues, because of weak public policies. My community of Upcountry Tamil migrated from India over 200 years ago. Still, we are facing land rights issues, economic issues, social issues, and infrastructure issues. These issues come from the weak public policy and governance in the country. As a young generation, we can change the country and community through system change. But I know it is not an easy way. Through a clear understanding and knowledge, education and service will make a change.

Hopefully, with this degree, I will learn to gain a better understanding of the different types of policies that govern us and how to implement them in society. Those are motivational factors to pursue a master's degree in Public policy and government.

Interviewer: What advice would you give to students aspiring to balance academic excellence, leadership, and community engagement?

Nadarajah: We all know that undertaking academic and extracurricular activities such as Leadership is a great way to develop communication skills, teamwork, community engagement skills, conflict management skills and time management skills. Therefore, a good balance between academics and community responsibilities could see you develop into a well-rounded successful student. However, students need to follow some principles in their lives:

1. Choose your role model or inspired person wisely: There are many benefits to having a role model, including gaining a positive perspective, developing a sense of purpose, and improving your social skills. However, the most essential thing is not to follow your role model's ways, follow your way and make your style.
2. Be honest with yourself – review and reflect: It's okay to have a go at something and realize it's not working and therefore try and find a solution. For instance, if you find that you were too ambitious and unrealistic regarding the amount of time you have, give honest feedback regarding your academics and extracurricular activities. Honest with your family, friends and society.
3. Ask for help: Contrary to popular belief, asking for help is not an admission of weakness. It takes maturity to admit to yourself that you've tried doing it alone and you need fellow students, friends, and family to help you.
4. Have the right attitude: Most importantly, it is essential to believe that you can manage your time and be optimistic. Try to think in different and critical ways. To develop your critical knowledge read the books and ask questions every time. This attitude gives you uniqueness.
5. Prioritize your health; it is important to remember to eat well, exercise regularly, and be sure to get a good night's sleep. And make yourself happy.

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


Nadarajah: In my personal experience as an international student, I faced difficulties with language barrier, food patterns and concrete, urban building culture. However, my Bangladeshi university friends are helping me overcome those obstacles. I am preparing myself to adapt to this new environment.


Interviewer: Finally, what legacy or impact do you hope to leave through your academic and professional journey?

Nadarajah: Making a difference in my community in an educational way. Address hidden social problems. Teach rational thinking and social justice views at my level. Celebrate humanity, not myth spirituality.



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