



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

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

“BRIDGING THE POLICY-ACTION DIVIDE: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS FOR BANGLADESH”

Bangladesh Development Initiative (BDI) is pleased to announce its 2013 conference on Bangladesh. Following on the immense success of two conferences on Bangladesh in 2008 and 2009 at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, BDI will hold a three-day international conference on February 22–24, 2013, at University of California, Berkeley, co-hosted by the Center for South Asia Studies (CSAS).

Bangladesh has been experiencing steady economic growth and has shown substantial gains in a number of significant areas. Yet much remains to be done for Bangladesh to attain middle-income status. Improvements in education, infrastructure and communication, financial markets, and legal systems are needed to attract more foreign investment and encourage the emergence of domestic enterprises. In addition, the problems of unplanned urbanization and the need for environmental management must go hand in hand with growth and employment creation in a country that is one of the most densely populated in the world.

To address these issues, participants are expected from the US, Bangladesh and from across the world. A large number of scholarly papers will be presented, policy options offered, and different points of view discussed, with particular focus on the implementation of policy. The papers are organized along the following tracks:

- Governance including human rights, foreign policy, and democratization
- Finance, trade, and investment
- Growth, macroeconomic policy, regional development, agriculture, and poverty alleviation
- Education and healthcare
- Urbanization, environment, energy, and science and technology

Panel discussions are also being organized to address diverse topics of current policy interest including: mitigating corruption in Bangladesh; achieving high growth through inclusive development; gender issues; capital goods industry; regional cooperation; education reform; and environmental and urban challenges among others. Many Bangladeshis living abroad are not as well known for their entrepreneurial efforts to serve Bangladesh: this conference will attempt to highlight the role of the Bangladesh diaspora as well. BDI is also pleased to announce that *Professor Rehman Sobhan*, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), will be the recipient of the *2012 BDI Lifetime Achievement Award*.

Among the dignitaries and keynote speakers expected to attend are the following:

- Rehman Sobhan (Professor of Economics, Chair, CPD)
- Mahfuz Anam (Editor, The Daily Star)
- Pranab K. Bardhan (Professor of Economics, Emeritus, UC Berkeley)
- George W. Breslauer (Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, UC Berkeley)
- Lawrence Cohen (Chair, Center for South Asia Studies)
- Syeda Rizwana Hasan (Chief Executive, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association)
- David Lewis (Professor, London School of Economics)
- Dan W. Mozena (US Ambassador to Bangladesh)
- Geoff Doidge (South African Ambassador to Bangladesh)
- Akramul Qader (Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States)
- Salim Rashid (Professor of Economics, Emeritus, UIUC)
- Zaidi Sattar (Chairman, Policy Research Institute)

A cultural show is also planned for the evening of Friday, February 22nd and Saturday, February, 23rd. Details of the conference are available at www.bdiusa.org. Attendees must register to attend the conference. The registration form and information on area hotels and local transportation are available at these links:

www.bdiusa.org/Conference2013/Site%20Assets/RegistrationForm.pdf
www.bdiusa.org/Conference2013/Site%20Assets/VenueHotelAirportTrainBus.pdf

Further information about the conference may be obtained from:

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About the Organizers

Bangladesh Development Initiative (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 — *Journal of Bangladesh Studies*, sustaining a book publication program to archive indigenous knowledge, and organizing conferences that debate policy prerogatives for Bangladesh and its various sectors. To learn more about BDI, please visit: www.bdiusa.org.

Center for South Asia Studies (CSAS) at the University of California, Berkeley is one of the worlds leading institutes for research and programs on South Asia. The Center 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 on South Asia. To learn more about CSAS, please visit: southasia.berkeley.edu.

Major Supporting Organizations

Support from the following organizations is gratefully acknowledged:



US Department of State
www.state.gov



The Asia Foundation
asiafoundation.org

