

Members, Project Advisory Committee

BANGLADESH

Professor Mustafizur Rahman is an economist currently serving as Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka, Bangladesh



- Prior to this he was Executive Director of the CPD (2007-2017)
- He has served as a Visiting Fellow at Oxford University, UK and Senior Fulbright Fellow at Yale University, USA
- His areas of research include WTO and interests of the LDCs; addressing Bangladesh's LDC graduation challenges; South-South Cooperation, regional cooperation and economic integration in Southern Asia; fiscal-monetary policies and macroeconomic performance of Bangladesh; challenges of SDGs implementation
- He is a member of Dhaka University Senate and a member of the Board of Trustees of BRAC University

Syed Monowar Hussain is a former bureaucrat and expert in Inland waterways



- He received Masters in Port Management & Harbour Administration from the University of Antwerp, Belgium in 1994-95
- He is an eminent IWT and maritime transport expert in Bangladesh with more than 35 years of experience in regional multimodal transport connectivity
- He had been working with Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) and served as Director (Ports & Traffic) and retired as Secretary in 2011.
- He was the focal person of all bilateral talks and interactions held between 2000 and 2010 on Indo-Bangla IWT Protocol

Dr. Nazneen Ahmed is a Senior Research Fellow at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)



- She is a Chevening Scholar and attained Masters in Development Economics from the University of Sussex, U.K.

- She obtained her PhD degree from the University of Wageningen, the Netherlands. Her research expertise includes issues related to macro-economy, international trade, regional integration, industry, labour, agricultural marketing and gender
- She was a member of the Panel of Economists for adopting the 7th Five-Year Plan of Bangladesh
- She has worked with various International Development Organizations and Donors including the World Bank, DFID, ADB, UNCTAD, ILO, IFC, the European Commission, IDB, AED, Action Aid, IFPRI, IDRC and USAID

Ambassador Tariq Karim is Senior Fellow at Independent University, Bangladesh advising the Vice Chancellor on setting up an Institute for Bay of Bengal Studies

- A seasoned diplomat, he joined the Bangladesh Foreign Service in 1967
- He has served as High Commissioner to India in New Delhi, and Additional Foreign Secretary for South Asia and SAARC at the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry
- He has also served as Strategic Adviser to the World Bank's South Asia Water Initiative and Consultant to the World Bank's South Asian Regional Integration and Engagement program since November 2014

After opting for early retirement from the Foreign Service, he was a Visiting Fellow and subsequently Senior Adviser at the IRIS Center of the University of Maryland at College Park, USA. He taught as adjunct faculty, between 2003-2008, in the University of Maryland's Government and Politics Department; at the George Washington University's Elliot School of International Affairs; and at the Virginia International University, in the United States.



Selima Ahmad is the Member of Bangladeshi Parliament from Comilla-2 constituency

- She is the Vice President of Nitol-Niloy Group and also serves as the President of Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- She was awarded the prestigious Oslo Business for Peace Award in 2014
- She was the Global Ambassador of The International Alliance for Women
- She has also taught management at the University of Dhaka



BHUTAN

Gopilal Acharya is an independent consultant and freelance journalist

- He was educated in Bhutan and Sweden. He is an award-winning journalist with a career spanning 20 years in media and communication industry.
- He has worked in Bhutan, Nepal, Singapore, and India. He worked as Chief Editor of Bhutan's first privately owned newspaper, Bhutan Times, and later founded a weekly newspaper, The Journalist.
- He has also authored and co-authored papers on disaster management, climate change, Gross National Happiness among others.
- He received his Master's degree in Global Journalism from Örebro University in Sweden.



Sonam Choiden is the President of the GEDU College of Business Studies at the Royal University of Bhutan.

- Her areas of expertise include Development Economics, Gross National Happiness Index and Policy Analysis
- She achieved her PhD in Economics from the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Australia
- She was awarded the prestigious Royal Civil Service Bronze Medal for service to the King, the Country and the People of Bhutan



Sangay Dorji is presently the Secretary General of the Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industries

- He has served as the Country Director of Ennovent, a business venture catalyst for low-income markets in developing countries globally
- He has also served as the Deputy Chief Program Officer at Bhutan's Gross National Happiness Commission
- He obtained his Master's degree in Public Administration from the Australian National University



NEPAL

Krishna Gyawali is a former bureaucrat and currently a development consultant in capacity of a public service professional



- He served Nepal's civil service for almost 30 years in various positions including as Secretary in the ministries of local development and environment and Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Finance. He retired as Secretary in the Ministry of Industry.
- He led all preparatory works on large investments in energy and transport infrastructure in Nepal between May 2015 and May 2016.
- He holds Master's degrees from Tribhuvan University of Nepal and the University of Birmingham, UK. He has also attended an executive course on Leadership in Development at the Harvard Kennedy School.

Apekshya Shah is an Assistant Professor at the Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, Tribhuvan University, Nepal



- She holds a Postgraduate degree in Diplomacy and Foreign Policy from City, University of London, and a Bachelors (with honors) degree in Political Science from Delhi University.
- Her core areas of expertise are diplomacy, foreign policy and public policy.
- Prior to this, she was the Opinion Editor of the Kathmandu Post, a leading English daily of Nepal
- Recently, she was selected as a Distinguished Humphrey fellow by the United States Department of State for a Leadership Program under which she attended an executive education course on Leadership for the 21st Century at Harvard Kennedy School

Swarnim Waglé is Chairman of the Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS)



- Between 2014 and 2018, he served the National Planning Commission (NPC) as Member and then as Vice-Chair (with rank equivalent to minister)
- He has worked as an international development professional for more than 15 years on policy assignments in over 20 countries, including as Senior Economist at The World Bank in Washington, DC

- He is a Senator of Kathmandu University; member of the World Bank's South Asia Championing and Visioning Process; and a member of the South Asia Governing Council of Future Earth.
- He holds a PhD in economics from the Australian National University, an MPA in International Development (MPA/ID) from Harvard University, and a BSc in Economics from the London School of Economics

Purushottam Ojha is a former bureaucrat presently working as consultant in the areas of trade, transit, investment and institutional development



- He started his career in the Nepal Administration Service of the Government of Nepal in November, 1979
- He served for almost 14 years in the Ministry of Commerce in the senior positions of Joint Secretary and Secretary and mentored the team of expert in formulation of Trade Policy-2009 and the Nepal Trade Integration Strategy-2010
- He also led the Nepalese team in the bilateral trade negotiations with India, Bangladesh, China and United States of America as well as in the Committee of Expert (COE) of SAFTA and Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) of the BIMSTEC Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
- He has participated in several international training courses related with trade, transport and trade facilitation including the Trade Policy course at Harvard Kennedy School, Boston

INDIA

Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury is Senior Fellow with the Neighbourhood Initiative of Observer Research Foundation, Kolkata chapter.



- She specialises in South Asia, refugees, forced migration, and women in conflict zones
- She is the recipient of the Public Service Broadcasting Trust Senior Media Fellowship (2007) and the Kodikara Award from the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS), Colombo in 1998-99
- She was also ICSSR Post-Doctoral Fellow (2004-06) at the Centre for the Studies of Developing Societies (CSDS), New Delhi, and a Visiting Fellow at The Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris
- Her recent publications include India-Myanmar Borderlands: Ethnicity, Security and Connectivity (Co-edited: 2020); Connecting Nations: India and Southeast Asia (co-edited, 2019), State of Being Stateless (co-edited, 2015); Women in Indian Borderlands (co-edited, 2011)

Constantino Xavier is a Fellow in Foreign Policy and Security Studies at Brookings India in New Delhi



- He leads the Sambandh Initiative on regional connectivity
- He researches on India's changing role as a regional power, and the challenges of security, connectivity and democracy across South Asia and the Indian Ocean
- He is currently writing a book on India's crisis response in the neighbourhood, with historical and contemporary case studies on Nepal, Sri Lanka and Myanmar
- He holds a Ph.D. in South Asian studies from the Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies, Maryland and an M.A. and M.Phil. from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Sreeradha Datta is Centre Head, Neighbourhood Studies and Senior Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi



- Besides being former director, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata, she has been a Fellow with Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi
- Specialising in South Asian and South East Asian studies

she has a PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

- Her publications include six books and monographs
- She has written over 100 articles in journals, edited volumes, newspapers, and academic websites
- She continues to serve on the academic boards of several Universities and think tanks and is a regular participant in track 2 dialogues

Dr. Rajeev Singh is Secretary General, Indian Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata



- He took charge as Secretary General, Indian Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata with effect from 1st September, 2006
- He has done extensive work in the fields of Central & State Policy Advocacy, Service Sector, Agro Business, Taxation and Bio-Technology
- He is an invitee member of various Government Committees on Policy matters
- He has also spearheaded different economic policy reports, sectoral reports etc.
- In a period spanning over 23 years, he began his career with Rajasthan Oil Federation as Deputy Manager
- He has received his PhD in Management and has also been associated with academics as Professor in Management with Specialization in Marketing

Shantanu Bhadkamkar is the Managing Director of ATC Group, a Leading Customs Broker & Full Service International Freight and is also the Chairman of Rotomatic Containers Pvt Ltd



- He is an alumnus of the Harvard Business School and is also Honorary Fellow of Narottam Morarjee Institute of Shipping (NMIS)
- He is currently the President of Association of Multimodal Transport Operators in India (AMTOI). He has also been associated with the following Associations,
 - a) International Federation of Customs Brokers Associations (IFCBA): Immediate Past Chairman
 - b) Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations In India (FFFAI): Advisor & Former Chairman
 - c) International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA) Multimodal Transport Institute WG SEA: Advisor
- He is also a distinguished member on the Court of Indian Maritime University (IMU) and executive Member in the Governing Council of Logistics Sector Skill Council

Arun Roy is an expert on river engineering and Inland Waterways Transport operations.

- He is the former director of Inland Waterways Authority of India, in a career spanning 27 years
- He's been advisor and consultant to Ministry of Shipping, IUCN, IIT Guwahati
- He is an expert on stimulating and running mathematical and physical models on Rivers and advise on river training works.
- Presently he advises the JTI group on technical issues of inland river cruises, vessel building and other aspects



Nandita Baruah is the Asia Foundation's country representative in India, and formerly served as deputy country representative in Nepal

- She has over 25 years of professional experience working on gender, human rights, labour migration and human trafficking issues in South and Southeast Asia
- She was the regional coordinator for UN Women anti-trafficking program and UNODC UN-GIFT program
- She has served with USAID India as the regional anti-trafficking and gender specialist, and was the Vice-President (Rehabilitation and Resettlement) for Reliance Industries Limited
- She was awarded the Prime Minister's Gold Medal by the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) in recognition for the technical support provided by her for creation of victim protection policies and practices.
- She holds a Master's degree in Political Economy from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India



Shashi Bhushan Roy is an expert and independent consultant on Railways, Logistics, Public Private Partnerships

- He was former Director (Planning), Indian Railways
- He also served as the Group General Manager for Container Corporation of India, where he was involved in strategic planning for stimulating the growth of Containerized Multi-modal Freight transport of International and domestic cargo.
- He has also served in the capacities of Group General Manager and Director of the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS)



MULTILATERAL BODIES

Kuancheng Huang is a Senior Transport Specialist at the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department of the Asian Development Bank

- His expertise areas are Design and Analysis of Logistics System, Policy and Management of Air Transportation, Container Port Logistics
- He has served as the Director, Office of International Affairs, College of Management at the National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan
- He obtained his PhD (Civil Engineering – Transportation System) from Cornell University, USA



Mandakini Kaul is the Senior Regional Cooperation Officer for South Asia, based in the World Bank's New Delhi office*

- Her areas of expertise include regional integration, connectivity, trade facilitation and gender in South Asia
- With professional experience over 20 years, she was the focal point for the World Bank's work in Bihar and Rajasthan for several years
- She co-led the World Bank's recent flagship report "India Systematic Country Diagnostic"
- She has read Economics at the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom and St. Stephen's College, Delhi University



Sandeep Raj Jain is Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Bangkok

- Prior to joining ESCAP, he worked for more than a decade with Indian Customs where he was involved in the implementation of various customs modernisation initiatives.
- He is a mechanical engineer and holds an MBA from India. In 2009, he graduated, with fellowship, in International Affairs from the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, New York



*To be confirmed