

Bangladesh Development Initiative

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Press Release

2012 BDI Lifetime Achievement Award

The Bangladesh Development Initiative (BDI), a non-partisan research and advocacy group based in the United States, is pleased to select Professor Rehman Sobhan as the recipient of the *2012 BDI Lifetime Achievement Award*.

The award was established this year and is designed to “*honor outstanding individuals who, through their scholarly and/or policy and civic engagements, have contributed significantly to understanding the challenges, and pursuing the ideals that would lead to the development of Bangladesh and improving the quality of life for its citizens.*”

The goal is not only that the award will recognize a scholar of high reputation, but also inspire others to develop ideas through rigorous research and apply these for the betterment of common Bangladeshis.

Throughout his long and distinguished career as an economist, researcher, political scientist and public intellectual, Professor Sobhan has worked to uphold the welfare and interests of the average Bangladeshi, especially the poor. Through his many books, articles and speeches, he has contributed to the body of knowledge that has improved our understanding of poverty, the process of economic growth, and the role of power in a society. His most recent book, *Challenging the Injustice of Poverty: Agendas for Inclusive Development in South Asia*, published in 2010 draws upon “studies across various South Asian countries, (the book) redefines poverty as a process where certain sections of the society are excluded from equal participation in development opportunities as well as decision-making. It further identifies a variety of operational ideas for policymakers, political activists and civil society advocacy groups committed to build a more just and poverty free society in South Asia.”

Professor Sobhan has played an active advocacy role and made many contributions outside the world of academe, including serving as Envoy Extraordinary with special responsibility for Economic Affairs (1971), Member of Bangladesh Planning Commission (1972-74), Member of the Advisory Council of the President of Bangladesh in charge of the Ministry of Planning and Economics Relations Division (1991), Chairman of the Board of the Grameen Bank (1996-2002). Professor Sobhan has received a number of awards including, the *Bangladesh Bank Purushkar* (2000) for services to the economics profession in Bangladesh, and the *Bangladesh Shadinata Purushkar* (2008), the highest civil award in Bangladesh.

The BDI Lifetime Achievement award will be formally presented at BDI’s International Conference organized with the Institute for South Asia Studies on the UC Berkeley campus, scheduled for February 2013. As the winner of the award, Professor Sobhan will have the opportunity to present a lecture on a subject of his choice. For more information on the planned BDI International Conference 2013, please visit www.bdiusa.org or contact Dr. Munir Quddus, President BDI; muquddus@pvamu.edu.

BDI is a non-profit corporation promoting socio-economic development in Bangladesh.