



NEWSLETTER

JULY – DECEMBER, 2024



CSCSS International Conference: "China - South Asia: Civilization and Connectivity: History and Contemporary Issues" (27-28 December 2024)

The International Conference on "China - South Asia: Civilization and Connectivity: History and Contemporary Issues" was held from 27 to 28 December 2024. It was jointly organized by the China-South Asia Center for Sociocultural Studies (CSCSS) of the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) at North South University (NSU) in Bangladesh and Yunnan University in China.

The two-day conference featured diverse sessions on socio-cultural interactions, geopolitics, economic growth, media, education, AI, and health, with over 125 participants from academia, policymaking, and international organizations. It concluded successfully with rich discussions across key themes addressing the region's historical, cultural, geopolitical, and socio-economic aspects.

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The opening ceremony was graced by distinguished guests, Mr Md. Touhid Hossain, Adviser for Foreign Affairs of the Interim Government of Bangladesh, as the Chief Guest, and His Excellency Mr Yao Wen, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Bangladesh, as the Guest of Honor. Professor Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, the Vice Chancellor of NSU, graced the occasion as session chair.

The concluding session, chaired by Prof. Abdur Rob Khan, Treasurer and Pro Vice-Chancellor (IC) of NSU, featured a summary of key outcomes by Prof. Mohammed Nuruzzaman. Mr. Li Shaopeng, Cultural Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka, emphasized the value of academic collaborations in fostering regional prosperity and connectivity. The conference underscored the importance of building bridges between China and South Asia to address shared challenges and opportunities.



ACADEMIC NEWS

MPPG & EMPG graduates at NSU's 25th Convocation (7 December 2024)

Some of our MPPG & EMPG graduates attended NSU's 25th Convocation on 7 December 2024 and the certificate awarding ceremony. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the graduates and wish them success in their endeavors.



The admission test for the Master in Public Policy and Governance (MPPG)-12th Batch for Spring 2025 intake was held on 18 October 2024 at NSU.



EVENTS ON JULY UPRISING 2024

Student Roundtable Discussion on “গণ-অভ্যুত্থান ২০২৪: তরুণ প্রজন্মের প্রত্যাশায় আগামী বাংলাদেশ” (19 August 2024)

SIPG of NSU hosted a pivotal roundtable discussion titled “গণ-অভ্যুত্থান ২০২৪: তরুণ প্রজন্মের প্রত্যাশায় আগামী বাংলাদেশ” on Monday, August 19, 2024, at 11:00 AM. The event was live-streamed via the CPS's official Facebook page and brought together students from several prominent private universities who played a prominent role in the July 2024 mass uprising that led to the historic regime change in Bangladesh. During the discussion, students explored various aspects of national reformation and the country's future direction. They emphasized the role of private university students in shaping the political landscape and the paradigm shift that has occurred due to their active participation.



SIPG Hosts Policy Debate on the Future of Bangladesh under the Interim Government (25 September 2024)



SIPG of NSU hosted a Policy Debate on the role and expectations of the interim government in Bangladesh on 25 September 2024 (Wednesday) at the university's Plaza area. The post-revolution political climate, including the difficulties and opportunities for change, were the discussion topics at the debate.

SIPG national seminar to disseminate the results of a national survey titled 'Citizens' Expectations from the Interim Government of Bangladesh' (02 October 2024)

SIPG of NSU organized a national seminar to disseminate the results of a national survey titled 'Citizens' Expectations from the Interim Government of Bangladesh' on 02 October 2024 at the National Press Club. The survey was conducted from September 9-19, 2024, in 17 districts of 8 country divisions. It is the first nationally representative survey conducted directly since the July Revolution. About 53 % of respondents think the current interim government's tenure should be two years or less, while 47% think that this interim government should stay in power for three years or more. The chief guest at the seminar was Dr. Badiul Alam Majumdar, Secretary, SHUJAN and Head, Electoral Reforms Commission. He said, "There is a contradiction to the trust and expectation that has emerged in the study. Fulfilling the commoner's expectations is this government's biggest Challenge."



SIPG Hosts Seminar on "Proposal for the Formation of a Police Commission and Other Reforms to Ensure Pro-People Policing Services" (9 November 2024)

SIPG of NSU organized a seminar on "Proposal for the Formation of a Police Commission and Other Reforms to Ensure Pro-People Policing Services" as part of its ongoing research initiatives addressing pressing national issues. The seminar focused on SIPG's recent position paper, developed in response to the needs identified in the aftermath of the July Revolution. It offered a comprehensive discussion on strategies for institutional police reform.

Brig. Gen. M. Sakhawat Hussain, PhD (Retd.), Honorable Adviser to the Ministry of Shipping and Ministry of Textiles and Jute of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, attended the event as a special guest. The panel featured academics, scholars, representatives from various political parties, and senior government officials, bringing diverse views to the conversation.



Panel Discussion on Bangladesh's Democratic Resilience and the July Uprising of 2024 (13 November 2024)

SIPG of NSU took center stage in the national discourse on democratic resilience and resistance to autocracy with a timely panel discussion titled "Democratic Resilience and Breakdown of Autocracy in Bangladesh – The Case of the July Uprising in 2024." Professor Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of NSU, chaired the session. The panel discussion featured a distinguished panel, including Dr. Mubashar Hasan, Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Oslo and Adjunct Fellow at the Humanitarian and Development Research Initiative (HADRI) at Western Sydney University; Professor Arild Engelsen Ruud, an expert on South Asian Studies from the University of Oslo; Munim Mubasshir, a student of NSU and member of the Anti-Corruption Reform Committee; and Musharrat Sharmee Hossain, Senior Lecturer in NSU's Department of English and Modern Languages. They explored the driving forces behind the July Uprising, assessing how grassroots democratic movements continue to reshape Bangladesh's political landscape.



CPS Observes 7th Commemoration of Rohingya Genocide Day 2024 with International Webinar "Repairing the Harm: Restoring Justice for the Rohingya" (24 August 2024)



CPS of SIPG, NSU organized an international webinar on “Repairing the Harm: Restoring Justice for the Rohingya” to commemorate the 7th Rohingya Genocide Day on 24 August 2024 (Saturday) at 4:00 PM (BST) at the NSU campus. The webinar convened a diverse body of local scholars and international experts to engage in timely discussions on the ongoing need for justice, international accountability, sustainable peace, and restoration for the Rohingya community stranded in Bangladesh and excluded in Rakhine, Myanmar, and beyond. The event was live-streamed on the official Facebook page of CPS, attracting a transnational audience.

SIPG National Dialogue on "Working Towards a National Consensus on the Rohingya Policy of Bangladesh" (23 November 2024)

The importance of a national consensus and robust international support to resolve the protracted Rohingya crisis has been reiterated at a National Dialogue on Rohingya Policy organized by the SIPG of NSU. The National Dialogue titled "Working Towards a National Consensus on the Rohingya Policy of Bangladesh" took place at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) Auditorium in Dhaka and brought together a diverse range of stakeholders, including policymakers, academics, development partners, NGOs, media, and Rohingya leaders.



The inaugural session was graced by Lieutenant General (Retd.) Abdul Hafiz, Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser of the Government of Bangladesh, as the Chief Guest. Professor Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Director of SIPG, delivered the opening remarks and contextualized the dialogue's significance. Following a keynote presentation, thought-provoking discussions led by special guests, including representatives from the United Nations and international agencies and speakers.

The second roundtable of the National Dialogue on Rohingya Policy Consensus brought together prominent speakers from various political parties and academic institutions. Key participants included Mr. Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, Ms. Shama Obaid from the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), and Mr. AHM Hamidur Rahman Azad from Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami. Representatives from other political groups, including the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Bangladesh Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, and the Ganosamhati Andolan.

Professor Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, PhD, Vice-Chancellor of North South University (NSU), emphasized the critical need for collaborative efforts to address the ongoing Rohingya crisis during the National Dialogue organized by SIPG.

SIPG Roundtable on ‘Bangladesh-India Relations: Expectations, Challenges, and Future Prospects’ (30 November 2024)

SIPG of NSU, in collaboration with the Department of Political Science & Sociology (PSS) at North South University (NSU), hosted a thought-provoking roundtable on the topic ‘Bangladesh-India Relations: Expectations, Challenges, and Future Prospects’. The event, held at NSU’s Syndicate Hall, brought together a distinguished panel of experts and stakeholders to explore the evolving dynamics of Bangladesh-India relations, focusing on identifying opportunities, addressing challenges, and charting a constructive path forward.

The roundtable was privileged to have Md. Touhid Hossain, Hon’ble Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Interim Government of Bangladesh, as the Chief Guest, who graced the occasion with his esteemed presence. The discussion featured a distinguished panel, including Barrister Asaduzzaman Fuaad, Joint Member Secretary of AB Party; Mr. Saquib Ali, Former Diplomat with the Government of Bangladesh; Lt Gen (Retd) Mohammad Mahfuzur Rahman, PhD, Former Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division; Professor Dr. Mohammad Abdur Rob, Vice-Chancellor of Manarat International University; and Dr. S. M. Asaduzzaman Ripon, Vice Chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). These experts brought a range of perspectives to the discussion, addressing both the challenges and opportunities in strengthening bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India.



CMS of NSU celebrates the International Migrants Day 2024 (22 December 2024)

The Center of Migration Studies (CMS) of SIPG, NSU has celebrated International Migrants Day 2024 by organizing a Colloquium titled “Honouring the Contributions of Migrants and Ensuring Their Rights” on 22 December 2024 at the Syndicate Hall of the University.

Mr. Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, Chief of the Labour Reform Commission, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. As the Special Guest, Mr. Tuomo Poutiainen, Country Director of ILO, Bangladesh, graced the event. Mr. Lance Bonneau, Chief of Mission for IOM in Bangladesh, sent his speech. Ms. Disha Sonata Faruque, Senior Programme Officer and Head of the Mission Support Unit, IOM, Bangladesh, read it on his behalf.



The discussion featured a distinguished panel, including Mr. Shahidul Haque; Professor, SIPG, NSU, Mr. Mohammad Sufiur Rahman; Senior Research Fellow, SIPG, NSU, Dr. Mohammad Jalal Uddin Sikder; Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Sociology, NSU, Ms. Sumaiya Islam; Executive Director, Bangladesh Nari Sramik Kendra (BNSK), and Member, Women Affairs Reform Commission. Dr. Md. Mizanur Rahman; Research Associate Professor, Gulf Studies Center, Qatar University, Mr. Shariful Hasan; Associate Director, Migration Programme and Youth Platform, BRAC, Mr. Rajekuzzaman Ratan; President, Samajtantrik Sramik Front (SSF), Dr. M. Mahfuzul Haque; Member, Labour Reform Commission & Former Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

CPS of SIPG observed International Peace Day 2024 (21 September 2024)



CPS of SIPG observed International Peace Day 2024 on 21 September 2024 at NSU with a peace rally and freeing pigeons. The CPS of SIPG also organized a student roundtable discussion on International Peace Day 2024. The celebrations resonated with this year's United Nations theme: 'Cultivating a Culture of Peace.'

CPS Hosts Seminar on Global Peace in Collaboration with the French Embassy (10 November 2024)

The Center for Peace Studies (CPS) and the Office of External Affairs at North South University (NSU) jointly organized a seminar titled "Revisiting the Global South's Contribution to Global Peace - A French Perspective," in collaboration with the Embassy of France in Dhaka. This insightful event brought together diplomats, academics, and students to discuss the impactful role of the Global South in promoting peace and stability on the world stage.



The seminar featured Her Excellency Mrs. Marie Masdupuy, Ambassador of France to Bangladesh, as the keynote speaker. In her address, H.E. Masdupuy highlighted the significant contributions of the Global South to global peace initiatives, reinforcing France's commitment to diplomacy and intercultural collaboration. Prof. Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of NSU, chaired the session and welcomed the collaborative efforts between NSU and the French Embassy, noting the importance of such discussions for the academic growth of students and faculty alike.

CMS Research Talk

The Center for Migration Studies (CMS) of SIPG, NSU, organized two research talks based on two CMS-funded research projects on 28 November 2024.

1. Title: Perilous Journey of the Rohingya from Teknaf to where? Presented by Dr. Ishrat Zakia Sultana, Dr. Mohammad Jalal Uddin Sikder, and Dr. Selim Reza
2. Title: Bridging Migration Challenges with Vision 2030: Exploring the Socio-economic and Labor Conditions of Bangladeshi Migrants in Saudi Arabia Presented by Dr. Mohammad Jalal Uddin Sikder and Dr. Selim Reza

CPS Research Talk



The Center for Peace Studies (CPS) of SIPG, NSU, conducted an engaging discussion on a cutting-edge CPS-funded research project- Ethical AI Framework for South Asia. It was presented by Farzana Islam, Tahsin Mayeesha, Shahbaz Ahmed, and Dr. Nova Ahmed on 28 November 2024.

Final Round of Policy Innovation Challenge (PIC) 2024 held at NSU (05 December 2024)



The SIPG of NSU and the Earth Club of North South University jointly organized the Final Round of the Policy Innovation Challenge (PIC) 2024 on 05 December at Audi 801, North South University. The event commenced at 05:00 PM and was a vibrant showcase of innovative policy solutions and intellectual engagement. Honorable Vice-Chancellor of North South University, Professor Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, graced the event as the Chief Guest.

Five finalist teams—Elite Mavericks, Policy Pioneers, Asteroid Destroyer, Team ReZ, and Boundary Breakers—competed in a thrilling final round, presenting innovative policy solutions and engaging in rigorous Q&A sessions. Dr. Abdul Wohab, Assistant Professor and Coordinator, Center for Peace Studies (CPS), SIPG, North South University, skillfully handled moderation. The winning team, The Asteroid Destroyer, won the prestigious first place by winning a BDT 50,000 prize, while the runners-up team were Policy Pioneers who won BDT 30,000.

Visits



Professor Sk Tawfique M Haque, Director, SIPG, gave a plenary speech at the International Economic Forum meeting at Ufa Russia on 5 December 2024.



Professor Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Director, SIPG & Dr. Harisur Rahman, Associate Professor and Coordinator, China-South Asia Center for Socio-Cultural Studies (CSCSS), visited China for data collection and monitoring progress on the ongoing research on 'Development of International Logistics Chanel in the BCIM Economic Corridor' in October 2024.

Achievements

Congratulations to Brigadier General (Retd) Dr. M Sakhawat Hussain, former Senior Fellow at SIPG, for being appointed as the Adviser, Ministry of Shipping and Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of Bangladesh.



Congratulations! to Dr. M Mahfuzul Haque, Faculty of SIPG & PSS, NSU, for being appointed as a Senior Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, GoB, on contract and placed as an Ambassador of Bangladesh to Portugal.

Congratulations to Dr. Rizwan Khair, Chair, PSS & Faculty at SIPG, NSU, for being a Public Administration Reform Commission member.



Congratulations to Dr. Md. Sanwar Jahan Bhuiyan, adjunct faculty member of SIPG, for being promoted to the secretary of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission (BPSC).

Congratulations to Mr. Khoda Baksh Chowdhury, former Inspector General of Police, for being appointed as Special Assistant to Home Adviser with the status of State Minister. He was on the technical committee of drafting the SIPG position paper on police reforms. He was also a guest faculty of the MPPG program





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