



*American Institute
of Bangladesh Studies*

Annual Report

October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015

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2015-2016 AIBS Fellowships



Alison Horton

Institution: Rutgers University

Project Title: Bangladeshi Education Stipend Project – Is it Really Pro-Poor?

Duration: 12 months

Status: Pending travel – January 2016

Abstract: I will conduct an institutional ethnography of a conditional cash transfer (CCT) education program in Bangladesh. In 2007, the program switched from female-targeting to poor-targeting. After ten months of preliminary research at the Ministry of Education in Dhaka, I claim that this change had drastic effects. I will ask why this change happened, how the new program is performing in the Bangladeshi context, and how the recipients are transformed by their participation. I will analyze of all related government documents and conduct ethnographic fieldwork in four rural sites. This will contribute to theoretical academic and policy debates regarding the global “best practice” CCT and provide a critical case study which goes beyond narrow quantitative metrics of project performance.



Humayun Kabir

Institution: The Graduate Center, CUNY

Project Title: Thoughts of Becoming: Negotiating Modernity and Identity in Bangladesh

Duration: Six months

Status: Complete

Abstract: This dissertation will seek to engage with questions of political theory in the postcolonial contexts by advancing a critical analysis of Bangladeshi political thought based on studies of intellectual and political histories of the country. The research will focus on the negotiations between modernity and national identity, especially in the context of the “double birth” of the nation - first as Pakistan and then as Bangladesh, in making Bangladeshi political thought. The research will be conducted through three registers composed of different sets of actors – political intellectuals, political leaders, NGO leaders. The dissertation will cover a period of about 70 years (from 1940s to present) and will study three generations of thinkers and political actors - those coming to age before Pakistan, before Bangladesh, and after Bangladesh. The project will entail hermeneutic analysis of publishes and unpublished texts, archival research, and ethnography, most in the form of structured and informal interviews.

2015-2016 AIBS Fellowships (*continued*)



Katie Rainwater

Institution: Cornell University

Project Title: Bangladeshi Shrimp Processing Workers: Precarity and Citizenship

Duration: Four months

Status: Pending travel – November 2015

Abstract: The global trade in shrimp has increased dramatically over the past three decades. Today farmed shrimp is one of Bangladesh's most important export commodities, second only to garments. Nevertheless, most academic research on export sector workers continues to be focused on the garment industry. I propose an ethnographic study of shrimp processing workers in Khulna Division, a major hub of seafood processing in Southwestern Bangladesh. My dissertation research will be structured around two major questions: 1) How does exploitation by employers intersect with workers' marginal position in the Bangladeshi state to produce shrimp processing workers as precarious subjects? 2) How are shrimp processing workers collectively negotiating their relationship with employers and their position as Bangladeshi citizens? My dissertation project has important policy implications pertaining to the governance of labor relations in the burgeoning agro-commodities export sectors in the Global South. In addition, my dissertation project will make significant contributions to several bodies of academic scholarship including literature that analyzes labor relations in global agro-commodity chains and scholarship on the relationship between precarious employment and citizenship.

2015-2016 AIBS Travel Grantees

Chaumtoli Huq

Paper Title: Business and Labor Rights: Case of Bangladesh Garment Sector

Conference Name: Class Crits VIII - Emerging Coalitions: Challenging the Structures of Inequality

Conference Date: October 23-24, 2015

Abstract: My presentation will focus on my research in Bangladesh as an AIBS Fellow examining how two safety agreements impacted workplace rights. The presentation will be an elaboration of my Op-Ed that I wrote on business and global labor rights. <http://www.thedailystar.net/bangladesh-can-pioneer-a-workers-rights-model-59598>

AIBS Preconference 2014

AIBS organized its second Preconference on October 16, 2014, in The Madison Concourse Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin, before the annual South Asia Conference. The Preconference, co-sponsored by CAORC, was titled, **“Extreme Weather, Disasters, and Indigenous Practices in South Asia.”**

Overview:

In the study of extreme weather and disasters, there is a common thread that sews together the patchwork of South Asia. South Asia is composed of the following eight countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. One fourth of the world population lives in this region. This sub-continent is situated between The Himalayas on the North and the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal on the South. Due to the topography of the area, South Asia faces frequent natural disasters. The 2007 monsoon floods in India, Nepal and Bangladesh, the 2005 earthquake and 2010 floods in Pakistan, and the Tsunami of 2004 are examples of recent major disasters that have seriously impacted lives and livelihoods of people in the region. Due to the fact that many of the islands are just a few feet above the sea level, the residents of the Maldives are greatly concerned with extreme weather. Higher sea levels can flood or even absorb some of the South Asian countries if continuous deforestation and subsequent washing away of sediments from the upstream countries to the seas are not halted. A major disaster can push people deeper into poverty and can severely deplete the financial resources of a country. In addition, long term psychological effects must be taken into account following disasters. Disasters are very often seen in isolation, and governments are reactive rather than proactive. Although the countries vary in their responses to mitigating the consequences of disasters as a result of extreme weather, similarities can be found dealing with the aftermath of disasters. One major commonality found is the human response to facing the same issues in disaster relief and management.

This one day regional symposium is a follow up event to the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) sponsored first regional conference, “Water, Waves, and Weather: The Future of South Asia” that was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in July of 2011. This conference set the tone for further investigations and lessons learned by the countries of South Asia. It was an excellent topic for an interdisciplinary conference co-sponsored by the relevant American Overseas Research Centers, with support from CAORC and the Department of State. Liberal Arts education has a strong emphasis on the utilization of human and social capital in addressing people’s needs and identifying credible solutions both locally and globally. Similarly, social science education provides applied learning through a community organization approach. The sub themes of this preconference include:

- Extreme weather and disasters
- Impacts of extreme weather patterns and its effects on life and livelihoods
- Indigenous practices (coping strategies surviving resultant disasters)
- Community based disaster mitigation
- Institutional practices (nation-state, NGOs, and civil society)
- Shared expertise and innovation regionally
- Partnership to advance knowledge in long-term disaster recovery and reconstruction
- Media and coverage of disasters (traditional media, documentaries, online media etc.)

AIBS Preconference 2014 *(continued)*

Aims and Objectives:

This 2014 regional symposium brought together scientists, planners, and scholars of social science and humanities to examine the best available projections highlighting the impact of extreme weather and the various responses to it. Through the synergies created, we hope to spark greater research interest in this very serious subject, as well as assemble data that may be useful to policy makers and responders. This interdisciplinary conference will provoke critical engagement with the multiple meanings of extreme weather for its various constituencies – liberal arts and social sciences educators, policy makers, research scientists, and agency officials mitigating the consequences of disasters as a result of extreme weather.

Presented Papers:

Topic: Coping with Risk: Responses amongst Fishing Households

Presenter: Dr. Roderick Stirrat, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Sussex.

Topic: Local Capacity Building as an Intervention Strategy to Address the Natural Disaster: A Bangladesh Perspective

Presenter: Shirin Sultana, M.S.S.W, Doctoral Student, School of Social Work, Howard University, Washington

Topic: Not Food but Debt: Drought Vulnerability in Sri Lanka's Dry Zone

Presenter: Dr. Joshua Theodore Bazuin (Vanderbilt University, Vanderbilt Institute for Energy and Environment)

Topic: Climate Adaptation through Disaster-Resilient Housing Practice: Exploring the Realities in Hazard-Prone Rural Bangladesh

Presenters: Shakil Bin Kashem, PhD Candidate, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Suman Kumar Mitra, Assistant Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka; Mohammad Aminur Rahman, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, BRAC University, Dhaka

Topic: Extreme Weather in the Western Himalayas: Effects on Biodiversity

Presenter: Trevor Price, Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolution, University of Chicago

Topic: Indigenous Knowledge to Cope with Disasters in Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan

Presenter: Abida Ali, Focus Humanitarian Assistance Program (FOCUS)

Topic: Integrating Natural and Social Science to Inform Adaptation to Extreme Weather in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka

Presenter: Jonathan Gilligan, Associate Professor, Vanderbilt University Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences

Topic: Can a Vulnerable Education Sector Combat Extreme Weather Vulnerability? A Contextual Analysis of Coastal *Char* Lands' Sustainable Adaptive Capacity in Bangladesh

Presenter: Sudipta Roy, Doctoral Student, School of Education, Indiana University, Bloomington

AIBS Preconference 2014 (continued)

Topic: A Review of Traditional Knowledge Systems Based Indicators for Making Weather and Climate Related Ex-Ante Agricultural Decisions by Farmers

Presenter: Dr. Upasna Sharma, Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, Hauz Khas, New Delhi

Topic: Relevance of Traditional Ecological Knowledge in Prevention and Management of Droughts in India - A Historical Perspective

Presenter: Dr. Baisakhi Bandyopadhyay, Research Associate & Principal Project Investigator, History of Science, Indian National Science Academy, India

Topic: Governance Matters: Power, Development, and Extreme Weather in Coastal Bangladesh

Presenter: Md. Ashiqur Rahman, Ph.D. Candidate, School of Anthropology, University of Arizona.

Topic: Mukul Kumar, PhD Student, Department of City and Regional Planning, College of Environmental Design, UC Berkeley

Presenter: Coastal Urbanization and the Politics of Extreme Weather in South India

Topic: Micro-Practices of Marginalization: Governance in Sri Lankan Tsunami Camps

Presenter: Michele Ruth Gamburd, Professor and Chair, Anthropology, Portland State University

Topic: The Role of Government in Disaster Management: A Case Study of Recent Coastal Disasters in Sri Lanka and New Jersey, USA

Presenter: Pamela Ann Ferdinand, MBA, Freelancer

Topic: The Political Economy of Natural Disasters: A Case Study of Atta Abad Natural Disaster

Presenter: Saranjam Baig, PhD Candidate, Claremont Graduate University, California and Assistant Professor, Karakoram International University Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan

Topic: Extreme Weather, Communities' Responses and Institutional Practices in Heterogeneous South Asia: A Case from Everest Region, Nepal

Presenters: Pasang Yangjee Sherpa, Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University; Nepal Academy of Science and Technology; Medinee Prajapati, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology, Kathmandu, Nepal; Prashidha Yonzon, Resources Himalaya Foundation, Kathmandu, Nepal

Topic: Institutional Response to Drought: The Experience of a Farmer Company and Its Community in Sri Lanka

Presenter: Dr. Namika Raby, Professor, Anthropology, California State University Long Beach

Topic: Mid-Second Century C.E. Responses to Gujarat's Lake Sudarśana Disaster

Presenter: Marilyn Edwards Leese, Freelancer

Topic: Institutional Practices (Nation-State, NGOs, and Civil Society)

Presenter: Hina Lotia, LEAD Pakistan: Leadership for Environment and Development

AIBS Conference on Bengali Maṅgalakāvya and Related Literature

October 22, 2015

Overview: Bengali *Maṅgalakāvya* present us with a rich vision of the premodern era and life at all strata of society in the region. The tales cover generations and feature the amazing adventures of wise women, valiant warriors, hard-working merchants, and people from both urban and rural communities.

Presented Papers:

Topic: Devotion Through Double Entendre: Bilingual Poetry and Bitextual Commentary in Colonial Bengal
Presenter: Dr. Joel Bordeaux, Visiting Assistant Professor in Religion, Colgate University

Topic: Erotic Play, Devotion, and ‘Cords of Righteousness’: Plural Social Bonds in Tales of Love and Heroism from Eastern Bengal

Presenter: Dr. David L. Curley, Professor Emeritus, Western Washington University

Topic: Child Sacrifice in Rūparāma’s Dharmamangala

Presenter: Dr. Rebecca Manring, Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies and Dhar India Studies Program, Indiana University Bloomington

Topic: Cannibalising the Eucharist: Catholics, Mughals and Roopram’s Dharmamangal

Presenter: Dr. Projit Mukharji, Assistant Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Pennsylvania

Topic: Self-Reflexivity in Bhāratchandra’s Maṅgalkāvya the “Annadāmaṅgal”

Presenter: Sutopa Dasgupta, PhD Candidate, Department of Religion and Society, Harvard University

Topic: Chandimangal East and West

Presenter: Dr. Ed Yazijian, Lecturer, Asian Studies, Furman University

Topic: Śāhā Mohāmmad Chagīr’s Retelling of Jāmī’s Yūsuf va Zulaykhā in Premodern Bengal

Presenter: Dr. Ayesha A. Irani, Assistant Professor, Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto

Topic: Śāh Garibullāh and the Beginnings of the Dobhāṣī Pācālī

Presenter: Dr. Thibaut d’Hubert, Assistant Professor, South Asian Languages and Civilizations, The University of Chicago

Topic: Bangla Pīr Kathā: A Parodic Bridge between traditional Hindu Maṅgal Kābya and Muslim Premākhyān

Presenter: Dr. Tony K. Stewart, Professor and Chair, Department of Religious Studies, Vanderbilt University

“Doing Historical Research in Bengal: A Memoir”

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Richard M. Eaton, Professor of History, University of Arizona

A National Conference on Strategic Management and Effective Leadership in Higher Education

August 7-8, 2015

AIBS co-hosted this conference with the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. This national conference was supported by the Embassy of the United States Dhaka, Bangladesh, and sponsored by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC). The conference took place at Senate Hall of the Nabab Nawab Ali Senate Bhavan of the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh and was attended by close to 200 academic administrators, including Vice-Chancellors, Pro Vice-Chancellors, Treasurers, Registrars, Proctors, Deans, Charis, and Directors from 22 different public and private universities in Bangladesh.

Ms. Ann McConnell, Director, American Center, US Embassy in Bangladesh, served as the guest of honor, and Mr. George Mesthos, Cultural Affairs Officer, US Embassy in Bangladesh, served as Rapporteur of the first panel of the conference on *Being Globally Competitive: Academic Offerings, Establishments, and Quality Assurance*. Ms. McConnell praised AIBS and its leadership for bringing educational issues that contribute to producing effective leadership in higher education to the forefront.

Professor Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice-Chancellor, University of Dhaka, gave a welcome address during the opening ceremony and AIBS President, Professor Golam Mathbor, delivered the opening/keynote address. In his opening remarks, Dr. Mathbor stated that AIBS is an association of institutions of higher learning in the United States aimed at promoting scholarly understanding between Bangladesh and the United States. Dr. Mathbor reported that AIBS awarded close to 100 fellowships to US citizens to conduct research in Bangladesh during the last 25 years, and has assisted with organizing many symposiums, workshops, lectures, and conferences in Bangladesh. AIBS is funded by the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs through CAORC, and Title-VI grants from the US Department of Education, and annual membership subscriptions by US members' institutions. Since its inception in 1989-2006, AIBS received \$140,000 per year from the Government of Bangladesh (GOB). AIBS leadership is now working closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to reactivate this funding which will enable many Bangladeshi scholars to visit the USA for their educational recertification and collaboration with US faculty members.

In his keynote address, Dr. Mathbor quoted Nelson Mandela, "education is the most powerful weapon which we can use to change the world." He further stated that education is an essential key for ensuring national development and that it is our higher education system that produces leaders for effective management of national institutions. National policies of a country set the parameters and conditions for a productive education system. It is evident that strategic planning and effective management can enhance the quality and credibility of institutions of higher learning. As an example, in the US the Commissions on Higher Education emphasize that an institution:

- has a mission appropriate to higher education;
- is guided by a well-defined and appropriate goals, including goals for student learning;
- has established conditions and procedures under which its goals can be realized;
- is accomplishing its goals substantially;
- is so organized, staffed, and supported that it can be expected to continue to accomplish its goals; and
- meets the eligibility requirements and standards of the Commission on Higher Education.

National Conference *(continued)*

Professor Mathbor noted this event sets for the dialogue, which will enable educational administrators to exchange ideas, network, and take away tools to enhance the quality and credibility of educational offerings. We believe in indigenous practice to address the challenging issues of management and leadership in higher education by utilizing local talents and expertise. Therefore, the conference moderators, speakers, and rapporteurs have been invited from the institutions of higher learning in Bangladesh.

This national conference envisioned to accomplish the following three objectives:

- To identify the issues and challenges of effective management and leadership development at institutions of higher learning;
- To discuss and analyze the roles and responsibilities of department, faculty/school, academic council, syndicate/regent board, and senate in achieving the mission and goals of higher education; and
- To explore best practices for effective academic institutions.

The expected output was to create a common platform with key findings to establish strategic management and effective leadership in higher education. The conference ended with a session led by the conference chairs and rapporteurs of each panel. Participants of the event recommended and requested AIBS to convene another follow-up workshop in the near future on management and leadership in higher education. They also suggested including the members of the Board of Trustees of their respective institutions in order for them to implement these important policies regarding this matter.



AIBS President at the National Conference on Strategic Management and Effective Leadership in Higher Education

AIBS President with Ms. Ann McConnell, Director of American Center, Professor Dr. Abul Hossen, Professor M.A. Momen



AIBS DHAKA CENTER ACTIVITIES

Guest Lecture at Eden Women's University College

August 20, 2015

AIBS President, Dr. Golam Mathbor, was invited and lectured on *Gender and Development: A Social Work Perspective* for the students and faculty members of the Departments of Social Work and Sociology at Eden Women's University College, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Eden Women's College is the premier institution of higher learning for women students in Bangladesh and has an enrolled 35,000 students. The lecture was organized by the Department of Social Work, and attended by 500 students and faculty members of the college.



AIBS President with Professor Syeda Sultana Salma, Chair-Department of Social Work and students at Eden Women's University College



AIBS President with Professor Husne Ara, Principal of Eden Women's University College, Professor Syeda Sultana Salma-Chair of the Department of Social Work, and Ms. Afroza Rozy, Associate Professor of Social Work

AIBS Fellows Meeting at American Center, US Embassy in Dhaka

June 9, 2015

AIBS Fellows Dr. Neilesh Bose, Dr. Melia Bose, Mr. Humayan Kabir, and Dr. Chaumtoli Huq attended a tour of the American Center organized by Mr. George Mesthos, the Cultural Affairs Officer of the US Embassy in Dhaka. The American Center, along with the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy, Dhaka (formerly USIS), seeks to promote improved mutual understanding between the United States and Bangladesh and to provide free and open access to information about the U.S. to Bangladeshis. Its aims are aligned with the mission of AIBS, which is to improve understandings through scholarship exchanges. AIBS looks forward to future collaborations with the American Center as well as US Embassy in Dhaka.



Left to right: Mr. George Mesthos, Dr. Neilesh Bose, Dr. Melia Bose, Dr. Chaumtoli Huq, AIBS President, and Mr. Humayun Kabir

Report on AIBS-DU Outreach Lecture

The AIBS-DU Outreach Lecture was held at the Department of Law, University of Dhaka. AIBS Dhaka Center staff and the Chairperson of the department, Dr. Shahnaz Huda, organized a seminar where AIBS fellow, Dr. Chaumtoli Huq, could lecture and act as a resource person. Dr. Huq dedicated the program to the victims of Tazreen Fire that broke out in 24 November 2012.

The acting chairperson of Department of Law, Professor Dr. Md. Rahmat Ullah, and Lecturer Mr. Jobair Alam, attended the seminar. The Director of AIBS, Dr. Rumana Tasmin, and the Assistant Director, Syeda Nur-E-Royhan, represented AIBS. Thirty-nine (39) students from the final semester and masters of Law attended the program with much enthusiasm and zeal. They took spontaneous part in the question-answer round and many important issues regarding the Binding Accord were raised. This event had several very positive outcomes and the students had contact with the AIBS fellow. Since accidents such as the Rana Plaza or Tazreen Fire is a big concern for the garments industries in Bangladesh, an awareness of the legal bindings has become an essential for anyone who is interested in practicing law. Dr. Huq was approachable and connected well with the audience. As the students had only studied this matter theoretically, Dr. Huq's lecture helped them understand the practical impact on the garments industries in Bangladesh. The chairperson of the Department, Dr. Huda, showed great interest in arranging future collaborative seminars.

Speaker: Dr. Chaumtoli Huq, AIBS Senior Research Fellow

Topic: Aftermath of Rana Plaza: Can the Binding Accord Improve Global Workplace Standards?

Date: Monday, November 24, 2014, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Location: Department of Law, University of Dhaka



Dr. Chaumtoli Huq lecturing



Dr. Chaumtoli Huq and Law Students, University of Dhaka

Bangladesh Administrative Trip 2015

The AIBS President, Dr. Golam Mathbor, was invited to visit the partner institution Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) in Mymensingh. BAU and AIBS signed an MOU to establish the collaboration of two multi-disciplinary organizations to enrich intellectual capabilities through scholarly exchange. Such partnerships underscore the essential role of an interdisciplinary approach to increase the number of majors offered by the university due to high student interest.



AIBS President meeting with administrators and faculty members of the ICF, BAU



AIBS President, ICF faculty members, and guests

AIBS Outreach in Pakistan

AIBS President, Golam M. Mathbor, and Professor and Chair, Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Interdisciplinary Studies, Monmouth University, New Jersey, USA, was invited to give a keynote address on *Effectiveness of Community Participation in Development Initiatives* for Nobel Peace Prize Nominee, Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan, Centennial Birthday Celebration on October 23, 2014 in Islamabad, Pakistan. This national event took place at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST), and was attended by 400 invited guests. AIBS provided a travel grant for Dr. Mathbor's week-long visit to Pakistan.

In his keynote address Dr. Mathbor paid tribute to Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan and made remarks about his legacy in establishing the famed Orangi Pilot Project (OPP), Karachi, Pakistan; Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) in Comilla, Bangladesh. The keynote address provided an overview of community participation in development initiatives using examples from the field and analyzed the changing meaning of community participation over time. The overview included the definitions, use and abuse of the concept "participation." The presentation also looked into the qualities of participation that particularly enhances and inhibits the effectiveness of development initiatives through community participation. Finally, the presentation identified the factors of effective community participation in development initiatives from the South Asian regional perspective, followed by an effective Community Participation model that the presenter developed. Students, faculty members, and development specialists attended the event and benefitted by learning about the use and abuse of community participation in South Asian countries that were examined critically during this presentation.

Also, Dr. Mathbor was invited and delivered the following lectures during this visit:

- Invited and lectured on *Contemporary Rural Development Policies and Practices* for the 18th Mid-Career Management Course for the officers of Intelligence Bureau, Pakistan Audit and Accounts Service, Office of Management Group, Foreign Service, and Ex-Cadre organized by the National Institute of Management (NIM), Islamabad, Pakistan, on October 28, 2014.
- Lectured on *Gender Discourse Matters for Disaster Relief and Management* for the students and faculty members at the Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi, Pakistan, on October 27, 2014
- Served as the Keynote Speaker on *Climate Change, Adaptability, and Food Security*, a conference organized by the Human Resources Development Network (HRDN), Pakistan, held in Dreamland Motel, Islamabad, Pakistan, on October 30, 2014.



Dr. Mathbor delivering the keynote address at the centennial birthday celebration at NUST, Islamabad, Pakistan; Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, Chairman of AHKRC; Mr. Sartaz Aziz, Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan; and Mrs. Akhter Hameed Khan

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Signing

Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST)

Date: August 19, 2015

Background: AIBS signed an MOU with **Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST)**, and Professor Mathbor delivered a lecture, *Knowledge and Implications of Applied Social Sciences in Global Context*, for the students and faculty members at the PUST, Pabna, Bangladesh. The lecture was attended by 300 students and faculty member of PUST.

Objectives:

- A) To invite AIBS Research Fellows and other intellectuals from Bangladesh or US as international scholars to PUST for presenting their field of knowledge and introducing them to the faculty members and students.
- B) To sponsor/get sponsored to conduct seminars/workshops/conferences jointly with PUST in either AIBS premises or PUST campus, as may be identified.
- C) To undertake joint research projects for attracting combined funding from various organizations to carry out research programs of mutual interest;
- D) To pursue joint publications in refereed national and international journals, periodicals, and magazines;
- E) To extend cooperation for the development of the newly established academic discipline particularly the Department of Social Work.



Vice Chancellor Professor, Dr. Al-Nakib Chowdhury, and AIBS President, Professor Dr. Golam M. Mathbor, signing the MOU

AIBS President addressing the audience at PUST



Southeast University

Date: August 22, 2015

Background: AIBS President, Dr. Golam M. Mathbor, signed an MOU with the **Southeast University, Dhaka, Bangladesh (SEU)**. Both parties entered into this MOU and declared their mutual intention to cooperate and develop the academic, research and cultural interchanges outlined in this agreement for the mutual benefit of their respective institutions, faculty members, and students. Professor Dr. Md. Humayun Kabir Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor in charge, signed the agreement on behalf of Southeast University.

Objectives:

- A)** To invite AIBS Research grant Fellows and other intellectuals from Bangladesh or US as international scholars to SEU for presenting their field of knowledge and introducing them to the faculty members and students of SEU.
- B)** To sponsor/get sponsored to conduct seminars/workshops/conferences jointly with SEU in either AIBS premise or SEU campus, as may be identified.
- C)** To undertake joint research projects for attracting combined funding from various organizations to carry out research programs of mutual interest;
- D)** To pursue joint publications in refereed national and international journals, periodicals, and magazines;

Both parties agree to pursue cooperative initiatives. Examples of future collaborations may include articulation agreements, exchanges of academic materials, faculty/fellow exchanges, future co-sponsored conferences and symposiums, and joint research activities. Any future initiatives shall be set forth in a separate agreement and mutually agreed in writing by both parties.



AIBS President and Pro Vice-Chancellor of Southeast University signing the MOU

Asian University for Women (AUW)

Date: May 26, 2015

AIBS signed an MOU with the **Asian University for Women (AUW)**.

Objectives:

- A)** To invite AIBS Research grant Fellows and other intellectuals from Bangladesh or US as international scholars to AUW for presenting their field of knowledge and introducing them to the faculty members and students of AUW;
- B)** To sponsor/get sponsored to conduct seminars/workshops/conferences jointly with AUW in either AIBS premise or AUW campus, as may be identified.
- C)** To undertake joint research projects for attracting combined funding from various organizations to carry out research programs of mutual interest;
- D)** To pursue joint publications in refereed national and international journals, periodicals, and magazines;
- E)** To work on initiating the process of establishing a Department of Social Work at AUW for further collaboration and AIBS to provide with technical and curricular support to reinforce the process;
- F)** To promote internships for AUW students as well as study-abroad opportunities for international students visiting AUW.

AIBS CONTACT INFORMATION

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