RESOLUTION FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

NSU Model UN Conference 2015

MUHAMMAD MUHTASIM JAWAD

From July 30 till August 1, the three day long NSU Model UN Conference 2015 took place in the university campus, hosted by the North South University Model UN Club. More than 250 participants from both home and abroad took part in this well-orchestrated United Nations simulation, under the banner of 10 respective committees which included UNSC, UNEP, UNIDO, CCPCJ, SOCHUM and the likes. The general theme of the event was "Ensuring Sustainable Development through Good Governance".

The event was officially inaugurated on July 30 at the Exhibition Arena of NSU. M. A. Kashem, Chairman, BOT, NSU, was the chief guest of the event, while Professor Amin Sarker, Vice Chancellor of North South University, presided over as one of the special guests of the programme. The other notable special guests at the event included Dr. M. Emdadul Haq, Director of Student Affairs at NSU; George Mesthos, Cultural Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy, Dhaka; and Moniruzzaman, Officer in Charge at the UN Information Centre, Dhaka.

In his speech, M.A. Kashem praised the efforts of the NSU MUN club and said, "This initiative has indeed proven to be a very commendable one, as I am sure, that this conference has immensely helped in creating future leaders for the world."

The second day of the conference consisted of a Social Night at Dhaka Regency where the audience was entertained by the tunes of Arbovirus and Fahad Zaman. The event finally closed on August 1, as the participants were provided with a phenomenal Model UN experience. This was the very first session of the conference and the club hopes to arrange the event next year as well. As the event concluded, the president of the organising club Ahnaf Tahmid expressed his gratitude to the members of the club and the participants. He stated, "Not only did we create a platform to negotiate and teach our youth the power of diplomacy, but we also aimed at spreading the message of peace and prosperity."

The committees in this event discussed different agenda while the students represented their own institutions as well. The young delegates solved challenging issues with aplomb, brainstorming and unleashing their creativity. More than 40 awards were distributed among the delegates based on their performance.

A participant in the event, Maisoon Binte Tariq, shared her experience: "For someone attending an MUN conference for the first time, it was great watching expert MUNers in action. Learning how diplomats work was very instructive and I hope this participation will help me do well in the next ones."

Jawad is your next-door superhero who needs you to get him his cape. Your curtain will work too. Shout at him on facebook.com/jawad.muhtasim or jawad.mmjr@gmail.com

ACCESS TO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN
BANGLADESH

MD. ARIF HOSSAIN

TEEAL (The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library), established in 1999, is a programme of Cornell University Library's Albert R. Mann Library, in partnership with leading publishers, to provide access to agricultural research literature. With support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and in cooperation with Sathguru Management Consultants, TEEAL sets are being placed in universities and research institutions in Bangladesh and training is being provided in the use of electronic research.

TEEAL contains almost 500,000 articles from more than 350 highly ranked research journals in agriculture and related biological sciences. Universities, colleges, research institutes, government ministries and policymakers in 110 low-income countries with limited or no internet connectivity can access the research literature through TEEAL help improve the agricultural sector of eligible countries. TEEAL's searchable database offers direct access to full-text materials without internet connectivity and is easy to install and use. TEEAL is compatible with a standalone computer or multiple user workstations and is highly recommended for use on local area networks.

Currently 6 institutes in Bangladesh have already received TEEAL including Soil Resource and Development Institute

(SRDI), Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI), Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University (BSMRAU), Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA) and over 200 researchers, academicians, librarians and students have been trained on the use of this database. Most recently the Sher E Bangla Agricultural University (SAU) received the TEEAL database and a one-day training workshop was conducted.

On this occasion Prof. Md. Shadat Ullah, VC of SAU said, "In this new age of advancement of ICT we all need to focus and use the opportunity provided by TEEAL to enrich our knowledge and further our research."

Joy Paulson, Director, TEEAL Project said, "The TEEAL Project is very pleased for the opportunity to be able to support the placement of TEEAL sets in eligible institutions in Bangladesh and to provide the opportunity for training in the use of e-resources in partnership with Sathguru Management Consultants. It is our hope that greater access to agricultural research literature will lead to agricultural innovations, increased research, and increased opportunities for scholars from Bangladesh to more fully participate in the global agricultural research community."

Speaking about TEEAL, K. Vijayraghavan, Chairman of Sathguru Management Consultants, which is the regional coordinator for TEEAL said, "We hope the agricultural research community of Bangladesh would immensely benefit with the access of TEEAL and would help increase innovation in the sector. The student and research community can now easily access world class research material even when they are constrained with internet connectivity."

TEEAL was founded on the belief that long-term improvements in food security and agricultural development would not be possible without giving scientists better access to current research. It is a searchable, offline, digital library available to public and non-profit institutions in developing countries.

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