

## North South University (NSU) and The Daily Star (TDS) Roundtable on “A Roadmap for Sustainable Solutions to the Rohingya Crisis”

North South University (NSU) and The Daily Star (TDS) jointly organized a roundtable discussion on “A Roadmap for Sustainable Solutions to the Rohingya Crisis” on September 24 at The Daily Star Center. The objective of the roundtable was to share the key findings of a set of Policy Briefs, which were developed based on the research papers presented at the international conference on “Rohingya Crisis in Bangladesh: Challenges and Sustainable Solutions” held in July 2019 at NSU. The theme of the policy briefs included: (i) a comprehensive policy brief focusing on a roadmap for sustainable solutions to the Rohingya crisis; (ii) peacebuilding and conflict resolution; (iii) physical and mental health issues; (iv) women and children issues; (v) economic impacts; and (vi) environmental impacts and remedy.



Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, North South University and Brig Gen (retd.) Mohammad Shahedul Anam Khan, Associate Editor, The Daily Star, in their welcome remarks, emphasized on finding a sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis immediately to avoid further complexities. Dr. Katherine Li, North South University, in her opening remarks, provided a brief overview of the context and development of these policy briefs from the international conference.

Dr. M Jashim Uddin, Associate Professor, Dept. of Political Science and Sociology, presented the main findings of the policy briefs with the audience. He stated that without a strong role from the UN as a guarantor and effective mediation by China, repatriation of the Rohingyas is less likely to happen. He added that Bangladesh, despite being a small economy, is already bearing a heavy burden and facing multiple threats related to its economy, security, health, environment, and social aspects.



Following the presentation, designated discussants of different themes further elaborated the risks associated with the Rohingya Crisis. The designated discussants were: Brig Gen (retd.) Mohammad Shahedul Anam Khan, The Daily Star on peacebuilding and conflict resolution, Dr. S. M. Rafiqul Islam, ICDDRDB and Dr. Towfique Joarder, FHI 360 on physical and mental health issues, Ms. Maheen Sultan, Naripakkha on women and children issues, former Ambassador M. Humayun Kabir on diplomacy and foreign relations, Professor Abdur Rob Khan, North South University on economic impacts and Professor Biswas Karabi Farhana, North South University on environmental impacts and remedy.



Professor Salahuddin M. Aminuzzaman, North South University moderated the roundtable discussion. During the open discussion, former Ambassador Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury; former Ambassador Shamim Ahmed; Brig Gen (retd.) M Sakhawat Hussain, Honorary Fellow, NSU; Professor ASM Ali Ashraf, University of Dhaka and Haruno Nakashiba, UNHCR Senior Protection Officer provided their valuable feedbacks on the policy briefs and the Rohingya Crisis. Among the participants, Professor SK Tawfique M Haque, Professor Mahbubur Rahman and Professor Kamal Uddin Ahmed from North South University also shared their opinions.



The policy briefs were produced by a multidisciplinary research team, which is comprised of faculty members of North South University, includes: Professor SK Tawfique M Haque, Director, SIPG and Chair, PSS; Dr. Bulbul Ashraf Siddiqi, Associate Professor, PSS; Dr. M Jashim Uddin, Associate Professor, PSS; Dr. Mahmudur Rahman Bhuiyan, Assistant Professor, PSS; Dr. Katherine Li, Assistant Professor, OEA; Dr. Ishrat Zakia Sultana, Assistant Professor, PSS and Md. Saidur Rahman, Lecturer, PSS.

For further information, please visit:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/cost-supporting-rohingyas-dhaka-now-saddled-12b-year-1804855>