Volume 6
Issue 11
April 1, 2020

SANEM

Thinking Aloud

Editor's Desk

The April 2020 issue of Thinking Aloud focuses on "National and Regional Responses to COVID-19 Global Crisis". The first page article titled "Regional Response in South Asia to COVID-19 Driven Global Crisis" emphasizes the need for regional cooperation in South Asia and rejuvenating the SAARC process to combat the crisis brought by COVID-19. In South Asia, despite significant potentials, regional integration and cooperation processes have been low. Historically, there is a serious lack of mutual trust among most of the nations. However, a common crisis, like the one brought by COVID-19, can bring these countries together. The second and third pages of this issue present three articles. The article titled "COVID-19: Economic Perils and the Next Budget" affirms that the impacts of COVID-19 on economic growth, job losses and upsurge in poverty are expected to be large. Bangladesh's government has proposed a series of measures and stimuli to buttress the deleterious consequences of the COVID-19. Effective and timely disbursement of funds will be decisive to tackle the economic and social perils of COVID-19. The article on "Ecological Devastation and Poverty: Lesson from COVID-19 Episode" states that the development efforts to eradicate poverty may be seriously disrupted and delayed by the eruption of COVID-19. The government will need to have quick, clear and decisive responses to mitigate the disruption caused by this outbreak. The article titled "Will Mitigation of Trade Bottlenecks Pave the Way towards Achieving the SDGs?" highlights that being a resource-constrained nation, Bangladesh can use trade as the key driving force to achieve the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The fourth page covers the events that took place in February and March.

Inside this issue

Editor:
Selim Raihan

Associate Editors:
Zubayer Hossen
Mir Ashrafun Nahar
Fabiha Bushra Khan

Coordinator:
Sk. Ashibur Rahman

Regional response in South Asia to COVID-19 driven global crisis

Selim Raihan

The effects of COVID-19 on the national economies and the global economy are going to be unprecedented. Immediate concerns are public health and related life safety issues. The global economy is facing "a double crisis" in an unmatched magnitude – the danger to public health due to the pandemic, and a growing risk of global economic recession. It is now commonly thought that COVID-19's blow to the global economy has been stronger and sharper than the global financial crisis of 2008, and even the Great Depression in the 1930s. To be precise, each part of aggregate demand – consumption, investment, and exports – is badly affected in most of the countries. Also, domestic, regional and global supply chains are severely disrupted, which may take a long time to get back to the normal state.

Countries from South Asia are no exception in the aforementioned scenario. This double crisis at the global level can lead to a widespread national setback in most of the countries in South Asia. Most of the countries of this region are vulnerable to the COVID-19 outbreak and may have large humanitarian and economic effects if the situation goes out of control. More specifically, prolonged shutdown – as it is happening in most of these countries, as well as a possible global slowdown, would strike all of the region's economies very hard. Major sectors in the economy, both the export and domestic market-oriented, are affected. Also, marginalized people and near-to-marginalized people may fall into further deprivation. Even some other sections of people in society may become highly vulnerable.

While national governments in South Asia are in the process of undertaking different policy measures in the wake of this crisis, the situation, however, might and should act as a wake-up call for regional leaders to look beyond narrow national and geopolitical interests. To avert this crisis, countries in South Asia must respond quickly and have concerted efforts. These countries also need to cooperate with international organizations and key global actors to ensure an effective and sustainable strategy.

What kind of actions are needed at the national level? The monetary policy should include lowering interest rates and credit easing. Countries should ease credit to help households smooth their consumption and help firms survive the immediate shock of the outbreak. The fiscal policy should deploy fiscal stimulus, including direct cash disbursements to households and affected firms. Given the size of the economic shock, fiscal deficits in these economies may need to be increased from the levels in usual years.

How can the regional response in South Asia help? In South Asia, despite significant potentials, regional integration and cooperation processes have been low. Historically, there is a serious lack of mutual trust among most of the nations. However, a common crisis, like the one brought by COVID-19, can bring these countries together.

First, public health systems are in underdeveloped states in most of the South Asian countries. In such a crisis, the private health system also fails. While there is no denying that in the medium to longer terms, countries in the region have to invest in their public healthcare capacities, in this crisis-time they can explore the use of the pool of doctors, nurses and medical facilities available in this region to help each other. Under the SAARC process, there is a forum of meeting for SAARC health ministers. In the wake of the widespread threats brought by the emergence of the SARS, an Emergency Meeting of SAARC Health Ministers was held in Male in April 2003 to develop a regional strategy to deal with the deadly epidemic. Between 2003 and 2017, there were six meetings of the SAARC Health Ministers. An emergency meeting of SAARC health ministers on COVID-19 is a necessity of the time now. Countries should explore greater regional collaboration and new cross-border public-private partnerships to expand the production and delivery of essential medical supplies and services, and collaborative medical research. Eventually, a South Asian monitoring centre on COVID-19 can be set up.

Second, South Asian countries need to share their experiences of the national policy measures to combat the crisis. The SAARCFINANCE Forum, which was established in 1998 as a regional network of the SAARC Central Bank Governors and Finance Secretaries, needs to be reactivated. Though the primary function of the network is to conduct a dialogue on macro-economic policies of the region and share experiences and ideas of the member countries, the forum has been suspended since 2014 with the deadlock in the SAARC process. As the Prime Minister of India, in a video-conference with SAARC leaders on 16 March 2020, proposed an emergency COVID-19 fund for SAARC countries, this is the high time now to revitalize the SAARCFINANCE Forum on how this emergency fund can be created, expanded and used.

Third, given that the global supply chain is broken for a large number of sectors, South Asian countries should explore the use of regional supply chain as much as possible. The current crisis sends a strong message that a heavy reliance on a few countries, both in the cases of exports and imports, is counterproductive. Despite the huge potential of intra-regional trade, South Asian countries have not been able to exploit this potential for a number of reasons which include unfavourable economic and trade policies, underdeveloped regional trade logistics, and political conflicts. The current situation underscores the need for a much greater regional integration in South Asia by addressing the aforementioned unfavourable factors with a positive mindset.

Finally, the SAARC process needs to be rejuvenated. The crisis brought by COVID-19 stresses the importance of deeper regional cooperation in South Asia. Countries in this region need to comprehend this need and make extra-ordinary efforts to put aside their differences which forbid such cooperation.

Dr. Selim Raihan, Executive Director, SANEM.
Email: selim.raihan@gmail.com

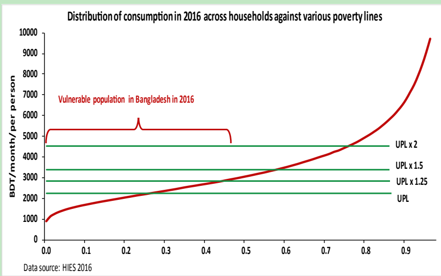
Volume 6 Issue 11 April 1, 2020

COVID-19: Economic perils and the next budget

Bazlul Haque Khondker

On January 1, 2020, Bangladesh welcomed the new year with pessimism that it would be difficult to sustain socio-economic advancements attained during the last few years due to depressing state of major indicators such as negative export-import growth; large revenue deficit; falling private sector investment; rising non-performing loans recorded in the last quarter of 2019; and the impending fear of a global economic recession. However, the government of Bangladesh has been optimistic that the depressing trend of these indicators would be reversed and Bangladesh will have another great year – with respect to growth and poverty reduction. But the optimism has now been seriously dented with the severe onslaught of COVID-19. It has virtually stalled all economic activities all over the world. The countries as well as multi-lateral agencies have already started to estimate the economic and social costs of COVID-19.

The preliminary estimates emerged from numerous sources are frightening. JPMorgan slashes its USA GDP forecast for next quarter (i.e. second quarter) to 25% contraction and an imminent recession despite 'Herculean' stimulus measures equivalent of 2 trillion US dollars. The title of the OECD Interim Economic Assessment (published on March 2, 2020) was "Coronavirus: The World Economy at Risk". Similarly, Moody's cuts India's economic growth from 5.3% to 2.5% for 2020. Similar dire projections emerged from other reports and briefs.



Bangladesh's economy will not be spared. The impacts of COVID-19 on economic growth, job losses and upsurge in poverty are expected to be large. The projected GDP growth of 8.2% for 2020 may decline by 2 to 3 percentage points – that is economic growth may settle somewhere between 5% to 6%. The robust economic growth of 6% to 7% during the last decade helped Bangladesh to win her fight against poverty – mainly through employment generation channel. Jobless rate is likely to surge leading to a sharp rise in poverty. According to current projections (before COVID-19), still poverty rate is 20% implying that almost 32 million people are poor. Poverty measurement uses a poverty line threshold to identify poor persons. If per capita income is lower than the poverty line even by 1 take, he or she is considered as poor. Like many other countries, Bangladesh adopts a low poverty line for poverty measurement – suggesting large numbers of the population even not counted as poor but are vulnerable. Reduction in economic growth and rise in jobless rate inevitably lead to a sharp increase in the poverty rate. The number of vulnerable persons (see figure) – who need assistance – may double from 20% to 40% in 2020 (perhaps for a short and temporary period). Poor and vulnerable groups in Bangladesh lack savings and resources to fend off a crisis like the COVID-19 impact.

Like many other countries, the Bangladesh government has also proposed a series of measures and stimuli to buttress the deleterious consequences of the COVID-19. These initiatives are welcomed. Supports are also being provided by the private sectors, NGOs and development partners (DP). Addressing the health risks and economic perils of the vulnerable population should be the main focus of government stimulus measures. The size of the stimulus may need to be around 3% to 4% of GDP. Bangladesh will also announce its budget for the next fiscal year (FY 2020-21) in June 2020 – amid COVID-19 pandemic. The budget should reorient the focus from channeling resources from traditional sectors such as energy and physical infrastructure to social protection, poverty alleviating programmes, health insurance and universal health coverage, and programme for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The government may increase the current social protection allocation of 2.2% of GDP to about 5% of GDP. Employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes should attract higher allocation. The health sector budget should permanently be increased to 3% of GDP from the current allocation of less than 1% of GDP. Along with fiscal measure (tax and subsidy) and utility measures (lower rates), Bangladesh Bank (Central Bank of Bangladesh) may create a special fund to support the SMEs to fend off the COVID-19 economic crisis.

A major plus point in the case of Bangladesh is that fiscal and monetary instruments are already in operation (even though they are not highly efficient) through which these stimuli can be implemented. Operations of digital financial service providers such as bKash, rocket, and Nagad will be the key conduits of fast and efficient low-cost fund transfers avoiding human contact. Another advantage in Bangladesh is the presence of an effective cluster of CSOs and NGOs. They along with the government can play an important role in beneficiary identification, delivering the resources to the poor and vulnerable populations, and monitoring the stimulus implementation. Effective and timely disbursement of funds is decisive to tackle the economic and social perils of COVID-19.

Value for money (VfM) of public fund is generally low in Bangladesh. This is the time to break this trend to have high VfM of the proposed stimulus and measures to be proposed in the next budget. Following steps may help to improve VfM: (i) coordinated planning to pull all the resources (public, private, NGO and DP) for maximizing the prioritization and allocation; (ii) creation of a dedicated cell within the Planning Commission for COVID-19 related projects to approve projects within 10 days for the speedy delivery of cash, goods, and services; and (iii) extension of support from Bangladesh Bank for quick approval of loans for SMEs for effective and timely disbursement of funds.

To conclude on an optimistic note, Bangladesh is well known for beating apprehensions and it is presumed that Bangladesh will emerge as a stronger nation withstanding the COVID-19 perils.

Dr. Bazlul Haque Khondker, Chairman, SANEM.
Email: bazlul.khondker@gmail.com

Ecological devastation and poverty: Lesson from COVID-19 episode

Zubayer Hossen

There is no denying that Bangladesh has made significant progress in reducing poverty. The moderate poverty rate has reduced to 24.3 percent in 2016-17 from 58.8 percent in 1991-92, while the extreme poverty rate has decreased from 41.0 percent to 12.9 percent during the same period (BBS, 2017). The headway in poverty reduction has been supported by stable economic growth. The economy has achieved, on average, 6.4 percent of GDP growth during the years 2009-2018 (WDI, 2020). The steady growth helped Bangladesh to reach the lower middle-income country status in 2015. Nonetheless, Bangladesh, at its development stage, aims to achieve the larger national and global development goals such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Perspective Plan (PP), Bangladesh Delta Plan (BDP), etc. It desires to eradicate poverty, move up to the upper-middle-income country and become a high-income country, build an economy resilient to climate change and other environmental challenges, and promote a new skilled-based society.

So far, the efforts for income growth, human development, and vulnerability reduction have been remarkable. Nevertheless, Bangladesh faces daunting challenges in the coming years. One of the biggest challenges is reducing poverty to zero. Still, about 24 million people are living below the extreme poverty line. The growth elasticity of poverty for Bangladesh has declined in recent times. The growth elasticity of moderate poverty has declined from 0.32 in 2000-2005 to 0.16 in 2010-2016. During the same period, the elasticity has decreased from 0.33 to 0.10 for extreme poverty (Raihan, 2017). This indicates that the effectiveness of economic growth in reducing poverty has dented. Therefore, despite having a moderate growth rate, Bangladesh may find it a difficult task to achieve the goal of zero poverty (SDG 1). The business-as-usual effort from the state will not help much. The policy intervention allowing decent and productive employment will be required to bring down poverty to an expected level.

The country can achieve its growth aspiration of eradicating poverty and moving up within the upper-middle-income bracket with the right policies and timely action. Being at an important juncture, the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) needs to espouse balanced macroeconomic policies, promote effective social protection system, execute structural reforms, spend more on education and health, generate enough jobs, especially for youth people aged 15-29, increase female labour force participation, raise productivity, invest efficiently in infrastructure, improve the business environment, and address the climate change related challenges.

Helping the poor people to come out seems to be a mammoth task for Bangladesh and the current outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) can make it worse. The COVID-19 has already infected 202 countries, areas or territories. Total confirmed cases of COVID-19 are 719,758 people and 33,673 have died as of March 31 (WHO, 2020). It is spreading quickly and affecting the world economy adversely. The exact impact is yet to be estimated since the pandemic episode is continuing. The extent of the damage will depend on how quickly the virus is

Volume 6 Issue 11 April 1, 2020

contained and how much economic support states can deploy during and after the epidemic. However, it is evident that a global health crisis is turning into a global economic crisis as travelers cancel flights, businesses ask workers to stay home, and stocks fall. The COVID-19 has sparked economic uncertainty which could cost the global economy up to USD 2 trillion in 2020 (UNCTAD, 2020). According to the Asian Development Bank (2020), given the highly unpredictable nature of the outbreak, the global impact of COVID-19 could be USD 77 billion to USD 347 billion or 0.1% to 0.4% of global GDP, with a moderate case estimate of USD 156 billion or 0.2% of global GDP. The economic impacts will have dramatic effects on the wellbeing of families and communities, in particular, the vulnerable people. The confirmed cases in many low- and middle-income countries infer that many of the economic impacts may affect the world's most vulnerable populations.

The ongoing COVID-19 outbreak may have a significant impact on Bangladesh through numerous channels, including sharp declines in domestic demand, lower business travel, trade and production linkages, supply disruptions, and health effects. The scale of the economic losses will depend on how the outbreak advances. The hypothetical worst case scenario suggests a loss of USD 3.02 billion or 1.1% of GDP and around 0.9 million jobs (ADB, 2020). Like many other LDCs, the poorest and most vulnerable groups of the society, e.g. slum dwellers living in cramped conditions with poor hygiene and clean water supply, are at the highest risk in Bangladesh. The low-income people such as rickshaw pullers, peddlers, etc. are losing and will continue to lose their income due to the outbreak. The food prices are in upsurge due to the pandemic. Also, many who are just above the vulnerable line may lose their jobs, see a cut in their earnings, and hence, become susceptible. This unexpected catastrophe is likely to make many people fall back into poverty and lead to a rise in the poverty rate.

Though these are still early days and the impact of COVID-19 in Bangladesh will be realized over the next few months, the development efforts to eradicate poverty may be seriously disrupted and delayed. The government will need to have quick, clear and decisive responses to mitigate the disruption caused by this outbreak. However, COVID-19 pandemic teaches us two important lessons. The COVID-19 is a result of ecological dysfunction. It shows that our ecosystem is in critical shape. The humans cut down the forest and expand industrial activities by which animal microbes have pathways to adapt to the human body. This ongoing disaster serves as a shock therapy to teach us how ecological devastation can drag people into vulnerability and poverty and thus, emphasizes seeking ecological remediation. Furthermore, the weaknesses of the institutions have been divulged because of the eruption of COVID-19. The flawed political institutions are generating inefficiencies, making the economic institutions fragile and creating mistrust among the mass people. In this situation, the whole thing may get out of hand and make the whole process of poverty eradication intricate. This reiterates the importance of the presence of strong political institutions capable to handle the crisis.

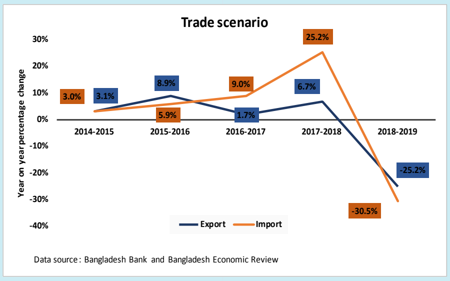
Zubayer Hossen, Research Economist, SANEM.
Email: zubayerhossen14@gmail.com

Will mitigation of trade bottlenecks pave the way towards achieving the SDGs?

Fabiha Bushra Khan

Bangladesh's economic growth has been broadly trade-driven. Trade liberalization policies increased openness through higher exports, imports of essentials and infrastructure related goods, domestic and foreign direct investments that led to foreign exchange earnings and multiplier effects. Thus, being a resource-constrained nation, Bangladesh can use trade as the key driving force to achieve the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Trade is directly related to SDG 1 and SDG 2 of ending poverty and zero hunger, SDG 5 of gender equality, SDG 8 and SDG 9 of ensuring decent work, growth and innovation and SDG 17 as means to strengthen global partnership for sustainable development. To utilize trade as a tool, one mechanism is to address trade challenges to generate more employment, empowerment and social change, technological investments and resilient infrastructure. Analysis of trade scenarios will highlight the bottlenecks for relevant policy implications.

Exports grew from 3% to 9% between 2014-15 and 2015-16 though falling in the following fiscal year, which can be partly attributed to the 2015 global trade downturn. The slowdown of Chinese economy, lower US imports and commodity prices could be the core dynamics. European countries, major export destinations for Bangladesh, reduced their international purchases too. On the contrary, the trade deficit in the balance of payment has increased substantially in recent years due to rising import payments. Imports increased steadily till 2018 as mega projects in transport and energy sectors require imports of heavy-duty construction and infrastructure equipment. However, a sharp decline in trade flows in 2018-19 is an incomplete scenario as data is available until July-February. Hence, export performance measured as export earnings for that period would provide incomplete insights.



Aggregate export earnings in 2018-19 were USD 46.9 billion registering a 14% increase than the previous year. Analysis of each sector reveals interesting trade patterns. Overall, the export performance of the primary sector or agricultural sector is low with the total share being stagnant around 3%. The manufacturing sector dominates exports but changes in export structure from the industry sector to the service sector can be identified to some extent. For instance, in 2014-15, the manufacturing sector contributed USD 29.9 billion, which stabilized around USD 39.0 billion in the remaining periods, whereas from 2015-16 onwards, the service sector's contributions rose steadily from 7.85% to 13.31%. Yet, despite the structural shifts and higher-than-target earnings from commodity exports, sources have remained extremely concentrated.

RMG, which played pivotal roles in structural shifts, still occupies a high proportion of export basket compromising diversity. In 2018-19, knitwear and woven garments accounted for 84% of export earnings exceeding the target. Furthermore, export earnings from other commodities like leather reduced by 6% in the same year as relocated tanneries operate below full capacity while jute products earned 20.41% less from export owing to high domestic demand and Indian anti-dumping duties. Service exports are narrow as well, consisting of telecommunication, information services, and government procurement. Nevertheless, within manufactured goods, the favourable performance of chemicals, ceramics, and handicrafts indicates promising export earnings if proper policies are implemented towards horizontal diversification.

As for import composition, basic products from primary and industry sectors such as rice, petroleum, cotton, and transport, and tourism from the service sector, are the major purchases. However, the matter of concern regarding the import basket is the consistently low shares of capital machinery for the production of exports despite the exemptions of advance income tax proposed by the National Board of Revenue. For instance, in 2018-19 growth in machinery imports declined; an 11% reduction in textile and garment equipment because of low individual credit flow.

Such trends and patterns signal existing trade bottlenecks such as lower export earnings relative to large import payments, concentrated export basket including services, declining shares of leather and jute as well as lower capital imports which could have allowed for productivity gains and diversification along extensive and intensive margins. On top of that, 5.21% negative growth in exports in the July-January period of 2019-20 aggravates the possibilities of trade turbulences if these patterns are not reversed. Firstly, reliance on few products and destinations coupled with LDC graduation will expose exports to higher tariffs, reduced competitiveness and strict rules of origin i.e. double transformation rule which will jeopardize woven garments output as inputs are imported. Such effects will strengthen with the phase out of "Everything But Arms" scheme that provides duty-free entry to the EU market. Similar unfavorable trading arrangements could also result from BREXIT. Secondly, the Coronavirus pandemic is likely to halt the infrastructure development projects and disrupt trade with China which is a major source of imported inputs thus reducing production. To worsen the effects, the RMG sector is already experiencing domestic challenges like rising production costs and competition from small traders operating online and offering cheaper prices.

Therefore, these are areas requiring policy interventions for channeling trade towards SDGs. New markets could open through regional integration; trade agreements with ASEAN countries, those having few importers like Nepal and exploring markets exited by China. Also, vertical diversification could result from taking protectionist measures for jute and leather industries while incentivizing research and product development; producing high value-added RMG products and new electronic varieties to gain from network trade. Thus, higher productive efficiency, employment and income generation will gradually achieve inclusive trade-enhancing growth.

Fabiha Bushra Khan, Research Associate, SANEM.
Email: fabiha.bushra.khan@gmail.com

Dr. Bazlul Haque Khondker delivered a presentation at BIDS

Dr. Bazlul Haque Khondker, Chairman, South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) and Professor of Economics, University of Dhaka delivered a presentation titled “Growth Outlook of 2020-2030” at Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) on February 24, 2020. The session was chaired by Dr. K. A. S. Murshid, Director General, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS). Dr. Khondker discussed the real growth rate and the real income loss in his presentation.

Dr. Selim Raihan chaired a dialogue organized by ESC

Dr. Selim Raihan, Executive Director, South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) and Professor of Economics, University of Dhaka chaired a dialogue titled "ESC Dialogue Episode 3", arranged by Economics Study Center (ESC), Department of Economics, University of Dhaka. The session was held in the RC Majumdar Auditorium, University of Dhaka on February 4, 2020. The dialogue focused on the cost of migration and overseas employment scenarios in the context of the labour market of Bangladesh.

Dr. Somnath Hazra delivered a lecture at SANEM

Dr. Somnath Hazra, Senior Fellow, School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University, India delivered a lecture titled "Exploring Blue Economy in the Indo-Bangladesh Delta" at South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) on February 17, 2020. The SANEM SDG Centre arranged the lecture. Dr. Bazlul Haque Khondker, Chairman, South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) and Professor of Economics, University of Dhaka chaired the session. The lecture ended with an open discussion.

Dr. Sayema Haque Bidisha delivered a presentation in a policy dialogue

Dr. Sayema Haque Bidisha, Research Director, South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) and Professor of Economics, University of Dhaka delivered a presentation on unpaid domestic work in a policy dialogue titled “Formal Recognition of Women’s Unaccounted Contribution”, held at BRAC Centre Inn, Mohakhali, Dhaka on February 20, 2020. The dialogue was arranged by the Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF). Mr. A H M Mustafa Kamal, Honourable Finance Minister, Ministry of Finance was the chief guest. Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman, Executive Chairman, PPRC was present as the guest of honour.

Dr. Selim Raihan was a speaker in the interactive series of ECA

Dr. Selim Raihan, Executive Director, South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) and Professor of Economics, University of Dhaka spoke in the second episode of an interactive series titled "Connecting with Teachers" on February 5, 2020. The episode was arranged by Economics Career Alliance (ECA), Department of Economics, University of Dhaka.

Dr. Selim Raihan was a speaker in the AID Conference

Dr. Selim Raihan, Executive Director, South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) and Professor of Economics, University of Dhaka was a speaker in a panel titled "Navigating New Dynamics" at the 2020 Australian AID Conference. The session was held at the Australian National University in Canberra on February 18, 2020.

e-version: http://sanemnet.org/thinking-aloud/

Dr. Selim Raihan chaired a session at ECA Career Expo 2020

Dr. Selim Raihan, Executive Director, South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) and Professor of Economics, University of Dhaka chaired a session titled "Career in Research: How to Proceed?" at the ECA Career Expo 2020, organized by Economics Career Alliance, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka. The session was held in Professor Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium, Social Science Building, University of Dhaka on February 22, 2020. Mr. Zubayer Hossen, Research Economist, South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) and Coordinator, SANEM SDG Centre delivered a trigger presentation at the session. Dr. Sayema Haque Bidisha, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, Dr. Atonu Rabbani, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and Mr. Mahtab Uddin, Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka were present as panelists. The students from different departments participated in the session. The session concluded with a lively open discussion.

Mr. Zubayer Hossen delivered a lecture at Sudoksho

Mr. Zubayer Hossen, Research Economist, South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) and Coordinator, SANEM SDG Centre delivered a lecture on "The Role of Institutions in Achieving SDGs by 2030" on February 15, 2020. The lecture was organized by Sudoksho. In his lecture, Mr. Hossen iterated the importance of effective, accountable and inclusive institutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 16 by the year 2030.

International Women’s Day celebrated at SANEM

South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) celebrated International Women’s Day at its premises on March 8, 2020.

Events

SANEM
RESEARCH | KNOWLEDGE | DEVELOPMENT

SANEM is a non-profit research organization registered with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms in Bangladesh. Launched in January 2007 in Dhaka, it is a network of economists and policy makers in South Asia with a special emphasis on economic modeling. The organization seeks to produce objective, high quality, country- and South Asian region-specific policy and thematic research. SANEM contributes in governments’ policy-making by providing research supports both at individual and organizational capacities. SANEM has maintained strong research collaboration with global, regional and local think-tanks, research and development organizations, universities and individual researchers.

SANEM Publications: Flat K-5, House 1/B, Road 35, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh, Phone: +88-02-58813075, E-mail: sanemnet@yahoo.com, Web: www.sanemnet.org