

Press Release



The faculty members of the Dept of Environmental Science and Management (DESM) of North South University (NSU) met on March 2nd 2014 the Governor of Bangladesh Bank, Dr Atiur Rahman, for briefing him about the status of environmental education in Bangladesh, and seeking his support for promoting the cause of environmental education in the country. They informed the present status of limited enrolments at university level education in environmental science and management departments. As a result, the yearly turnover of environmental graduates is very low compared to the number of graduates required for environmental protection and management in the country. Unfortunately, this need is not well reflected in marketplace since the task of, environmental protection and management still remains more a public sector agencies tasks. Job creation in the public sector is limited because of the dominance of private sector in today's market economy. Thus, a vicious cycle prevails between available jobs in the public sector agencies and the low student enrolments in environmental science and management departments. The team, comprised of DESM Chair Dr Hassan Mahmud and his colleagues Prof ATM Nurul Amin, Prof Mizan R Khan, Dr Md Jakariya and Dr Biswas Karabi Farhana, outlined to the governor as to how the banking sector in general and he in particular could contribute in breaking this vicious cycle.

Welcoming the faculty members from NSU and listening to their experiences and suggestions, the governor informed that some activities of the country's banking sector are likely to have some positive impact soon in breaking the stated vicious cycle. He cited example of some bank's scholarship programmes to support education of students from disadvantaged background in the country. He assured that it should be possible for giving some priority to applicants for these

scholarships with interest in environmental science and management or to create an exclusive scholarship programme for promoting education in this line. The Governor also mentioned about green banking programmes in the country's banking sector which should increase job market opportunity for environmental graduates and thereby change the prevailing perception about job market for environmental graduates. The meeting ended with the Governor's assurance that he will try to increase support for environmental education as the leader of the country's central bank and also as an individual with commitment for Bangladesh's development path to be socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.
