

Center For Enterprise And Society

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Events Organized



CES Leadership Talk: **“I Can If I will”**

On Sunday, February 11, 2018, the ULAB Center for Enterprise and Society (CES) organized its first Leadership Talk Series event of the year. The Leadership Talk featured Mr. Mohsin Ahmed, Managing Director of Linde Bangladesh and it was held at ULAB Campus A auditorium. The talk was titled “I Can If I Will”. Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees, ULAB was also present at the event.

Mr. Mohsin Ahmed delivered a rousing and inspirational lecture to a full-house of students and faculty members on career building and

leadership. Mr. Ahmed personalized his speech by first discussing his own journey in public sector and then in corporate sector. His speech was filled with self-reflection, practical insights, and motivation for students. He recommended to students that they not be complacent but enjoy the life; to prioritize working hard but not to be overly grades-focused; to appreciate continuous learning, teamwork; and the ability to lead from any position or situation in life.

At the end of the talk, Professor Imran Rahman handed over a crest to the speaker, as a token of appreciation.



CES Leadership Talk:
**“Human
 Development
 for Everyone”**

On Wednesday, February 14, 2018, Dr. Selim Jahan, Director at UNDP Human Development Report Office, New York, USA, delivered a talk at ULAB, titled “Human Development for Everyone”. This event was a part of CES Leadership Talk Series. Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees at ULAB, was present at the talk, as were several ULAB faculty and the members of CES.

Dr. Selim Jahan delivered a riveting talk on the various approaches to human development, the importance of understanding and recording human development, and the role of citizens, students and universities, in ensuring inclusive and sustainable human development.

He emphasized that development should be for the people and by the people. To illustrate, he cited examples of people’s participation in the process of development, beyond policy making. He also pointed

out five points critical to human development: to increase people’s capacity and provide opportunities for doing so; to enhance efficiency of labour; to ensure people feel safe in addition to enjoying basic rights; to foster gender equality by widening the scope of participation and choice for both genders in policy-making; and, lastly, to make development policies that protect the climate and environment.

The talk was attended by a full house of students who were highly engaged and had several questions for the speaker. Professor Imran Rahman thanked Dr. Selim Jahan and presented him a ULAB crest at the end of the talk.

ULAB signs MoU with Grameenphone ‘Whiteboard’



On March 08, 2018, ULAB and Grameenphone (GP) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on entrepreneurship development, digital innovation and IoT.

Under the terms of the MoU, GP’s “Whiteboard” will engage ULAB students interested or experience in entrepreneurship to incubate their business ideas using GP resources. ULAB also support GP’s interest in actively participating in the World Innovation Forum (WIF).

ULAB partners with Action Aid Bangladesh

On February 19, 2018, ULAB and ActionAid Bangladesh (AAB) have entered into an agreement in order to collaborate on a variety of research, training, and event programming related activities. This scope of the partnership is expected to include:

- Joint-research on Informal Market (Food Vendors) in Dhaka.
- Training on Financial Inclusion at the Bottom-of-the-Pyramid.
- Seminar on Sustainable Business.
- Research projects on Sustainable

Consumption and Production.

Professor Imran Rahman along with CES director Mr. Sajid Amit and CSD director Dr. Samiya Selim were present at this signing ceremony from ULAB’s end.



ULAB signs MoU with Spark* International



On January 24, 2018, ULAB and Spark* International, a concern of YGAP Australia and Impress Group’s Build Bangladesh, signed a MoU to collaborate on a variety of entrepreneurship-development activities that includes:

- Arranging programs to showcase entrepreneurial success stories.
- Connecting ULAB faculties as the mentors for Spark* entrepreneurs.
- Participating in the upcoming World Innovation Forum (WIF) in Zurich, Switzerland, from June 6-8, 2018.

Spark* International works for improving the lives of people living in poverty by accelerating start-up social enterprises and supporting them as they grow their businesses and make greater positive changes in their respective communities.

Paper on Tax Incentives in Bangladesh

A paper by Professor Imran Rahman and CES director Sajid Amit titled “An in-depth study on tax incentives in Bangladesh and implications for national revenue generation and investment” has been selected as Book Chapter for Edited Volume, South Asia Management Forum (SAMF), Public Project, Association of Management Development Institutions in South Asia, (AMDISA), SAARC. The paper has the following abstract: “The existing research on tax incentives in Bangladesh is limited in scope by focusing on econometric analysis of effects of popular incentives such as special enterprise zones. There is a gap in the literature

regarding actual investment outcomes of tax incentives, impact on revenue generation, and misuse of incentives. The paper uses primary and secondary research to fill the said gaps. The primary research entails a qualitative survey of senior executives in tax and finance operations across 54 sector-leading companies as well as 10 senior government officials in the National Board of Revenue, Ministry of Finance and the Bangladesh Bank. The research is intended to help and inform policy-makers in Bangladesh and other developing countries, to actualize more effective fiscal governance.”



Paper on Agent Banking in Bangladesh

“Challenges and Prospects of Agent Banking in Bangladesh” a paper authored by CES director Sajid Amit has been accepted for presentation at the conference titled Society of Business Research (SIBR) 2018 to be held in June 16-17 in Bangkok, Thailand. Following is the abstract of the paper; “This paper examines the progress, enabling and hindering factors to agent banking in Bangladesh by means of primary research into a project known as Financial Inclusion for RMG workers in Bangladesh (“Sarathi”), funded by the Swiss Agency for Development Corporation and the MetLife Foundation. Sarathi is being implemented by the international development agency, Swisscontact’s South Asia Regional Office (SARO). Sarathi aims to bring Ready-Made



Garments (RMG) workers within the sphere of mainstream banking by creating suitable banking products, providing financial literacy, mobilizing third-party agents, and creating bank accounts. In this paper, using a qualitative approach including focus group discussions with RMG workers and key

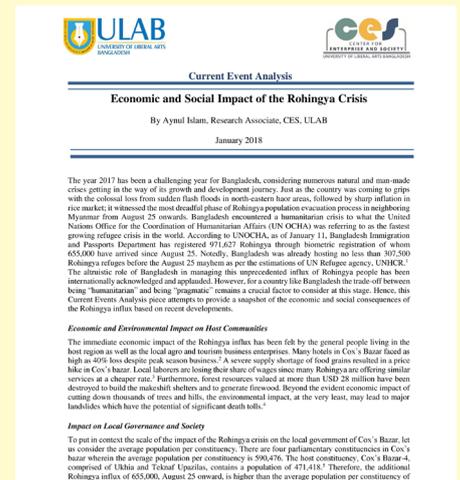
informant interviews with banking officials and agents, the enabling and hindering factors to financial inclusion through agent banking are identified. The paper also provides strategies to overcome hindering factors identified as well as for sustainability of agent banking for low-income customers at large.”

Current Event Analysis on Rohingya Crisis

This Current Events Analysis piece written by CES Research Associate Aynul Islam, provides a snapshot of the economic, environmental and social consequences of the Rohingya Crisis till date.

Using United Nations data and estimations of local think tanks, this current event analysis piece also talks about the possible implications of this crisis on the FY 2018-19 Budget of the Government of Bangladesh. The

piece recommends avoiding ad hoc policies that may not be effective in resolving the crisis. Policy-makers of Bangladesh are urged to craft cogent long-term strategies that safeguard human rights and security.



Events Attended

CES Director Attends Frost & Sullivan Growth Innovation and Leadership Summit at Nepal

CES Director Mr. Sajid Amit attended the Frost & Sullivan Conference titled the Growth Innovation and Leadership (GIL) Summit South Asia 2018, in Kathmandu Nepal, on March 15, 2018. Frost & Sullivan is a leading global business research firm with offices in over 40 countries. For more than 50 years, Frost has been servicing Fortune 500 companies and leading start-ups. The GIL is a flagship conference of Nepal and this year's conference focused on the



business and social impact of digital transformation. Mr. Sajid Amit spoke in a panel on digital finance, focusing

on the Bangladesh story so far and the growth prospects.

Unlocking Catalytic Insights



“Unlocking Catalytic Insights” an event organized by Junction Ventures, a subsidiary of DNET

in partnership with EMK Center, on January 31, 2018, at North South University. The program

was intended to launch the official research report from Junction's Entrepreneurship Research Fellowship Program, that kicked off in January 2017. Among that four awardees of research fellowships were two ULAB Faculty members. Professor Imran Rahman was a part of the panel of experts and Honorable State Minister of ICT, Mr. Zunaid Ahmed Palak, MP, was the Chief Guest of this event.

Launch of Startup Dhaka Online School

Startup Dhaka, in partnership with Startup Bangladesh, launched an online school platform for startups of Bangladesh. The launching event took place at EMK Center in Dhanmondi on February 5, 2018. The online school is a platform for new startups to access market tested insights from industry specialists. Industry specialists will help new startups by sharing their knowledge and guide them to avoid common mistakes in starting a new venture. Professor Imran Rahman along with



Mr. Sajid Amit from ULAB attended this event as invited guests. CEO and MD of IDLC, Mr. Arif Khan was also present at the event as a special guest.

Seminar on “Mainstreaming Digital Financial Service in Microfinance: Opportunities and Challenges”

On February 27, 2018, a seminar took place at BRAC center inn titled “Mainstreaming Digital Financial Service in Microfinance: Opportunities and Challenges”. CES director Mr. Sajid Amit attended this seminar.

In this event, expert panellists from United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), BRAC, and other NGOs discussed the prospects and challenges of digital financial services (DFS) in the microfinance space. DFS can greatly lower the

operational costs for microfinance. Already a number of microfinance institutions (MFIs) are considering adopting DFS to reach the last-mile customer. In the long run, banks are also expected to enter this space using DFS innovations such as agent banking, which may render the landscape competitive for MFIs. Worth mentioning that UNCDF is also the coordinator of Digital Finance Consultative Group in Bangladesh from 2017.



Forthcoming

Events:

- Dr Kazi Mahmudur Rahman, Associate Professor and Researcher at CES, ULAB will be presenting a paper titled “Multi-Actor Co-Responsibility Initiatives in the Global Garments Value Chain: Perspective from Bangladesh Garments Factory Management” at the Workshop on “5 Years After Rana Plaza: Consequences for Labor Standards Improvements in Garment Supply Chains” to be held during April 27-28, 2018 at Freie Universität Berlin, School of Business & Economics, Berlin. This programme is jointly organized by the School of Business & Economics, Freie Universität Berlin and Kings College London. The London School of Economics will be covering all travel expenses and subsistence for this visit.
- Grameenphone to conduct awareness sessions at ULAB and GP House to acquaint ULAB student entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs with GP’s resources to support start-up ideas and businesses. A couple of events are expected to take place in March and April.
- Collaborative event with Spark* International tentatively titled “The Art of the Start” to showcase the entrepreneurship success stories to ULAB students. Events are scheduled for March and April.
- CES Research Associate Adib Sarwar is driving an internal initiative to promote startup culture at ULAB through a platform named “Startup ULAB”. This platform is expected to be run in full fledged from next quarter.

Partnerships:

- Startup Dhaka Online School: CES ULAB is exploring how best to collaborate with Startup Dhaka's Online School designed to provide video-based courses to entrepreneurs.
- ULAB and Innovision Global Consulting Limited are expected to collaborate on various research pieces focused one of Innovision's areas of strength and CES' interests, businesses that cater to the bottom-of-the-pyramid (BoP).

Research and Publications:

- Survey on Informal Food Markets in Dhaka with a view towards Economic Value Creation, Employment Generation and Sustainability, to be conducted by Assistant Professor and Researcher at CES, Ahmed Saad Ishtiaque.
- Research on a Model for Civic Values, Internet Safety and Emotional Health Education to Prevent Radicalization in Universities of Bangladesh.
- Research on Job Satisfaction and Turn-Over Rate.
- Research on RMG worker safety.
- Research on Sustainability of Union Information Centers.