







SIPG, CMS, CSCSS

NEWSLIETTER

January to June, 2025



SIPG Hosted a Book Launch Ceremony for "Roots and Routes: Business Pathways in Bangladesh" (12 February 2025)

SIPG at NSU recently hosted the launch of its new publication, "Roots and Routes: Business Pathways in Bangladesh", at the Syndicate Hall. The event brought together academics, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, and aspiring professionals to discuss the evolving business landscape in Bangladesh.

The ceremony was chaired by Prof. Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of NSU, who underscored the importance of bridging academic research with industry practice. The program opened with a brief address by Dr. Rizwan Khair, Associate Professor & Chair of the Department of Political Science & Sociology (PSS), who explained, "This book's concept was born during an EMPG class when Mohsin suggested compiling local business case studies. This initiative has come to life with the support of a CTRG grant and a team of young researchers." Author Syed Shahnawaz Mohsin remarked, "As a business student, I questioned why we focused solely on international models. This book emerged from a desire to spotlight Bangladeshi business success."



SIPG Book Launching Ceremony for 'Geopolitics and Strategic Shifts in South Asian/Subcontinental Countries' (3 June 2025)

SIPG's book launching ceremony of the book- 'Geopolitics and Strategic Shifts in South Asian/Subcontinental Countries' was held on 03 June 2025 at the Syndicate hall of NSU. Brig Gen (retd.) Dr. M Sakhawat Hossain, Honourable Adviser, Ministry of Labour and Employment & Ministry of Shipping, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, presented a brief discussion on his book as the Author. Mr. M. A. Kashem, Member, Board of Trustees, NSU, joined the event as a Special Guest. Mr. Mohammad Sufiur Rahman, Senior Research Fellow, SIPG, and Dr. Raymond Kwun-Sun Lau, Assistant Professor, PSS, NSU, joined as Discussants.

Seminars/Colloquiums/Talks





SIPG Research Talk: The Bangladesh Famine and the Making of the Aid Lab (20 January 2025)

SIPG Research Talk on 'The Bangladesh Famine and the Making of the Aid Lab' was held on 20 January 2025 at NSU. The speaker of the talk was Dr. Naomi Hossain, a Global Research Professor at SOAS University of London, UK. The talk focused on the book titled 'The Aid Lab' that breaks the long silence on the 1974 famine, locating the disaster that killed 1.5 million people at the heart of the explanation of Bangladesh's unexpected human development achievements. It was originally published by Oxford University Press in 2017 and recommended by The Economist as a 'must-read' about Bangladesh; this Bangladesh edition, published by University Press Limited in 2025, includes a new introduction and a postscript in the wake of the historic student-people uprising.

SIPG Colloquium on "Situation in Rakhine and Implications for Bangladesh" (27 February 2025)

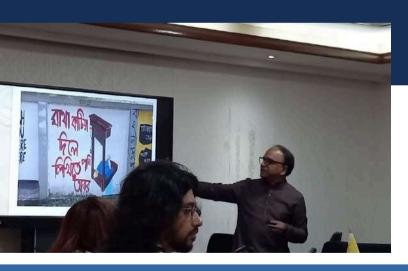


SIPG at NSU organized a colloquium titled "Situation in Rakhine and Implications for Bangladesh." The event brought together leading scholars, policymakers, and diplomats to deliberate on the evolving crisis in Myanmar's Rakhine State, its direct and indirect effects on Bangladesh, and potential strategies for sustainable regional engagement. Dr Khalilur Rahman, High Representative of the Chief Adviser on the Interim Government of Bangladesh for the Rohingya Issue and Priority Matters, said Bangladesh must respond with a balanced approach. Similarly, Lt. Gen Abdul Hafiz, Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser on Defence and National Solidarity Development, noted that Myanmar's internal unrest has historically posed security risks for Bangladesh. The Keynote speakers were Ambassador Md. Sufiur Rahman, Senior Research Fellow at SIPG, and Brig Gen (Retd) Hasan Md Shamsuddin from the Center for Bangladesh and Global Affairs (CBGA). Other distinguished speakers were; Nurul Islam, Chair of the Arakan Rohingya National Alliance (ARNA), Human rights activist Sahat Zia Hero, U Aung Kyaw Moe, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Human Rights under the NUG, and Prof. Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of North South University.



CMS Hosted a Dialogue on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in Labour-Related Disputes (1 March 2025)

The Center for Migration Studies (CMS) and the Center for Legal Research (CLR) at North South University (NSU) jointly hosted a dialogue on "Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in Labour-Related Disputes" at the Syndicate Hall of NSU on 1 March 2025. The event brought together distinguished academics, government officials, policymakers, and representatives from the International Labour Organization (ILO) to discuss the effectiveness of ADR mechanisms in resolving labour-related disputes in Bangladesh and explore pathways for reform. Brig Gen (Retd.) Dr. M Sakhawat Hossain, Honorable Adviser, Ministry of Labour and Employment & Ministry of Shipping, Government of Bangladesh; and Mr. Tuomo Poutiainen, Country Director, ILO Bangladesh, were present at the event.





SIPG Research Talk on '36 July in Graffiti: Hope for a New Bangladesh' (5 March 2025)

SIPG hosted a Research Talk on '36 July in Graffiti: Hope for a New Bangladesh' on 5 March 2025. Journalist and researcher Mohammad Mahmuduzzaman presented the photographs and stories of thousands of graffiti spread across the country as a reminder of the movement.

SIPG National Seminar 'Reassessing Sino-Bangla Relations: Chief Adviser's Landmark Visit' (13 April 2025)



The South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) at North South University (NSU) hosted a national seminar titled "Reassessing Sino-Bangla Relations: Chief Adviser's Landmark Visit" on Sunday, April 13, 2025, at the university's Syndicate Hall. The event brought together diplomats, scholars, media professionals, and policymakers to explore the evolving contours of Bangladesh–China relations following the recent diplomatic visit of the Chief Adviser to Beijing. Dr. Khalilur Rahman, National Security Adviser and High Representative to the Chief Adviser on the Rohingya Issue and Priority Matters, graced the seminar as Chief Guest. Professor Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of NSU, chaired the session. H.E. Mr. Yao Wen, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Bangladesh, also addressed the gathering as a Guest of Honour. The keynote presentation was delivered by Dr. Mohammed Nuruzzaman, Professor of Political Science and Sociology at NSU. Dr. Liu Zongyi, Senior Research Fellow at the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS), emphasized the sociocultural and strategic value of bilateral relations. Mohammad Sufiur Rahman, Senior Research Fellow at SIPG, pointed to transboundary water cooperation and agricultural, vocational, and technical educational training as key areas for future engagement.

Seminar on Democracy in Bangladesh: Crisis and Transition (2 June 2025)



SIPG & Private University Teachers' Association of Bangladesh (PUTAB) organised a Seminar titled "বাংলাদেশে গণতন্ত্ৰ: সংকট ও উত্তরণ" (Democracy in Bangladesh: Crisis and Transition) on 2 June 2025 from 11:00 A.M at the Syndicate Hall, NSU. Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan, Member, National Standing Committee, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), was present at the event as the chief guest, and Advocate Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, Senior Joint Secretary General, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), attended the event as the special guest. Professor Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of North South University, was present as the session chair at the event. The seminar brought together political leaders, academics, researchers, civil society members, and media professionals to engage in constructive dialogue and share insights for future policy directions.

CMS Roundtable on 'Implementation of Labour Reform Commission's Recommendations' and MoU Signing Ceremony (29 April 2025)



CMS of SIPG, NSU organized a roundtable titled "Labour Rights in Bangladesh: Challenges, Reforms, and Possibilities" to mark International Labour Day 2025. The event brought together notable members of the Labour Reform Commission, trade unions, leading policymakers, researchers, labour rights advocates, and representatives from the International Labour Organization (ILO) to critically review the recent Labour Reformation Commission's report and chart a path for implementing the ecommendations.



In the event, Brig Gen (retd.) Dr. M Sakhawat Hussain, Honourable Adviser to the Ministry of Labour and Employment and the Ministry of Shipping, recounted first-hand experiences confronting poor labour practices. He firmly stated, "Business owners must bear the responsibility of fair treatment of workers. Academics must work closely with the government to help ensure labour rights and sustainability." He stressed the necessity of holding employers accountable and integrating informal sector workers into formal protections. Mr. A H M Shafiquzzaman, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, thanked NSU for its swift and insightful review of the commission's findings. Mr. Neeran Ramjuthan, Programme Manager at ILO Bangladesh, underscored the need to deepen tripartite cooperation between government, employers, and workers. Mr. Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, Head of the Labour Reform Commission, acknowledged the limitations of the report but emphasized that it marks a starting point for ongoing, meaningful reform processes, grounded in national interest and collaborative dialogue. Dr. Ishrat Zakia Sultana, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Sociology (PSS), NSU, gave welcome remarks. Professor Dr. Md. Rizwanul Islam, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, NSU, praised the Labour Reformation Commission's inclusive consultation process. Dr. Selim Reza, Coordinator of CMS and Associate Professor at NSU, highlighted that the commission's report reflects the aspirations of Bangladesh's 80 million workers. Mr. Nafiz Ahmed, Lecturer, Department of Law, NSU, offered a critical analysis.

The session concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NSU and the Ministry of Labour and Employment, solidifying collaboration on labour research, education, and policy development. Professor Dr. Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor, NSU, noted that the MoU between NSU and the Ministry represents a strong commitment to jointly advance labour rights.



Academic:

MPPG & EMPG Orientation (Spring 2025)- 18 January 2025

The Orientation program of Master in Public Policy & Governance (MPPG) -12th Batch & Executive Masters in Policy and Governance (EMPG)-7th Batch was held on 18 January 2025 at Syndicate Hall, NSU. The Chief Guest of this program was H.E. Mr. Håkon Arald Gulbrandsen, Ambassador of Norway, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Dhaka.

MPPG 11th Batch Thesis Defence & Farewell at SIPG (10 February 2025)



The Master in Public Policy and Governance (MPPG)-11th Batch successfully defended their theses and attended a farewell program arranged to bid them adieu from SIPG on 10th February 2025. We wish them every success in their future endeavors!

SIPG Alumni Reunion (7 February 2025)

The SIPG Alumni Reunion was held on 7 February 2025, at NSU. SIPG organized it for the alumni of the Master in Public Policy & Governance (MPPG) & Executive Masters in Policy and Governance (EMPG) programs. Many alumni joined the reunion to reunite with their buddies, reminisce about their old NSU days, and delve into nostalgia.





Library Orientation for MPPG students (25 February 2025)

NSU Library Orientation for the new 12th batch Students' of the Master in Public Policy and Governance (MPPG) program was held on 25 February 2025.

EMPG Summer 2025 Admission Test (25 April 2025)





The EMPG Graduate Admission Test of Summer 2025 was held on 25 April 2025. Mr. Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuiyan, Adviser for the Youth and Sports Ministry and the Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Ministry, took the Admission Test among others. We appreciate his enthusiasm to learn about policy and governance while serving as an Adviser in two ministries. Here at SIPG, we have a unique blend of academicians & practitioners to teach public policy & governance.

EMPG Summer 2025 Orientation Program (23 May 2025)



The Orientation Program of the Executive Master's in Policy and Governance (EMPG)-Summer 2025 was held on 23 May 2025. It was a memorable start for the 8th Batch of the EMPG at SIPG, NSU. The orientation brought together aspiring SIPG alumni, policy professionals, faculty members, and mentors, marking the beginning of a transformative journey in leadership and governance for the newly enrolled students of EMPG.



Certificate Awarding Ceremony of the EMPG Negotiation Course (5 May 2025)





The Certificate Awarding Ceremony of the EMPG Negotiation Course was held on 5 May 2025, at the SIPG, NSU. Eleven armed forces officers from the Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) participated and completed the course titled EMPG 515-Negotiation Tools and Techniques. It was offered in the Executive Master's in Policy and Governance (EMPG) program during the Summer 2024 semester by the SIPG of NSU. This 3-credit core course explores the art and science of negotiation. The course participants from DSCSC participated in this course after being enrolled as non-degree students of NSU. Upon course completion, they had already received an official transcript from NSU. In addition, the SIPG of NSU provided certificates to the participants. It is to inform you that NSU also signed an MoU with DSCSC on 9 December 2024. We look forward to further collaboration in the future.

International Student Exchange Program for EMPG Students



Students of the Executive Master's in Policy and Governance (EMPG) at NSU (6th, 7th & 8th batch) applied for a fully funded 4-month academic program in China under the Belt and Road Initiative, hosted by the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), Sichuan University. The program will start from September 2025.



Conference, Visits & Workshop Participation



SIPG Team at the Chief Adviser's Office (13 January 2025)

SIPG was invited by the Chief Adviser's Office to attend a high-level meeting on 13 January 2025 at the Chief Adviser's Office. Dr. Lutfey Siddiqi, the Chief Adviser's envoy for International Affairs, chaired the meeting. Researchers from eminent research organizations were present too.

Norwegian Ambassador Visited NSU



On 18 January 2025, H.E. Mr. Håkon Arald Gulbrandsen, Ambassador of Norway, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Dhaka, met with Professor Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of NSU after the MPPG & EMPG orientation program. The Ambassador was the Chief Guest of the orientation program organized by the SIPG of NSU.





SIPG Director Attended a Conference in Malaysia (23 February 2025)

Professor Sk Tawfique M Haque, Director of SIPG, visited Malaysia to attend the 'KL Conference: The Rohingya Crisis-Regional Actions and Global Advocacy' as one of the panelists. It was organized by the International Islamic University, Malaysia (IIUM) on 23 February 2025.





SIPG Director Joined a Regional Dialogue in Sri Lanka (8-9 March 2025)

Professor Sk Tawfique M Haque, Director, SIPG, NSU, visited Sri Lanka to participate in the two-day Regional Dialogue on 'Reclaiming Democracy –Perspectives from the Global South' on 08 and 09 March 2025. It was hosted by the Social Scientists' Association (SSA) as the South Asia hub of the Global Forum on Democracy and Development (GFDD). He presented a paper titled, 'Youth-Led Movements to Governance Reform: What Can Bangladesh's 'Monsoon Uprising' Learn from Sri Lanka's 'Aragalaya'? He also participated in a panel discussion titled 'Political Futures in South Asia: Does Democracy Have a Place?







SIPG Represented at a National Workshop (24 March 2025)

SIPG was represented by Md Parvez Hasan Yousuf, Research Associate, at the national workshop on the "Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, 1992," on 24 March 2025, in the Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka. The Joint Rivers Commission, Bangladesh, organized this important workshop with the support of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

SIPG Director Participated in an International Symposium in Nepal (16-17 April 2025)



Professor Sk Tawfique M Haque, Director of SIPG, NSU, participated as a panelist in the International Symposium on 'Himalayan River Systems: Transboundary Approaches to Land and Water Governance in South Asia' on 16th–17th April 2025 at Kathmandu University, Nepal. This symposium was jointly organized by the Department of Geomatics Engineering, School of Engineering, Kathmandu University, Nepal, and the Department of Geography, University of Manchester, UK.

SIPG Director Participated in the China Forum at Tsinghua University (27-29 May 2025)

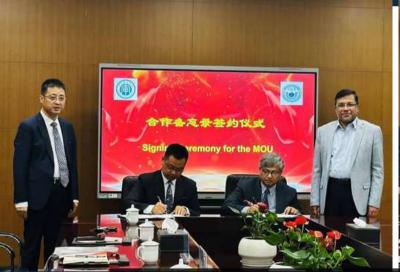
Professor Sk Tawfique M Haque, Director of the SIPG at North South University, participated as a panelist at the China Forum · China–South Asia Dialogue on "Asian Values and the Vision of a Global Community with a Shared Future" on 27-29 May 2025, at Tsinghua University, China. The event was organized by the China Forum (CF) and the Center for International Security and Strategy (CISS) at Tsinghua University. It was an enriching exchange on regional values, cooperation, and shared futures in Asia and beyond.

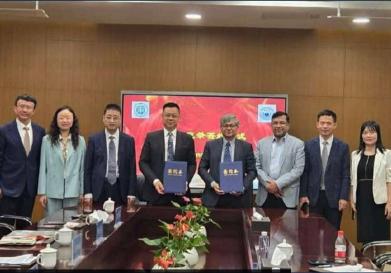


CMS Member Presented Paper on the Rohingya in South Korea (16 May 2025)

Dr. Ishrat Zakia Sultana, Assistant Professor, PSS & Member of the Center for Migration Studies (CMS) of SIPG, NSU, presented her paper titled- 'Upholding Human Rights of Refugees: A case of Cox's Bazar City in Bangladesh' at the World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF) in Gwangju, South Korea on 16 May 2025. Dr. Hasan Muhammad Baniamin, Assistant Professor at SIPG & PSS, NSU, also coauthored this paper.







SIPG Director Attended the MoU Signing Ceremony in China (8 May 2025)

Professor Sk Tawfique M Haque, Director of the SIPG, NSU, was part of the NSU team that visited China to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NSU and Nanjing Audit University (NAU), China, to bolster academic exchange, joint research, and institutional development on May 8, 2025.



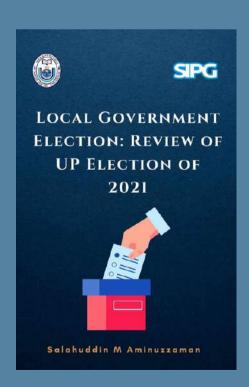
The seminar highlighted best practices in transboundary water cooperation, water diplomacy and discussed their relevance and implications for Bangladesh. Experts shared international case studies, success stories, and practical recommendations for strengthening Bangladesh's capacity in transboundary water management.

SIPG RA Participated in a JRC Seminar on Transboundary Water Cooperation (29 June 2025)

A seminar titled "Good Practices in Transboundary Water Cooperation: Case Studies and Implications for Bangladesh" was held at the Joint Rivers Commission (JRC), Bangladesh, on 29 June 2025. Md Parvez Hasan Yousuf, Research Associate, SIPG, participated in that seminar.



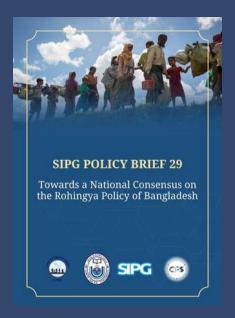
NOTABLE PUBLICATIONS



SIPG Working Paper-12: Local Government Election: Review of UP Election of 2021

Professor Salahuddin M. Aminuzzaman, Adviser at the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG), North South University, examines the democratic challenges, clientelism, and emerging trends in local governance during the 2021 UP elections. This research highlights key issues and the urgent need for electoral reforms. Read more about the critical findings and insights!

LINK: <u>HTTPS://SHORTURL.AT/LT4RL</u>



SIPG Policy Brief-29- Towards a National Consensus on the Rohingya Policy of Bangladesh.

Explore the latest insights on achieving a National Consensus on the Rohingya Crisis in Bangladesh. This SIPG policy brief delves into sustainable solutions, governance challenges, and strategic recommendations

This Policy Brief is prepared by S M Mashrur Arafin Ayon, Riyassad Iqbal, K M Noor E Zannat Nadi, Nowshin Islam, and Mahmud Bin Morshad under the supervision of Mohammad Sufiur Rahman, Senior Research Fellow, South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance, North South University

Read here: https://shorturl.at/wXoCd



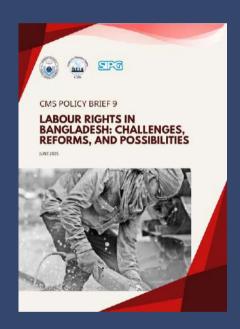
CMS Policy Brief 8 on strengthening ADR in labour disputes. With over 21,000 cases pending, the brief explores solutions through better coordination, training, and trust in ADR mechanisms.

Link: https://shorturl.at/qVsOL



SIPG Policy Brief 30- explores the evolving situation in Myanmar's Rakhine State and its implications for Bangladesh, drawing insights from the February 2025 colloquium and previous dialogues.

Link: https://shorturl.at/iFGH8



CMS Policy Brief 9 Labour Rights in Bangladesh: Challenges, Reforms, and Possibilities.

Authors: This Policy Brief is prepared by S M Mashrur Arafin Ayon, K. M. Noor-E-Zannat Nadi under the supervision of Dr. Selim Reza, Coordinator, CMS, North South University

Link: https://shorturl.at/ZbDJF



CSCSS Policy Brief 01

Reassessing Sino-Bangla Relations: Chief Adviser's Landmark Visit (2025)

Authors: This Policy Brief is prepared by Riyasad Iqbal & Mahmud Bin Morshad under the supervision of Dr. Harisur Rahman, Coordinator, China-South Asia Center for Socio-cultural Studies (CSCSS) of SIPG, North South University

Read more: https://shorturl.at/XXVt5

Achievements

Five MPPG Alumni got promoted to Joint Secretary (20 March 2025). They are:



Ms. Sahela Akter, [MPPG 2nd Batch], Joint Secretary, Ministry of Industries



Ms. Mahbuba Bilkis, [MPPG 3rd Batch], Joint Secretary, Health Education & Family Welfare Division



Mr. Ahmed Zamil, [MPPG 3rd Batch], Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism



Ms. Israt Zahan, [MPPG 6th Batch], Joint Secretary, Ministry of Primary & Mass Education



Ms. Kawshar Jahan [MPPG 2nd Batch], Joint Secretary, Economic Relations Division.







Credentials' Presentation Ceremony (31st March 2025)

H.E. Dr. M Mahfuzul Haque, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Portugal, a former bureaucrat & faculty member of SIPG, NSU, presented his credentials to the President of Portugal, His Excellency Mr. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, on 31st March 2025. Before the presentation, two parades were held at Jeronimos Monastery and Belem Palace, the President's office & residence.

CMS became a Member of the Review Committee formed by the Ministry of Labour and Employment (14 May 2025)



It is an honour for the Center for Migration Studies (CMS) of SIPG, NSU, to be part of the Review Committee formed by the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) for reviewing the report submitted by the Labour Reform Commission. Dr. Selim Reza, Associate Professor, PSS, and Coordinator of CMS, represented CMS in this role at MoLE.



Chinese Embassy in Dhaka Gifted IT Hardware to CSCSS of SIPG, NSU (6 May 2025)

Special thanks to the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka for Gifting IT hardware (10 PCs, 10 monitors, and 10 printers) as a gesture of goodwill for the China-South Asia Center for Socio-Cultural Studies (CSCSS) of SIPG, NSU. We hope that our partnership will reach new heights through more academic and research collaboration in the days ahead.

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