

BIMSSCON 2016

Connecting aspiring health professionals

YAMEEN HAMID

It is a common myth that medical students are so indulged in their academics that they can barely manage time for co-curricular activities or social interactions. IFMSA-Bangladesh disproved this myth by launching Bangladesh International Medical Students' Scientific Congress (BIMSSCON) for a second time since last year from September 30 to October 1. The conference was held at IDEB Bhaban in Dhaka.

BIMSSCON 2016 was attended by more than 500 medical and dental students and young physicians from home and abroad. Foreign delegates came from Nepal, India and Sudan. This year's theme was "Emergencies in Medicine; Bridging the Gap". The keynote session, most of the workshops and scientific sessions addressed various topics and issues of emergency health care skills and systems. In the scientific session participants presented their scientific study or research through oral and poster presentation. This session was adjudicated by a panel of experts of medical education and research. The major attraction of the conference was the hands-on interactive workshops. A total of 30 parallel workshops were conducted in two days so that



a delegate could attend 4 workshops according to their choices and interests. Renowned physicians and experts in different health related fields facilitated the workshops.

Video competitions and quiz were the engaging segments with the standing committee session being even more exciting. There were six standing committees

of the organisation that worked on various health related issues like medical education, public health, reproductive health, human rights, professional and research exchange. Participants came to learn more about their roles as future physicians in these fields and what other medical students were doing around the world. There was career symposium and

medical book stall from Elsevier Publications besides these events.

The congress was inaugurated by National Professor Brigadier (Retd.) Dr. Abdul Malik, Founder of National Heart Foundation Bangladesh. Special guests were Prof. Dr. ABM Abdullah, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, BSMMU; Dr. APM Sohrabuzzaman, Director, Cath Lab, Labaid Hospital; Prof. Dr. Sharmeen Yasmeen, CEO, PHFBD; Prof. Dr. Fatema Ashraf, Dept of Gynae & Obs, ShSMCH; Prof. Dr. Omar Faruque, President, BSCCM.

The guests appreciated the initiative of conference and organisation and charmed the audience with their inspirational words. The closing and award giving ceremony was chaired by Md. Mahfuzur Rahman, Chairman, Land Reforms Board and Prof. Dr. Humayun Kabir Talukdar, Organising Secretary, CME. The closing was followed by a cultural night where medical students staged their talents.

BIMSSCON 2016 accommodated the medical students across the globe to gather under one roof where they made friends, learned and shared experiences, had fun and eventually took a step towards being a global citizen and socially responsible skilled future physicians.

Corporiddlerz 2016: Explore to Excel

MASHIAT NAWAL CHOWDHURY

Corporiddlerz is a unique business strategy competition hosted by Business and Communications Club of Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUPBCC). One of the flagship events of this club, it first kicked off in 2011. It was in 2016, however, that this competition went nationwide for the first time. It was sponsored by Sena Kalyan Sangstha (SKS) and Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory (BMTF), and powered by The Daily Star. Radio Shadhin and Know n Rise were its radio partner and online access partner respectively.

Despite being a very young public university of Bangladesh, BUP is garnering gradual acknowledgement as one of the emerging top universities in the country. BUPBCC thus left no stones unturned in its effort to make its first inter-university Corporiddlerz a success. Roadshows were carried out in over 24 different universities across the nation, aspiring to bring the best undergraduate students of the country in a common platform to compete against each other. Over 250 teams from 24 different universities participated in the first round of the competition.

The competition itself is comprised of four rounds - the first being online, where teams of four had to provide solutions to a challenging HBR case. Forty of those teams proceeded to the second

round of product launching. These teams were assigned products of SKS and BMTF and had to come up with innovative strategies required to launch the products into the market. The third round was conducted in 2 phases; the first was project planning. Here, the 20 remaining teams had to plan an entire project from scratch for the sugarcane industry that required much technical and thorough research. In the second phase, the team members of each team were shuffled to form entirely new teams and given tasks. The grand finale, composed of the residual 5 top teams, took place on October 1, 2016. The teams had to develop and deliver an entire business model aimed at solving current issues plaguing the country. The finale was graced by chief guest Tofail Ahmed, Minister of Commerce.

Of the five finalist teams, 2 were from BUP and 3 from IBA. IBA's Team Kemistry clinched the champion's trophy and BDT 75,000 prize money whereas BUP's Team Second String became First Runner-up winning BDT 50,000 cash prize. Moreover, IBA's Team Home Stretch was the Second Runner-up with BDT 25,000.

"The holistic approach that the cases provided was challenging, enjoyable and allowed us to envision ourselves as top level managers. The organisers were top notch and the volunteers were extremely helpful. I would definitely want to be part of future BUPBCC events," stated



Tahmid Tishad Khan of Team Kemistry.

The judges' panel throughout the competition had been graced by many top corporate executives who too had inspiring words for BUPBCC's endeavour.

"I am highly impressed by the warmth and professionalism of the organisers and hope this becomes a flagship event of BUP to be recognised all over," stated Habib Ghazi, Trainee, Next Business Leader Program of Grameenphone Limited. The judges' panel included Citibank N.A.'s Cash Product and Implementation Manager Sami Ullah

Khan and Mushfique Amin Mallick, Category Finance Manager of Unilever Bangladesh, with Nawazul Kabir, Director of Mindscape Communications, and many more. Besides praise, they also had valuable recommendations for the club.

Corporiddlerz 2016 was a competition that required much effort on the participant's part, requiring extensive research and having to work through time constraints. The organisers hope that the takeaway, however, was far greater: a training ground of all that's waiting out there for the leaders of tomorrow.