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NEWSLETTER

South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG)
Center for Peace Studies (CPS) &
Center for Migration Studies (CMS)



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NSU Commemorates 50th Anniversary of Bangabandhu Receiving Joliot-Curie Medal of Peace (23 May, 2023)

North South University (NSU) hosted a discussion to mark the 50th anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman receiving the prestigious 'Joliot-Curie Medal of Peace' on 23 May 2023. The event, organized by NSU's Centre for Peace Studies (CPS) under the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG), paid tribute to the iconic leader's commitment to promoting peace and harmony. Ajoy Dasgupta, a freedom fighter, eminent journalist, writer, and teacher of Dhaka University and Jagannath University, was present as the chief guest. The session was chaired by Professor Dr. Md. Ismail Hossain, Pro Vice-Chancellor of NSU.



SIPG Alumni Reunion 2023 (20 May, 2023)

An alumni reunion event for graduates of the Master's in Public Policy and Governance (MPPG) Executive Masters in Policy and Governance (EMPG) programs was held on 20 May, 2023, in the Syndicate Hall at North South University (NSU). The South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) of NSU organized it. The event's Special Guest was Dr. Dewan M. Humayun Kabir, Project Director, a2i. The Session Chair was Dr. M. Ismail Hossain, Pro Vice-Chancellor, NSU. Dr. Rizwan Khair, Associate Professor, SIPG, NSU was also in attendance and moderated the event.

SIPG-SANEM Dialogue on Bangladesh-India Relations (18 January 2023)

Jointly organized by the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG), North South University, and South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), the dialogue titled: "Bangladesh-India Relations: Outlook 2023 and Beyond; Building on Connectivity and Capacity Building for Prosperous BIMSTEC Region" was chaired by NSU Vice-Chancellor Professor Atiqul Islam. Ambassador Farooq Sobhan, Distinguished Fellow & Board Member of Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI); Former Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh Ambassador Shahidul Haque; Professorial Fellow, SIPG, Dr. Prabir De, Professor, New Delhi, Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, Asian Confluence, India East Asia Center, Shillong, Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed, Professor, Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka; Dr. Amena Mohsin, Professor,



Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka, among others, also spoke. Referring to the rapidly evolving geo-strategic situation, the speakers underscored the need to improve the seven BIMSTEC countries' perception by respecting each other's values in dealing with bilateral and regional interactions. 'China's role at the regional and international levels needs to be considered for the region's greater interest,' it was observed.

SIPG Holds Launching Ceremony of Two Books (5 January 2023)



The South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) at North South University held a book launching ceremony for the two books 'Public Financial Management System in Bangladesh: A Review from a Governance Perspective' by Prof. Salahuddin Aminuzzaman, Adviser, SIPG and 'Insights on Trust, Inclusiveness, and Governance in South Asia', a collaborative publication by faculty members and students of SIPG, NSU. The event was held at the NSU Syndicate Hall on 5 January 2023. The event was chaired by Dr. Ismail Hossain, Pro Vice-Chancellor of NSU. Mr. Mohammad Muslim Chowdhury, Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh, Dr. Nomita Halder ndc, Managing Director, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), and Dr. Ishtiaq Jamil, Professor, University of Bergen, Norway, also spoke.

SIPG Policy Debate-1 (27 February 2023)

The SIPG Policy Debate-1 was held on 27 February 2023 in collaboration with NSU Debate Club at NSU Law Moot Court. The topic for the debate was "Is there an alternative to student politics to maintain a peaceful environment on university campuses?". The judges were Dr. Abdun Noor Tushar, a Debater, and Media Personality, and Ms. Parisa Shakur, a Member, of CPS. The moderator of the debate was Mr. Omar Nasif Abdullah, Faculty, Adviser, NSU Debate Club.



SIPG holds a talk on 'From City Corporations to Union Parishads: Bringing the State Closer to People - What are the Global Lessons?' (25 January 2023)



SIPG holds a talk on 'From City Corporations to Union Parishads: Bringing the State Closer to People - What are the Global Lessons?' on 25 January 2023. The keynote speaker: Dr. Junaid Kamal Ahmad, Vice President of Operations for the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) of the World Bank Group. Dr. Kamal is also a founder life member of NSU Board of Trustees. He hoped that Bangladesh would benefit more from a comprehensive decentralization program by striking the right balance between the allocation of both political and fiscal powers. Urbanization, digitalization, and automation will surely make Bangladesh a smart country. It is high time for Bangladesh now to decide on its own about its path towards decentralization to transform local governance more transparent, accountable and pro-people', Dr. Kamal observed during a talk held today at Syndicate Hall of North South University.

CPS of SIPG, NSU hold a seminar on 'Restoring Peace in Myanmar: Two Years after the Military Coup' - (31 January 2023)



Held at Syndicate Hall of North South University, the seminar on 'Restoring Peace in Myanmar: Two Years after the Military Coup' was organized by the Center for Peace Studies (CPS) of the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance, NSU. Moderated by Dr. Ishrat Zakia Sultana, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Sociology Department, the seminar was addressed by Ambassador and former Foreign Secretary, Shahidul Haque, Professorial Fellow at SIPG, SIPG Senior Fellow and former Election Commissioner Brig. Gen. Dr. M. Sakhawat Hussain, a Faculty of the University of Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA), Malaysia Dr. Mahbubul Haque, and President of Rohingya Intellectual Community Australia and Chair of Foreign Affairs of Arakan Rohingya National Organization Dr. Hla Myint. Prof. Dr. Zaw Wai Soe, Minister of Health and Education, NUG of Myanmar has joined the program.

SIPG Policy Debate 2: How Rational is the Motorcycle Traffic Policy – 2023 (Draft)?” held at NSU (11 April 2023)



The SIPG Policy Debate-2 was held on 11 April 2023 at NSU Gallery. The topic for the debate was "How Rational is the Motorcycle Traffic Policy-2023 (Draft)?" It was organized by the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) of North South University. The moderator of the debate was Professor Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Director, SIPG and Chair, Department of Political Science and Sociology, North South University. This debate program was open to all students of NSU and they participated in it with great interest.

CPS Policy Colloquium on “From the Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal: New Possibilities in the Bangladesh, Japan, India Trilateral Partnership” (17 May 2023)



A policy colloquium titled “From the Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal: New Possibilities in the Bangladesh, Japan, India Trilateral Partnership” was held on May 17, 2023, at North South University (NSU), organized by CPS, SIPG, NSU. The Special Guest was H.E. IWAMA Kiminori, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh and the Guest of Honor was Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Bangladesh. The Chair of the Session was Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice Chancellor, of North South University.

The colloquium was moderated by Professor Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Director, CPS and SIPG. Dr. Selim Raihan, Executive Director, South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) and Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, Asian Confluence, India

were in attendance. This was followed by a discussion session, where Dr. M Jashim Uddin, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and Sociology, North South University, and Prof. Shahidul Haque, Professor, SIPG, NSU analyzed the numerous dimensions of this trilateral partnership.

SIPG Lecture on ‘Russia in the Indo-Pacific Region: Challenges and Opportunities’ (14 May 2023).

The speaker was Dr. Alexey Kupriyanov, PhD (History), Senior Research Fellow, Head of the Centre for the Indo-Pacific Region, Primakov Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russia. The discussant: Dr. Mohammed Nuruzzaman, Professor, Global Studies & Member of CPS, SIPG, North South University

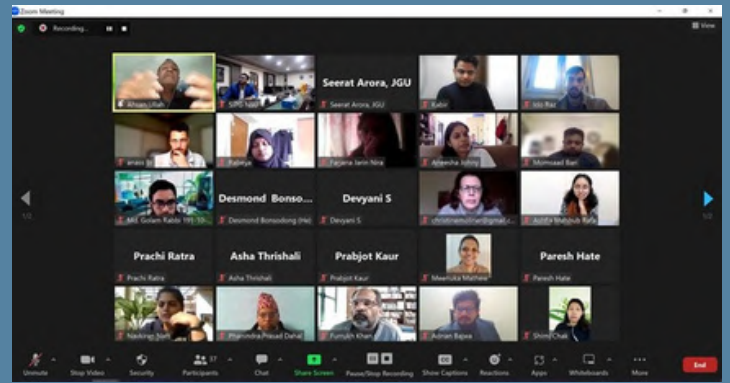
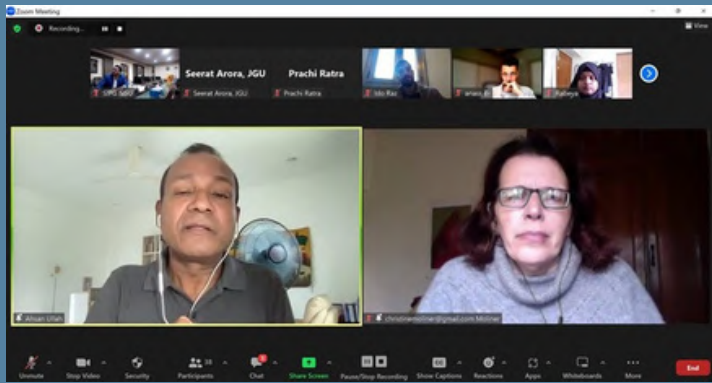


SIPG Policy Debate-3 (28 May 2023)

SIPG Policy Debate 3 on “How logical is it to show Hindi movies in Bangladeshi theaters?” held at NSU on 28 May 2023. It was organized by SIPG in collaboration with the Media and Journalism (MAJ) program of North South University. This debate program was open to all students of NSU and they participated in it with great interest



Winter School in Migration Studies (WSMS) (23 to 27 January 2023)



The online Winter School in Migration Studies (WSMS) on "South Asian Perspectives on International Migration" was held virtually from 23 to 27 January 2023. It was jointly organized by the Center for Migration Studies (CMS), SIPG, NSU, Bangladesh, and the Center for Migration and Mobility Studies (CMMS) of O.P Jindal Global University, India. There were a total of 35 participants selected from around the globe. The resource persons were the experts on migration studies from both home and abroad. Later on, the certificates were awarded in person to the Bangladeshi participants of this WSMS at the end of the CMS National Seminar on "Internal and International Migration: Policies & Practices for the Women Workers" that was held at NSU on 6th March 2023.



CPS Seminar on 'Bangladesh's Approach towards Emerging Alliances in Asia' - (14 February 2023)

National security experts, academics, and international strategists gathered at the 'Bangladesh's Approach towards Emerging Alliances in Asia' seminar, organized by the Center for Peace Studies (CPS), North South University (NSU). They urged the Bangladesh government to identify the key areas of interest in order to achieve the country's economic and development goals within the developing Asian alliances. The participants noted that Asia is becoming the center of politics, economics, and culture and that Bangladesh must overcome the challenges of being part of security alliances amid growing competition between global and regional powers.

The seminar was presided over by Professor Dr. M. Ismail Hossain, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of NSU, and moderated by Professor Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, the director of the Center for Peace Studies. The special guest was Rear Admiral (Retd.) Md. Khurshed Alam, Secretary of the Maritime Affairs Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The seminar was divided into three interrelated sessions, with papers presented on Bangladesh's relationship with the Indo-Pacific, the Belt and Road Initiative, and ASEAN.

International Conference on 'Fluvial Phenomena: Re-engaging Rivers in the Anthropocene'



A paper titled "Governance of the Padma and Teesta rivers for Sustainable Development in Bangladesh" was presented by Professor Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Chair, Dept. of PSS & Director of SIPG, North South University & Md. Parvez Hasan Yousuf, Research Associate of SIPG, NSU at the International Conference on 'Fluvial Phenomena: Re-engaging Rivers in the Anthropocene', organized by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) of Universiti Brunei Darussalam on 28 February 2023.

CPS Colloquium on Impacts of “BURMA Act” on Bangladesh -Myanmar Bordering Region (22 February 2023)



It has been two years since the military coup in Myanmar, and there is no peace in sight. Late last December, the United States passed the BURMA Act, a comprehensive law designed to simultaneously sanction Myanmar’s military junta while providing support to the country’s numerous democratic forces. In view of these changes, the Center for Peace Studies (CPS) of the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) at North South University held a colloquium on the Impacts of “The BURMA Act” on Bangladesh–Myanmar Bordering Region on February 22, 2023, at 11:00 AM in the Syndicate Hall.

Moderated by Dr. Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Director of SIPG, the seminar was addressed by SIPG Senior Fellow and former Election Commissioner Brig. Gen. (retd) Dr. M. Sakhawat Hussain, Prof. Dr. Zaw Wai Soe, Minister of Health and Education, National Unity Government (NUG) of Myanmar, Ms. Thitsar representative of Foreign Ministry of NUG, H.E. Sufiur Rahman, Bangladesh’s ambassador to Switzerland and the permanent representative to the U.N., Ambassador Shahidul Haque, Professor at SIPG, and Dr. Raymond Kwun-Sun Lau, Assistant professor at the Department of Political Science and Sociology of NSU

CMS Seminar on ‘Internal and International Migration; Policies and Practices for Women Workers’ - (6 March 2023)

On 6th March 2023, a National Seminar on “Internal and International Migration: Policies & Practices for the Women Workers” was held at North South University (NSU). It was organized by the Center for Migration Studies (CMS) of the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG), North South University. The Chief Guest of the seminar was Ms. Aroma Dutta, Honourable Member of Parliament of the Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, and the Guest of Honor was Ms. Tapati Saha, Programme Manager, Women’s Economic Empowerment and Migration in Bangladesh, UN Women.

The Keynote Speakers were Dr. Ishrat Zakia Sultana, Assistant Professor, Dept. of PSS & Member, CMS, SIPG, NSU, and Ms. Tata Zafar, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of PSS, & Member, CMS, SIPG, NSU. The discussant was Ms. Sunzida Sultana, Director Programme, Karmojibi Nari. The Session Chair was Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, of North South University.



CPS Research Talk 10 (30 March 2023)



Representatives from the UiT The Arctic University of Norway, the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Dhaka, visited the North South University campus. They met with Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of NSU, and members of the Center for Peace Studies (CPS) to discuss potential collaborations between the institutions.

Mohammad Musfequs Salehin, Associate Professor, CPS, UiT Norges arktiske universitet, Norway, and Senior Researcher, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) also gave a research Talk on “The ‘local’ turn, ‘hybridity’ and ‘friction’ in refugee governance: An Ethnography of Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs) in the Rohingya Refugees Camps in Bangladesh”.

Ambassador Talk Series: Session 2- Norwegian Ambassador to Bangladesh Talks on Peace (30 April, 2023)



The CPS and the Office of External Affairs (OEA) of NSU jointly organized 'Ambassador Talk Series: Session 2' on 30 April 2023. The topic of the talk was 'Peace.' The keynote speaker was H.E. Espen Rikter-Svendsen, Ambassador of Norway to Bangladesh. He discussed various ways of achieving sustainable peace, including negotiating between political parties, developing networks such as engagements, available financial and human resources with international organizations, and the participation of women in the peace process.

Policy discussion on “Climate Displacement and Resilience” (2nd May, 2023)

An open policy discussion session on “Climate Displacement and Resilience” was held at the Syndicate Hall of North South University (NSU) on 2nd May, 2023. Globesight and the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) of NSU jointly organized the discussion session.

It was organized to influence the policies and contribute to the upcoming COP28 discussions from Bangladesh's perspective. The policy discussion engaged climate migration experts and interested professionals under a common platform to participate in a solution-oriented discussion on Bangladesh's actions and responses on climate change induced displacement. This will both inform and influence policy decisions at the local and national level, and shape understanding of the climate debate in Bangladesh prior to COP28.



Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

MoU between UiT The Arctic University of Norway & NSU (24 May 2023)

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Center for Peace Studies (CPS) of SIPG, North South University, Bangladesh, and the Center for Peace Studies (CPS) of UiT The Arctic University of Norway on 24 May 2023 for further collaboration in the academic and research arena.



MoU between the University of Bergen (UiB), Norway & NSU (26 May 2023)



The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was renewed between the North South University, Bangladesh, and the University of Bergen (UiB), Norway on 26 May 2023 for further collaboration in the academic and research arena.

Other events

Professor Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Director of SIPG & Chair, Dept. of PSS, NSU spoke virtually at the International seminar on "Area Studies of Chinese Language Education for the Belt and Road Initiative", organized by Yunnan University on 13 June 2023.

His speech was on the "Current Status and Prospects of 'China Studies' in Bangladeshi Universities in the Context of Belt and Road Initiative".



Professor Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Director of SIPG & Chair, Dept. of PSS, NSU attended the First World Conference of Sinologists. The title of his paper was "The role of 'Area Studies' in understanding the diversity of world Civilizations".

This International Conference was held in Beijing and Qingdao from 28 June to 4 July 2023. It was organized by the Belt and Road Research Institute at Beijing Language and Culture University, China.

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