

LIGHTING UP LIFE

BUET Photographic Society's 11th Annual Exhibition

AANILA KISHWAR TARANNUM

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) is home to some of the best and brightest minds of this country, and these students are seemingly as good with a camera as they are with numbers and formulas.

This year, BUET Photographic Society's 11th Annual Exhibition was held at a grand scale; it was inaugurated by Prof. Khaleda Ekram, VC of BUET on November 14. There were four club presentations on that day as well, in which Asian University for Women Photography Club, Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology Photography Club, Dhaka University Photographic Society and North South University Art and Photography Club participated. This slot was a great way for students of other universities to promote their activities, as well as for BUET students to get better acquainted with photography-related activities of those universities.

The exhibition started off with a two-day long campus festival which ended with an insightful and inspiring talk by renowned photographer Hasan Saifuddin Chandan. The young photographers who attended this session were left with a greater understanding of this trade, as



Chandan spoke from years of experience and shared his wealth of knowledge in this field. Chief guest, Dr. Mahbuboor Rahman Chowdhury, inaugurated the second part of the event at Drik Gallery on November 16, which concluded on November 18.

"This was the second time we took our exhibition outside the campus, and I feel that this way we get a lot more exposure than we would have gotten if it had been confined to BUET premises. At Drik, so

many people came to visit. They praised our efforts and provided constructive criticism, all of which are of great value to us," said Shuvajit Das, President of BUET Photographic Society.

Prior to the exhibition, the students of BUET were given a month to submit their photographs. Out of about 450 submissions, 105 snaps by a total of 42 photographers were shortlisted by senior members of BUETPS to be featured in the final

exhibition. There were four photo-series, including one that featured Instagram snaps. Each series had a different concept, and provided a unique portrayal of the photographer's viewpoint.

This exhibition was received with great enthusiasm, especially by students of BUET. Two of the most celebrated photographers of our country, Shahidul Alam and Anwar Hossain, graced the event with their presence.

"Every year we host this exhibition in order to showcase the best photographers of our university. This year we tried our best to make it a pleasant experience for the visitors and after all the feedback we have received, I would say that we have succeeded. However I know that there's always room for improvement and hopefully next year this event will take place on an even bigger and better scale," said Shuvajit.

BUET students pour their heart into all their ventures, and the BUETPS 11th Annual Exhibition was no different.

Aanila Kishwar Tarannum started hating on everything the moment she realised why her parents put so many As in her name: because they knew her transcript would be devoid of any vowels. Find out about her relentless rants on facebook.com/Aanila

SPEAKING INTERNATIONAL

HPAIR 2015 at Manila

MAISHA ZAMAN

The Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR) 2015 was held in Manila, Philippines, from August 20-24, 2015. There were 450 delegates from 50 countries around the world; Farah Tahsin Alam and I represented Bangladesh at the event.

The event was inaugurated by the keynote speaker, Philip Goldberg, US Ambassador to the Philippines. The main event commenced on August 21, with panel sessions and seminars on specific subjects. The first seminar was held on "Future of Commerce" by Vvivi Hu, Chief Strategy Officer, eBay Greater China and Senior Director, eBay. The second seminar was entitled "Brand Management" by Martin Roll, Senior Advisor, McKinsey & Company. There were 7 panel discussions on topics including Human Rights, Entrepreneurship, Corporate Leadership, Energy and Sustainability, Finance and World Economy, Health and Social Policy, and Security and Diplomacy.

I was assigned the Human Rights panel which was held in different sessions over three days. The topics covered were "Modern-Day Slavery: The Many Faces of Human Trafficking", "Dangerous Speech", and "Bending Tradition: BGLTQ Rights". The speakers were, Natalie Jesionka, Program Chair, Human Rights at Rutgers, Founder of The PRIZM Project; Nieves Confesor, Chair, Panel Declaration Expert-Advisers to the International Labor Organization (ILO); Sam Inocencio, Field Officer Director, International Justice Mission, Philippines; T. Kumar, International Advocacy Director for AI, Asia; Ravi Agrawal, CNN India Bureau Chief; Sam Gregory, Director of WITNESS; Cristina Cristobal, Project Co-ordinator for Asia and the Pacific, International Gay and Human Rights Commission; Joanne Leung, Chairperson,



Transperson Research Center Hong Kong; Jennifer HsinChieh Lu, Director of Tongzhi Rexian; and Popo Fan, Independent Filmmaker, Director of Beijing Queer Film Festival. Some topics emphasised on Bangladeshi incidents such as the recent murders of bloggers. The telecom partner of the event, Globe, hosted a dinner at their headquarters that evening.

On the second day, the delegates were taken on a tour to De La Salle University, which was the host university in Manila, besides Harvard University. Few seminars were held that day and I was assigned the seminar on "Brand Management by P&G," the speaker of which was Nicole Villarojo, Brand Manager of P&G Philippines. A career fair was held, followed by an International Night where the delegates set up booths to promote their own cultures. After the panel sessions the following day, the floor was opened for delegates to share their personal and inspirational stories. A Filipino cultural programme was held afterwards.

On August 24, the last day of the conference, a business and academic plenary was held. The speakers were, Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Former ASEAN Secretary-General; Simon Kahn, CMO, Google APAC; Martin Roll, Founder, Martin Roll Company; Jikyeong Kang, Dean, Asian Institute of Management; Rongrong Hu, Chief Strategy Officer of eBay Greater China, President of Harvard Business School Alumni Club; Gomer Butala Padong, Beyond 2015 Philippine National Coordinator/Secretariat and Global Executive Committee Member; and Claudio Schuftan, Freelance Consultant and Member of the Steering Committee of People's Health Movement. The 5-day-long event ended with speeches from the executive directors of Harvard University and De La Salle University, followed by group activities and awarding of certificates.