

## **High-Profile Policy Colloquium Explores New Possibilities in Bangladesh, Japan, and India Trilateral Partnership**

**Dhaka, 17 May 2023:** A high-profile policy colloquium titled ‘From the Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal: New Possibilities in the Bangladesh, Japan, India Trilateral Partnership’ was held today in the morning at the Syndicate Hall of North South University (NSU). The event was organized by the university's Center for Peace Studies (CPS) of the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG).

The conference attracted esteemed dignitaries, including H.E. IWAMA Kiminori, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh, and Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh. The session was chaired by Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of NSU.

Prominent presentations were delivered by Dr. Selim Raihan, Executive Director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), and Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director of Asian Confluence, India. Panel discussions included contributions from Dr. M Jashim Uddin, Associate Professor of Political Science and Sociology at NSU, and Professor Shahidul Haque, SIPG, NSU.



Guest of Honour H.E. IWAMA Kiminori emphasized the rising geopolitical significance of Bangladesh in the global context. Special Guest Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen underscored the potential of a trilateral partnership between Bangladesh, India, and Japan, leveraging Bangladesh's strategic location. He said this partnership would focus on investment, market development, and enhanced connectivity, with India's growing economy and Japan's capital surplus playing crucial roles; he also urged Japan to expand its BIG-B initiative for regional prosperity and sustainable development.

Dr. Selim Raihan observed that the Bangladesh, Japan, and India partnership could spur economic growth in Bangladesh through improved connectivity, trade efficiency, and infrastructure development. Highlighting the importance of greater transparency, digitization

of customs, and removing non-tariff barriers, Dr. Raihan suggested unrestricted foreign direct investment from Bangladesh to India to stimulate economic integration and industry growth.

Observing that India's North East Region (NER) is a crucial connector for Bangladesh with India and South and Southeast Asia, Mr. Dutta said that extensive connectivity in the region can foster a competitive business climate and stimulate regional trade and economic growth.

The colloquium also focused on the challenges that need to be overcome to ensure the success of the trilateral partnership, with a particular focus on border stabilization. The historical links between Bangladesh and the North East Region (NER) of India and the role of Japan in rejuvenating these connections were also discussed.

The event was further enriched by an open dialogue, during which panelists answered questions from students, faculty, and journalists, moderated by Professor Dr. Sk Tawfique M. Haque, Director, CPS, and SIPG.

Professor Atiqul Islam hoped that the trilateral investment partnership would positively impact the entire region, encompassing India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan.

