

Events

2nd CSD Annual Conference on Sustainable Development 2017



The Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) had successfully organized the 2nd CSD Annual Conference on Sustainable Development on the 10th and 11th February 2017. The aim of this conference was to identify and share empirical research findings and practical, evidence-based solutions and public-private collaboration that can support the UN Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year, the conference particularly focused on eight Sustainable Development Goals – Clean Energy, Sustainable Cities, Water and Sanitation, Climate Action, Zero Hunger, Sustainable Consumption and Production and Life

Seminar on Climate Resilient Agriculture Practices in Bangladesh



below Water and on Land. Findings from the conference discussions will be published in December 2017.

As a member of the Gobeshona network, Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh has organized a seminar on sharing knowledge, experience and good practice about climate resilient agriculture practices on 10th April 2017. The seminar was inaugurated by Prof. Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board and chaired by Dr. Saleemul Huq, director of ICCCAD. Further, Mr. Mostafa Rahman from CNRS showed how climate resilient farming practices in Shyamnagar are protecting ecosystem as well as ensuing livelihood. The seminar was attended

by 120 participants including several NGO officials, representative from INGOs and other development agencies, students from different departments and faculties. It ended with the vote of thanks from Dr. Samiya Selim, the director of CSD, ULAB.



1st Curriculum Integration on 'Greening ULAB'

CSD has introduced its first Curriculum Integration program at ULAB on 20 August 2017. Vice Chancellor Prof. H M Jahirul Haque and Prof. Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board were present at the inauguration program. On this program, CSD launched its recent research report on "Greening ULAB: Pioneering the Campus Sustainability Program in Bangladesh"



Program on World Environment Day

World Environment Day was observed at University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) on 5 June 2017. Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD) of ULAB organized a program marking the day and Prof Dr. HM Jahirul Haque, Vice-Chancellor of ULAB, Prof Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board, and Dr. Samiya Selim, Director of CSD, inaugurated the program. Students made their contributions by arranging drama on saving environment, doing exhibitions of posters illustrating how to save the planet from pollution and taking pledges on ways to minimize carbon footprint.



Seminar on "The Cruelty in Our Food"

ULAB Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) and Sustainable Development Club jointly organized a seminar at the seminar room, Campus B, ULAB on 24 October 2017. The seminar was based on "The Cruelty in Our Food". The main speaker of the seminar was Rubaiya Ahmed, Founder, Obhoyaronno Bangladesh



Animal Welfare. She mainly focused on our food habit and motivated everyone to avoid red meat and processed animal products which included egg, milk etc. Furthermore, she also mentioned about "Meatless Monday" which is being followed globally and that we all should adapt soon.

Seminar on "Community Interactive Tourism for Sustainable Development of Rural Areas"

ULAB Sustainable Development Club hosted a seminar on 31 October at the seminar room, Campus B. Mr.

Magfi Reza Siddique, founder of DAAHUK spoke about his project on turning Tanguar haor to an attractive tourist location by developing a proper plan. DAAHUK is a Community Interactive Tourism Network. Mr. Ehsan, a architect from BUET accompanied him by sharing the background work of the architectural design of



the tourist boat. They also shared the experiences and challenges of a sustainable tourism based social business model.

Workshop on “Knowing River and River Conservation”



Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) arranges a workshop on “Knowing River and River Conservation” on 16 July 2017. The main speaker of the workshop was Sheikh Rokon, Secretary General of Riverine People. In this workshop, the students got to know about the rivers and their impacts on the lives of people. The speaker also made the students aware of the pollution of the rivers and asked them to work for saving the rivers from pollution as the future lies within the hands of new generation.

Seminar on “Urban Flooding of Greater Dhaka in a Changing Climate”

It is believed that climate change has some impacts on the flooding of Dhaka city; however, a World Bank funded research found that climate change was not the actual reason for flooding in Dhaka city. To discuss this issue, Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) organized a seminar on “Urban Flooding of Greater Dhaka in a Changing Climate” on 17th December 2017. The Guest Speaker of the event was Dr. Susmita Das Gupta, Lead Environmental Economist, Environment and Energy Team, Development Research Group, The World Bank. Dr. Susmita point out that unplanned

development mainly creates urban flooding and the effect will accelerate if unplanned development continues. It was a very informative session and well attended by ULAB students. Dr. Susmita talked about few strategies like rooftop gardening, installation of pump stations etc. which can be used to reduce the urban flooding.



“Reduce Plastic Use” Awareness Campaign

As part of the Greening ULAB Program, Sustainable Development Club (SDC) students supported by CSD faculties, carried out a month long campaign to raise awareness on the harmful effects of plastic and how best to reduce ones own use of plastic. As a part of the campaign, CSD-ULAB arranged cleaning activities at Dhanmondi Lake. Students collected thrown away plastic wastes and handed over them to the city corporation cleaner officials. They also observed different plastic



based products that they are using in their daily life. The main intention is to reduce the impacts of plastics in the environment by raising awareness about the dangers of plastic pollution. This campaign will continue though other activities like poster presentation, debate, theater, sharing on social media, peer to peer learning, etc. Students are encouraged to implement some of these actions in their daily ULAB activities like bringing own bottles rather than buying plastic bottles, not using straws, using clothe/jute bags, pushing for cloth banner rather than PVC banners and other such initiatives.

CSD Director Participated New Generation Seminar (NGS) 2017



Dr. Samiya Selim participated in the New Generation Seminar (NGS) 2017 on “People-Centered Governance for Inclusive and Sustainable Communities” at the East-West Center Honolulu, Hawaii. In this NGS program, the participants had group dialogue around international perspectives, shared learning experience and learnt about people-centered governance. The main aim of this NGS program was to make participants aware of the fact that a people-centered governance approach can play more effectively in addressing common social, economic and environmental concerns and creating more livable communities for all.

CSD Faculty Attended The 12th International Congress of Ecology in China



Md. Shafiqul Islam attended the 12th International Congress of Ecology at Beijing, China from 20 August to 25 August 2017. The theme of the 12th INTECOL Congress was Ecology and Civilization in a Changing World, which focused on harmonious and sustainable development among people, nature and society in the context of global change. In the session of poster presentation of this program, Md Shafiqul Islam presented a poster titled “Floral Diversity between Organic and Chemical Farming”.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

ULAB takes part in EAUC Driving Sustainability Leadership Program in UK



University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) took part in the EAUC Driving Sustainability Leadership Program at Westminster College, Cambridge, UK. The Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges (EAUC) and Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC) jointly organized the program where prominent scholars from University of Harvard, Oxford, Cambridge and Wales conducted the training. As part of its Greening ULAB program, Dr. Samiya Selim, Director of the Centre for Sustainable Development, joined the workshop which focused on a few key themes such as operationalizing sustainability, sustainable innovation and sustainability leadership.

“Is Groundwater Table depleting in Barind Tracts over Times”, article presented by CSD faculty in Iran

Md. Shafiqul Islam, Assistant Professor, ULAB-CSD, attended the International workshop on Drought Management and Desertification Control in May 2017 and presented an article on “Is Groundwater Table depleting in Barind Tracts over times”, held at the Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Khorasan Razvi Province, Iran.



MOU SIGNING

ULAB Signs MoU with USAID’s Climate-Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CREL) Project

The MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) signing between Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), ULAB and USAID’s Climate-Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CREL) Project took place on 10 August 2017. The Climate-Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CREL) project is designed to scale up and adapt successful co-management models to conserve ecosystems and protected areas (PAs) in Bangladesh, improve governance of natural resources and biodiversity, and increase resilience to climate change through improved planning and livelihoods diversification.

ULAB Signs MoU with ZMT, Germany



University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) and the Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology (ZMT), Bremen, Germany signed MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) to develop cooperative relations on basis of established contacts and mutual understandings, especially to develop joint academic activities and to promote scientific exchange through mutual assistance in the areas of marine science education and research.

The MoU Signing between ULAB and NSSB



University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh and The Nature Study Society of Bangladesh signed a MoU on 13 June 2017 at ULAB campus in Dhanmondi. The MoU signing aims to have joint research collaboration in the field of Sustainable Development. It will also include academic and conversational knowledge exchange between the institutions.

23rd Conference of Asian Federation on Intellectual Disabilities



Asian Federation on Intellectual Disabilities organized a conference in Dhaka at Bangobondhu Sheikh Muzib Novo Theater. The event continued for three days, in particular from 18 to 23 November 2017. Md. Shafiqul Islam, Associate Professor, ULAB-CSD presented a paper on “Myths, Beliefs and People’s Perception on Disability Issues”.

LOCAL CONFERENCE

Citizen’s Platform’s Conference for SDGs, Bangladesh

Being encouraged by The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a group of individuals has taken an initiative to set up the Citizen’s Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh with the



objective to contribute in the process of achieving SDGs in Bangladesh. Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) is the Secretariat of this Platform and they organized a daylong conference on 6th December, 2017 at Krishibid institution, Dhaka. Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) participated in this conference. It was a daylong program under the theme “Leaving No One Behind” to ensure Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Bangladesh. In fact, CSD is a partner organization of this platform. On behalf of CSD team, Assistant Professor Mr. Shafiqul Islam presented his research findings on the challenges of drought in Barind areas and later proposed some recommendations to achieve the SDG 15 in the context of Barind areas of Bangladesh. Other faculties of CSD, Dr. Shantanu and Joy Bhowmik, also participated in the conference. In this event, CSD distributed the conference proceedings of its 2nd CSD annual conference on the sustainable development to the participants from the different organizations.

‘Smart City Week 2017’



As a part of Smart City Campaign in Bangladesh, UNDP Bangladesh, Access to Information (a2i) Programme of the Prime Minister’s Office and urban sector stakeholders jointly organized a ‘Smart City Week 2017’ in Dhaka from November 22 to 28. The event showcased innovative ideas that make cities people-friendly and contributed towards urban development by offering affordable and efficient services. To discover the scope and idea of these opportunities, CSD-ULAB participated in this first ever smart city campaign in Bangladesh.

FIELD TRIPS

ULAB Students Went on Summer Field Trip at Jahangirnagar University Campus



Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), ULAB organized a field trip for students at Jahangirnagar University Campus, Savar on 5 August 2017. The students from Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change Courses joined this field trip. The team was led by Dr. Samiya A. Selim, Director of CSD and Joy Bhowmik, Lecturer and Research Associate at CSD. The field trip was conducted to enable students think beyond the classroom boundaries and also make them aware about conservation of biodiversity. On this field trip, Mr. Mizanur R. Bhuiya (Chairman of Nature Study Society of Bangladesh (NSSB), Md. Monwar Hossain (Chairman, Department of Zoology, Jahangirnagar University), M. Monirul. H. Khan, (Professor, Department of Zoology, Jahangirnagar University), Mokaram Hossain (Executive Editor at Prokritipotro) talked about the importance of biodiversity and highlighted the several threats to biodiversity.

Excursion for International Delegates



Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) organized a trip to Sundarban for the delegates of 2nd Annual Conference on Sustainable Development 2017. The trip was arranged as the post conference activity by CSD from 13 February to 15 February 2017.

Excursion at the Bangladesh Meteorological Department



Center for Sustainable Development CSD, ULAB organized an excursion for the students of Introduction to Climate Change Debate on 23rd November 2017 at Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), Agargaon, Dhaka. The team was led by the course instructor Mr. Joy Bhowmik. The field trip was conducted to enable students think beyond the classroom boundaries and also make them aware about the procedures of disaster risk reduction activities. The students were introduced to the recent equipment of collecting data from the atmosphere.

Field Trip at the Remi Holdings Ltd



A group of ULAB students visited Remi Holdings Limited which is one of the top three environment-friendly garments and textile factories in the world and has achieved LEED platinum certificate with the highest score. Remi Holdings Limited is the role model to others in terms of workplace safety, workers facilities, medical services, day care for worker's children and international standard in green initiatives. Their production process is not only environment friendly, but also ensures other requirements of sustainable development goals. Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) organized this field trip on 9th December, 2017. Students from 'Environmental Science' and 'Introduction to

Sustainable Development' courses joined the trip under the supervision of Dr. Shantanu and Joy Bhowmik.



ULAB finished media project on “Agronomic Biofortification and Safety Measures for farming practices in Nilpharmari” with GIZ and HKI. Under this project, CSD developed two instructional videos on agronomic biofortification of rice with zinc and safety measures including safe disposal of containers.

Project with Olympic Industries Ltd.



AWARDS



Center for Sustainable Development, ULAB completed the project with Olympic Industries Ltd. on Environmental Impact Assessment. The main objective of the project was implementing sustainable practices into business to manufacture goods in conformity with the natural environment which will certainly pave the way to the future of the Bangladesh food industry in the coming decades.

Dr. Samiya Selim, Associate Professor and Director of Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD), was honored with the Vice-chancellor Excellence award of ULAB for her immense dedication and engagement in research activities.

PUBLICATIONS

Bhowmik, J., Selim, S.A., & Saha, S.K. (2017). Greening ULAB pioneering the campus sustainability program in Bangladesh. Dhaka: ULAB. ISBN: 978-984-34-2827-1
Islam, M. S. (2017). Farmer's perception on climate change and adaptation related to drought - The case of northern part of Bangladesh. Dhaka: ULAB. ISBN: 978-984-34-2647-5

PROJECTS

Media project on “Agronomic Biofortification and Safety Measures for farming practices in Nilpharmari”



Islam, M. S. (2017). Local knowledge and practices can help in drought prediction and extreme weather management. Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge, Vol. 16(3), July 2017, pp. 448-453

Islam, M. S., Nasreen, M., & Huq, H. (2017). Local knowledge and practices can help in drought prediction and extreme weather management. Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge, 16 (3), pp. 448-453

Islam, M. S., Selim, S. A., Saha, S. K., Nur, A. S., & Mahfuz, M. A. (2017). Organizational capacity of disabled people's organization: Success and Challenges. ULAB. ISBN: 978-984-34-2533-1

Selim, S. A., Jahan, N., & Saha, S. K. (Eds.). (2017). Proceedings of 2nd CSD Annual Conference on Sustainable Development 2017. Dhaka, Bangladesh: Center for Sustainable Development (CSD). ISBN: 978-984-34-3035-9