BDI International Conference 2024

November 8-10, 2024
University of California at Berkeley, USA

Bangladesh Reimagined: The Next Half-Century

Bangladesh Development Initiative (BDI) is pleased to announce its 7th multidisciplinary international conference. It will be held on November 8–10, 2024 (Friday–Sunday) at the University of California, Berkeley, in partnership with the Institute for South Asia Studies and the Subir & Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies at UC Berkeley. All academics, scholars, and practitioners working on Bangladesh in their respective fields are invited to submit extended abstracts or full papers related to the conference theme. Authors are encouraged to include innovative forward-looking ideas for a reimagined Bangladesh, and policy recommendations to implement such innovations in a future Bangladesh.

I. Submission Procedure

- The following timeline applies to the submission/review/acceptance process:

  - Extended abstract or full paper submission deadline: April 30, 2024
  - Selection decision: May 31, 2024

    Optional submission of full papers for inclusion in conference proceedings
    - Full paper due for review: September 15, 2024
    - Final review decision: October 7, 2024
    - Final version due: October 22, 2024

- Submissions should represent original and unpublished work on the following broad categories: society, governance, education, economy, environment, health, the arts, media, and other issues related to the conference theme. While looking at the past and present, the submissions should also project into the future with aspirations and roadmaps along these broad categories and related sub-categories.

- An extended abstract (minimum 500 words) or a draft of the full paper should be submitted by April 30, 2024, through the paper submission drop box at the BDI website (https://bdiusa.org/bcs/). Submissions can also be sent by email to Dr. Munir Quddus (muquddus@pvamu.edu) with cc to Dr. Rahim Quazi (rmquazi@pvamu.edu). Submissions should contain details on the research question, theoretical framework, data sources and methodology, any findings, and potential policy implications/recommendations.

- Participants are encouraged to write a full paper for the conference proceedings. These should be fully edited with consistently styled citations and references, and ideally based on rigorous and contemporary academic research, with careful and clear presentation of the methodology used.

- No more than two submissions will be accepted from the same author.

- We are also interested in a select number of theme-specific research sessions and panels. If you are interested in putting together a session or a panel, please contact us with a title, abstract, and a list of potential authors/panelists.

II. Selection Process

- Each submission will be reviewed by subject experts. Authors will be notified of the acceptance/rejection of their submission by May 31, 2024. Authors of the accepted submissions will be invited to submit a full paper to be published in the conference proceedings by September 15, 2024, and will receive the final review decision by October 7, 2024. This full paper is optional, and authors may opt out of having their papers published in the proceedings. Final version of accepted papers should be submitted by October 22, 2024, for inclusion in the conference proceedings.

- BDI retains the right to accept or reject a submission based on quality and relevance. We make a commitment that the selection process will be rigorous and fair.

III. Publication of Papers

- The final version of accepted papers will be included in the conference proceedings. Selected papers will be considered for publication in the *Journal of Bangladesh Studies*, a peer-reviewed journal, published twice every year by BDI in the USA.

- As with the past conferences, BDI may consider publishing book volumes with selected papers.

IV. Keynote Speakers

A number of prominent scholars and experts are expected to deliver keynote addresses, speak at the plenary sessions, and serve on panels in the conference. If you are interested in serving on a panel, please send a note and your resume to Dr. Munir Quddus (muquddus@pvamu.edu) with cc to Dr. Rahim Quazi (rmquazi@pvamu.edu). Dr. Hameeda Hossain and Dr. Samir K. Saha, recipients of the *BDI Lifetime Achievement Award* in 2021 and 2023, respectively, will be invited to present keynote lectures at the conference.

V. Other Conference Related Information

Detailed registration information will be forthcoming on BDI's homepage (http://www.bdiusa.org). Please check this page on a regular basis for updates.

The conference registration fee is $300 and the registration deadline is October 1, 2024. This fee covers access to all breakout sessions, plenary sessions, available papers, one formal dinner, two lunches, and two breakfasts. For participants from Bangladesh (excluding students), the registration fee is $150. For students (from all countries) and local residents, the registration fee is $100. Lodging/hotel is not covered in this registration fee.

Authors of the accepted submissions will receive formal letters confirming acceptance for the conference. This will help authors to begin preparations for travel (including visa) to USA. A list of authors, panelists, and invited guests will be sent to the US Embassy in Dhaka to assist with their visa processing. Please note that BDI has no control over the visa process, which is solely under the purview of the US Embassy.

BDI will post a list of local hotels near the conference site and share details on how to reserve a room on its homepage in the coming days. Other information such as directions to the venue and transportation will be posted on the BDI website as these become available. Participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements.

As with the past conferences, BDI seeks to bring a large number of participants from Bangladesh. Hence, we look for sponsors from both the private and public sectors to underwrite the conference costs, and to provide limited travel stipends. Provided sufficient funds become available, travel stipends may be offered to partially cover the registration/travel expenses for those traveling from Bangladesh. However, at this time no commitment can be made on travel stipends. Even if these stipends become available, they will be paid after the conference is over, and the amount may not exceed $500. Those interested in attending the conference are advised to be prepared to bear the full cost of travel to the conference (registration, travel, hotel, food, local transportation, etc.).

VI. Further Information

For questions and other information on BDI or the 2024 conference, please contact Dr. Munir Quddus (muquddus@pvamu.edu) with cc to Dr. Rahim Quazi (rmquazi@pvamu.edu).

About Bangladesh Development Initiative (BDI)

BDI is a non-profit organization based in the United States. Its members include scholars and professionals committed to supporting development initiatives in Bangladesh aimed at improving the quality of life for all its citizens. BDI is involved in scholarly exchanges between the US 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 publishes the *Journal of Bangladesh Studies* (JBS) and conducts conferences and symposiums. In 2008, 2009, 2013, 2015, and 2019, BDI along with its partner organizations organized successful conferences at Harvard University, UC Berkeley, and Yale University. In 2011, a successful symposium on the capital goods industry was held at the Board of Investments (BOI) building, Bangladesh. To learn more about BDI, please visit: www.bdiusa.org.

About the Institute for South Asia Studies (ISAS)

One of the world's leading institutes for research and programs on South Asia, the Institute for South Asia Studies (ISAS) 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.

ISAS 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 Asia
- Publishes language textbooks, research notes, and conference reports and an annual newsletter
- Supports cultural and community activities relating to South Asia and South Asians

The Institute 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 ISAS, please visit: southasia.berkeley.edu.

About the Subir & Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies

The Subir & Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies, established in 2013 with a generous gift from the Subir and Malini Chowdhury Foundation, champions the study of Bangladesh's cultures, peoples, and history. The first of its kind in the US, the Center's mission is to create an innovative model combining research, scholarships, the promotion of art and culture, and the building of ties between institutions in Bangladesh and the University of California.

In addition to promoting and integrating interdisciplinary scholarship, the Chowdhury Center also sponsors lectures and conferences and provides the following three scholarships:
- The Subir Chowdhury Fellowship on Quality of Life in Bangladesh
- The Malini Chowdhury Fellowship on Bangladesh Studies
- The Subir Chowdhury Undergraduate Scholarship

To learn more about the Chowdhury Center, please visit: chowdhurycenter.berkeley.edu/