

American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB)

SDG Activity Report 2023

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

Reduce inequality within and among countries



American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) is committed to Sustainable Development Goal 10 by fostering an inclusive and equitable environment for students, staff, and faculty from diverse backgrounds. AIUB ensures non-discriminatory admissions policies, which enable access for underrepresented groups, including first-generation students, women, ethnic minorities, and those with disabilities. The university tracks applications and admissions for these groups to ensure equal opportunities for all.

AIUB provides extensive support for diversified groups through mentoring, counseling, and peer support programs. This initiative helps ensure that students from diverse backgrounds receive the guidance and resources necessary to succeed.

To enhance diversity and inclusion, AIUB celebrates cultural events such as the Language Martyrs' Day and World Mental Health Day, promoting awareness and respect for cultural and individual differences. Furthermore, the university has anti-discrimination policies in place, reinforcing its commitment to a welcoming and respectful campus environment for all students, staff, and faculty.

These efforts contribute to AIUB's role in reducing inequality, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of background, have access to higher education and equal opportunities to thrive. AIUB's proactive measures align closely with SDG-10's objective to reduce inequality within and among countries.

#AIUB #SDG10 #ReducedInequality #Diversity #Inclusion

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University Activities towards SDG 10

Film and Documentary Session by Tanvir Mokammel

On 21st March 2023, the Department of Media and Mass Communication (MMC), Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), AIUB organized an exceptional lecture, demo, and conversation session by Mr. Tanvir Mokammel titled “1947 Partition in Tanvir Mokammel's Films”. The Bengali-speaking people of West and East Bengal suffered a terrible division in 1947. It was one of the largest and bloodiest forced migrations in history. Mr. Tanvir Mokammel is an expert on this segmentation and has portrayed it with creative flairs in many of his films.

Mr. Tanvir Mokammel is a Bangladeshi filmmaker, screenwriter, and author. He is well known for his documentaries and feature films that deal with social and political issues. He has won several national and international awards for his films, including the Best Director Award at the Cairo International Film Festival and the FIPRESCI Award at the Berlin International Film Festival. He has received national film awards ten times. For his contribution to cinema, the government of Bangladesh has awarded him the prestigious “Ekushe Padak”.

Overall, his films offer a critical perspective on the partition in 1947. He emphasizes the importance of understanding the complex historical and social factors that led to the partition and its impact on the lives of ordinary people. And further shares his concerns regarding the challenges future filmmakers may face while making on this topic.

This amazing event was organized by Mr. Niaz Majumdar, a senior faculty member of the MMC Department, for the course “Introduction to Documentary.” The session was also graced by Dr. Tazul Islam (Dean, FASS), Dr. ABM Rahmatullah (Associate Dean, FASS), Dr. AJM Shafiul Alam Bhuiyan (Advisor of MMC Department), and many other students, faculty members, and officials of AIUB.

Shortly after the end of the video demo and presentation, students and spectators proceeded to ask him a series of questions which he patiently answered to inspire future filmmakers, shedding light on the prospects and challenges faced by all filmmakers alike. He expressed a profound sense of responsibility required to form documentaries. He also expressed his concern regarding the fact that our society hardly inspires us to be artists but rather corporates. Perhaps film can be a strong medium of expression in this information era. Finally, the session ended with a photo session.

<https://www.aiub.edu/film-and-documentary-session-by-tanvir-mokammel>



IEEE AIUB Student Branch WIE Affinity Group Successfully Celebrated “WIE Day”

On Sunday, June 18th, 2023, the IEEE AIUB Student Branch WIE Affinity Group successfully celebrated “WIE Day”. The event was held with the aim of empowering and motivating more women to pursue a career in engineering. It highlighted the significant contributions made by current female engineers to various industries and the challenges women engineers face in the traditionally male-dominated field. Advisor of IEEE AIUB Student Branch, Prof. Dr. A.B.M Siddique Hossain, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB, inaugurated the event by briefly talking about women’s advancement in engineering and education before handing over the stage to the honorable speaker. Dr. Dilshad Mahjabeen, Counselor, IEEE STAMFORD Student Branch, Acting Chairman & Associate professor, Department of EEE, Stamford University Bangladesh, took the floor as the speaker of the session. She provided an insightful discussion on women's involvement in Artificial Intelligence (AI) during the event and talked about the current state of women in AI while acknowledging both the specialties of women and the challenges they face. Dr. Dilshad continued the session by mentioning the benefits of diversity and inclusion in corporations, as well as the availability of grants, scholarships, and mentorship programs for women in technical disciplines. Advisor of IEEE AIUB Student Branch Prof. Dr. Mohammad Abdul Mannan, Associate Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB, delivered the closing remarks of the session. The event concluded with Prof. Dr. Mohammad Abdul Mannan providing the token of appreciation to the distinguished speaker. Following a designated break period, Khan Farhana Ma’am, International Relations Specialist, Consultant, Systech Digital Limited; Founder, Farhana’s Brainstation. assumed the role of the session’s speaker. She delivered an informative session centered around empowering women globally while emphasizing the importance of equality between men and women, highlighting the significance of education for both genders and acknowledged the crucial support of friends and family in women's empowerment. She touched upon the importance of SWOT analysis and its relevance, emphasizing the value of analytical thinking. Additionally, the speaker demonstrated and provided guidance on emailing a resume effectively. Advisor of IEEE AIUB Student Branch, Dr. Md. Saniat Rahman Zishan, Director, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB presented the closing remarks of the event. He highlighted on the positive change in number of female engineers in engineering studies in recent years and appreciated the significant contribution of women in engineering. Afterwards he congratulated the IEEE AIUB Student Branch WIE Affinity Group for arranging the event and thanked the participants for attending the event. Overall, the event served as a medium to update and inform about the current state of females in different engineering industries and motivate the current female participants to pursue a career in engineering. This event aimed to raise awareness on gender equality and empower all women. A total of 90+ attended the event. Dr. Rifat Hazari, Senior Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB, Md. Shahariar Parvez, Lecturer, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB and Tamim Hossain, Lecturer, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB attended the session.

<https://www.aiub.edu/ieee-aiub-student-branch-wie-affinity-group-successfully-celebrated-wie-day>



World Mental Health Day 2023 celebration at AIUB

On Tuesday, October 10, 2023, various student clubs at the American International University – Bangladesh (AIUB) came together to celebrate World Mental Health Day 2023 through a series of events. AIUB Arts Club and AIUB Social Welfare Club – Shomoy jointly organized an Art Exhibition on the theme of World Mental Health Day 2023 in the lobby of Building D. The exhibition was inaugurated by Mrs. Nadia Anwar, Founder Member and Vice Chairman of AIUB's Board of Trustees.

AIUB Oratory Club (AOC) hosted a parliamentary debate at the amphitheater, focusing on the theme “Family bonding is the only remedy of mental stress”. The debate received positive feedback from the audience. As part of the World Mental Health Day celebration, AIUB Performing Arts Club (APAC) delivered a musical performance that was enjoyed by students, faculty members, and officials alike.

It's worth noting that AIUB offers on-campus mental health support services to students, faculty members, and officials through 'WeVolve,' a reputable mental health support provider in the country.

<https://www.aiub.edu/world-mental-health-day-2023-celebration-at-aiub>



AIUB Student Clubs paid tribute to the Language Martyrs

Each year 21st February is observed as our national Shaheed Day. In 1999, UNESCO declared this day as the World's International Mother Language Day and the whole world, including Bangladesh, observes this day with great honor and respect. Every Bangladeshi irrespective of cast, creed and religion pays homage to the Shaheeds with flowers.

Keeping with our tradition, commemorating the International Mother Language Day on the 21st of February 2023, Tuesday, members of AIUB Student Clubs along with faculty members and officials of AIUB paid tribute at the on-campus Shaheed Minar.

<https://www.aiub.edu/aiub-student-clubs-paid-tribute-to-the-language-martyrs>



Shadhinotar Joygan 3.0

On the occasion of 53 glorious years of Sovereignty of Bangladesh, the AIUB Performing Arts Club (APAC) celebrated the Independence Day with a concert, 'Shadhinotar Joygan 3.0' at the AIUB Amphitheatre on 21st March 2023. The concert started around 3 PM with AIUB Performing Arts Club performing a handful of songs that played a vital role in the motivation of the freedom fighters during the War of Independence. The crowd was extremely energetic and enthusiastic throughout the entire concert. The concert was dedicated to the brave freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. In memory of their bravery, determination, and unwavering spirit that inspired us to become an independent nation. All the eternal songs that inspired the courageous freedom fighters during the Liberation War were sung as a dedication to their unimaginable sacrifices towards our country.

<https://www.aiub.edu/shadhinotar-joygan-30>



Meet & Greet with Popeye Bangladesh

Popeye (Bangladesh), also known as Raffan Imam, a glorious AIUB Alumnus, reunited with his homeland after a decade and performed live for the first time in Bangladesh. He visited the permanent campus of the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) on 2nd March 2023 for a brief meet and greet. Despite his busy schedule, he took the time to visit the new campus and interact with the students to inspire them and share his own experiences. A mass of eager crowds gathered to experience his music live in the AIUB Amphitheatre. Arriving on stage, he took a moment to introduce himself and speak with the students. As well as this, he took the time to take photos and give autographs to his dear fans. Upon request from the extremely enthusiastic crowd, he performed one of his most renowned songs 'Bhalobasha Baki' alongside AIUB Performing Arts Club (APAC).

<https://www.aiub.edu/meet--greet-with-popeye-bangladesh>



Seminar on "Culture and Study in Japan"

The Department of Social Science, AIUB organized an interactive seminar titled "Culture and Study in Japan" on July 25, 2023, Tuesday, 3:00-4:30 PM at Multipurpose Hall (10th floor-D building). The distinguished Chief Guest and Speaker of the seminar was Mr. Komine Ken, First Secretary Embassy of Japan. Dr. Afsana Saroar, Education Adviser, Embassy of Japan, Bangladesh, graced the occasion with her kind presence. The faculty members of the department Ms. Farhana Afroz, Mrs. Shaira Matin, Dr. B.M. Sazzad Hossain, and Dr. Rowshon Ara Romke were present in the seminar as organizers. The Pro-vice chancellor of AIUB, Prof. Dr. Abdur Rahman delivered his speech as the special guest. The seminar was inaugurated by Honorable Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Prof. Dr. Tajul Islam. The Seminar started with the welcome speech by Dr. Buddha Dev Biswas, Head, Department of Social Science, and the program was conducted by Dr. Md. Taufiqul Islam, Professor, Department of Social Science. The objective of the seminar was to disseminate necessary information and suggestions regarding study in Japan and the cultural association between Bangladesh and Japan. Mr. Komine elucidated about the opportunities, prospects, and career development of the Bangladeshi students for studying in Japan. A short Q/A session was conducted following this to answer students' queries. The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the head of the Department.

<https://www.aiub.edu/seminar-on-culture-and-study-in-japan>



IEEE AIUB Student Branch Organized Members' Orientation 2023

On Tuesday, 8th August 2023, the IEEE AIUB Student Branch successfully organized the “Members’ Orientation 2023”. The event was held with the intention of helping new members become familiar with IEEE and strengthening their dedication to the IEEE Community. The event highlighted numerous benefits and the importance of being affiliated with IEEE. It also introduced the executive committee members of 2023 and explained the important roles they will take on. The event was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Mohammad Abdul Mannan, Associate Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB; Advisor, IEEE AIUB Student Branch. He welcomed the members warmly and provided a brief overview of IEEE along with its advantages, emphasizing how they could make the most of these benefits. Dr. Md. Saniat Rahman Zishan, Director, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB; Advisor, IEEE AIUB Student Branch, engaged with the session by sharing his personal experience with the IEEE AIUB Student Branch while encouraging the new members to be more involved with the organization and get into volunteering. Subsequently, Nafiz Ahmed Chisty, Associate Professor & Head, Department of EEE, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB; Advisor, IEEE AIUB Student Branch provided his own remarks by sharing his experience with IEEE and appreciated the student branch and ExCom members for their contribution. Afterwards, Chowdhury Akram Hossain, Head, Department of CoE, Faculty of Engineering, Advisor, IEEE AIUB Student Branch continued the session. He reminisced about his own journey with IEEE and the IEEE AIUB Student Branch, highlighting the significant experiences and opportunities he gained from IEEE. The following session was continued by Dr. Mohammad Hasan Imam, Associate Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB; Advisor, IEEE EMBS AIUB SB Chapter; Counselor (2022), IEEE AIUB Student Branch; who provided a brief remark for the event. Following a brief intermission, former members of the Executive Committee were invited to the stage. They shared their own experiences from their time serving in the IEEE AIUB Student Branch. After their speech, the advisors of the IEEE AIUB Student Branch revealed the newly appointed Executive Committee of 2023. This was followed by a cultural performance by the AIUB Performing Arts Club (APAC). Afterward, Dr. Mohammad Nasir Uddin, Head, Graduate Program, Department of EEE, AIUB; he shared his perspectives and experiences. The event concluded with a speech from the newly appointed counselor of 2023, Dr. Shameem Ahmad, Assistant Professor, Department of EEE, AIUB. He shared his experience and insights and thanked all the members for joining the session. Distinguished faculty members Dr. Rifat Hazari, Senior Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB; Abir Ahmed, Assistant Professor & Special Assistant, Department of EEE, AIUB and Md. Shahariar Parvez, Lecturer, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB; were also present at the event. The event started at 4:05 PM and concluded at 6:40 PM. A total of 125+ participants attended the event.

<https://www.aiub.edu/ieee-aiub-student-branch-organized-members-orientation-2023>



AIUB Collaborates as Knowledge Partner of CIPR's 2nd International Conference

The 2nd International Conference on “Alliances and Partnerships in the Indo-Pacific: Elevating Strategies and Interests” organized by the Consortium of Indo-Pacific Researchers (CIPR) – a Washington-based think tank – was held online between 1st – 04th Nov 2023. American International University- Bangladesh (AIUB) along with Wisconsin Veterans Museum, USA and Amity University, India were the knowledge partners of this CIPR event, endorsed by the Rutgers University, USA. The four-day virtual conference was attended by researchers and professionals from 27 Universities/ institutes from 10 countries of the Indo-Pacific Region. Speakers in the conference include distinguished scholars and professionals from: Australia (Murdoch University, Perth), Bangladesh (American International University-Bangladesh, University of Dhaka, BSMR Maritime University), India (Jawaharlal Nehru University, Amity University, Pondicherry University, Kalinga Institute of Indo-Pacific Studies), Japan (Kansai Gaidai University, Osaka, International Christian University, Hudson Institute), Philippines (De La Salle University, Manila), Singapore (Nanyang Technological University), Turkey (İstanbul Gedik Üniversitesi), USA (U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, National Intelligence University, National Defense University, Washington, DC, Atlantic Council, U.S. Space Force, INDOPACOM, Hawaii, Wisconsin National Guard, Illinois State University, Naval War College, Stanford University, Ohio University, Rutgers University, John-Hopkins University and Consortium of Indo-Pacific Researchers). The conference - attended by AIUB researchers and students - included 11 thematic panels, two students’ panels and one plenary session on regional and global issues. AIUB’s Registrar and Reader of Politics and IR, Dr Mohammad Zahidul Islam Khan co-chaired several sessions including the plenary on “The Emerging World Order and the Ukraine War” Distinguished plenary speakers included Prof. Simon Reich (Rutgers University), Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra (Kalinga Institute of Indo-Pacific Studies, India), Dr. Nagalaxmi M Raman (Amity Institute of International Studies, India), Dr. Evan Ellis (U.S. Army War College, USA), Dr. Mehmed Ali (US Space Force).

<https://www.aiub.edu/aiub-collaborates-as-knowledge-partner-of-ciprs-2nd-international-conference>



 Dr. Jacob Sotiriadis, The Center for Futures Intelligence, National Intelligence University, Washington D.C., USA	 Prof. Simon Reich, Rutgers University, Newark, USA	 Prof. (Mrs) Chintamani Mahapatra, Director, KIIPS, India	 Prof. Nagalaxmi M. Raman, Director & Head, AIIS, Amity University, Noida, India	 Prof. R. Evan Ellis, PhD, U.S. Army War College, Strategic Studies Institute, USA	 Dr. Mehmed Ali, Chief Learning Officer, U.S. Space Force, USA	 Dr. Indu Saxena, Senior Fellow, CIPR, USA	 Dr. Mohammad Zahidul Islam Khan, Academic Visitor, University of Reading & Registrar, AIUB Bangladesh
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Faculty Research and Publication on SDG 10

Assessment of Leaf Phosphorus for Multiple Crop Species using an Electrical Impedance Spectroscopy Sensor

DR. RINKU BASAK

Phosphorus is an essential nutrient and plays a critical role in energy reactions in the plant. Deficits of the phosphorus nutrient can influence essentially all energy requiring processes in plant metabolism. Phosphorus stress early in the growing season can restrict crop growth, which can carry through to reduce final crop yield. In this work, the leaf phosphorus levels for multiple crop species like canola, wheat, soybeans, and corn are assessed using an electrical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) sensor in vegetative growth stage. A non-destructive, in-situ, and less complex impedance measurement method is used which is cheaper than other available spectrophotometry, spectral imaging, and optical sensor technologies. EIS sensor is used to develop a binary and multiclass classifier for the assessment of leaf phosphorus based on different machine learning algorithms like K-Nearest Neighbor (KNN), Support Vector Machine (SVM), and Bagged Trees. An average accuracy of more than 82% of the models is obtained. A maximum accuracy of 95.4% for Canola and 94.8% for soybeans is obtained using EIS as a binary and multiclass classifier. The precise measurements using a low-cost EIS sensor with high accuracy performed well in the diagnosis of phosphorus deficiencies in multiple crops.

<https://2023.sensorapps.org/>

An Evaluation of Tax Policy in Bangladesh: Perspective from Different Professionals

DR. MD. TAUFIQUL ISLAM

The purpose of this paper is to increase public awareness about the tax policy in Bangladesh. The study provides some policy level guidelines for tax system in Bangladesh. As Bangladesh earns less tax revenue than other neighboring countries as well as the global average level, it would enhance the government's capabilities for more development and meet governmental expenditures in an appropriate way. The study used both primary and secondary data. Primary data is collected through survey techniques using structured open-ended and close-ended questionnaires. A total of 160 respondents were selected randomly from different professional groups under two major categories (tax-payers and non-tax-payers) which is important to be considered for future policy reformation in the field of income tax system including collection and utilization of the source. As a greater public policy concern, this research contributes to the academia and policy-makers for future study or policy formulation purposes with an indirect aim of the overall socio-political and economic development of the nation.

“We will give our blood, but not our land!”—Repertoires of resistance and state-organized land-grabbing at a Bangladeshi tea plantation

DR. ASHRAFUZZAMAN KHAN

Land-grabbing is an international issue closely associated with conflict and violence, as communities confront, through prolonged struggles, powerful elite networks involved in the illicit transformation of space. Resistance to land confiscations can be a life-and-death struggle especially for poor rural and urban communities whose livelihoods are tied to the targeted land. Because these struggles are often marked by corruption, state violence, and the persecution of already marginalized populations, they have become an area of emerging interest for state crime and state-corporate crime scholars. However, there is only introductory data mapping how communities resist land-grabs engineered through illegitimate state-corporate activity. Against this backdrop the following paper analyses a case of community resistance to land-grabs in Bangladesh using a contentious politics framework and the concept of land-laundering. The structure and activity of this resistance has been mapped through interviews with stakeholders involved in this struggle, complemented by documentary research.

A Study on the Marxist Feminist Philosophy and Patriarchy in Bangladesh Society

DR. ARIFATUL KIBRIA

Marxist feminism is borne out in feminist theory as well as politics which take its theoretical postulations from Marxism, popularized as the criticism of capitalism as a set of structures, practices, institutions, incentives and sensibilities that promote the exploitation of labor, the alienation of human beings, and the debasement of freedom. Concerning the Marxist feminist, empowerment and equality for women cannot be achieved with the framework of capitalism. Marxist feminism thus distinguishes itself from other modes of feminist thought and politics by attending critically and systematically to the economic organization of societies, including stratification along the lines of class; by refusing to accord the category of “women” separate and special status, without regard to class; by its commitment to the overthrow of capitalism; and by its allegiance to working-class and impoverishing and marginalizing women.

The Covid-19 and online learning process in Bangladesh

DR. SHIBLI AHMED KHAN

This study investigates the augmentation of students’ engagement in the online learning process using the Zoom platform. To engage students more in online classes we have conducted a survey on four university students in the four dimensions. To investigate effective online classes, we have gone through descriptive statistics followed by principal component analysis (PCA) and factor regression model to identify predicted factors that engage students more in Zoom online classes. The results of

PCA confirmed that questions answer session, the instructor asks questions to them, break during the class, topic-related examples, experience sharing scope, case studies, using Google Classroom, screen share, screen annotation, video contents share, class recording, raise hand and reactions to topics can enhance students engagement in the Zoom online classes. The regression results validate all four dimensions have a significant influence on effective Zoom online classes that enhance students' learning process. Thus, the findings of this study recommend educating course instructors to ensure all the applications of the online learning process while conducting online classes. We strongly believe this course of action will engage students in the online class to enhance learning activities using the Zoom platform in Bangladesh.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2405844023011192>