



SIPG

South Asian Institute
of Policy and Governance

NEWS

Bi-annual Newsletter



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PPG celebrates decade of partnership 2008-2018

With its inception in May 07'2008, Public Policy and Governance (PPG) successfully completes its decade of partnership in 'North-South Knowledge Collaboration' in higher education this year. The decade of partnership was the outcome of active collaboration of its partners namely the University of Bergen, Norway; University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka; Tribhuvan University, Nepal, and Royal University of Bhutan. Commemorating this decade of partnership, a day- long program was organized followed by a seminar and a book launching function. Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman, Chairman, Power and Participation Research Center (PPRC) graced the occasion as the chief guest unveiling the edited book on **"Governance and Development Management: South Asian Perspective"**. The book features eight chapters along with an introductory chapter on the selected issues on policy and governance based on empirical evidences from South Asian countries.



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Editor's Note

This issue of the newsletter captures some great events of PPG as it marks a significant milestone in completion of a decade long partnership with institutions namely University of Bergen, Norway, Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu, Nepal, and University of Peradenya, Sri Lanka. In reminiscence, the journey of PPG began with a modest step in 2008, and with the active collaboration of the partner institutions and Norwegian Development Cooperation, PPG has grown in its own right producing more than 150 graduates, publishing almost half-a- dozen of books and journal articles, and holding two international conferences. The consequence of this institutional collaboration not only addressed the much felt need of human capital development in Bangladesh and institutional capacity building, but have also paved the way for PPG to emerge as an independent institution of policy and governance in South Asian region. SIPG has therefore, entered into a new phase in higher education emphasizing research and publications.

Some highlights of this newspaper include: Book Launching and Celebration of a Decade of Partnership, a Visit to University of Bergen, Norway by the special delegates of North South University, Graduation Day for 5th Batch, and Orientation Program for the 8th batch of MPPG students, participation in NASPAA Simulation Workshop in Egypt by PPG research assistant and a MPPG student.

Besides, with the attendance of international conferences and workshops by PPG faculty members in Thailand, Norway, UK, and Australia, and organizing study tours for the MPPG students, delivering public lectures by foreign faculty members and distinguished local scholars, this issue of newsletter becomes very special. We hope this newsletter will provide information about PPG to the readers by and large.

PPG celebrates decade of partnership 2008-2018

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Professor Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman, Adviser of the program made a brief synoptic overview of the chapters to the audience. Mr. Md. Ziaul Islam, Secretary, Planning Division, Ministry of Planning, Government of Bangladesh, Mr. Trulus Julian, Charge d affaires, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Dhaka and Mr. Mohammed Shajahan, Chairman, Board of Trustees (BoT) were present as Guest of Honor. Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-chancellor of NSU presided over the session.



SIPG Research

Ph.D Supervision and Defense

Adviser of the PPG, Prof Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman supervised the Ph.D dissertations of former Chief of Army Staff, Bangladesh Army, General Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiul Huq, ndc, psc (Rtd.) on “Regional Connectivity through Road Network: Impact on Bangladesh Economy and Security” and former Election Commissioner, Bangladesh Brig Gen M Sakhawat Hossain (Rtd.), on “Electoral Governance: Role of the Electoral Management Body and Other Stakeholders in the Context of Bangladesh”. Both of them have successfully defended their PhDs from Bangladesh University of Professionals, Dhaka.

Joint Conference

Joint conference with NASC, Nepal

A two-day long joint conference titled “Public Policy and Governance: Towards Justice and Prosperity” was organized along with six other regional partners by Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC), Kathmandu, Nepal on 28-29 June 2018. The conference was organized in four thematic areas namely,

- Social Justice and Inclusion
- Federalism, Intergovernmental Relations, and
- Public Sector Management
- Addressing Poverty: Innovative Approaches

Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice Chancellor, North South University, Dhaka presided over the concluding session of the conference. A dinner by the NSU alumni of Nepal was organized on the following day. The dinner was participated by a satisfactory number of NSU graduates who exchanged views with the Vice Chancellor and Director of PPG. The Vice Chancellor encouraged the alumni to engage themselves in research and assured that they may even be funded for doing research and scholarly publications.

Knowledge collaboration

Wari- Bateshwar- the archaeological site dating back from Maurya dynasty (450 BC)

A day long study tour for the 7th batch of students was organized by PPG program to visit the archaeological site at Wari-Bateshwar situated at Narsingdi on February’ 2018. Prof. Dr. Sufi Mostafizur Rahman, Department of Archeology and Dr. Shakil Ahmed, Assistant Professor, Jahangirnagar University led the team of students at the excavation site. Wari-Bateshwar is known to have been a site of an ancient fort dating back to 450 BC during the era of Maurya dynasty. The 2500-year-old ruins being unearthed near the old course of the Brahmaputra River stand as a major archaeological discovery in South Asia. The students learnt about the socio-economic activities and their dwelling which is known to be “pit-dwelling” -- an important discovery of the excavation. Artifacts, beads and household items made of clay and ceramic provide evidence to the authenticity of the excavation.



MPPG Students visit BARD, Comilla, Bangladesh

An “Orientation Program on Development Management and Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)” was organized as part of the module on development management at Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla. The MPPG students of 7th Batch attended the program from March 3-6’ 2018. BARD had been known worldwide for its institutional role in rural development since 60’s. The objective was to orient the MPPG students with the concepts of rural development and provide training to undertake Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA). Participants were given training on application of different tools and techniques for conducting PRA such as Transect Walk, Village Survey and Village Mapping, Resource Mapping, and Problem Identification and Ranking in three different groups. The groups also conducted Focus Group Discussions on Cooperative Society & Marketing; Irrigation and Farming; and Health, Sanitation and Hygiene. The faculty members also accompanied the participants during the BARD visit.



NSU delegates visit University of Bergen (UiB), Norway



In response to the invitation from the Rector, University of Bergen (UiB), Norway, a delegation led by Mr. Benajir Ahmed, Member, and Board of Trustees visited Norway from May 15-19'2018. Professor G U Ahsan, Pro Vice Chancellor (D); and Professor Sk. Tawfique M Haque, Director, PPG Program accompanied the delegation. A series of meetings were held in the department as well other institutions including NORAD. Both the universities agreed to broaden the scope of partnership with different Schools and Departments of these two universities through the new call of applications of NORPART and NORHED funding.

A discussion meeting was held on the overall achievements of the project and further potential for collaboration through NORPART and NORHED projects. The delegation exchanged their views about the effective execution of student exchange program. Since 2017, NSU students have completed one semester at UiB, Norway. Under the student-exchange program, 2 Norwegian students are expected to attend one semester at North South University in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It is hoped that Norwegian students would be interested to attend one semester in coming days. A fruitful discussion was also held concerning the offer of few online courses. Professor Svein Michelsen, Head of the Department of Administration and Organization Theory, UiB, expressed his interest to visit NSU in Fall 2018 to conduct a workshop on Experimental Research.

In the sideline of the meetings at UiB, a meeting with SiU, NORAD was held at its office. The meeting was attended by the Head of SIU and two other directors. SiU expressed its satisfaction with regard to the overall fund management and project implementation of PPG in the last 10 years and endorsed their further commitment to extend fund for PPG Program till 2021. SiU also expressed its willingness to extend funding opportunities for other Schools of North South University in future.



Director, PPG meets Director of South Asian Studies, University of Oslo, Norway

Director, PPG on way to Bangladesh en route Oslo, met the Directors of South Asian Studies, University of Oslo to explore opportunities for academic and research collaboration. "Oslo-SDG Initiative", known to be the new centre for research has expressed its interest to enter into partnership with North South University. A joint seminar on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) has been proposed on 17th November, 2018. The Director of South Asian Studies also expressed his keen interest to work closely with the forthcoming South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) at NSU for collaborative research and student exchange program as well.



Public Lecture Series

Lecture on Rethinking Governance

Dr. Sharif As-Saber, faculty member of Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) Australia, delivered an insightful lecture on Governance to the audience of North South University. The discussant focused on the necessity to rethink the conventional knowledge of governance in the fast changing world due to the exposed shortcomings of prevailing ideas of governance to counter the risk of climate change, corruption, terrorism, lack of accountability etc. Vice Chancellor of North South University, Professor Atiqul Islam was present as Chair and Professor Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman, Adviser of PPG moderated the session.



Lecture on Belt and Road Initiative

Mr. Shamir Shehab, Yenching Scholar from Peking University delivered a thought provoking lecture titled "Belt and Road Initiative: A Game-changer? Social, economic and geopolitical implications for Bangladesh and the South Asian Region" on February 15'2018 to the students of MPPG. The lecture was very informative and insightful on a very important topic of contemporary, geo-political and economic significance.



Electoral Governance: Challenges and concerns in South Asia

Former Election Commissioner of Bangladesh, Brigadier General Mohammad Sakhawat Hussain, spoke on "Electoral Governance: Role of Electoral Management Body and Stakeholders in context of Bangladesh" on 8th May 2018 at a public lecture session at NSU. Electoral governance has become more significant as a contemporary issue in political and democratic discourses particularly for countries in South Asia.

Development Aid Effectiveness Issues in Public Policy Formulation and Implementation

Mr. Mohammed Mejbahuddin, former Senior Secretary, Government of Bangladesh delivered a speech on "Development Aid Effectiveness: Issues in Public Policy Formulation and Implementation" at NSU on 22nd May, 2018. The lecture highlighted policy formulation, implementation challenges, and stressed the need for aid utilization in Bangladesh. The lecture was attended by the students and NSU faculty members.

Corruption and Governance in Bangladesh: Is there a way out?

The Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh Mr. Iftekharuzzaman, Ph.D., spoke on "Corruption & Governance in Bangladesh" on 5th June 2018 to the students of MPPG. The lecture focused on concepts such as governance, corruption, causes of corruption, and its negative impact on the socio-economic development of Bangladesh. A brief comparison with the other south Asian countries like Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bhutan, and the Maldives were also made at the end.



Visits & Events

EVENTS

MPPG 8th Batch joins the program

The new 8th batch of MPPG began their academic journey through an orientation program on April 1st 2018. Mr. Md. Rakib Hossain, ndc, Additional Secretary (CPT), Ministry of Public Administration, Government of Bangladesh graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Professor GU Ahsan, Vice Chancellor (Designate) of North South University chaired the session. Faculty members of Public Policy and Governance (PPG) have attended the program. Later, a briefing was given to the students on the MPPG academic rules and Usage of IT Resources at NSU to familiarize and for adherence to the expected norms and practices.



VISITS

Key note speech by the Adviser of the program

Professor Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman adviser and faculty member of PPG presented a Key Note Paper in a national seminar on “Policies, Laws and Budget: Addressing the Question of Inequality against Women” organized by Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) at CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka on 3rd June 2018.

Director SIPG attended XXII IRSPM Annual Conference

Paper Presented by Professor Sk Tawfique M Haque in the 22nd Annual Conference of International Research Society for Public Management (IRSPM) at University of Edinburgh from 11th April to 13th April 2018. Professor Haque presented a paper on organizational culture in South Asia.



Youth Conference in Bergen, Norway

A two day long workshop on “Youth, Inequality and Regime Response in the Global South” was jointly organized by Chr. Michelson Institute (CMI) and the Department of Comparative Politics, UiB from May 31 to June 1st 2018 in Bergen, Norway. The workshop was attended by scholars from Asia and Africa. Dr. M. Mahfuzul Haque from SIPG attended the workshop. The workshop was aimed at developing research project for the development of youth in the global south.



NASPAA Simulation Workshop in Egypt

At the invitation from Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA), Ms. Naima Ema, a student of MPPG 7th batch and Mr. Sazzad Nayeem, Research Assistant, SIPG took part in the Simulation Competition held in Egypt at American University of Cairo from February 21-25th 2018. The simulation workshop was jointly organized by NASPAA and Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, University of Virginia, USA. The topic of the competition was “Pandemic Crisis Management and Global Health Security” played in the event of a pandemic outbreak of a deadly infectious disease played by the graduates.

Alumni Corner

Award of Degree to MPPG 5th Batch

With the celebration of 21st Convocation of North South University (NSU) on February 18th 2018, the 5th batch students of MPPG were awarded the Master Degree. Hon'ble Education Minister, Government of Bangladesh, Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP, presided over the convocation ceremony and handed over certificates to the graduating students. Nobel Laureate Professor Martin Chalfe addressed the occasion as Convocation Speaker. A total of 19 students of MPPG were given the Master Degree Certificates in this convocation.



Panel Discussion on “Government Job: A potential Sector for Career” organized by Office of the External Affairs of North South

A seminar was organized by the Office of External Affairs to encourage and familiarize students of North South University to join government jobs as a potential sector for career. The program was organized to educate the prospective students about the service conditions and opportunities in working in the government. As the students enter job market, they need to prepare themselves not only for private sector but for the government sector as well. The session was attended by PPG alumni Mr. Khademul Basher, Ms. Nahida Habib, as panelists and shared their experience with the students. Professor Sk Tawfique M Haque, Director of PPG Program conducted and facilitated the panel discussion.



Program Milestone

PPG's Transformation to SIPG

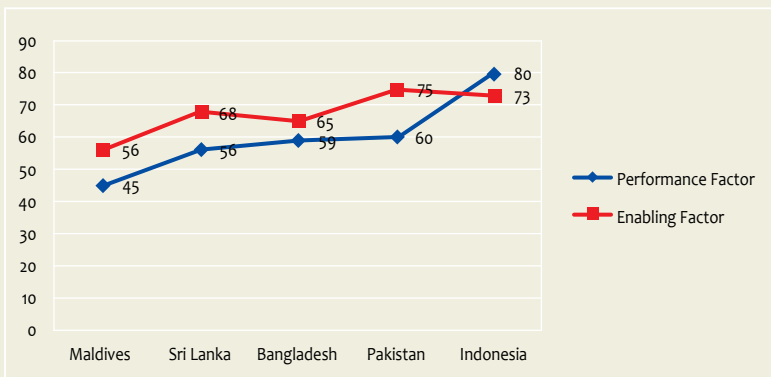
Since its inception in 2008, MPPG has transformed itself as Public Policy and Governance program and to a more recent transformation as an independent institute, named South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG).

The Master degree program in Public Policy and Governance had been a landmark in the history of North South University. The program has opened up the path for regional collaboration and space to work with the government of Bangladesh in terms of public sector human resource development. It has become an attractive Centre of higher learning for the young learners particularly the civil servants working in the Government of Bangladesh and students from South Asian Countries. Till 2017, the MPPG program has produced more than 150 graduates from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

With its emergence, as South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG), its scope has widened from academic degree program to a more focused area of research and policy discourse. Main objectives of this institute are i) to develop professional leaders in policy and governance through education training and research and ii) to generate and disseminate research and evidence based knowledge on policy and governance issues across national, cross national and regional levels. A formal launching of the institute is planned in October 2018.

Performance and Enabling Factors:

Implications on the Role Anti Corruption Agencies in Asia Pacific Region



Source : Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman, Berlin, 2017

Enabling factors : Laws, Rules, Resources, Autonomy, Professionalism, independence

Performance Factors : Prosecution, public confidence, accessibility, cooperation with related agencies, oversight

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 Fall 2018 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.

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