

INAUGURAL SESSION AND KEYNOTE SPEECH

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud is an Eminent Economist of Bangladesh with a prolific career in academic arena. He was a Professor of Economics at the University of Dhaka. He was Advisor (Minister) for Finance and Planning of the non-party Caretaker Government of Bangladesh in 1996. He obtained his PhD in Economics from the Cambridge University. He has frequently consulted for many international organizations and has held teaching and research appointments at Cambridge, IDS at Sussex, IFPRI and the World Bank among others. Together with Nobel peace prize winner Muhammad Yunus, he co-founded, and was chairman for a tenure of ten years of Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF). His recent publications include "Development and Welfare in South Asia", "Path to Development: Is There a Bangladesh Surprise?". One of his edited volumes is "Handbook of the South Asian Economics".

Dr. Martin Rama is the Chief Economist for the South Asia region of the World Bank. He was the Director of the World Development Report (WDR) 2013 and the Lead Economist for Vietnam, based in Hanoi. In this capacity, he oversaw the World Bank program in the country in areas related to economic policy and poverty reduction. Dr. Rama gained his PhD in Macroeconomics in France in 1985. Back to his home country, Uruguay, he worked in CINVE, the country's largest think tank, and became one of its directors. In parallel with his World Bank duties, he was a Visiting Professor of Development Economics at the University of Paris until 2005. His recent publications include "Households or locations? Cities, catchment areas and prosperity in India", "The recent disinflation and its implications: getting prices right", "Addressing inequality in South Asia" etc.

CHAIR

Dr. Bazlul Haque Khondker is a Professor at the Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and the Chairman of South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM). Dr. Khondker was involved in designing and implementing a 'Generalized Macro Economic' framework on behalf of UN Regional Bureau for the Asia and Pacific (UN RBAP) to develop MDG financing strategy within the framework of MTBF and LTMF, which has been used in Mongolia and Nigeria to develop their MDG financing strategies. He has presented his analytical works in numerous conferences around the world, organized by institutions such as UNDP, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the International Labor Organization.

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Selim Raihan is a Professor at the Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and the Executive Director of South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM). Dr. Raihan possesses vast expertise in research on international trade, labor market dynamics, poverty, economic growth and political economy analysis of growth and development. He is the editor of a monthly digest *Thinking Aloud*, published from SANEM. Dr. Raihan has a number of publications in reputed journals, and has also written several books and book-chapters. Dr. Raihan has worked for several national and international organizations including the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNCTAD, IFPRI, the Commonwealth Secretariat, FAO, European Commission, ILO, IDRC, DFID, etc.

Dr. Stuart Davies is a Senior Economist working for the UK Department for International Development (DFID) in Dhaka. He has worked for DFID for the past 5 years and prior to this at the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defence, Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the Bank of England on International and Macroeconomic Policy issues. Prior to joining the civil service he was a research analyst at the Economic Centre for Micro-social Change working on the British Household Panel Study. He has a doctorate from the University of Essex and studied as an undergraduate at the University of Southampton.

Mr. Christian Tardif is the Director of Development Program, at High Commission of Canada in Bangladesh. Mr. Tardif has a bright diplomatic career. He is representing the Canadian High Commission at SANEM Annual Economists' Conference 2016.



BREAKOUT SESSION 1: ECONOMIC GROWTH

CHAIR

Dr. Sadiq Ahmed currently serves as the vice-chairman of the Policy Research Institute (PRI). Dr. Sadiq began his career as a Lecturer in Economics at the University of Dhaka in 1974 and later worked at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies as a Research Fellow. Dr. Ahmed did his MSc from London School of Economics and PhD from Boston University. He joined the Young Professional program of the World Bank in 1981 and held several key positions: Country Economist, Egypt, the Middle East and North Africa Region; Principal Economist, Indonesia, PNG and Pacific Islands, East Asia and Pacific Region; Lead Economist, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan; Country Director, Pakistan and Afghanistan Program; Chief Economist, South Asia Region; Sector Director, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, Finance and Private Sector, South Asia Region; and Senior Manager, Regional Programs, South Asia Region. During his versatile career, he has contributed in many books as well as published articles in many peer-reviewed journals.

SPECIAL GUEST

Dr. Biru Paksha Paul is the Chief Economist of Bangladesh Bank and Associate Professor of Economics at the State University of New York at Cortland. He completed his Masters in Economics from the University of Dhaka in 1987. Later he pursued MBA in finance from the University of Technology-Sydney in 1999. In 2004, Dr. Paul completed his Master's in Applied Economics from the State University of New York at Binghamton and earned his PhD in Economics from the same university in 2007. He has numerous publications on inflation, economic growth, liberalization, and monetary economics in renowned international journals. His professional experiences include banking, economic journalism, consultancy, teaching, and research.

PAPER PRESENTERS

Professor Mushtaq Khan is a Professor of Economics at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. His work focusses on institutional economics and political economy, the economics of rent seeking corruption and patron-client networks, late industrialization and the state, governance reform and state formation, and the economic development of South Asia in comparative perspective. Apart from his academic career, Khan has held appointments as consultant for a vast number of international institutions, among others the World Bank, DFID, UNDP and the Asian Development Bank. Several of his articles have won prizes, including the Hans Singer Prize and the Frank Cass Prize.

Mr. Bishnu Pada Biswas is the Deputy General Manager of the research division of Bangladesh Bank, the central bank of the country. Mr. Biswas has been working for Bangladesh Bank since 1992. He has his Bachelor's and Master's degree from the Department of Economics, Rajshahi University. He has wide ranging experience in research on public debt management, debt sustainability and food inflation. His research papers have been published in several reputed journals.

Mr. S.M Abdullah is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. He completed his Bachelor's and Master's degree from Department of Economics, University of Dhaka. He has been teaching Statistical Inference, Introductory Econometrics, Applied Econometrics, Time Series and Panel Data Analysis. He has a number of papers published in Journal of the Faculty of Arts, Social Science Review of University of Dhaka and BRAC University Journal.

Mr. Md. Abdul Khaleque is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka. Prior to joining in the University of Dhaka, he worked as a Senior Research Associate at Institute of Inclusive Finance and Development (InM). He has a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Economics from the University of Dhaka.

DISCUSSANTS

Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman is the Executive Director and Founder of Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC). He was the former advisor to the Caretaker Government of Bangladesh. An eminent economist and social thinker, Dr. Rahman was a leading researcher at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies at Dhaka between 1977 and



2000. He initiated and led the internationally renowned Analysis of Poverty Trends Project at the Institute and is the author of *Rethinking Rural Poverty*. He was awarded the Dr. John Meyer Global Citizenship Award by Tufts University, Boston, USA in November, 2009 and Gold Medal Award 2013 by Rotary International Bangladesh in 2013 for his contribution to the society and academics.

Dr. Monzur Hossain is a Senior Research Fellow at Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS). He obtained Master's in Public Policy from the National Graduate Institute for Policy studies (GRIPS), Tokyo, Japan where he also obtained his PhD. Prior to joining BIDS, he worked at the Bangladesh Bank and was involved in teaching Economics at the American International University, Bangladesh. He has experiences of working at the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo and Graduate School of International Development, Nagoya University, Japan as Visiting Scholar. His research interests mainly concentrate towards Macroeconomics, International Trade and Finance (Aid, Ex. Rate etc.), Local government finance, Industrial development (ICT, RMG, SME etc.) and Banking and Financial Sector. He has published extensively in reputed academic journals including Journal of the Japanese and International Economies, Applied Economics Letters, Journal of Asian Economics, Journal of Developing Areas, Bangladesh Development Studies etc.

BREAKOUT SESSION 2: POVERTY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

CHAIR

Dr. K.A.S. Murshid is the Director General at Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS). Dr. Murshid had his PhD from Cambridge University. He worked on food policy throughout his career, at the same time branching out into a number of other research areas including infrastructure and irrigation, informal and rural credit markets, agricultural markets and value chain finance, human resource development and policy research. He has published extensively in top development journals including the Bangladesh Development Studies, the European Journal of Human Development, World Development, Journal of Agrarian Change, Economic and Political Weekly and the Journal of Development Studies. In addition, Dr. Murshid combines extensive research experience with familiarity with a wide range of development settings, including Bangladesh, sub-Saharan Africa, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Pakistan, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

SPECIAL GUEST

Dr. Sajjad Zohir is the Executive Director of Economic Research Group (ERG) and Professor of Economics at BRAC University. He earned his PhD in Economics from University of Toronto and received his Bachelor's and Master's in Economics from University of Dhaka. Previously he worked as a Senior Research Fellow at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

PAPER PRESENTERS

Dr. Syed Naimul Wadood is an Associate Professor of Economics at University of Dhaka. He completed his Bachelor's and Master's from the University of Dhaka and obtained his PhD in Economics from North Carolina State University, USA. His principle interests lies in applied development microeconomics, micro finance and public policy, agricultural economics and food policy.

Mr. Md. Amzad Hossain is a Lecturer at the Department of Economics, University of Dhaka. Prior to joining as a Lecturer, he worked as an Assistant Commissioner (Administration) at Bangladesh Civil Service and a Research Associate at BRAC Research and Evaluation Division (RED). He completed his Bachelor's and Master's degree from the University of Dhaka.

Mr. Muhammad Shahadat Hossain Siddiquee is an Associate Professor at the Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and PhD Researcher at University of Manchester, UK. He received his Bachelor's and Master's in Economics from the University of Dhaka. He teaches Cross Section Econometrics, Time Series Analysis and Statistics.

Mr. Md. Azhar Uddin is a Lecturer at the Institute of Health Economics, University of Dhaka. He obtained his Bachelor's and Master's degree from the Department of Economics, University of Dhaka. His research interest includes Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Growth Analysis and Impact Assessment. As a Lecturer, he conducts the courses on Macroeconomics, Environmental and Health, Labor Economics etc.



DISCUSSANTS

Dr. Minhaj Mahmud is the Head of Research at BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD). He received his PhD in Economics from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden and MA in Economics from the University of Manitoba, Canada. He has held academic and research positions at Queens University Belfast, and Keele University in the United Kingdom, and Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), BRAC University and Jahangirnagar University in Bangladesh. He was a Visiting Professor at the University of Tokyo, Japan and Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. He also served as long-term consultant to the ICDDRB on water related projects. Dr. Mahmud's main area of research is behavioral and experimental economics, and development issues.

Dr. Atonu Rabbani is an Associate Professor at the Department of Economics, University of Dhaka. He is also a Senior Research Fellow at the James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, a Director of Economic Research Group (ERG) and an affiliate with the Urban Services Initiative of J-PAL. Previously, he worked as a full-time Research Fellow at the Institute of Inclusive Finance and Development (InM). He obtained an MA in Economics from the Department of Economics, University of Chicago and earned his PhD in Economics from the same institute. He has a number of papers published in international peer-reviewed journals - like *Journal of Regional Science*, *American Economic Review P&P*, *The Lancet, Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Journal of Biosocial Science*, *Health Services Research* and *Archives of Internal Medicine* among others.

LAUNCHING OF THE VOLUME "STRUCTURAL CHANGE AND DYNAMICS OF LABOR MARKETS IN BANGLADESH: STUDIES ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT"

CHAIR

Dr. Bazlul Haque Khondker is a Professor at the Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and the Chairman of South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM). Dr. Khondker was involved in designing and implementing a 'Generalized Macro Economic' framework on behalf of UN Regional Bureau for the Asia and Pacific (UN RBAP) to develop MDG financing strategy within the framework of MTBF and LTMF, which has been used in Mongolia and Nigeria to develop their MDG financing strategies. He has presented his analytical works in numerous conferences around the world, organized by institutions such as UNDP, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the International Labor Organization.

SPECIAL GUEST

Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb is the Vice Chancellor of BRAC University. He is also a member of the Advisory Council of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University. He also served as Member, Board of Trustees, American Institute of Bangladesh Studies and as President for two terms of Bangladesh Development Initiative (USA). Before joining BRAC University, Professor Andaleeb was a Distinguished Professor of Marketing at the Sam & Irene Black School of Business, Pennsylvania State University, Erie, USA. He completed his PhD in Business Administration from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a BS in Chemical Engineering and MBA from the University of New Hampshire. He is the editor of the Journal of Bangladesh Studies since 1999. He has published widely in peer-reviewed and practitioner journals and has presented invited papers at Oxford University, the Harvard School of Public Health and Cornell University's South Asia Program on improving health services in developing countries. He has consulted for The World Bank, UNFPA, ILO, FAO, IFAD and various corporate bodies in the United States; he has also advised the Government of Bangladesh on various social development programs including health care and education and consulted widely for the private sector. He served on the expert panel for Transparency International, Bangladesh. He is the recipient of teaching, research, and outreach awards at The Pennsylvania State University and has edited several books on socioeconomic and political aspects of Bangladesh.

PRESENTER

Dr. Selim Raihan is a Professor at the Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and the Executive Director of South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM). Dr. Raihan possesses vast expertise in research on international trade, labor market dynamics, poverty, economic growth and political economy analysis of growth and development.



He is the editor of a monthly digest *Thinking Aloud*, published from SANEM. Dr. Raihan has a number of publications in reputed journals, and has also written several books and book-chapters. Dr. Raihan has worked for several national and international organizations including the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNCTAD, IFPRI, the Commonwealth Secretariat, FAO, European Commission, ILO, IDRC, DFID, etc.

DISCUSSANTS

Dr. Edgard Rodriguez is a Senior Program Specialist at International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Prior to joining IDRC, he worked as Senior Policy Analyst of Canadian International Development Agency and, Small and Medium Enterprise-Economist of Asian Development Bank. He obtained his PhD on Development and Labor Economics and Master's in Economics from University of Toronto. Among his numerous publications, some notables are "International Return Migration and Remittances in the Philippines", "Does Under-Investment Contribute to the Canada-U.S. Productivity Gap?", "Labor or Total Factor Productivity: Do We Need to Choose?" etc.

Dr. Rizwanul Islam is a Former Special Adviser on Growth, Employment and Poverty Reduction, International Labor Office (ILO), Geneva. His previous positions include Director, Economic and Labor Market Analysis, and other directorial positions at the ILO. Prior to joining the ILO in 1980, he was an Associate Professor of Economics at University of Dhaka. Dr. Islam did his PhD in Economics at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He specializes in Development Economics with particular focus on employment, poverty and income distribution, and he has published a number of journal articles and books in this field.

BREAKOUT SESSION 3: TRADE AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

CHAIR

Professor Mustafizur Rahman is the Executive Director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). After a successful twenty-five years of teaching career, Dr. Rahman voluntarily retired from the Department of Accounting and Information Systems, Faculty of Business Studies, University of Dhaka in 2012. Professor Rahman did his Masters in Economics with distinction from the Kharkov State University, Ukraine, and thereafter did his PhD in Developmental Economics from Moscow State University, Russia. Professor Rahman's current research areas include fiscal-monetary policies and macroeconomic management, trade policies and trade reforms in developing countries, regional trading arrangements and free trade agreements, trade-poverty nexus, multilateral trading system and interests of the Least Developed Countries. He has published widely in professional journals both in Bangladesh and abroad, and has authored several books and monographs in areas of his interest and expertise. Professor Rahman has served as a member of the Panel of Economists for the Sixth Five Year Plan and the Ten Year Perspective Plan of Bangladesh and he is currently a member of the Panel of Economists for the Seventh Five Year Plan of Bangladesh.

SPECIAL GUEST

HE Ambassador Sumith Nakandala holds a B.Sc in Agriculture Degree from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and Masters Degree in International Relations and Development from the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, the Netherlands. Before entering into the Sri Lankan Foreign Services, he was working in the Sri Lanka Department of Agriculture and the Central Environmental Authority as a Research Officer and Environmental Officer respectively. Since his joining in the Sri Lankan Foreign Services in 1988 he has served many important positions at home and abroad. He was the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Nepal and Iraq. He also held the posts of Deputy High Commissioner at the Ambassadorial level in Chennai and London. He was the First Director of the Technical Cooperation Programs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka where he conducted 11 major training programs in 2000-2001 for officers from Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Myanmar, Vietnam, Lao PDR and Cambodia. Apart from the official engagements, Ambassador Nakandala was a member in the International Partnership Committee of the National Science Foundation and in the Committee on Genetic Resources at the Sri Lanka Council on Agricultural Research Policy. Apart from his South Asian bilateral experience for more than 20 years, Ambassador Nakandala had also dealt extensively with regional organizations such as SAARC, BIMSTEC, IORA, ACD, G-15, ESCAP, AMED, WIPO while working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka. In 2012, Ambassador Nakandala was nominated as the First Secretary General of BIMSTEC.



PAPER PRESENTERS

Dr. Saman Kelegama is the Executive Director of Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS). He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka and was the President of the Sri Lanka Economic Association (SLEA). He obtained his MSc and PhD in Economics from Oxford University, and MSc in Mathematics from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). He was a Visiting Fellow at the Australia South Asia Research Centre, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia (1998); Government of India Distinguished Visiting Scholar (1998); Salzburg Fellow (1997); USIS International Visitor (1993); and Visiting Fellow, Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, The Netherlands (1992/93). He has been (and is) a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Colombo, Post-Graduate Institute of Management (PIM), Sri Lanka, Bandaranaike Diplomatic Training Institute (BDTI), Sri Lanka and several other institutions. He has served as a consultant to the World Bank, ADB, UNDP, UNIDO, ILO, UN-ESCAP, Commonwealth Secretariat, among other organizations. He is a trade policy Economist who also works on industrial economics, public enterprise reform, and macroeconomics.

Dr. Prabir De is a Professor at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India. He is also the Coordinator of ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) and a Fellow of South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM). He has a PhD in Economics from the Jadavpur University, Calcutta. Dr. De works in the field of international economics and has research interests in international trade and development. He was a Visiting Fellow of the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo; and Visiting Senior Fellow of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok. He was the Team Leader of ASEAN-India Connectivity Study, supported by the Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta. He has been conducting policy research for the Government of India and several international organizations. He has contributed several research papers in international journals and written books on trade and development.

Dr. Sandeep Kaur Bhatia is an Assistant Professor at the Centre for Economic Studies, School of Social Sciences, Central University of Punjab, India. She earned her PhD in Economics from Guru Nanak Dev University, India and got her Master's degree from the same institution. She specialized in international economics, political economy and environmental degradation and labor economics. She has working experience with ICSSR and IIFT.

Mr. Kishore Kumer Basak is a Senior Research Associate at Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh. He has completed Bachelor's and Master's in Applied Statistics from Institute of Statistical Research and Training, University of Dhaka. His areas of interest include investment in the form of improving business competitiveness in the domestic industries and infrastructure for attracting foreign investment, regional connectivity along with trade openness, trade competitiveness.

DISCUSSANTS

Dr. Khondaker Golam Moazzem is an Additional Research Director of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). He is also a Visiting Researcher, Centre for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), Kyoto University, Japan, a Member, Advisory Panel of "Developing Business Services Market (DBSM) Phase II" of the Ministry of Commerce, GoB and Consultant of various international organizations, including UNCTAD, ADB, GTZ, Katalyst. He got his Doctorate degree from Kyoto University, Japan. He obtained his Bachelor's and Master's in Economics from the University of Dhaka. He is interested in policy analysis particularly related to policies on trade, industry and investment, trade-investment inter-linkages, sectoral policy analysis particularly related to manufacturing and services and SMEs, public-private partnership, private investment including FDI etc.

Dr. A.K.M. Atiqur Rahman is a Professor of Economics at the North South University. Previously, he worked as an Economist at the World Bank, Dhaka Office and Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), Assistant Director at Bangladesh Bank, Visiting Fellow of New Jersey Institute of Technology, and Teaching Fellow of Department of Economics, University of Houston. He obtained his MA as well as PhD in Economics from the University of Houston, USA. He has Several publications in different International journals like *Journal of Academic Research in Economics, Journal of Business and Economics, Bangladesh Development Studies etc*.



BREAKOUT SESSION 4: SECTORAL ECONOMY

CHAIR

Dr. Mustafa K. Mujeri is the Executive Director of the Institute of Inclusive Finance and Development (InM) and the former Director General of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS). He also served as the Chief Economist of Bangladesh Bank, Director Research of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP); Visiting Faculty at the Department of Economics, University of Queensland, Brisbane; National Expert in the Bangladesh Planning Commission; and Associate Professor of Economics, Rajshahi University. Dr. Mujeri obtained PhD in Economics from McMaster University in Canada after his graduation from Rajshahi University. He has a wide range of experience in consultancy and research on development issues in different UN and other international organizations and other multi-lateral, bilateral, and private sector organizations including NGOs. He has published extensively in national and international journals. His current areas of research interest include poverty and MDGs monitoring and analysis; macro policy analysis and strategic development issues; application of modeling and quantitative techniques in development policy; public policy analysis; sustainable rural and participatory development; social development; poverty reduction strategy formulation and policy development; monitoring and evaluation of programs; and monetary policy analysis.

SPECIAL GUEST

Mr. Syed Nasim Manzur is the President of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and Managing Director, Apex Footwear Limited. He has completed his BSc in Economics in entrepreneurial management from Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania in 1990. Mr. Manzur is also a Director of Pioneer Insurance Ltd, a leading general insurance company. He is a trustee for the Society for Promotion of Bangladesh Art, a member of United World College Society & the Super Brands Advisory Council and also associated with a mass literacy program called Ganoshikhya Andolon. Recently he was a guest faculty teaching International Business in the BBA program at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka.

PAPER PRESENTERS

Mr. Muntaseer Kamal is a Research Associate at Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). He obtained his Bachelor's and Master's from Department of Economics, University of Dhaka. His areas of interest include International Economics, Environmental Economics, Natural Resources and Energy Economics, ICT issues, etc.

Ms. Azreen Benazir Abdullah is a Lecturer at the Department of Economics, North South University. She completed her Master's of Economics from University of Melbourne, Australia, and Bachelor's of Business and Commerce from Monash University, Sunway Campus, Malaysia. As a Lecturer, currently she is teaching Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and Econometrics.

Mr. M.G. Mortaza is an Economist at Asian Development Bank, Manila. Previously he worked for Bangladesh Bank and the World Bank Institute, BRAC University and Centre for Policy Dialogue. He obtained an MA in Economics from Dalhousie University and BSS in Economics from University of Dhaka. His research interest includes Microeconomic policy Analysis, Econometric Analysis and Public Policy.

Ms. Tahera Ahsan is an Assistant Consultant at Oxford Policy Management (OPM). Her area of focus at OPM includes Social Sector/Protection, Public Finance and Macroeconomic Research. She has worked at the Policy Research Institute for over three years as a Senior Research Associate (Fiscal and Social Sector Policy) and has worked at many projects for the NBR, Ministry of Planning, World Bank, UNDP etc. She holds an MSc in Finance and Economics from Queen Mary University of London and is also a part-time Lecturer at North South University.

DISCUSSANTS

Dr. A.K. Enamul Haque is a Professor at East West University and Director of Academic Affairs, Insight School of Learning. Previously he worked at the United International University, North South University and Economic Research Group. He has a Masters degree in Economics as well as in Agricultural Economics. He completed his Doctoral degree from the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada in Natural Resource Economics. Dr. Haque has been a SANDEE Research Advisor for many years.



Dr. Sayema Haque Bidisha is an Associate Professor at the Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and a Research Fellow of South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM). She received her Bachelor's as well as Master's from the Department of Economics, University of Dhaka. She also obtained a Masters from the University of Bath and earned her PhD in Economics from the University of Nottingham. Her research interest lies on development economics, labor economics and environmental economics. She worked for the Planning Commission of the Government of Bangladesh and was closely involved in drafting the Five Year Plans of the country. She has completed a number of research projects on food security, rural credit, poverty, women empowerment in particular. She published a number of articles in peer-reviewed journals and also contributed in several book chapters and research reports. Dr. Bidisha also worked with different international organizations like the World Bank, FAO, IDRC, ILO etc.

A SESSION FOR BUDDING RESEARCHERS

CHAIR

Dr. Selim Raihan is a Professor at the Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and the Executive Director of South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM). Dr. Raihan possesses strong expertise in research on international trade and trade policy issues related to the WTO, regional trading agreements and domestic trade policies. Dr. Raihan has worked for several national and international organizations including the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNCTAD, IFPRI, the Commonwealth Secretariat, FAO, European Commission, ILO, IDRC, DFID, etc.

PAPER PRESENTERS

Mr. Muhammad Nahian Bin Khaled is a BSS (final year) student, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and the President of Economics Study Center (ESC), University of Dhaka. He worked as the President of Motijheel Govt. Boys' School Debating Club (MGBSDC), Vice President of Dhaka College Debating Society (DCDS). He presented a paper titled "FDI and Technology Transfer in South Asia: The Service Sector Revolution" in SAESM Conference 2014 held in Thimphu, Bhutan. His area of interest includes Applied Microeconomics, Microeconometrics, International Trade and Development Economics.

Ms. Mahbuba Khadija Kanta is an MSS thesis student, Department of Economics, Shahjalal University of Science & Technology (SUST), Sylhet, Bangladesh. She has completed Bachelor and Master's degree in Economics from the same institution. She Got fellowship for working on a research project funded by the Bangladesh office of The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Organization. Her interest includes Trade liberalization, Industrial Economics and Development Economics.

Mr. Mahir A. Rahman is a BSS final year student of Economics, University of Dhaka. He participated in several Quiz Competitions, Global Money Week Essay Competition and was scheduled to participate in SAESM 2015 in Colombo before it got postponed. His area of interest includes Microeconomic policy Analysis, Econometric Analysis and Public Economics.

Ms. Tonni Hasan is a student of BSS final year, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka. She worked as a Field Researcher of a project of OXFAM conducted by C3ER, BRAC University. Her interest includes Human Psychology, Growth Analysis and Environmental Challenges in Bangladesh.

DISCUSSANT

Dr. Kazi Iqbal is a Research Fellow at Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS). He received his PhD in Economics from the University of Washington, Seattle, USA. After completion of his PhD, he worked for the World Bank Institute, Washington DC as a consultant in Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Division. He also taught at University of Washington and Macalester College, Minnesota. His research interest lies in macroeconomics, public economics and development issues. He has publications in internationally reputed journals. Currently he is involved in studying the strategic behavior of NGOs/MFIs in Bangladesh.