

Through the eyes of a young mapper

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

YouthMappers is a network of universities around the globe which provides students with the opportunity to learn mapping skills, develop leadership experiences and create new geospatial data for development projects in places that are vulnerable to natural and social disasters. Launched by the USAID GeoCenter and three universities in 2015, it has grown into a global network of 163 university chapters with over 5000 students. "We don't build maps, we build mappers" is their official motto, as they attempt to cultivate a generation of young leaders to create resilient communities. Their leadership fellow programmes, research fellow programmes and virtual internships are beneficial to both students and faculty members for self-development.

Maliha Binte Mohiuddin from University of Dhaka began her journey with YouthMappers in 2016, shortly after she wrote a blog entry titled, "Mapping is like a box of chocolates", for one of their programmes. Consequently, she was selected as a Leadership Fellow in 2017 and attended a seven-day training session in Nepal, where she also received the Best Blog certificate. In 2018, she was selected for a five-month training programme in Manila, under the National NGO Program for Humanitarian Leadership, organised by Concern Worldwide. She was the youngest representative at International Medical Corps and Harvard Humanitarian Initiatives.

YouthMappers works around mapping for humanitarian matters and projects like malaria prevention, food security and resilience against natural calamities. Everyone at YouthMappers is engaged with remote and field mapping sectors. Maliha regards mapping to be an exciting activity for young students, as it enables them to utilise different areas of knowledge and turn them into diagrams. Her current job as the Regional Ambassador is to aid in the process of creating new chapters through local communication with the youth in Asia. Maliha is also involved



Maliha Binte Mohiuddin

with their Let Girls Map campaign for bringing aspiring female mappers to the forefront.

She recently organised a workshop at Daffodil International University where she taught the students about mapping and worked on a project based on flood resilience in Noakhali. "We used the Kobo Toolbox, field paper and Mapillary app. With the help of two female volunteers from University of Dhaka, Nowshin Afrose and Sabiha Muna, the programme was a great success," she shared. Presently, there are twelve chapters of the network at different institutions across Bangladesh, including University of Dhaka, Dhaka College, Eastern University, Jahangirnagar University, Asian University of Women, Daffodil International University and State University of Bangladesh.

PHOTO: AVIPSU DAS GUPTA

Maliha had Dr Patricia Soils, Director and Principal Investigator of YouthMappers, as her mentor, when she started out. She strongly believes that the platform has given her the encouragement and strength to pursue her goals as a humanitarian in the long run. She is grateful to YouthMappers for equipping her with valuable life skills.

Maliha recently presented her paper, *Elevating the Skills of Youth Through the Humanitarian Remote Mapping with the Thrive of YouthMappers Network*, as one of the keynote speakers at the 3rd International Conference on Natural Hazards and Disaster Management, held in Japan. She has also contributed to the engagement of students at Keio University and Okayama University of Science, with the goal of affiliating them with the YouthMappers network.



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YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES



Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia List: Nominations For Class of 2020 Are Now Open

For the fifth year in a row, Forbes is looking for outstanding young leaders who are transforming their industries around the region. From technology to retail, finance, art and social entrepreneurship — the 2020 list aims to highlight 300 more talents to join the 1200-strong regional group of innovators.

DEADLINE: December 05, 2019 | Award

Join and Learn at "Bti Launch Expo 2019"

For the first time in its history, Bti brings you "Launch Expo 2019" - a spectacular display of 20+ newly launched projects with all kinds of real estate solutions and expert sessions in the same place. The Launch Expo 2019 brings you 20+ projects of 3 different categories: Luxury+, Classic and Standard Collection, under one roof! bti's home loan partners will be available to provide you financial support along with all kinds of real estate solutions like bti Building Products, Interior Solutions and more.

DEADLINE: November 14, 2019 | Conference

Young Social Entrepreneurs 2020 in Singapore

The YSE programme seeks to inspire, equip and enable youth of different nationalities to embark on social enterprises (SEs) in Singapore and beyond. If you or your network have/has a SE idea, we want to help you make it happen! Participants will learn from leading social entrepreneurs, business professionals and other youth who are keen on social innovation, while expanding their networks for potential collaborations for good.

December 15, 2019 | Grant

SafeWheel: Saving lives on the move

Founded in November 2018, SafeWheel carries the mission of providing affordable ambulances and on demand emergency medical services in rural areas of Bangladesh. Their plan is to turn local three wheelers into easily accessible ambulances, especially for underprivileged communities. Their tagline is "Moving Wheels, Saving Lives."

RASHEEK TABASSUM MONDIRA

Rafiq Islam (Chief Executive Officer), Faysal Islam (Chief of Business Development), Mazbahul Islam (Director of Marketing & Outreach), Anas H Makkî, and Sadat Daniel are the core team members of SafeWheel.

SafeWheel's journey initially started with the on-campus round of the prestigious Hult Prize competition. The Hult Prize is considered as the largest student entrepreneurship competition in the world, organised by the Hult Prize Foundation and sponsored by the Clinton Foundation.

This year's Hult Prize challenge was to build a startup that would create 10,000 jobs in the next decade. Rafiq, Faysal, and Mazbahul, students of the Marketing Department at Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP), represented SafeWheel at Hult Prize 2019.

After successfully passing the initial round in Dhaka, they went to Shanghai for the regionals

in July this year. They competed with 56 different teams from 30 countries in Shanghai. They were announced as the regional champions on July 23.

From Shanghai to the UN Headquarters, Team SafeWheel had quite an interesting experience. After the regionals, as a prerequisite of the Hult Prize 2019 Accelerator Program, they ran a pilot project in Mohadevpur, Naogaon.

They participated in the programme at Ashridge Castle in London, from July 27 to August 31. 37 teams from 27 different regions joined the team in the programme.

The Hult Prize 2019 Accelerator Program was one of the most challenging and exciting parts of their journey. During this time, they had to present their pitches in front of the judges every week. The judge panel included 15 Harvard business executives, along with other experts.

Hult created the 'Founder's Circle' with the top 18 teams including SafeWheel after the third week. SafeWheel became the champion team of

the accelerator programme and was the first team to make it to the UN finals, after achieving a record number of votes in the history of Hult Prize, from the judges and from the audience.

Team SafeWheel joined the other top teams for the UN Finals at The United Nations headquarters in New York on September 14. Former US President Bill Clinton, along with other global influencers, were among the finale judges.

"The 11-minute final presentation at the UN, in front of some of the most brilliant people around the world was one of the best moments for us," says Mazbahul. "Seeing BUP's name among Harvard, Oxford, Cambridge and other top institutions, felt like a dream." According to Faysal, Safewheel has already reached out to villages in Cumilla, Chandpur, Gazipur and Naogaon, and they still have a long way to go. Though Team Rutopia from Mexico won the final round, Team SafeWheel sets an excellent example for Bangladesh in a global platform.



Team members of SafeWheel.

PHOTO: COURTESY