



# ERP National Conversation

Emerging Challenges and  
the National Budget:  
*Options for Action*

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4 May 2019

10:00 AM-5:00 PM

North South University



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***Program: NSU Syndicate Hall***

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**Opening session**

10:00-  
11:00am

Chair: **Professor Atiqul Islam**, Vice-Chancellor, NSU

Special Guests: **Dr. Shamsul Alam**,  
Member (Senior Secretary)  
General Economics Division, Ministry of Planning  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

**Dr. M. Farashuddin**  
Former Governor, Bangladesh Bank

Trigger presentation: **Professor Helal Ahammad**, Director, ERP, NSU  
*Emerging Challenges and the National Budget*

11:00-  
11:30am

**Tea/Coffee break**

**Plenary 1**

**The Conversation: *Future-proofing the national budget***

11:30am-  
1:00pm

Guest of Honor: **Mr. M. A. Kashem**  
Member, Board of Trustees, NSU  
Former President, FBCCI

Moderator: **Dr. Gour G. Goswami**  
Professor, Department of Economics, SBE, NSU  
Former Treasurer, NSU

Distinguished  
Panelists: **Prof. Mustafizur Rahman**, Distinguished Fellow, CPD  
**Dr. M. A. Razzaque**, Research Director, PRI  
**Mr. Osama Taseer**, President, DCCI (TBC)  
**Mr. Nasim Manzur**, Former President, MCCI (TBC)

1:00-  
2:00pm

**Lunch break**

**Plenary 2**

**Way Forward: *Options for Action***

2:00-  
3:45pm

Guest of Honor: **Mr. Benajir Ahmed**  
Member, Board of Trustees, NSU  
Former President, DCCI

Moderator: **Professor M. Ismail Hossain**  
Chairman, Department of Economics, NSU

Distinguished  
Panelists: **Dr. Zaidi Sattar**, Chairman, PRI  
**Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya**, Distinguished Fellow, CPD  
**Dr. Mustafa K. Mujeri**, Executive Director, InM  
**Md. Shafiu Islam Mohiuddin**, President, FBCCI

3:45pm-  
4:00pm

**Tea/Coffee break**

**Closing session: *AUDI 801, NSU***

4:00pm-  
5:00pm

Chair: **Professor Atiqul Islam**, Vice-Chancellor, NSU

Chief Guest: **Mr. M. A. Mannan**, MP  
Honorable Minister, Ministry of Planning,  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Special Guest: **Mr. M. A. Hashem**  
Chairman, Board of Trustees, NSU

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5:00pm

***Closes with a vote of thanks***

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## ERP National Conversation

### Emerging Challenges and the National Budget: Options for Action

Economics Research Platform–North South University’s economics research hub–is aspiring to start a *national conversation* on the looming economic challenges and their implications for the national budget of the Bangladesh Government. It is aiming to provide a forum for policy makers, business leaders, eminent economists and the country’s development partners, to have a *candid* and *outcome-focused* conversation on this important issue.

The participants are expected to engage in the *conversation* particularly focusing on: (i) our national aspirations, commitments and challenges associated with Bangladesh’s potential graduation from its current Least Developed Country (LDC) status, meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), addressing youth unemployment and income inequality, and potentially disruptive climate change and waves of technological innovation including ‘automation’; (ii) the key structural and systemic issues of the Bangladesh tax system and tax administration, and how to make these less complex, more efficient and fairer; and (iii) the consolidation of public expenditure through possible rationalization of the public service delivery systems, and thereby also reducing regulatory and compliance burdens for the business.

The ERP *conversation* is hoping to facilitate an open and effective exchange of ‘good ideas’ among the key stakeholders, and help develop a menu of simple and pragmatic policy options and a reform agenda in order to future-proofing our national budget.



**Mission:** To lead, undertake and facilitate economic research and policy analysis through:

- Commissioned and independent research and policy studies
- Research collaboration
- In-house training programs & short courses
- Policy discussion and research dissemination

**Vision:** To become an internationally recognized, leading hub in Bangladesh for academic and applied economic research and policy studies.

