



SIPG

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MPPG Day 2020

South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) organized a Master of Public Policy and Governance (MPPG) Alumni gathering namely MPPG Day 2020 on 29th February 2020. The purpose of the gathering was to recall memories of their stay in NSU, networking with the other alumni and sharing views as for SIPG’s potential and further growth. During the event, the MPPG alumni shared their views and experience of their study at North South University. A total of 60 participants attended the event from all 9 MPPG batches along with 8 Norwegian exchange students from University of Bergen. This sort of exchange visit from Bergen is a new initiative in North South University.



continued to page 2 >>>

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Editor's Note

This newsletter comes out at a time when nations across the world are trying to overcome the challenges posed by Corona Virus pandemic. As normal life was turned upside down NSU also had to overcome challenges of coping with the restrictions arising out shutdown of educational institutions. We were able cope with the shutdown by moving quickly to an online teaching mode in order to complete our Spring Semester. The shutdown also disrupted the planned activities of SIPG. The planned International Conference on Digital Governance in South and South East Asia, scheduled on 20-21 June in collaboration with University of Bergen and ICT Division of the Government of Bangladesh had to be postponed. It is now planned for 2022 due to the uncertainty of Corona pandemic. Moreover, another planned activity of SIPG

– a two day workshop on Pedagogy of Public Administration in collaboration of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre-the apex public sector training institute had to be scrapped. It is now hoped to be arranged sometime around March- April of 2021. Even our 10th Batch of MPPG program scheduled to commence from April 2020 had to be pushed back to July 2020.

The faculty as well as staff of SIPG had to reinvent themselves to adjust to a virtual and long distance way of working. Interestingly the newly set up Center for Peace Studies (CPS) quickly adapted to the changed circumstances by arranging a couple of Webinars on **Impacts, Consequences and Responses to COVID-19 in Bangladesh and A Human Security Approach and Rohingya Today** in June.

MPPG Day 2020

>>> *Continued from page 1*

Director of SIPG Professor Sk Tawfique M Haque presented a welcome note at the beginning of the program. Prof. Abdur Rob Khan, Dean of the SHSS, NSU, Prof. Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman, Advisor of SIPG and Visiting Professor from University of Bergen, Dr. Quamrul Ahsan briefly shared their experiences with SIPG and alumni.

Her Excellency Ms. Sidsel Bleken, Ambassador of Norway, Mr. Benajir Ahmed, Chairman Board

of Trustees, North South University graced the event as Special Guest and Chief Guest respectively, while Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice Chancellor of NSU chaired the session.

After the formal event of experience sharing, a brief and enjoyable cultural program was held where alumni of MPPG, current students of MPPG and members of North South University cultural club performed. This was followed by dinner.



Visits & Events

Launching of Center for Peace Studies (cps) at North South University - *Promoting Peace through People*

South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) at North South University launched Center for Peace Studies (CPS) on February 27, 2020. The goal of the Center is to Promote Peace through People by initiating research and education, conducting dialogues and training. The CPS aims to turn into a hub of academics, scholars, researchers and practitioners to create sustainable and inclusive approaches to peacebuilding.

Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque, Senior Fellow of SIPG and the former Foreign Secretary presented a keynote paper on "Politics of Peace and Development: Views through SDG Lenses." In his speech, Mr. Haque looked at the nexus between peace and development within a framework of Agenda 2030. He emphasized on the policy of sustainable peace and development which should be seen from the local contexts as well as global geopolitics.

During the Launching Program, two recently published books, "The Migration Myth in Policy and Practice", published by Springer and "The Rohingya Crisis", published by Lexington Books were also unveiled.

Mr. Benajir Ahmed, Chairman, BOT, NSU was present as the Special Guest. The Vice Chancellor of NSU, Professor Atiqul Islam presided over the program. Professor Abdur Rob Khan, Dean, SHSS, NSU; Professor Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Director, SIPG, NSU; Dr. M Jashim Uddin, Coordinator, CPS; Dr. Katherine Li, Adviser, CPS; members of CPS Professor Helal Mohiuddin, Dr. Bulbul Siddiqi, Dr. Ishrat Zakia Sultana, and Dr. Harisur Rahman along with other NSU faculty members and students were also present.

8 Norwegian students from University of Bergen, Norway attended a Certificate Course at South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance at North South University under Student Exchange Program

On February 21, 2020, 8 students (4 male and 4 female) of Master of Public Administration of The University of Bergen (UiB), Norway came to attend a 15 day long certificate course at South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance of North South University under a Student Exchange Initiative. Under this program students from Dept. of Administration and Organization Theory of University of Bergen (UiB) of Norway would attend such a course every spring semester at North South University (NSU), Bangladesh.

The students of University of Bergen (UiB) of Norway, attended a Certificate Course on **Global Migration and Development Management** which was designed to address the development management,

migration issue and prospect of SDGs in Bangladesh. Exchange Students along with the regular MPPG students participated in regular lecture sessions on development management, migration and project management along with extensive field visit at Rohingya camp at Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, and Ministry of Planning in Dhaka to have hands on experience on migration and development issues.

The approach towards exchanging students has impact on knowledge and cultural sharing. The student mobility program is an opening for the students of UiB to know more about other parts of the world and enrich themselves with the different values, norms and perceptions.



Visits & Events

SIPG facilitates field visit for MPPG and 8 Norwegian Exchange Students at Rohingya Camp in Cox's Bazar



A field visit program on Development Management was organized as part of the module on Development Management at Teknaf Rohingya Camp in Cox's Bazar. The MPPG students of 12 students from MPPG 9th Batch along with 8 Norwegian Exchange Students attended the program from February 24-28 2020. The MPPG and Norwegian Exchange students got an opportunity to know about the traumatic experience of Rohingya community during their field visit in Rohingya Camp. Students were oriented with the role and initiatives taken by Bangladesh Government as well as INGOs and national NGOs in managing the large scale influx of Rohingya. The faculty members of SIPG also accompanied the participants during the visit.

3 NSU students from MPPG, NSU Competed in the Sustainable Transit Simulation Competition Organized by NASPAA-Batten Student Simulation 2020 at Institute of Public Policy, National Law School of India, Bangalore

On February 29, three students from the 9th batch of Master of Public Policy and Governance (MPPG) program of South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance of North South University took part in the NASPAA-Batten Student Simulation Competition 2020 in the Institute of Public Policy, National Law School of India, Bangalore. Students from 11 universities from Bangladesh, India and Nepal took part in the simulation competition.

The theme was Metropolitan Sustainable Transit Simulation which was a web-based experimental learning tool for sustainable city planning and comprehensive thinking. Teams were evaluated on their simulation scores, negotiation skills, and

presentations made at the end of the competition day in front of the site judges. The three participants from MPPG- Md.Moniruzzaman Khan, Gyan Laxmi Shrestha, and Jagdish Joshi belonged to the First, Second and the Third winning teams of the competition, respectively.

During the next phase of the competition, the global winning team of the entire competition will be determined by a panel of prominent "super judges". The winning team will be invited to attend the Global Leadership Summit in Washington DC, to be hosted by the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA).



SIPG Webinar

Webinar on Impacts, Consequences and Responses to COVID-19 in Bangladesh: A Human Security Approach

The Center for Peace Studies(CPS) at South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG), North South University arranged a webinar on Virtual Conference: Impacts, Consequences and Responses to COVID-19 in Bangladesh: A Human Security Approach on 18 June 2020. Participants were expressed their concern as Corona virus (Covid-19) is an emerging security threat for humans as millions of people have already been infected and several hundred thousand died from Covid-19 across the world. The death rate is alarming and changing every day.

Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Distinguished Fellow, Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Mr. Md Shahidul



Haque, Senior Fellow, SIPG, North South University, Mr. Anwar Faruque, Former Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, GoB; Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice Chancellor of North South University and Professor Ahmed Hossain, Director, Global Health Institute, NSU participated in the discussions. The session was moderated by Dr. Bulbul Siddiqi, Associate Professor, Dept. of Political Science and Sociology, NSU.

The Center for Peace Studies (CPS) of South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) of North South University (NSU) arranged Webinar titled Rohingya Today

The Center for Peace Studies (CPS) under South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) of North South University organized a webinar titled **Rohingya Today** on 30th June 2020. The participants stressed that, Rohingya crisis is a multifaceted, complex and multilayered phenomena. The present pandemic has put the lives of the stateless Rohingya into further vulnerability. The participants of webinar focused on the crisis from two perspectives: first, addressing the present situation of the Rohingya with particular focus on the Covid 19 pandemic context; and secondly, the pathways and procedures of the accountability and justice issues currently undertaken by The International Court of Justice and The International Criminal Court, as well as in the UN system.

Ms. Mia Seppo, UN Resident Coordinator, Bangladesh; Mr. Md Shahidul Haque, Senior Fellow, SIPG, North South University; Dr. Azeem Ibrahim, Director, Center for Global Policy, Washington DC; Dr. Katherine Li, Advisor, CPS, NSU;and Dr. Ishrat Zakia Sultana, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science and Sociology, NSU discussed on various issue during the program. The session was moderated by Dr. Bulbul Siddiqi, Associate Professor, Dept. of Political Science and Sociology, NSU.



Way Forward

As we cross over to the middle of the year, amidst the ongoing Corona pandemic, SIPG has to adjust to what many call the 'new normal'. Adjusting our original plan, the new 10th batch of MPPG students would start their classes online from beginning of July and the ongoing thesis work of the 9th Batch has to be revisited and then pushed back a bit further to enable the students to complete their work.

Moreover, based on the experience of Webinars of CPS- more such events such as SDG, 75 years of UN, Forthcoming Election of United States of America would be arranged during the next couple of months.

Executive Masters in Policy and Governance (EMPG) (To be offered from 2021)

SIPG Program will launch an evening graduate program titled as "Executive Masters in Policy and Governance (EMPG)". 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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