

# CSD NEWSLETTER: SHAPING THE THOUGHT PROCESS

July 2019

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## Message from the Director

It has been an exciting and busy few months at CSD. The faculty here have been working hard to develop new partnerships and build on the relationships already created with our current partners. This issue of the newsletter presents those connections and collaborations, as well as delves into some of the projects we are currently working on.

Additionally in this edition, we are happy to call attention to student initiatives in the section titled “ULAB Students in Action.” As we continue to build our Sustainable Development Minor and move toward a Master’s program, it is imperative that we showcase some of the sustainable initiatives being designed by students themselves on and around our campus so that we create a culture of education AND action.

Our entire team hopes you enjoy this issue of our CSD newsletter!

Regards,

Dr. Samiya A. Selim

CSD Director and Associate Professor, ULAB

## Events Attended

### *Gobeshona 5 International Conference on Climate Knowledge*

Dr. Samiya Selim, Director, CSD-ULAB, chaired the “Coastal Zones” session during the *Gobeshona 5 International Conference on Climate Knowledge*. Authors presented research on salinity and fish production, losses and gains of coastal land, and climate change adaptation policies. Dr. Selim wrapped up the session by addressing conflicts, possibilities, and adaptation opportunities in the coastal regions of Bangladesh.



Dr. Rumana Sultana, Assistant Professor, CSD-ULAB, presented during the “Ecosystem Resilience” session of *Gobeshona 5 International Conference on Climate Knowledge*. Her exposition focused on subtropical coastal sediment ecosystems’ response to climatic stressors. The session ended up with a fruitful discussion on the potentiality of carbon sink in the shallow marine areas of Bangladesh.

### ***3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Sustainable Development at United International University (UIU), Dhaka***



The 3rd International Conference on Sustainable Development was held the 19-20 February 2019 at United International University, Dhaka. Both Dr. Rumana Sultana and Dr. Shafiqul Islam of CSD-ULAB attended and presented recent research.

Dr. Rumana Sultana presented findings about mangrove sediment ecosystem response to ocean acidification on Ishigaki Island, Japan during the “Coastal Zone Management” session. Following the presentation, Dr. Sultana opened an interactive discussion with the session chair, Dr. Aminul Haque, Water Resources Planning Organisation (WARPO) and audience members about different levels of ocean acidification treatment and proposals for proper management of the current Bangladeshi mangrove ecosystem.

Dr. Islam presented the findings from his paper, *Local Climate Change: Perception of Barind People in Bangladesh* and spoke about the perception of local weather, local climate and local climate change impacts in the parallel session titled “Climate Change Adaptation.” Islam related that people perceive climate and climate change differently. The study found that climate change affected the livelihoods and agricultural production of the target group, thereby extending the phenomenon.



### ***International Youth Alliance for Peace (IYAP) Discussion Meeting: “Balance for Better”***

Dr. Oliver Scanlan spoke at a discussion meeting organised by the Bangladesh chapter of the International Youth Alliance for Peace (IYAP) at the University of Dhaka. Entitled “Balance for Better”, the discussion focused on youth empowerment in promoting gender rights in Bangladesh. Dr. Scanlan emphasised the importance of equity outcomes to the Sustainable Development Goals in general, and outlined a number of the targets of SGD



5 (Gender Empowerment). Of central interest in the Bangladesh context is the very high Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) rate, which remains over 50%, as well as sexual harassment, spousal rape and the need for greater recognition of unpaid work. Referencing a recent World Economic Forum study that places the monetary value of unpaid work carried out by women at over \$10 billion annually, Dr. Scanlan noted that this issue has great resonance in class discussions of gender. Other participants included Dr. Reazul Haque, Chairman of the

Department of Development Studies and Prof. Taiabur Rahman of the Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka; Tazima Quddus Dina of BRAC International University; Rubia Siddiqua, Demand Planner at Avery Dennison and Zannat Ara Ghani, Bangladesh IYAP Country Representative.

### *Landscape Management Seminar Hosted in Conjunction with ICCAD*

Dr. Debbie Bartlett led the seminar “Landscape Management in a Changing Environment” on the 10th of April 2019. Dr. Bartlett, a Chartered Landscape Architect (Management Division) and a fellow of Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, is well known internationally for her work on the socio-economics of forestry and developing participatory strategies for ecosystem service evaluation. She is particularly interested in the threats and opportunities of our rapidly changing environment. Honorable Director of ICCAD, Dr. Saleemul Huq chaired the seminar and shared his experience on the topic. The group engaged in an active dialogue and Q&A session after the closing remarks, which brought about many insights geared toward sustainable development work in Bangladesh.



## Partnerships

### *ULAB CSD & Keele University, UK Sign Memorandum of Understanding*

Keele University, UK and University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in April of 2019 at the ULAB permanent campus in Ramchardrapur, Dhaka Uddan. The aim of the signing is to develop opportunities for joint research between ULAB's Center for Sustainable development (CSD) and Keele University, to apply for grants which would make a further impact on the SDGs, and the creation of student and faculty exchange programs at both institutions.

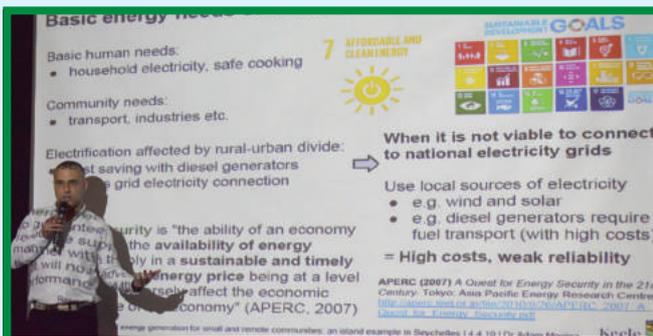
Founded in 1949 by A.D. Lindsay, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Keele has always been different from other universities. Keele University is helping to change the world for the better by engaging in cutting-edge research. They are tackling some of society's most urgent challenges, including ageing, global health and renewable energy.



Keele University strives to embed sustainability across all their activities, spanning their research, education, business processes, campus and community, as well as for their external engagement with partners and business. Keele University looked to partner with Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), ULAB because it is one of the leading research centres in Bangladesh tackling Sustainable Development research and actively working on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### *The First of Many Outcomes: ULAB Center for Sustainable Development Partners with Keele University, UK on "Resilient Energy" Symposium*

Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) and Keele University, UK successfully partnered to design and host a symposium at University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). The symposium, "Building Resilient Energy Generation for Small & Remote Communities in Small Island Developments" focused on a solutions driven approach to the topic. Honorable Chairman of Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) Md. Helal Uddin was the Chief Guest.

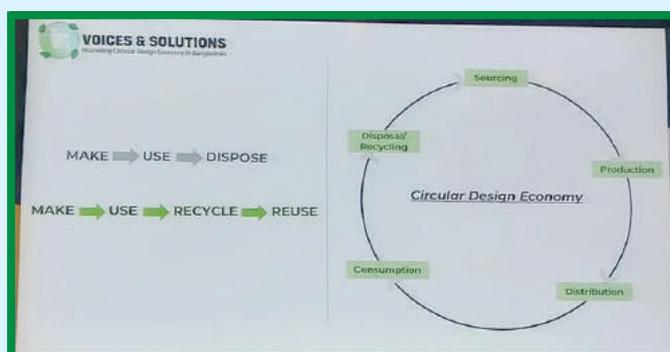


### *Voice & Solution - A Dialogue around Sustainable Fashion & SDG 12*



University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh CSD, ActionAid Bangladesh, Fashion Revolution, and Monokrome were joint organizers of a seminar titled “Voice and Solution - Achieving Growth through Sustainable Production and Consumption in the Fashion Industry in Bangladesh” held at BRAC Center, Dhaka on the 20th of April.

The focus of this event was to create dialogue around ways that the RMG sector could focus on economic growth without creating significant pollution in the the area and damaging the environment. Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Atiqul Islam, ActionAid country director Farah Kabir, Fashion Revolution country coordinator Nawshin Kabir, and Professor Imran Rahman Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees, were present at the seminar as expert panelists. This dialogue connects to Sustainable Consumption and Production (SDG 12) and aims to discover scope, gaps, opportunities, and solutions. Honorable Mayor of DNCC said that more conversations like these will help to make significant progress in the social and environmental aspects of the fashion sector and that garments are not just made in Bangladesh, they are “Made in Bangladesh with Pride.”



### *Seminar on Air Pollution*

Anna Williams, prominent Public Health Specialist and lead author of CSD’s latest report, *Air Pollution - Breathing Health(ier) Amid Rapid Urbanization*, presented her work in a seminar arranged by CSD-ULAB. Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees, Prof. Imran Rahman gave opening remarks. Also in attendance were Mr. Iverson Long from the U.S. Embassy Office of Environment, Science, Technology and Health, ULAB faculty members, and students from various departments.



## CSD Annual Work Retreat

Center for Sustainable Development - ULAB hosted its 2019 Annual Work Retreat at Zinda Park. The team worked together to develop short and long term strategic plans for 2019 through 2023. Everyone agreed that the park was a great venue for the team building workshop and that being surrounded by beautiful nature helped to get everyone's creativity and thoughts flowing!



## Dr. Debbie Bartlett (University of Greenwich, UK) Leads Habitat Survey at Ramna Park



The *Biodiversity and Nature Conservation* course students conducted a successful “Phase 1 Habitat Survey” at the large, biodiverse, and historic Ramna Park which now grows 71 species of flowering trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals, 36 species of fruit bearing plants, 33 species of medicinal plants, and 41 species of forestry and 11 other various species of plant-life.

On this trip, students got the opportunity to learn *in situ* biodiversity surveying and mapping techniques from Dr. Debbie Bartlett, Principal Lecturer and MSc programme leader of Environmental Conservation, University of Greenwich. Students develop skills and independence much more readily when they are empowered to engage in meaningful work than when they are merely told information. This kind of fieldwork exposes students to new experiences and can increase interest and engagement in biodiversity and nature conservation regardless of prior interest.



### *ULAB's Sustainable Development Club Takes Cleaning Initiative at Ramna Park*



Over 10 million people live in Dhaka and each day produce over 3,000 tons of household waste. Students in the ULAB Sustainable Development Club recognize that the volume of waste needs to be reduced to a sustainable level and that needs to start by creating motivation and awareness among consumers about how we can significantly reduce the amount of waste generated.

Members of ULAB's SDC organized a cleaning activity at Ramna Park. This activity included a waste audit to identify what types of recyclable materials were being generated. Following the audit, students assessed which types could and could not be recovered for recycling. Additionally, a perception study on waste management was conducted by speaking with visitors to the park and students advocated for more integrated waste management.

The ULAB Sustainable Development Club will be organizing a recycling and waste management workshop on campus in the next few months. In the meantime, please be conscious of what waste you produce and how you dispose of it! If you can recycle please do, but at the very minimum, please do not litter and throw all of your garbage into receptacles!



### *Student Participant Afsana Alam Preeti Attends “Youth Engagement to Meet Sustainable Development Goals” Course in Chennai, India*

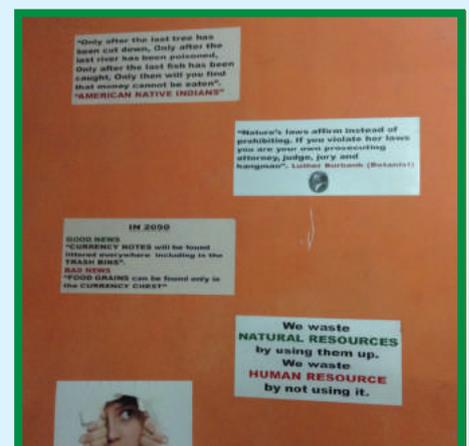


The Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) in collaboration with Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development (RGNIYD) organized an international training cum exposure visit on “Youth Engagement to Meet Sustainable Development Goals” from the 18-22 of February 2019 in Chennai, India

for students from CIRDAP member countries. There were 14 participants from six countries: Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Fiji and Indonesia.

Afsana Alam Preeti, Research Assistant, Center for Sustainable Development, ULAB was one of the selected participants from Bangladesh. She relates her experience below:

This training is designed to expose students to social innovation and successful government initiatives relating to SDGs in order to equip



them with necessary skills and knowledge required for meaningful youth participation for achievement of SDGs. The program blends a number of session styles including lecture, demonstration, case studies, audio-visual presentations, group discussions, networking and field visits.

This workshop covered the following topics:

- Social Innovation and Practices
- Youth Development Policies, Programs and Practices
- Creating opportunities to prevent internal migration from rural to urban
- Employability through Life Skills, Leadership and Entrepreneurship
- Youth and Community Development



This training cum exposure visit was a personal capacity building program for youth to learn about diverse issues in sustainability and to build an understanding of the role we can play in helping to meet the sustainable development goals. By taking the ideas and knowledge we acquired and transforming them into actions in our communities, we can bring a positive change to society.

### ***Recycling Workshop: Products, Techniques & Collaboration***



The Sustainable Development Club organized an informative workshop which was held on the 28th March, 2019. The workshop, aptly titled “Recycling,” was conducted by three respected guests.

CEO of Zupperia Inc., Mr. Papel Ahmed, spoke about the importance of using biodegradable products and presented some of the company’s plastic-alternative products which are made from the bark of betel nut trees and are fully bio-degradable.

Dr. Pinki Shah, professor at ULAB business school, showed several techniques for reusing plastic bottles and used jars by creating a form of handicraft.

Ms. Sadia Jafrin presented on the recycling operations of BPCL and also exhibited some of the raw materials that they produce from used PET bottles. She also shared the scope of future collaboration and the possibility of installing a collection point at ULAB.

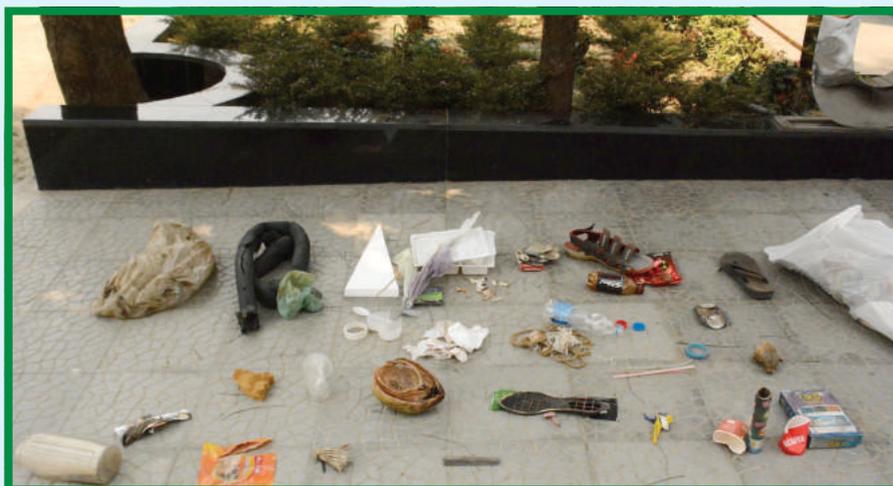


## ***Sustainable Development Club Continues to Build on Clean-Up Initiative: Co-Hosting Cleaning Project at ULAB's Permanent Campus***

As part of our Greening ULAB initiative, Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) and Sustainable Development Club (SDC) collaborated with the ULAB Co-curricular Office, Indoor Games Club, Adventure Club, Shangskriti Shangsad, ULAB MUN, Rotaract Club, Business Club, Nutrition & Wellness Club, Triathlon Club, and Language Club to jointly organize a cleaning program on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 at ULAB permanent campus.

Students, along with members of the clubs, took practical action towards cleaning the permanent campus. Students collected trash, observed different types of solid waste, and conducted a waste audit in different locations of the campus to identify what types of solid waste materials are being generated and what could be recovered with recycling practices.

CSD and SDC plan to host more events next semester as part of social and behavioral change communication tools. We believe this coupling of education and practical action create opportunities for our students to affect change and will motivate them to practice decreasing their waste footprint and encourage others to do the same.



### *Dr. Oliver Scanlan presents Ph.D. research findings in Madhupur, Tangail*



On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, Dr. Oliver Scanlan attended a public meeting at his field research site in Madhupur, Tangail, where he presented his Ph.D. findings to study respondents for their comments and validation. Focusing on processes of forest and land administration in the area, he drew attention to fundamental differences between Bangladesh and Meghalaya state, India. In particular, the artificial distinction between land and forest governance, a part of the colonial inheritance from the British period, creates significant problems in Bangladesh. Meghalaya state, for specific historical reasons, does not experience the same political-bureaucratic tensions. Among the findings of greatest interest to respondents were historical documents from the India Office archive that demonstrate patterns of dispossession in the area date at least from British colonial discussions in 1917 of the need to amend the 1885 Bengal Tenancy Act. More than seventy people attended the presentation, which was organised by the local civil society organisation “Jayanshahi Adivasi Union Parishad” as part of their celebrations of the life of their founder, Paresh Chandra Mree.

### *Publications*

- \* Saha, S. K., & Preeti, A. A. (Eds.). (2019). Proceedings of 3rd CSD Annual Conference on Sustainable Development 2018. Dhaka, Bangladesh: Center for Sustainable Development (CSD). ISBN: 978-984-34-6374-6
- \* Williams, A., Scanlan, O., & Selim, S. (2019). Breathing Health(ier) Amid Rapid Urbanisation: Challenges and opportunities related to tackling the primary contributors to Dhaka’s air pollution. Dhaka, Bangladesh: Center for Sustainable Development (CSD).

