Conference on

Bridging the Policy-Action Divide: Challenges and Prospects for Bangladesh

Dates: March 29 & 30, 2013
(Friday & Saturday)

Bangladesh Development Initiative, USA (BDI)

CENTER for SOUTH ASIA STUDIES UC Berkeley

Venue: The Faculty Club
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA 94720, USA

CALL FOR PAPERS
BRIDGING THE POLICY-ACTION DIVIDE: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS FOR BANGLADESH

Following the success of the 2008 and 2009 conferences, Bangladesh Development Initiative (BDI) is once again organizing a two-day international conference to examine the gap between development policies and their implementation in Bangladesh. The goal of the conference is to generate new ideas for transforming Bangladesh into a prosperous nation in the early decades of the twenty first century. The conference, planned in partnership with the Center for South Asia Studies, UC Berkeley, is scheduled for March 29–30 (Friday, Saturday), 2013 at Berkeley, California. Scholars, educators, students, policymakers, social entrepreneurs, and research and development organizations are invited to submit papers in the following areas:

I. Topics of interest

A) Governance and Political Development

- Bridging the chasm between government and opposition
- Transparency in government
- Establishment of the rule of law
- The role of the military, bureaucracy, and the political elite in the policy milieu of Bangladesh
- Credible elections in the post-interim government era
- Secularism, religion, and the role of minorities in politics
- Civil service reforms
- Role of civil society and Non-resident Bangladeshis

B) Poverty Alleviation

- Narrowing the divide between the "haves" and the "have-nots"
- From micro-credit to microfinance
- Examining the state of safety nets and entitlements
- Remittances, exporting labor, and developing human capital
- Readymade garment exports and industry specific studies
- Developing manufacturing and capital goods industries
- Entrepreneurship development for jobs and exports

C) Human Rights and Law and Order

- Closing the divide between rule of law and lawlessness
- Human rights (specifically of women, religious and ethnic minorities, and indigenous people)

D) Environment

- Bridging the gap between promise and action
- The potential of renewable energy in Bangladesh
- Sustainable management of forestry resources
- Protecting our rivers and managing Bangladesh's water resources
- Climate change and development
- Waste water treatment
- Disaster management

E) Science and Technology

- Bridging the "digital" divide
- Implementation of the Science and Technology Policy
- Math and science education – catching up with the Asian Tigers
- Production of capital goods, role of indigenous innovations

F) Education

- Access, equity, and quality in education
- Managing the resource divide between public and private education
- Literacy and the role of primary and secondary education
- Human resource and management policies
- Developing world class universities and research institutions
- Research and development: inspiration, resources, and governance

G) Health Care

- Closing the healthcare gap between the rich and the poor
- Public vs. private health care provision
- Examining the viability of traditional health care systems
- Integration of health and population service delivery
- Human resources and management in health care
- Health education
- Demographic transitions and policy implications

H) Urbanization and Infrastructure

- Urbanization policies: How to bridge environmental stewardship and sustainable growth
- Urban housing, infrastructure development, and traffic management
- Green urbanization and livability
- Bridging the rural-urban divide
- Urban governance
- Waste management
- Security and segregation

I) Macroeconomic Policies, Trade and Investment

- Export success in the evolving global production and trade regime
- Attracting appropriate foreign direct investment (FDI)
- Capital market development (financial markets, domestic capital mobilization)
- Banking and financial sector reforms – ensuring a competitive and sound banking sector
- Macroeconomic issues (inflation, employment growth)
- Foreign exchange issues and international trade
- Labor market and employment issues
- Technology and Innovation
- Alternative models of social and economic development

J) Rural Development and Agriculture

- Land use and trends in agricultural production
- Food security and international prices
- Land tenure systems, cultivation patterns and technology
- Soil, water, irrigation, salinity and arsenic problems

- Disaster management and agriculture
- Managing migration to the mega cities

K) Energy and Power Development

- Energy, urbanization, industrialization, and environment
- Developing renewable energy for environment and jobs
- Climate change realities and strategies for combating it
- Environmental issues related to energy development
- Energy pricing and energy subsidy policy
- Energy & environment policy and its linkage with sustainable development policy
- Energy projects and rights and survival of indigenous communities
- Coal and natural gas policies

L) Foreign Policy

- Connecting the nation's foreign policy with the aspirations of the citizens, FDI inflows, guest workers' rights, embassy services, legal counsel, skill enhancement of manpower for exports, and worker repatriation planning.
- Emerging trends in India-Bangladesh & US-Bangladesh relations
- Bangladesh's relationship with the Middle East and South East Asia
- Role of public diplomacy in enhancing the image of Bangladesh leveraging the Bangladesh diaspora
- Friend or Adversaries? The Tipaimukh dam and the Indian River Linking project conundrum
- Security and antiterrorism

II. Submission Procedures

- The submitted papers should represent original unpublished work on the economic, political, and social issues relating to the conference theme of bridging the gap between policy and implementation. The papers ought to fall into one of the categories mentioned above. They should also be based on rigorous, careful, and contemporary academic research that lucidly outlines the problem, recommends policy, and, importantly, addresses the challenges in implementing the recommended policies. Such studies may include ethnographic and qualitative approaches, empirical research, experimental methodologies, meta-analyses, systematic review of the relevant literature, case studies, and comparative analysis.

- Publication of the papers:
  — Selected papers would be considered for publication in the *Journal of Bangladesh Studies*, a peer-reviewed journal, published twice a year by BDI in the USA, and in Bangladesh in partnership with PRI.
  — As with the past conferences, BDI may publish books with selected papers after appropriate editorial considerations. Authors whose papers are included may receive a complimentary copy of the book.

- An abstract (or an early draft) of intended paper should be submitted by June 15, 2012 highlighting the research question/hypotheses (to be) tested in approximately 500 words. In the abstract, please discuss the data collection and research methodology as well as policy implications of the proposed research.

- The abstract must include the authors' full name, institutional affiliation, phone number, and e-mail address.

- The abstracts should be sent to one of the five relevant tracks identified below:
  — Track A (Human rights, foreign policy, and democratization): *governance-track@bdiusa.org*
  — Track B (Finance, trade and industry, and investment): *finance-track@bdiusa.org*
  — Track C (Growth, regional development, agriculture, and poverty alleviation): *economics-track@bdiusa.org*
  — Track D (Education and healthcare): *education-track@bdiusa.org*
  — Track E (Urbanization, environment, energy, and science and technology): *environment-track@bdiusa.org*

- A proposal/abstract for the research paper (500 words, approximately) should be emailed to the relevant tracks identified above. If you are unsure of the track where the paper belongs, please send your proposal to Dr. Ashraf Ali (*e-sas@msn.com*).

- The abstracts will be reviewed by subject specialists. Authors will be notified of the acceptance of their papers at which time they will be invited to submit the completed paper by October 1, 2012. Once the full paper is reviewed, the authors will receive a final confirmation that their paper is accepted for the BDI conference; thereafter they should proceed with preparations for travel to Berkeley, USA.

- BDI retains the right to accept or reject a paper based on quality and relevance considerations. The selection process will be fair and rigorous.

III. Timeline

The following (tentative) timeline applies to the submission/review/acceptance process:

- Call for Papers out: April 25, 2012
- Proposal/Abstract deadline: June 15, 2012
- Feedback to authors on acceptance: July 31, 2012
- Completed paper due: October 1, 2012
- Final decision on acceptance: December 1, 2012

IV. Seeking Partners and Sponsors

BDI is interested in partnering with organizations at home and abroad with mission overlap. In the past conferences, BDI has partnered (and continues to do so) with AEDSB, BEN, The Ash Institute in Harvard, DDBF in Boston, PRI in Dhaka, AIBS, the US Embassy in Bangladesh, Bangladesh Brand Forum, and others. As a non-profit organization, we also seek sponsors to financially support various aspects of the conference. The funds are used to support registration, accommodation and travel stipends of graduate students, guests, and scholars to facilitate their participation. If your organization is interested in partnering (organizing a session, panel discussion, or other) please contact Syed Saad Andaleeb or Munir Quddus. Those interested in sponsoring an event, please contact Ashraf Ali or Faizul Islam.

V. Other Conference Related Information

Detailed registration information will be forthcoming on BDI's web site (*www.bdiusa.org*). The early (on or before December 1, 2012) registration fee for the conference is $250. After December 1, 2012 the registration fee is $350. This fee will cover access to all sessions for both days, a formal dinner, access to all plenary sessions, and available papers on compact disks. The registration fee for participants from Bangladesh is $100 (after December 1, the fee is $150). This registration fee applies to students from USA and abroad. BDI will reserve hotel rooms near the venue, and share details in the coming days. Directions to the venue and other details will be posted at the BDI website as these become available. Participants will be generally responsible for their own travel arrangements.

BDI will seek funding from private and public sources to underwrite some of the conference costs. If funding becomes available, travel stipends may be offered to partially cover the registration/travel expenses, especially to those traveling from overseas and invited guests. However, no commitment is made at this time on such funding.

VI. Keynote Speakers

A number of prominent personalities are being approached to deliver keynote speeches, plenary speeches, and to serve on panels in the conference. If interested in serving on a panel, please send a note to Munir Quddus at *muquddus@pvamu.edu* along with your interests and a resume.

VII. For Further Information

- Dr. Syed Saad Andaleeb, (*saadandaleeb@gmail.com*)
- Dr. Munir Quddus, (*muquddus@pvamu.edu*)
- Dr. Ashraf Ali, (*e-sas@msn.com*)
- Dr. Farida Khan, (*faridackhan@gmail.com*)
- Dr. Halimur Khan, (*halimurkhan@hotmail.com*)

- Dr. Ahrar Ahmad, (*ahrar.ahmad@bhsu.edu*)
- Dr. Faizul Islam, (*mislam@aol.com*)
- Dr. Sukomal Modak, (*Sukomal_Modak@yahoo.com*)
- Dr. Adnan Z. Morshed, (*morshed@cua.edu*)
- Dr. Rahim Quazi, (*rmquazi@pvamu.edu*)

About Bangladesh Development Initiative (BDI)

BDI is a USA-based non-profit organization comprised of independent scholars associated with institutions of higher education in the United States and involved in scholarly exchanges between the United States and Bangladesh through establishing educational programs, publishing an academic journal, sustaining a book publication program to archive indigenous knowledge, and organizing conferences that debate policy prerogatives for Bangladesh and its various sectors. BDI includes professionals who are involved in supporting social development initiatives in Bangladesh.

BDI publishes the *Journal of Bangladesh Studies* (JBS) and conducts conferences and symposiums. In 2008 and 2009, BDI along with its partner organizations organized successful conferences on the campus of Harvard University. On December 28, 2011, a successful symposium on the capital goods industry was held at the Board of Investments (BOI) building, Dhaka, Bangladesh. To learn more about BDI, please visit us at: *www.bdiusa.org*.

About the Center for South Asia Studies (CSAS)

One of the world's leading institutes for research and programs on South Asia, the Center for South Asia Studies (CSAS) at the University of California, Berkeley works with faculty members, graduate students, community members, private institutions, and non-profit organizations to deepen understanding of the region and to create new generations of scholars of South Asia.

CSAS actively:

- Supports teaching and research activities of South Asia-related faculty and their students
- Initiates and administers research projects
- Organizes and hosts lectures, colloquia, seminars, and research conferences
- Develops financial resources for the enhancement of South Asia studies
- Encourages interdisciplinary, regional, and comparative studies of South Asia
- Creates outreach programs in coordination with other institutions of primary, secondary, and post-secondary education
- Administers fellowships and grants for the study of South Asian languages
- Publishes language textbooks and monographs on South Asia studies
- Supports cultural and community activities relating to South Asia and South Asians

The Center is one of the many Organized Research Units on the UC Berkeley campus that are part of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research (VCRO) which seeks to maintain a research environment that fosters creativity, collaboration and community on campus. To learn more about CSAS, please visit at: *southasia.berkeley.edu*.