

Center For Enterprise And Society

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Events Organized



CES Seminar:

“Government after Rana Plaza: Reviewing the Ready-made Garments Sector after the Rana Plaza Disaster”

On Monday, April 23, 2018, the ULAB Center for Enterprise and Society (CES) in conjunction with BRAC University Economics and Social Sciences (ESS) Department organized a seminar titled “Governance After Rana Plaza: Reviewing the Ready-made Garments Sector after the Rana Plaza Disaster” at the ULAB Campus A Auditorium. Rana Plaza disaster had taken place exactly five years earlier, on April 24, 2013. The seminar started with a presentation on research findings by Dr. Kazi Mahmudur Rahman, Associate Professor, ULAB, and Dr. Shahidur Rahman, Associate Professor, BRAC University. The research focused on the state of the RMG sector with respect to labor safety and working conditions and progress made since Rana Plaza. The presentation was followed by

an expert panel comprising of Ms. Anne-Laure Henry-Greard, Deputy Programme Manager, Ready-made Garment Programme, ILO Country Office in Bangladesh; Ms. Vidya Amrit Khan, Director, Desh Group of Companies; Mr. Mikail Shipar, Former Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of Bangladesh; and Professor ATM Nurul Amin, Chairperson, Department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS), BRAC University. Mr. Sajid Amit, Director, CES, moderated the expert panel.

ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor Jahirul Haque handed over crests to the panelists and presenters. Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees, also attended the session.



CES-CSO Seminar:
**“Financial Literacy
and Career
Development for
Bangladesh Capital
Market”**

On Tuesday, April 24, the ULAB Center for Enterprise and Society (CES), in conjunction with LankaBangla Securities Ltd, the ULAB Career Services Office (CSO) and the ULAB EMBA Program, organized a seminar titled “Financial Literacy and Career Development for Bangladesh Capital Markets” at the ULAB Campus A Auditorium in Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi.

The event was attended by a full-house of ULAB undergraduate students and was meant to introduce topics related to financial literacy and stock market literacy to ULAB students. LankaBanla also showcased their Stock Paathshala Platform through which students can do virtual trading and get a deeper perspective on investing.

Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees at ULAB, launched the event by delivering an inspirational speech about the importance of understanding how the stock market works and of starting early as an investor. The LankaBangla

Securities team consisted of Head of Alternative Investments, Mr. Mohammad Mahabub Ullah; Head of Human Resources, Mr. Ahmed Kamrul Hasan; Manager, Business Development, Mr. Mehdi Aqif and Manager, Alternative Business Development, Mr. Adib Islam Khan.

At the end of the event, Mr. Sajid Amit, Director, CES and EMBA, delivered closing remarks and thanked the LankaBangla team for their presentation to the students.



Expert Roundtable on UN SDG12:

“Driving Sustainable Consumption and Production: The Role of the Private Sector”

On Monday, April 30, ActionAid Bangladesh, Macomm, and University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) jointly organised a roundtable discussion titled “Driving Sustainable Consumption and Production: The Role of the Private Sector” at the Westin Dhaka. Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees at ULAB and Mr. Rabeth Khan, CEO of Macomm made the introducing remarks on the topic where Farah Kabir, Country Director of Action Aid moderated the whole discussion session.

To achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, the private industries of Bangladesh have to be more eco-friendly; opined by the experts at this event. They said that as 78 per cent of the total production comes from private sector industries, there remains a need to develop an environment-friendly corporate culture where country’s environment would not be compromised for the economic development. SDG-12 featured prominently in this discussion as this goal stands

for sustainable consumption and production for promoting resource and energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs and a better quality of life for all. The speakers also asked the government to bring relevant change over policy which will encourage and push the private sectors to step forward for sustainable production.

Prof. Aminul Islam from North South University, Sohel Ahmed, Director, Grameen Shakti, Rasna Anjum Hasan, Head of Grameenphone’s Sustainability Division, Khurshid Alam, Assistant Resident Director United Nations Development Agency (UNDP), Bangladesh and Kazi Faruque Ahmed, Head of Energy Access at Rahimafoorz, also shared their views and suggestions on this topic. ULAB Center for Enterprise and Society Director Mr. Sajid Amit and Center for Sustainable Development Director Dr. Samiya Selim contributed to the event planning and implementation on behalf of ULAB.

*Information Session for
Grameenphone Accelerator:*
“Startup with GPA”



On Sunday, April 1, 2018, the ULAB Center for Enterprise and Society (CES) in conjunction with Startup Dhaka, organized an information session for “Grameenphone Accelerator Batch 5.” The event was a part of an ongoing series of initiatives at ULAB to promote entrepreneurship and skills related to entrepreneurship among students at ULAB.

The event started with an introduction to Grameenphone Accelerator by Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees. Mustafizur Rahman, CEO, Startup Dhaka, went on to dive deeper into the program and its requirements. The Accelerator program offers 12 Lakhs in seed funding, access to co-working space, expert mentorship using Startup

Dhaka resources and GP resources, and a variety of other facilities.

Mr. Sajid Amit, Director, CES, also spoke on the occasion about introducing activities of CES related to entrepreneurship promotion. Adib Sarwar, Research Associate, CES, discussed an initiative for ULAB students called Startup ULAB.

**“Mentorship Direct
by Startup ULAB, a
CES Initiative”**



On Thursday, June 28, the ULAB Center for Enterprise and Society (CES), under its Startup ULAB initiative, organized an event called “Mentorship Direct” featuring Mr. Adnan Imtiaz Halim, Co-founder and CEO of Sheba. XYZ, one of the top startups of the country.

The Startup ULAB initiative, inspired by the ICT Ministry’s Startup Bangladesh program, aims to connect aspiring and current

ULAB student entrepreneurs with the wealth of resources at a university to promote entrepreneurship, whether it is through faculty or external mentorship, access to funding, incubation support, and so on.

Mr. Adnan Imtiaz Halim, before founding Sheba.XYZ in 2016, gathered over a decade of industry experience working at Nokia, Ericsson, Qubee, and Grameenphone. He held positions such as the Head of

Business Development at Qubee.

Sheba.XYZ is considered to be one of the top startups of the country with one of the highest valuations. Sheba has already served over 25,000+ household customers. ULAB CES is Bangladesh’s first university-based research center aimed at the creation of knowledge at the nexus of business and society.

ULAB signs MoU with Startup Dhaka



ULAB and Startup Dhaka signed an MoU on Monday, April 16, to launch digitization initiatives that will benefit ULAB and Startup Dhaka

Online School. Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees (BoT) at ULAB, and Mr. Mustafizur Rahman, Founder

and CEO, Startup Dhaka, signed on behalf of their organizations. Startup Dhaka Online School is an initiative to impart knowledge and skills on topics related to entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship promotion is also a focus area of ULAB Business School and ULAB Center for Enterprise and Society (CES). This partnership would try to contribute in the development of online education in the country. Under this partnership, ULAB faculty members will impart knowledge and skills on various fundamental topics related to entrepreneurship.

ULAB signs MoU with BIAC

ULAB signed an MoU with Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) on May 23, 2018 at ULAB Chancellery at Dhanmondi. By virtue of this MoU, the parties agree to explore areas of making Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) more effective in the country by introducing the students to ADR methods and skills, jointly organizing awareness programs and events and engage in research activities to promote the use of ADR in the country. ULAB Vice Chancellor Dr. H.M. Jahirul Haque, Registrar Professor Akhtar Ahmed, Treasurer



Dr. Milan Kumar Bhattacharjee, MBA director Asif Uddin Ahmed, CES director Sajid Amit were present at this ceremony. Special Advisor

to the BoT at ULAB Professor Imran Rahman and CEO of BIAC Muhammad A. Rume Ali signed the MoU on behalf of their organizations.

ULAB signs MoU with BIID

On April 11, 2018, an MoU has been signed between ULAB and Bangladesh Institute of ICT in Development (BIID) where CES Director was one of the signatories and CES one of the implementing departments under the partnership. The MoU was signed to collaborate on internet safety-related initiatives, including but not limited to conducting awareness building campaigns against cyber-bulling,

and joint projects (research and otherwise) on internet safety. The scope of this MoU is wider and involves the Media Studies and Journalism Department and the ULAB Nutrition Club as well and involves additional activities in collaboration related to ICT4D and promoting youth engagement in nutrition.



CES Director Chairs a Session on Financial Inclusion at SIBR



CES Director chaired a session and presented a paper on Financial Inclusion at the Society of Interdisciplinary Business Research (SIBR) 2018 Conference in Bangkok, Thailand. The Conference was attended by over 70 delegates from 23 countries. The paper has also been accepted for publication by Review of Integrative Business and Economics Research (RIBER).

CES Director delivers lecture at Foreign Service Academy

On Sunday, May 27, 2018, under a partnership agreement between the Foreign Service Academy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh, and the ULAB, Mr. Sajid Amit, Director, CES and EMBA at ULAB, delivered a lecture to young foreign service officers as a part of a lecture series on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) and its Foreign Policy Implications.



The ongoing lecture series is a part of the capacity development of the young diplomats and is taking place at the historical Foreign Service

Academy at Bailey Road, Dhaka.

Given the increasing importance of CVE to not only sustaining an investment friendly environment in

the country, but also, the development of well-rounded citizens, ULAB has built up a portfolio in research and programming in this area.

CES Researcher presents papers at International Workshop at Freie Universität Berlin (FUB)



On 27- 28 April 2018, Dr Kazi Mahmudur Rahman, Associate Professor and Researcher at the CES, ULAB presented two papers in an international workshop at Freie Universität Berlin (FUB) on “5 Years After Rana Plaza: Consequences

for Labor Standards Improvements in Garment Supply Chains” and reflect on the consequences of this tragic event. This workshop was jointly organized by Garment Supply Chain Governance Project at the Management Department

FUB and King’s Business School, King’s College London. Title of the first paper was, “After Rana Plaza: Governance, processes and effects in Bangladesh’s garment export factories.” The second paper titled, “Multi-actor shared responsibilities of the Accord and Alliance: Transformation from burden of safety to a culture of safety.” He argued that though the Accord meant a “significant breakthrough” in terms of developing a culture of safety within the industry, the absence of “core responsibilities” on the side of buyers still poses challenges for factory managers.

CES Research Associate joins Conference on Rohingya Crisis

On April 2-3, 2018, A two day international conference on “Rohingya Refugee Crisis: Towards Sustainable Solutions” took place at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of Dhaka University. This conference was jointly organised by Centre for Genocide studies of Dhaka University, BRAC University and ActionAid Bangladesh. CES Research Associate, Md. Aynul Islam attended this conference. The conference brought together “diverse and important voices to



deepen the discussion on protection and rights for Rohingyas and raise greater awareness both nationally and internationally with specific recommended measures.”

This conference ended with 16 recommendations for sustainable solution of the crisis named as “Dhaka Declaration.”

CES Researchers participated in Workshop on Research Paper Writing



On May 6-7, 2018, a workshop titled “Step by Step Guide to Writing Research Paper” took place at BRAC University Mohakhali campus

organized by BRAC Business School. CES Researcher and Assistant Professor at ULAB, Ahmed Saad Ishtiaque and CES Research

Associate Md. Aynul Islam attended this workshop.

The event was marking the “2nd International Conference on Business and Management (ICBM 2019),” which is scheduled to be held on April 25-27, 2019. The workshop was led by Associate Professor Dr. Md. Mamun Habib, program chair of ICBM 2019 and editor-in-chief, International Journal of Supply Chain Management, UK.

Research & Publications

- A paper by CES Director, Sajid Amit, titled “Challenges to Financial Inclusion in Bangladesh: A Case Study of Agent Banking for Garments Workers” has been accepted for publication by the double-blind peer-reviewed Journal “Optimization” for the July-December 2018 issue.
- On May 2018, a Current Events Analysis piece titled “Whither Financial Inclusion? Performance of Bangladesh in the 2017 Global Findex” written by CES Director Mr. Sajid Amit was published from CES. It provides an analysis on the performance of Bangladesh on financial inclusion based on the world bank’s third Global Findex Database. Overall, the dataset points to an increasingly inclusive financial world that is also transitioning to a digital economy. Bangladesh, too, made impressive gains in certain yardsticks for financial inclusion. However, following a critical analysis, the author suggested all stakeholders involved in financial inclusion to prioritize the focus on the usage of accounts as it is only when people are actively using their accounts will we have meaningful financial inclusion.

Forthcoming

Events:

- A high-level industry and academic conference on financial inclusion is being planned by ULAB CES in collaboration with high-level private sector partners. The conference aims to shed light on the various for-profit, not-for-profit, and public sector initiatives in financial inclusion and facilitate mutual learning and knowledge transfer.

Research and Publications:

- A paper by CES Director on Financial Inclusion has been accepted for presentation at the 3rd International Conference on Business and Economics on 9th and 10th October, 2018 at University of Dhaka. This Conference is supported by the Association of Management Development Institutions in South Asia (AMDISA).
- Launch of CES Working Paper Series showcasing academic research undertaken by CES researchers.
- A Current Event Analysis Report titled “Ready Made Garments Industry of Bangladesh: Five Years after Rana Plaza Tragedy” by Dr. Kazi Mahmudur Rahman.