



NASPAA Batten students' simulation competition at North South University

South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) at North South University, Dhaka has hosted the 2019 NASPAA-Batten Student Simulation Competition on 23rd February 2019. The Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) is a global accreditor in public service education, to which North South University has become the first member of this esteemed institution in entire South Asian region.



continued to page 2 >>>

Editor's Note

With the hosting of the NASPAA- Batten student's simulation competition on 'Global Migration' in February 2019, SIPG began its journey for the year in terms of international collaboration and network. The NASPAA- Batten Simulation was the first one of its kind hosted by a Private University in Bangladesh, and SIPG at NSU feels privileged to host such an event. It was concurrently conducted in 11 global sites and involved around 585 students taking part in the policy simulation exercise on a very pertinent global issue. Apart from the NASPAA- Batten Simulation competition, SIPG also organized a regional seminar focusing on Indian National Election 2019. The seminar on Indian election prior to the Indian elections generated much interest among observers, scholars and experts. Eminent scholars and practitioners from India and Bangladesh presented in the seminar which received adequate media attention. This period also saw another seminar being arranged in collaboration with the Department of Law of North South University on 'Role of Diplomats in Promoting Foreign Policy' with the Bhutanese Ambassador in Bangladesh as the keynote speaker.

In terms participation in International as well as national conferences, networking meetings and

events, there had been few SIPG faculty participation and representation as well. In terms of research collaboration, SIPG further strengthened its research capacity by undertaking a nation-wide research on 'Climate Change' partnering with American University in Washington D.C. which is being funded by the World Bank, Washington. On the academic front, SIPG welcomed the 9th Batch of MPPG students comprising four Nepalese, one Sri Lankan and seven Bangladeshi students from public service and academia. During this time, 24 students from 6th Batch of MPPG who graduated from North South University participated in the 22nd Convocation of North South University. Mr. Kademul Basher of 6th Batch was awarded Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal for his outstanding academic performance in the MPPG. As part of the field exposure on Development Management, the participants of the 8th Batch of MPPG visited RDRS, Rangpur to get practical experience on NGO-led development practices. Two eminent scholars and renowned persons namely Dr. Akbar Ali Khan, former Adviser, Care Taker Government, and Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director, TiB, were invited to deliver lectures arranged for the regular MPPG sessions under Development Management.

NASPAA Batten students' simulation competition at North South University

>>> *Continued from page 1*

The simulation competition is a partnership initiative between the University of Virginia's Frank Batten School of Leadership, and the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration (NASPAA).

A group of 40 graduate students from eight universities of Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal took part in the simulation competition. The theme was "Global Migration". Professor Atiqul Islam, the Vice Chancellor of North South University opened the simulation competition.

At the end of the competition, a certificate awarding ceremony was held, was graced by the presence of Pro-vice Chancellor of NSU Prof. Dr. Gias U. Ahsan. University of Dhaka won the crown of site champion in Dhaka. Another team comprised of students from MPPG of North South University, Dhaka, Bangladesh and National School of Law of India University, Bengaluru, India became the Site Runners-up.



SIPG Research & Training

Nationwide Research on “Climate Change” in collaboration with American University in Washington D.C

South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) launched a nationwide survey under a research project on Climate Change partnered with American University in Washington DC, and funded by the World Bank, Washington. The project aims to assess the linkage between climate finance and extreme weather events, with consequent impacts on adaptation and mitigation with regard to climate change, and impacts on peoples' lives and livelihoods. The survey had undergone series of meetings, consultations and field testing prior to its

launching in June 2019. This is the first-ever national survey focusing on the governance on climate financing and consequent political and social implications for coping with extreme climatic events such as floods, cyclone and drought.

A total number of 43 trained enumerators have been deployed for the countrywide survey covering 19 selected districts in Bangladesh. The survey is expected to be completed by September 25, 2019.

Seminar on Indian National Election 2019

Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) of NSU organized a seminar on “Indian National Election 2019: How the Caste, Class, Religion, and Demography affect the Voting Behavior” on 1st March, 2019.

Eminent scholars namely Professor Sanjay Kumar, Director, Center for the Studies of Developing Societies (CSDS)

of Delhi, presented the Key Note paper. The seminar was attended by Dr. ATM Shamusul Huda, Former Chief Election Commissioner, Bangladesh, Mr. Jawhar Sircar, former Chief Electoral Officer of West Bengal, India, and Brig. Gen. (Retd) Dr. M Sakhawat Hussain, Former Election Commissioner, Election Commission of Bangladesh as the chief guest and special guests respectively



Professor Sanjay Kumar mentioned how Congress and BJP both have to rely on the religion and caste-based small alliances and groups for forming the government. Jawhar Sircar, former Chief Electoral Officer of West Bengal of India focused on the role of constitutional institutions of India in conducting a free and fair election in a vast country like India.

M Sakhawat Hussain, the former Election Commissioner of Bangladesh, observed that election conducting authorities in developing countries are exposed to a problem where there is a tradition that defeated parties rejects poll results. This tradition of denial of election results despite free and fair election often pose to be a huge problem for smooth transition of political

power. In his speech, the Chief Guest of the seminar, Dr. ATM Shamusul Huda reiterated the role of the election commission in strengthening democracy particularly in a developing country like Bangladesh where lack of trust is deeply ingrained in the major political parties. He highlighted the democratic practice particularly the role of the election commission in upholding democratic ideals and particularly in maintaining an election system which enjoys wide credibility and citizen's trust.

Prof. Sk Tawflque M Haque, Director of SIPG, delivered the welcome address. Vice-chancellor of NSU Professor Atiqul Islam chaired the session. The seminar was moderated by Prof. Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman, Adviser of South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance.

Seminar on “Role of Diplomats in Promoting Foreign Policy: Relations between Bhutan and Bangladesh”



Department of Law at North South University along with South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) of NSU; jointly organized the seminar. The theme of the seminar was to highlight the significant role of diplomats in promoting the foreign policy of a country he or she represents to the outside world. The paper was presented by the distinguished speaker His Excellency Mr. Sonam T Rabgye, Ambassador, Royal Bhutanese Embassy, Dhaka. Professor Atiqul Islam was the special invitee in this session. The seminar was attended by faculty members and students of North South University.

SIPG Lecture Series

Lecture by eminent scholar Dr. Akbar Ali Khan on Technology and Governance

Dr. Akbar Ali Khan, adviser to the care taker government, and former cabinet secretary, Government of Bangladesh delivered an insightful lecture on 'Technology and Governance' to the audience of North South University. He stressed that technology is very important for development, and government should emphasize and popularize its use since it not only creates opportunities for the organization but also brings in new challenges for the employees and citizens as well.

Professor Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman, Adviser of SIPG moderated the program. The program was held at SIPG Conference Room.



Lecture by Dr. Iftekharuzzaman on Governance and Corruption in Bangladesh: Challenges and Opportunities



Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director, Transparency International Bangladesh presented a lecture session on 'Governance and Corruption in Bangladesh: Challenges and Opportunities' to the students of MPPG at SIPG. He highlighted the remarkable progress of Bangladesh, along with

its challenges in pursuing and promoting good governance. In his talk, he highlighted the relationships between Corruption Perceptions Index, the financial outflow of illicit money, and key challenges against inclusive development

Field visit of MPPG 8th batch students at Rangpur

A field visit was organized to gather experience on Development Management and the role of NGOs at RDRS, Rangpur. The MPPG students of 8th Batch attended the program from March 3-6, 2019. RDRS is widely known worldwide for its institutional role in rural development since the 80's. The objective was to orient the MPPG students with the role of NGO in mobilization and empowerment of rural poor. The MPPG students gathered practical knowledge on the workings of NGOs in the field level. The students were accompanied by the faculty and staff. During the field trip, they also visited the offices of Deputy Commissioner of Kurigram and Rangpur districts to discuss the kind of innovative programs undertaken at the field level.



Visits & Events

VISITS

Professor Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman attended Policy Dialogue arranged by the Center for Policy and Dialogue

Professor Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman, Adviser, South Institute of Policy and Governance, North South University, attended a Policy Dialogue organized by the Center for Policy Dialogue on SDG. The dialogue was organized to explore the status, prospects and challenges in delivering SDGs through urban local government.

Professor Aminuzzaman presented keynote paper on Local Government Reform: Reflections on Agenda for Reform

The Adviser of South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance, Professor Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman presented the keynote paper on **Local Government Reform: Reflections on Agenda for Reform** organized by Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA). The dialogue was organized to share the reflections on reform of local government of Bangladesh. Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman, Executive Chairman, PPRC and former Adviser, Caretaker Government of Bangladesh presided the seminar.



Director SIPG attended 7th China South and SouthEast Asia Think Tank Forum

Professor Sk. Tawfique M. Haque attended 7th China South and South East Asia Think Tank summit held in June 9, 2019. Professor Tawfique presented a paper on Sustainable Maritime Resource Management in Bangladesh Exploring the Areas of Cooperation between China and Bangladesh. He pointed out that, Bangladesh lacks public policy along with knowledge, expertise, technology, and monetary capacities for the best of utilization of maritime resources. He reiterated the role of foreign policy between Bangladesh and China for further Cooperation and effective utilization of its resources in the oceanic and coastal regions.



Director SIPG attended Conference at O.P. Jindal Global University, India

A conference on 'Governance in an Era of Inequality: Training the Next Generation of Policy Practitioners of South Asia' was organized by Jindal School of Government and Public Policy at O.P. Jindal Global University, India. Professor Tawfique spoke in a plenary session titled: Public Policy and Public Administration Education in South Asia/ India: Challenges and Opportunities. The conference took place from 25th to 26th February, 2019 at Delhi, India.

South and Southeast Asian University Network (S&SE AUN) Forum on Internationalization of Higher Education

Professor Sk. Tawfique M. Haque attended a forum arranged by South and Southeast Asian University Network (S&SE AUN) on "Internationalization of Higher Education" in Kunming, China from 10-13 June, 2019. The purpose of the forum was to collect constructive ideas and promote international cooperation.

MPPG student attended Summer Camp at National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA), Thailand

The National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA), Bangkok, Thailand organized 8th NIDA Summer Camp from 30th June to 8th July, 2019. The theme of the summer camp was 'Creative and Innovative Economy'. Mr. Suman Acharjee, a MPPG student of 8th Batch, participated in the summer camp. The summer camp was widely participated by students from Spain,



Russia, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Myanmar, Bhutan, Bangladesh joined at the camp. SIPG has been sending its students to NIDA summer schools regularly.

Visits & Events

Director SIPG attended Book Workshop at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India

Professor Tawfique M Haque participated in a Book workshop at Mumbai, India. The Tata Institute of Social Sciences organized the workshop from 10th to 12th January 2019, focusing the forthcoming edited book titled: **Perceived and Objective Inequalities and Conflict: Global Insights from Dispersed Cases**. Professor Tawfique participated in this workshop as a contributor of chapter titled: **Identity Politics and Its Implications on ethnic Minorities in Bangladesh**.



Professor Tawfique Participated in workshop at Jain University, India

Professor Tawfique, Director SIPG Participated in workshop on Asian Barometer at Jain University, Bengaluru, India from 17th to 20th January, 2019. Professor Tawfique presented the Bangladesh Case at the workshop on Global Barometer Survey.

EVENTS

Orientation Ceremony of MPPG 9th Batch

The orientation program of the MPPG 9th Batch was held on Saturday, April 13, 2019, at 10.00 am at SIPG Conference Room. Dr. Saadat Husain, former Chairman Public Service Commission of Bangladesh and Former Cabinet Secretary, Government of Bangladesh attended as the Chief Guest of the program. H.E. Ms. Sidsel Bleken, Ambassador, the Royal Norwegian Embassy was present as the guest of honor. Professor Atiqul Isalm, Vice Chancellor of NSU chaired the session. Professor Gias U. Ahsan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Designate) of NSU and Dean, School of Health and Life Sciences; Prof. Dr.

Abdur Rob Khan, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences; Prof. Dr. Jashim Uddin Ahmed, Dean (Acting) Dean, School of Business and Economics also attended the session. The 9th batch of students belong to diverse background in terms of professional cadres. The batch has representations from administration, economic, taxation, information cadres and Judicial service of Bangladesh. Besides, three foreign students from Nepal Administrative Staff College of Nepal, and Tribhuvan University, Nepal, and one student from University of Peradeniya of Sri Lanka are included in the 9th batch.



Exhibiting SIPG Research and Publication at NSU

A day long publication exhibition held at North South University on 6 April, 2019. The aim of the exhibition was to showcase the research and publications of NSU in front of the visiting International Advisory Board members. All four schools of North South

University along with South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance participated in the exhibition. The exhibition was well attended and acclaimed by the International Advisory Board and academics.



MPPG Alumni



Mr. Kademul Basher was awarded the Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal

Mr. Kademul Basher, a student of MPPG 6th batch was awarded the Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal for his outstanding performance. A total of 24 students of MPPG 6th batch were given the Master Degree Certificates in the 22nd convocation of North South University. Hon'ble Education Minister, Government of Bangladesh, Dr. Dipu Moni, MP was present as the chief guest of the ceremony and handed over certificates to the graduating students. Nobel Laureate Sir Richard J. Roberts addressed the occasion as Convocation Speaker.



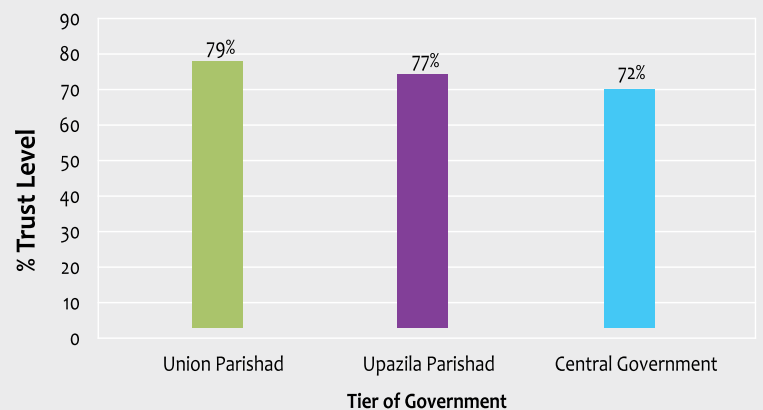
Institute's Near Outlook

On SIPG's near outlook, the launching of the climate change survey, holding a national seminar on Rohingya crisis, transfer of MPPG 9th batch students to Norway for a semester under the student exchange program, and undertaking individual research projects are some important tasks which would warrant more efforts and quality time on the part of the faculty members.

On publication, the printing of the book on 'Gender Mainstreaming in Politics, Administration, and Development in South Asia' by Palgrave, McMillan by the end of this year, and another research publication based on selected MPPG theses by students at the end of December 2019, is expected to add up to the list of SIPG publications.

Apart from research and publications, a one-day regional seminar on 'GMO Policy and Practices in South Asia' will be held on October 27, 2019 which would be another milestone and engagement of SIPG in policy discourse. The seminar would also plan for a policy colloquium to develop a policy brief on GMO policy, practices and challenges in the context of South Asia keeping in purview the policy makers and different stakeholders.

Higher the Administrative Tier Lower the Trust Level



Source: Citizen's Trust Survey, 2015

Executive Masters in Policy and Governance (EMPG)

PPG Program will launch an evening graduate program titled as "Executive Masters in Policy and Governance (EMPG)" from Spring 2020 Semester. Admission circulars are expected to be published in different daily newspapers and SIPG website soon.

The targeted audience of the program would be fresh graduates, new entrants and mid-level working professionals from bureaucracy, private sector executives, embassy officials, and officials from NGOs.

For further information interested persons may contact with SIPG Office.

Major Features of EMPG

- Classes on Friday and Saturday
- One-year master • 3 semesters • 36 credits

Specialization on:

- Policy Analysis
- Human Resource Development
- Program Management.

Contact Us

SIPG Office, North South University

Room No: NAC 1074/1066, Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh

Phone : +880-2-55668200, Ext. 2164/2165

Email : sipg@northsouth.edu

Website : www.sipg.northsouth.edu



Published By:

South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance
North South University

Layout and Design: innovatorsWorld, Farhana.Ferdous@gmail.com