

# Bay of Bengal Conversation

Governance • Security • Development

21-23 NOVEMBER, 2022, DHAKA



CONVERSATION  
BOOKLET





## Conversation Booklet 2022

*This booklet was prepared by compiling information from event participants, speakers, and other important organizing partners. Although great care was taken in editing and releasing the book, inadvertent human mistakes are possible and occasionally inevitable. Because the speaker's schedule and other components of the program are subject to change at any time, the schedule and agenda published in this book may differ from actuality. The most recent agenda may be found at [bayofbengalconversation.cgs-bd.com/agenda](http://bayofbengalconversation.cgs-bd.com/agenda). Kindly inform us at [ed@cgs-bd.com](mailto:ed@cgs-bd.com) of any publication or factual mistakes.*



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পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রী  
FOREIGN MINISTER

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



মুজিব ১০০  
GOVERNMENT OF THE  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH  
DHAKA



## Message

It is with great pleasure that I write to convey my message on the occasion of the "Bay of Bengal Conversation" hosted by the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS), Bangladesh. I must appreciate the excellent initiatives taken by CGS to provide a platform for dialogues on important governance issues in the context of Bangladesh. I believe the "Bay of Bengal Conversation" will enhance our understanding of the current challenges that the nations of this region are facing in the 21st century.

Bangladesh, as a littoral state, has been a hub of maritime activities for centuries. The Bay of Bengal plays a pivotal role in our trade and commerce with the world. Our Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman aptly put emphasis on the significance of the vast maritime resources for the development of Bangladesh. He enacted the Territorial Waters and Maritime Zones Act 1974, which laid the foundation for our maritime rights and responsibilities, much before the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which came into effect in 1982. Born in riverine Bangladesh, Bangabandhu had a life-long commitment for the betterment of the lives of the riverine and coastal population. His visionary leadership has given us an independent Bangladesh with a strong foundation of democratic values, justice and Rights of people and a lofty aspiration for peace, progress and development. His able daughter, the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has peacefully settled the maritime boundary with our neighbours both India and Myanmar, and attained undisputed sovereignty over a huge maritime area of 118, 813 sq km in the Bay of Bengal.

Optimal use of the marine resources — categorized as blue economy- has been recognized as one of the key components of sustainable development. Bangladesh considers Blue Economy as one of the cornerstones of its economic growth and socio-economic development. It has been identified as one of the essential drivers for development in our current 8th Five Year Plan. However, Bangladesh has scarcity of skilled human resources to harvest the resources of the maritime sector. Accordingly, "Bangladesh Oceanographic Research Institute" has been set up in order to undertake marine scientific research. The establishment of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University in recent years has been a landmark decision by the present government of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to provide opportunities for maritime higher education and research.

In the context of Bay of Bengal, we need to develop a cooperative mechanism among the littoral states to promote collaboration for reaping maximum benefits of the blue economy. Bangladesh believes that the regional vision for the blue economy must be supported by a balanced integration of economic, social and environmental elements of development. Bangladesh is the current Chair of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). Bangladesh is also the current President of the Council of the International Seabed Authority. Apart from that we are member of regional initiatives such as BIMSTEC, BBIN, etc. Bangladesh promotes regional cooperation in fisheries management, sustainable utilization of marine resources, environmental protection, disaster management and many other sectors through these regional organizations. We have also setup Regional Adaptation Centre in Bd.

I acknowledge that there is a need for a sustained dialogue among scholars, practitioners and policy makers to identify potencies and deliberate on various challenges confronting the region, identify mechanisms to address those and evolve new frameworks for co-operation with the regional countries. I firmly believe that the Conversation will generate sustained dialogues on challenging issues that the nations in this region are facing.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu,  
May Bangladesh Live Forever



(Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP)



পররাষ্ট্র সচিব (সিনিয়র সচিব)  
FOREIGN SECRETARY (SENIOR SECRETARY)



GOVERNMENT OF THE  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH  
DHAKA



## Message

I am pleased to learn about the first ever Bay of Bengal Conversation in Dhaka by Centre for Governance Studies. I welcome the initiative to create such a platform to discuss issues of mutual interest of the countries around the Bay of Bengal.

It's encouraging to know that we can all come together in Dhaka for such an important event. I am delighted that we will be welcoming political leaders, academics, businessmen, and thought leaders from around the world to Bangladesh this year.

I hope this conversation will bring together different perspectives from many sectors and countries to look into new ideas and offer new solutions to support a human-centric world order emerging from the Bay of Bengal region.

This year's six thematic topics delve into a wide range of short-term and long-term existential challenges. I understand the individual plenary sessions will touch upon the present economic and geopolitical developments, looming threats of conflict and climate change, the role of modern technology, and the role we can all play as responsible stakeholders.

This Conversation also gives us the ideal setting for free and open brainstorming. It not only emphasizes the South Asian perspective but also focuses on proactive outreach to the rest of the globe as we work together to develop long-term solutions for regional and global peace, security, and prosperity.

I am looking forward to meeting the participants while extending my best wishes to the Centre for Governance Studies and all the Bay of Bengal Conversation 2022 attendees.

Masud Bin Momen





## Message from Chairman Centre for Governance Studies

For centuries, we, the Bangalee people, existed as a nation, yet we did not have a state. In 1971, we became an independent state under the leadership of our Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Our experience with statehood is only a little over half a century. As an ancient nation with a long history and heritage, we face formidable challenges in the 21st-century world. As a young nation-state, our first and foremost challenge is to promote and safeguard the prosperity of our people and take our rightful place in the region and beyond.

Bangladesh is nestled between two Asian giants-India and China. These two emerging powers are now competing to expand their sphere of influence and shape geo-political outcomes. Straddling this complex and intense rivalry, Bangladesh must play a delicate and strategic role founded on the principles of mutual respect and sovereign equality. That's what we have been doing so far. But the challenges before Bangladesh are enormous. Repatriating the Rohingya refugees, addressing the looming climate catastrophe, and creating decent jobs for millions of young men and women are just a few. To overcome these challenges and take our rightful place in the new world order, it is imperative that we debate these issues with an open mind. Centre for Governance Studies has been arranging these debates and dialogues for a long time.

This year, CGS has expanded the scope of these debates considerably. From Nov 21 to Nov 23, more than 600 eminent persons with expertise in various disciplines will participate in a three-day long meeting which we have termed 'Bay of Bengal Conversation' or simply BoBC. The BoBC aims to engage a broad spectrum of stakeholders and experts, stimulate robust dialogues on issues that matter most to the littoral states around the Bay of Bengal, and foster a common understanding of these issues among the people of these countries.

On behalf of the Centre for Governance Studies, I welcome all the participants of BoBC Conversation. I sincerely hope that your participation will lead to greater prosperity and stable peace for the people of these countries.

Joi Bangla.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Manjur A. Chowdhury'.

Manjur A. Chowdhury, PhD



**Chair's Note**  
**Executive Director, Centre for Governance Studies**

With great pride, I announce the first edition of the Bay of Bengal Conversation hosted by the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS), Bangladesh. For me, this event is the cumulation of more than half a decade of grueling effort. Despite monumental obstacles and heart-wrenching setbacks, our small team at CGS has worked day and night to design and host this flagship conference. It is my belief that Bangladesh has the potential to act as a significant geopolitical agent for peace, security, and regional cooperation for the whole Bay of Bengal region and, perhaps, the whole world.

By hosting this dialogue for regional cooperation in Bangladesh annually, Bangladesh can incorporate its growing prowess in track II diplomacy, allowing both government and non-government actors to come together and carry out all the conversations which are currently not taking place in the official channels due to a myriad of diplomatic and administrative roadblocks.

For ages, the Bay of Bengal has been an integrated and interdependent region. Trade and cross-border migration have resulted in cultural diversity among littoral nations and towns. The geostrategic transition from Euro-Atlantic to Indo-Pacific has given the Bay of Bengal region greater geopolitical relevance in recent years.

The region's geological characteristics range from the Himalayan mountain range to the Sundarbans' contiguous transboundary mangrove forest and a key marine ecology. Natural resources in the region are under threat from demographic shifts, environmental degradation, and repeated climate change-related calamities. People have been displaced within states and across borders as the frequency and intensity of cyclones and other extreme weather occurrences have increased. Disasters have claimed 3,17,000 lives and approximately \$59 billion in resources in the Bay of Bengal littorals during the previous decade. By 2050, around 30 million Bangladeshis are expected to become climate migrants. Addressing these transboundary concerns would be beyond the capabilities of a single country and would necessitate regional collaboration.



In addition, the area is home to 22% of the world's population, over half of who are poor and food and energy insecure. The Bay's coastal region, which is vulnerable to sea level rise, is home to over 400 million people. Following environmental impacts on development sectors, such as declining agricultural yields, poorer labour productivity, and related health effects, countries' ability to cope with such stress is likely to be severely hampered. Securing energy supplies to sustain the region's healthy economic growth is likewise a major problem. Countries' under-preparedness and failure to build cooperation methods to cope with difficulties would multiply dangers even more.

The Bay of Bengal area is also facing a number of security issues. Terrorist incidents have occurred in the region's countries, including Bangladesh and India, throughout the last decade. Terrorism and growing violence as a result of humanitarian crises, such as in Myanmar, have jeopardised the region's peace and stability. Transboundary security challenges such as cybercrime and human trafficking have grown equally difficult across the area. Because of the larger population density and movement, Covid-19 can have a greater negative impact on the population in these nations if our collaborative attempt to develop vaccines falls short. The scale and pace of these challenges demand sustained efforts to cooperate.

However, effective regional cooperation to address the transboundary challenges would require greater integration through enhanced connectivity. The desire to increase connection inside and across borders has fueled sub-regional connectivity through initiatives like the Sagarmala project, the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor, and ASEAN's new Western and Master plan of ASEAN Connectivity 2025. Similarly, sea connection corridors and marine connectivity have been offered by Bangladesh and India signing Maritime Shipping Agreements and Coastal Shipping Agreements. While attempts are being made, the region remains one of the least interconnected in the world, with low levels of integration.

The formation of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) in 2004 was an important step forward in acknowledging the necessity for collaboratively addressing the region's geopolitical and development concerns. Over the last decade, a number of meetings and high-level conferences have been convened to propose further Bay of Bengal integration. However, BIMSTEC's operation has been mainly ineffectual. While attempts are being made to revitalise BIMSTEC, institutional structures for tackling regional concerns remain insufficient. As a result, ongoing discourse among researchers, practitioners, and policymakers is required to identify and debate on numerous difficulties affecting the area, develop ways to solve those challenges, and establish new frameworks for cooperation.

The yearly Bay of Bengal Conversation, CGS's flagship conference on governance, security & development, will bring together stakeholders from multiple communities for sustained dialogue on issues facing the region and create pathways through which regional

cooperation could take shape. In order to structure the discussion, the first Bay of Bengal Conversation event will touch on six major themes:

1. A new paradigm in regional cooperation for greater security across the regions
2. Climate change, displacement, and risk of conflicts in the Bay of Bengal region
3. Reinvigorating regional growth through connectivity, trade, and investment
4. Addressing shared development challenges
5. Recalibrating institution and governance framework for cooperation
6. Exploring Challenges of Inclusive Governance

This unique platform will convene delegates from multiple countries to join the brightest minds in Bangladesh to discuss, ideate, and debate the most pressing global imperatives. The dialogue will bring together diverse voices across sectors and geographies as it seeks to discover new ideas and propose solutions that serve an emerging human-centric world order out of the Bay of Bengal.



Zillur Rahman



# PROGRAM

# PROGRAM

## DAY ONE

Monday  
November 21  
09:30 – 10:00  
Grand Ballroom

### INAUGURAL SESSION

**Zillur Rahman**, Executive Director  
Centre for Governance Studies and  
Chair, Bay of Bengal Conversation

**Dr. A K Abdul Momen MP**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh

**Boris Tadic**, Former President, Serbia  
Full Member, Club de Madrid

**Dr. Manjur A Chowdhury**, Chairman  
Centre for Governance Studies, Bangladesh

10:30 – 11:00  
Ballroom Foyer

### TEA/COFFEE BREAK

11:00 – 11:50  
Grand Ballroom

### PLENARY SESSION

#### **The Integration Agenda A Roadmap Towards SDGs**

Regional integration in South Asia has been a forgone cause since the great partitions. At a glance, it would seem that South Asian countries are more interested in forming ties overseas rather than with their next-door neighbors. Economic realities and ideological differences are driving a wedge in regional cooperation frameworks which had so much collective potential. A cross-border electricity trade in the Bangladesh–Bhutan–India–Nepal (BBIN) Region can alleviate so much hardship and provide opportunities to better utilize national resources in the region. But can such agendas ever be brought to the table when nations are entirely preoccupied with fending for themselves? How can the governance challenges associated with creating such integration initiatives be addressed? And what role may the private sector play in facilitating such initiatives?

**Stefan Liller**, Resident Representative, UNDP Bangladesh

**Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya**, Distinguished Fellow  
Centre for Policy Dialogue Bangladesh

**Dr. Pramod Jaiswal**, Research Director  
Nepal Institute for International Cooperation  
and Engagement

**Dr. Karori Singh**, Emeritus Fellow  
South Asia Studies Centre, University of Rajasthan, India

**Muhammad Amir Rana**, Director  
Pak Institute of Peace Studies, Pakistan

**Dr. Sayema Haque Bidisha**, Professor of Economics  
University of Dhaka, Bangladesh (Moderator)

## DAY ONE

11:50 – 12:40  
Grand Ballroom

## PLENARY SESSION

### Untangling the myriad of multilateral frameworks in the Indo-Pacific

When it comes to regional and extra-regional cooperation frameworks, it is impossible to say that the Indo-Pacific region is lacking. In fact, the issue now seems to be that the waters of the Indo-Pacific are being diluted with the sheer number of acronyms. Now we have SAARC, BIMSTEC, ASEAN, Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), QUAD, AUKUS, and so on. Our development partners from the USA, UK, and Japan have expressed their eagerness to enter this fray, but the two questions on everyone's mind are: Why here? Why now?

#### *Setting the Agenda*

**Peter D Haas**, US Ambassador to Bangladesh

#### *Panelists*

**Robert Chatterton Dickson**  
British High Commissioner to Bangladesh

**Jeremy Bruer**, Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh

**Ito Naoki**, Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh

**Zillur Rahman**, Executive Director  
Centre for Governance Studies, Bangladesh

**DAY ONE**

12:40 – 13:10

Grand Ballroom

**SOUNDING BOARD****Forest for the Trees: the Unsung Role of Nature Conservation in Climate Adaptation and Mitigation**

One of the most effective methods of combating the adverse effects of climate change and fossil fuel usage is to adopt a strong and resilient national natural resource conservation policy. For cross-boundary collaboration efforts at protecting the environment, we must first form an inclusive view of natural resource management around the Bay of Bengal region. Important questions need to be asked and answered about how Natural Resource Management challenges in the region are being addressed. Through sustained dialogue, we can emphasize the critical role of forests in climate change adaptation and mitigation and highlight the importance of engaging people at different institutional and social levels, from local communities to government agencies?

**Justin Green**, International Programs, US Forest Service

**Edward L. Vargo**, Professor and Endowed Chair  
Urban and Structural Entomology  
Texas A&M University, USA

**Dr. Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury**, Chairman  
National River Conservation Commission, and  
Chairman, Centre for Governance Studies  
Bangladesh (Moderator)

13:10 – 13:40

Grand Ballroom

**IN CONVERSATION**

**Boris Tadic**, Former President, Serbia  
Full Member, Club de Madrid

**Ali Aslan**, International TV Presenter, Moderator, and Journalist  
Germany (Moderator)

13:40 – 14:40

Ballroom

**LUNCH**

**DAY ONE**

13:40 – 14:40

Surma

**CONVERSATION OVER LUNCH****The Red Signal to Green Governance**

The idea of green governance evokes a utopian image of technologically advanced civilizations living in harmony with nature while maintaining a healthy economy and population enjoying high living standards. If we were to compare the current economic realities of South Asia with this utopian vision, we would find that the plans for green governance have yet to leave the drawing boards. It is high time to ask ourselves: Is the current level of economic development in the bay of Bengal environmentally sustainable? How can the region grow without exasperating its carbon footprint, which is expanding day by day? How can nations and peoples find sustainable and multilateral solutions to green energy for the future? And what is the sustainable regional solution to increasing pollution in the bay?

**Dr. Ijaz Hossain**, Retired Professor

Department of Chemical Engineering  
Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology

**Dr. Md. Nuruzzaman**, Director, Research and Publications

National Academy for Planning and Development  
Bangladesh

**Dr. Sadeka Halim**, Professor of Sociology

University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Emmanuel Antwi Akoto**, Project Manager

BSW – Bundesverband  
Solarwirtschaft e.V.Ghana

**Dr. Sebastian Groh**, Associate Professor

BRAC Business School, Bangladesh (Moderator)

13:40 – 14:40

Meghna

**CONVERSATION OVER LUNCH****Technology: Finding the Future's Footprint**

Now is the era of 5G telecommunications, AI and IoT software, drone robotics, and autonomous electrical vehicles. The Fourth Industrial revolution is already upon us. Technological development is occurring at a breakneck pace; what is new today is becoming obsolete tomorrow. Taking advantage of all the disruption and chaos, we see the rise of corporate giants who singlehandedly shape humanity's future.

In the next 10, 20, and 30 years, the Fourth Industrial Revolution will upend and transform the world for better and worse, but are we prepared to handle the consequences of such a brave new world? Now more than ever, it is essential to see who are truly at the reigns of this runaway carriage. Massive industrial revolutions have also led to enormous inequity in the past; will this new revolution be any different? How will our socio-economic fabrics be altered by the cutting edge? Who will get left behind, and who will take on the mantle? And what will be the fate of the developing nations and peoples of the world who can barely keep up as is?

**Sheikh Mohammad Danial**, Director  
Sonali Life Insurance Company Limited Bangladesh

**Shimelse Mekonnen**, Co-Founder, MeSh Cart, USA

**JP Singh**, Software Engineer, Entrepreneur, and Activist, India

**Mario De Pinto**, Consultant in Strategy Public Policy and Communication, Italy (Moderator)

#### DAY ONE

13:40 – 14:40

Chitra

#### CONVERSATION OVER LUNCH

#### Rediscovering the South Asian Identity

The Lack of people-to-people familiarity among the nations of South Asia is a geopolitical phenomenon scarcely talked about. While members of multilateral frameworks in Europe and Southeast Asia have managed to form kinship and a shared geopolitical heritage, South Asia remains a region lacking a common identity. However, historical records indicate a time when South Asia was fairly interconnected in both trade and culture. What are the primary factors holding back fraternity and kinship among modern South Asian nations? And how can the region rediscover a cohesive regional identity once again?

**Touseef Raina**, Chairman  
Global Youth Foundation and Politician, India

**Dr. Habibul Haque Khondker**, Professor of Sociology  
Zayed University, UAE

**Zain Khan**, Filmmaker, Journalist, and Talk Show Host  
Pakistan (Moderator)



**DAY ONE**

14:40 – 14:50  
Grand Ballroom

**MINISTERIAL SPEECH**

**Asaduzzaman Khan** MP, Minister of Home Affairs, Bangladesh

14:50 – 15:00  
Grand Ballroom

**SPEED TALKS**

**Suhasini Haider**, National Editor and Diplomatic Affairs Editor  
The Hindu, India

15:00 – 15:15  
Grand Ballroom

**GUEST OF HONOR**

**Dr. A K Abdul Momen** MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh

15:15 – 16:00  
Grand Ballroom

**PLENARY SESSION****Democracy X.o: Mandate of the Mass**

In all major indexes, we are seeing the telltale signs of Democratic backsliding. After the third wave of democratization simmered, populist leaders and authoritarian governance again came into vogue. The nations of South Asia all face unique challenges in implementing electoral democracy. Cultural divides have flared up; tolerance is at an all-time low. The question can now be raised, how can developing nations provide democratic power to the people in an equitable manner? How can minorities exercise democratic power without disenfranchising the majority? And how can the culture of democracy take root in a region where democracy might have never truly existed before?

**Dana L. Olds**, Chief of Party, Democracy International  
Bangladesh

**Rani Yan Yan**, Adviser, Chakma Circle, and Indigenous  
Peoples Human Rights Defender, Bangladesh

**Kazi Faisal Bin Seraj**, Country Representative  
The Asia Foundation, Bangladesh

**Jovan Ratkovic**, Former Foreign Policy Adviser to the  
President of Serbia

**Nurul Kabir**, Editor, New Age, Bangladesh

**Zeina Jallad**, Lawyer and Human Rights Scholar  
Palestine (Moderator)

**DAY ONE**

16:00 – 16:20  
Grand Ballroom

**SPEED TALKS****Bangladesh-India Relations: Too Close for Comfort?**

**Dr. Ali Riaz**, Distinguished Professor, Illinois State University, USA

**Geopolitical Tensions, Geoeconomic Disruptions.  
The Economy of Tomorrow in the Asia-Pacific**

**Marc Saxer**, Head of Asia Regional Project  
Friedrich – Ebert – Stiftung, Germany

16:20 – 17:05  
Grand Ballroom

**PLENARY SESSION****100 Seconds to Midnight: Converging  
Crises Across the World**

Since 2020, the doomsday clock has remained stuck at 100 seconds. Time seems to have frozen right as things prove most dire. The back-to-back effect of a deadly worldwide pandemic, followed by the war in Ukraine; The failure of world leaders to deal with the increased threat of nuclear war; Escalating tensions between the USA, Russia, and China; An ongoing global economic recession; A looming worldwide food crisis; and lack of collective actions to mitigate climate change; all point to an eventual boiling point when multiple crises in multiple regions push us over the edge and into the abyss. South Asia also stands at a turning point due to external and internal factors. The ongoing economic collapse in Sri Lanka and the potential for economic collapse in Bangladesh and other South Asian countries is a reality that is far too close for comfort. Humankind is historically slow to act unless the first blow is received. But the fear is, will the next blow be the last?

**Dr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir**, Chairman and Professor  
Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka

**Dr. C. Christine Fair**, Professor, Securities Studies Program  
Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service  
Georgetown University, USA

**Greg Simons**, Associate Professor, Institute for Russian and  
Eurasian Studies, Uppsala University, Sweden

**Dr. Satoru Nagao**, Non-Resident Fellow, Hudson Institute, USA

**Anil Kumar Trigunayat**, Distinguished Fellow, Vivekananda  
International Foundation, and Former Ambassador, India

**Dr. Nancy Snow**, Founder & Director, Global Persuasion  
Strategies (GPS), East Asia and USA (Moderator)

**DAY ONE**

17:05 – 17:30  
Ballroom Foyer

**TEA/COFFEE BREAK****DAY TWO**

Tuesday  
November 22  
09:00 – 09:50  
Grand Ballroom

**PLENARY SESSION**

## From Papyrus to Python: Modernizing Education for Future Generations

Education is at the heart of a fair society. More people in the world today are educated than ever before. In 1820 only 12% of the people in the world could read and write. Two centuries later, only 14% of the world population in 2016 remained illiterate. Nevertheless, these figures overshadow the reality that the wealth of the nation, not talent, dictates children's educational destinies. The quality of education in a developed nation and that of a developing nation appear to be worlds apart. Now, the pandemic has led to the worst crisis in the education of the last century.

With such massive disadvantages and inequity of education in the developing world, we need to ask some difficult questions in order to come up with a sustainable and inclusive solution. How effective are the current education systems in place in the developing regions of South Asia? What are the most significant weaknesses, and how can they be addressed? How can nations provide quality education to the poorest and most vulnerable members of society? And in what way can technology be implemented to bolster the quality of education in the developing world?

**Dr. Abdulla Rasheed**, State Minister of Education, Maldives

**Andres Ernesto Chiriboga Zumarraga**  
Vice Minister of Education, Ecuador

**Sheikh Shahidul Islam**, Former Education Minister  
Bangladesh

**Sabur Khan**, Chairman, Daffodil International University  
Bangladesh

**Dr. Matiul Alam**, Faculty of Education, University of British  
Columbia, Canada

**Dr. Erin Watson**, Managing Director, Baker & York, and Board  
Director, Council on Australia and Latin America Relations  
at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Australia (Moderator)

**DAY TWO**  
09:50 – 10:40  
Grand Ballroom

## PLENARY SESSION

### 8 + 2 TenT: the South Asian States, China and USA

Currently, South Asia is a divided realm when it comes to contemporary great power geopolitics. On the one hand, the United States has entered the fray with a strong message of democracy and multilateral security pacts. On the other hand, China is steadily expanding its economic influence, leveraging the advantage of geographic proximity to build up ancient trade routes once again, pining to return to the time when China was the center of the world. Whether it be through the maneuvering of the Indo-Pacific Strategy or the lofty economic ambition of the Belt and Road Initiative, the nations of South Asia now stand at a crossroads. What can be the way forward when the region is dominated by such strange bedfellows?

**Dr. Ali Riaz**, Distinguished Professor, Illinois State University, USA

**Dr. Siegfried O Wolf**, Research Director  
South Asia Democratic Forum, Belgium

**Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry**, Former Foreign Secretary and  
Ambassador, Pakistan

**Anil Kumar Trigunayat**, Distinguished Fellow  
Vivekananda International Foundation, and Former  
Ambassador, India

**Munshi Faiz Ahmad**, Former Bangladesh Ambassador to China

**Dr. C. Christine Fair**, Professor, Securities Studies Program  
Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service  
Georgetown University, USA (Moderator)

10:40 – 10:55  
Grand Ballroom

## SPEED TALKS

### Are we rightly managing and sharing the fish in the Bay? The transboundary fishery crisis in the Bay of Bengal?

**Dr. Md. Nahiduzzaman**, Scientist, ECOFISH II WorldFish  
Bangladesh

**Dr. Md. Jalilur Rahman**, Scientist, ECOFISH II WorldFish  
Bangladesh

**DAY TWO**

10:55 – 11:25  
Ballroom Foyer

**TEA/COFFEE BREAK**

11:25 – 12:15  
Grand Ballroom

**PLENARY SESSION**

### Development vs. Democracy: Roadmap to Development and Inclusive Growth

We are currently seeing unprecedented levels of infrastructure developments in the Bay of Bengal region. Multi-billion dollar infrastructure projects such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt (BIG-B) initiatives are already deep in development and promising to reshape the socio-economic reality of the region. However, such economic development does little to address the weakening state of democratic institutions and the gradual loss of people's participatory powers in decision-making. The lines have been drawn in the sand, and schools of thought clash to determine whether development should take priority over democracy, or is development without democracy doomed to fail?

**Jovan Ratkovic**, Former Foreign Policy Adviser to the  
President of Serbia

**Muhammed Aziz Khan**, Chairman  
Summit Group, and Honorary Consul General of Finland

**Dr. Ahsan H Mansur**, Executive Director  
Policy Research Institute

**Lee Jang – Keun**, South Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh

**Leonardo Paz Neves**, International Intelligence Analyst  
International Intelligence Unit  
Getulio Vargas Foundation, Brazil

**Dr. Fahmida Khatun**, Executive Director  
Centre for Policy Dialogue  
Bangladesh (Moderator)

**DAY TWO**  
12:15 – 13:05  
Grand Ballroom

## PLENARY SESSION

### New Grammar of Geopolitics

The language of geopolitics is hard to understand, and it is like so on purpose. Treaties are signed with strategic ambiguity in mind. However, the conflict in Ukraine has resulted in a remarkable decline in diplomatic prose. World leaders step forth on live television and pronounce peace, only to declare war the very next day. Rhetorics embitter to the point where nuclear superpowers can only communicate through threats and fingerpointing. Rivalries between governments seep down into hatred among people. Violent words have violent ends. How can true peace and coexistence be achieved when the fires of hatred are stoked so eagerly?

**Dr. Nancy Snow**, Founder & Director  
Global Persuasion Strategies (GPS), East Asia and USA

**Suhasini Haider**, National Editor and Diplomatic Affairs Editor  
The Hindu, India

**Asif Durrani**, Former Diplomat, Pakistan

**Touhid Hossain**, Former Foreign Secretary, Bangladesh

**Greg Simons**, Associate Professor, Institute for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Uppsala University, Sweden

**Ali Aslan**, International TV Presenter, Moderator, and Journalist  
Germany (Moderator)

13:05 – 13:30  
Grand Ballroom

## SOUNDING BOARD

### Addressing the Dilemma of Labor Skill Development in South Asia

The South Asia region's primary selling point in the world market is the ready availability of cheap unskilled and semi-skilled labor. However, due to modernization, the necessity of technical capacity building will inevitably affect the export price competitiveness of the region as a whole. How can this dilemma be addressed while maintaining avenues of upward mobility for the future workforce of South Asia?

**Eng. Ghulam Mohammed Alomgir**, Chairman, Max Group, and Director, FBCCI, Bangladesh

**Dr. Suthikorn Kingkaew**, Director of Research  
Future Innovative Thailand Institute

**Dr. M Abu Eusuf**, Professor of Development Studies, University  
of Dhaka, Bangladesh (Moderator)

## DAY TWO

13:30 – 14:30

Ballroom

## LUNCH

13:30 – 14:30

Surma

## CONVERSATION OVER LUNCH

### Rise of New Media: Fighting Against Fake News

The term "fake news" is perhaps one of the most influential terms of the century. The trust that people once had in traditional academia and journalism seems to be at an all-time low. As the internet has taken over everyone's lives, a vast constellation of new media sources now clutters the airwaves, mostly unregulated, spreading opinions and news that may or may not abide by normative considerations of journalistic ethics. How did trust in traditional media begin to decline in a more advanced and well-educated world? What might be the implications of this brave new unregulated media environment on shaping public perspective over controversial issues? And what is the threat of corporations and nations utilizing new media platforms to either control narratives or silence critics?

**Ayesha Kabir**, Head of English Web, Prothom Alo  
Bangladesh

**Nayeemul Islam Khan**, Chief Editor, Daily Our Time  
Bangladesh

**Clement Kanamugire**, Policy Analyst  
National Health Service, United Kingdom

**Faruq Faisel**, Regional Director for Bangladesh and South Asia  
Article 19

**Leo Wigger**, Editor, Zenith Magazine  
Germany (Moderator)

DAY TWO  
13:30 – 14:30  
Meghna

#### CONVERSATION OVER LUNCH

### Nationalism vs. Multilateralism: Making the world a Multipolar Megacity

Nationalism is on the rise once again. The trend lines across the world all point to the same direction, whether that be through the rousing rhetoric of former US president Donald Trump or the homegrown backstory of Narendra Modi; all across Europe, South America, and Asia, it would seem that right-wing conservative agenda are in the zeitgeist. Yet there was once a time when it seemed that the idea of a modern and deeply interconnected world would be the aspiration for the future. What factors have led to the faltering spirit of multilateralism in today's world? Was it always a bubble ready to burst? Or was it merely wishful thinking that never took into account the morbid reality?

**Aamna Khan**, Researcher and Social Activist, Pakistan

**Nathalie Chuard**, Switzerland Ambassador to Bangladesh

**Hadza Min Fadhli Robby**, Assistant Professor

Department of International Relations  
Islamic University of Indonesia

**Dr. Asif Shahan**, Associate Professor, Development Studies

University of Dhaka and Senior Fellow  
Centre for Governance Studies, Bangladesh (Moderator)

13:30 – 14:30  
Chitra

#### CONVERSATION OVER LUNCH

### Role of Education in Alleviating Poverty

Studies show that an estimated 171 million people might be lifted out of severe poverty if all students in low-income nations learned only basic reading skills. We could lower the global poverty rate in half if all adults finished secondary school. For this reason, the United Nations has designated quality education as one of its Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. How far along has the Bay of Bengal region met this shared development goal? And how far do we still have left to go?

**Mariyam Nasir**, Director General of Quality Assurance  
Ministry of Education, Maldives

**Rasheda K Choudhury**, Former Adviser to the Caretaker  
Government, Bangladesh

**Dr. Mohammad Mahboob Rahman**, Professor and Adviser for  
Business and Executive Programs, BRAC University  
Bangladesh (Moderator)



**DAY TWO**

14:30 – 15:00  
Grand Ballroom

**SOUNDING BOARD**

### Evaluating the state of trade and connectivity in South and East Asia

The economic interdependence in and between the nations of SAARC and ASEAN has the potential to tap into the region's latent socio-economic potential, harnessing disparate stages of development to augment each other. Potentials lie in trans boundary power trading between the BBIN sub regions, while Myanmar can act as the bridge between the South and the East. Many diplomatic attempts have already been made to facilitate the various bilateral and multilateral initiatives possible in the broader region. However, efforts to form an effective multilateral cooperation framework have all but stalled. How can we tap into the untapped benefits of such trade in the absence of a concerted strategy to remove barriers?

**Masud Bin Momen**, Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary)  
Bangladesh

**Dr. Sanjay Kumar Bhardwaj**, Professor of South Asian Studies  
Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

**Dr. Mustafizur Rahman**, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy  
Dialogue, Bangladesh (Moderator)

15:00 – 15:50  
Grand Ballroom

**PLENARY SESSIONS**

### Creating a Bottom-up Demand for Good Governance

Corruption is a major challenge in almost all regions of South Asia. All South Asian countries except Bhutan scored below the global average in the 2021 corruption perception index. Against this background, how can the civil society of South Asian nations develop call-for-action plans for engaging the private sector in an inclusive, accountable, and corruption-free system of governance? What are the shared development challenge and experiences faced due to corruption among South Asian nations? And is it possible to learn from common trends to create region-specific models of solutions?

**Faris Hadrovic**, Business Development and Government  
Relations Professional, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Dr. Badiul Alam Majumdar**, Secretary, SHUJAN, Bangladesh

**Usama Khalilieh**, Development Expert and Management  
Consultant, Palestine

**Sheela Tasneem Haq**, Advisor, Political Governance  
Democratic Governance Cluster, UNDP Bangladesh

**Dr. Abdullah Al Mamun**, Chairman, Department of Japanese  
Studies University of Dhaka and Research Director  
Centre for Governance Studies

**Mamun Rashid**, Managing Partner, PwC  
Bangladesh (Moderator)

**DAY TWO**  
15:50 – 16:40  
Grand Ballroom

#### PLENARY SESSIONS

### Refugees of the times: Past Precedence for the Ailing Present

The war in Ukraine, the genocide of the Rohingya people, and the drastic effects of climate change may lead to a population displacement of unprecedented magnitude. In all likelihood, the global refugee population has reached a new high in 2022, surpassing 30 million people. But what is the appropriate response from the UN and developed nations? Aid and donations are band-aid solutions. The art of handling a refugee crisis needs to be one that must be mastered by the human race, as any mistake may lead to generations of strife, conflict, and economic ruin. What can we learn from the experiences of the past? And is it possible to form an optimal model for handling refugee situations that will not place the burden on just a handful of host nations?

**Gwyn Lewis**, UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh

**Yousef S. Y. Ramadan**, Palestinian Ambassador to Bangladesh

**Ambassador Waliur Rahman**, Former Special Envoy to the  
Prime Minister of Bangladesh, and Distinguished Fellow,  
Bangladesh Heritage Foundation, National Security and  
Counter-Terrorism

**Mustafa Osman Turan**, Turkish Ambassador to Bangladesh

**Achim Troster**, German Ambassador to Bangladesh

**Irfan Yar**, Founder, Afghanistan Security Institute (Moderator)

16:40 – 17:10  
Ballroom Foyer

#### TEA/COFFEE BREAK

**DAY TWO**

17:10 – 18:00

Grand Ballroom

**PLENARY SESSION****Net Zero: The South Asia Model**

Reducing global carbon emissions to zero is a noble and lofty goal kept alive by the tireless efforts of the Conference of the Parties (COP). However, the path to net zero is still a matter of intense debate, with very little progress being made over the board. As one of the most rapidly developing regions of the world, South Asian nations will soon face the challenge of transitioning from fossil fuel to green energy. Sustainable green transition roadmap. There might be a genuine opportunity here to form a model of sustainable regional growth that does not result in expanding humanity's carbon footprint. The question now is whether the optimistic promises of future technologies can be met while considering the region's economic realities.

**Van Nguyen**, Deputy Resident Representative  
UNDP Bangladesh (Moderator)

**Mozammel Babu**, Chief Editor, Ekattor TV, Bangladesh

**Dilruba Haider**, Program Specialist, Climate Change Adaptation  
UN Women, Bangladesh

**Mir Nasir Hossain**, Former President, Federation of Bangladesh  
Chamber of Commerce and Industries and Advisor  
Centre for Governance Studies, Bangladesh

**Iqbal Habib**, Environmental Activist and Architect, Bangladesh

**Dr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir**, Chairman and Professor  
Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka

18:00 – 18:10

Grand Ballroom

**MINISTERIAL SPEECH**

**Nurul Islam Sujan MP**  
Minister of Railway, Bangladesh

18:10 – 18:20

Grand Ballroom

**SPEED TALKS****Key to Success in Human Life**

**Sufi Mizanur Rahman**, Chairman, PHP Family, and  
Honorary Consul of Indonesia

**DAY TWO**  
18:20 – 19:10  
Grand Ballroom

## PLENARY SESSION

### Soliloquy of the Sea: Tough Challenges in Rough Waters

One of the biggest faultlines for conflict in Asia is the issue surrounding Taiwan. There might have been a time when people would be comfortable believing that verbal jousts between rival nations would not result in an all-out war. But the invasion of Ukraine has doused such naïve thoughts. War is a reality that the modern world has reacquainted with. As what was seen happening between Russia and Ukraine, the rhetoric between the USA and China is becoming increasingly hostile. Provocative diplomatic visits and daring military drills dominate headlines. Troubles are brewing in the Taiwan Strait. What could be the possible fallout effect on the region if a conflict arises? How would a compromise in the freedom of navigation in the South China Sea be addressed through diplomacy? And how should we prepare for a potential decoupling of two of the world's most influential nations?

**Lt. Gen. M. Aminul Karim (Retd.) PhD**, Former Professor  
University of Malaya

**Brig. Gen. (Retd.) M Sakhawat Hussain PhD**  
Former Election Commissioner, and  
Advisor, Centre for Governance Studies, Bangladesh

**Lt. Gen. Arun Kumar Sahni (Retd.)**  
Former General Officer Commanding in Chief, Indian Army

**Dr. Satoru Nagao**, Non Resident Fellow, Hudson Institute, USA

**Air Commodore Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury (Retd.)**  
Security Specialist, Bangladesh

**Dr. Saira Khan**, International Relations and  
International Security Expert, Canada (Moderator)

19:10 – 19:40  
Grand Ballroom

## SOUNDING BOARD

### The Interplay of the Global North and the Global South in Geopolitics and Development

There are several explored hypotheses related to the phrase "Global South." Because many of the nations deemed to be part of the Global South were initially colonized by countries from the Global North, they are at a historical disadvantage in terms of

developing as rapidly. According to dependency theorists, vital information in science and industry is distributed top-down, with the Global North receiving it first before the Global South. Although many of the Global South nations rely on political or economic assistance, this allows for the development of Western bias and academic reliance. There is an argument that the essential background of Third World/Global South poverty and underdevelopment is not rooted in their traditionalism, but in the dominance-dependence relationship between rich and poor, powerful and weak countries. Now the question is, how can nations of the Global South raise their voices, and strive to become less dependent as they eventually develop and modernize?

**Dr. Sanjay K Bhardwaj**, Professor of South Asian Studies  
School of International Studies  
Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

**Dr. Erin Watson**, Chair of the Advisory Board  
National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education  
Curtin University, Australia

**Asif Saleh**, Executive Director, BRAC, Bangladesh (Moderator)

## DAY TWO

19:40 – 19:50  
Grand Ballroom

### MINISTERIAL SPEECH

**Md. Tajul Islam** MP, Minister of Local Government and  
Rural Development, Bangladesh

19:50 – 20:40  
Grand Ballroom

### PLENARY SESSION

#### **Lessons From the Lockdown: Impact of COVID 19 Measures on Economy and Society**

The COVID-19 pandemic has ravaged the modern world for more than two years. This pandemic has triggered severe social and economic disruption around the world, including the largest global recession since the Great Depression. Widespread supply shortages, including food shortages, were caused by supply chain disruption. During this time, nations and economies took drastic measures to safeguard their population and formulate emergency fiscal plans to protect society. We have undergone years of social distancing, leading to an untold amount of damage to mental health. We have discovered the viability of remote offices and remote education. We are also now suffering from economic inflation that most probably stemmed from the

covid 19 fiscal measures. They say hindsight is 20/20. But lessons from history must not be disregarded. We must now ask the difficult questions: How beneficial and/or harmful has government fiscal policy been during the height of the lockdown? And what possible measures, if any, could have been taken to reduce the spread without damaging the economy to such an extent?

**Faris Hadrovic**, Business Development and Government Relations Professional, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Taskeen Ahmed**, Managing Director, IFAD Autos, Bangladesh

**Dr. Karori Singh**, Emeritus Fellow, South Asia Studies Centre University of Rajasthan, India

**Yoshikazu Kato**, Research Fellow  
Rakuten Securities Economic Research Institute, Japan

**Mario De Pinto**, Consultant in Strategy Public Policy and Communication, Italy

**Dr. Habibul Haque Khondker**, Professor of Sociology  
Zayed University, UAE (Moderator)

**DAY TWO**  
20:40 – 21:00

#### IN CONVERSATION

**Dr. Nizam Uddin Ahmed**, Vice Chairman  
GAVI CSO Steering Committee

**Dr. Mohammad Mainul Islam**, Professor of Population Sciences  
University of Dhaka, Bangladesh (Moderator)

21:00 – 22:30  
Ballroom

#### DINNER

21:00 – 22:30  
Surma

#### CONVERSATION OVER DINNER

### **The Sun Rises in the East: South Asian Culture, Art and Cinema**

South Asian art and culture are ancient, rich, and diverse. Rapid changes in technologies and the proliferation of the World Wide Web are leading to the increasing commercialization of media industries. Modern art and culture are dominated by large corporations, tailoring art forms for mass consumption. In such a context, how are the artists of South Asia faring in comparison to

their predecessors? And has the golden age of South Asian art, cinema, and music just begun, or has it already passed?

**Papa CJ**, Stand-up Comedian, India

**Mehreen**, Singer, Bangladesh

**Zain Khan**, Filmmaker, Journalist, and Talk Show Host, Pakistan

**Dr. Asif Nazrul**, Bangladeshi Writer, Novelist, and Academician

**Dr. Stefania Petruzzelli**, Contemporary Culture Expert  
Italy (Moderator)

## DAY TWO

21:00 – 22:30

Meghna

### CONVERSATION OVER DINNER

#### Digital Rights for the Digital Age

The Orwellian surveillance state has already materialized, and it is far more effective than the nightmarish vision of 1984. Due to technological progress, governments and corporations can now collect vast swathes of data from a mostly unaware public. Existing consumer protection and privacy laws are struggling to address this new unexplored dimension of digital surveillance. How can the slow and cumbersome process of law keep up with the dynamic changing reality of digitalization? And how can nations balance security needs with citizens' rights to privacy?

**Zahir Uddin Swapon**, Former Member of Parliament  
Bangladesh Nationalist Party

**Rashna Imam**, Lawyer, Bangladesh Supreme Court

**Zeina Jallad**, Lawyer and Human Rights Scholar, Palestine

**Zahirul Alam**, Head of News and Current Affairs  
NTV, Bangladesh (Moderator)

21:00 – 22:30

Chitra

### CONVERSATION OVER DINNER

#### Role of the Individual in Combating Climate Change

Climate change is considered one of the greatest existential threats to humankind. And yet, the scale and scope of climate change are not entirely understood by the average person. The threat of climate change remains an abstract concept to most people. What are the important steps we as individuals can take to slow or reduce the effects of climate change? What kind of adaptation and mitigation actions are the most effective? And can

**DAY THREE**

Wednesday  
November 23  
09:00 – 09:50  
Grand Ballroom

personal contributions towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions truly make a dent in the systematic reality of global emissions?

**Abdullah Hil Rakib**, Director, Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association

**Shameem Haider Patwary**, Lawyer and Member of Parliament Bangladesh

**Kamakshi Wason**, Vice President and Director of Academic Programs, Tillotoma Foundation, India (Moderator)

**PLENARY SESSION**

## **The Shackled Privilege of Patriarchy and the Myth of Women's Empowerment in South Asia**

In the news today, we see women defiantly setting their headscarves on fire and cutting their hair in public to chants of "Woman, life, freedom." Even after so much progress, inequalities based on caste, class, religion, ethnicity, and geography are exacerbated throughout the world by severe gender-based discrimination that stifles progress and development for both girls and boys. Existing data show that, despite significant advances (particularly in education and health), substantial gender disparities exist in South Asia as well. Patriarchal attitudes and social norms tend to favor men's access to opportunities and control over resources in all South Asian countries. How can governments and private entities work together in a multilateral format to find concrete solutions to the regressive societal frameworks that hold back people of all genders?

**Shama Obaid**, Organizing Secretary  
Bangladesh Nationalist Party

**Vidiya Amrit Khan**, Deputy Managing Director  
Desh Garments Limited, Bangladesh

**Mariyam Nasir**, Director General of Quality Assurance  
Ministry of Education, Maldives

**Kamakshi Wason**, Vice President and Director of  
Academic Programs Tillotoma Foundation, India

**Aamna Khan**, Researcher and Social Activist, Pakistan

**Mahjabeen Khaled**, Former Member of Parliament  
Bangladesh (Moderator)



**DAY THREE**

09:50 – 10:10  
Grand Ballroom

**MINISTERIAL SPEECH**

**Conl. Zaheed Farooque (Retd.) MP**  
State Minister for Water Recourses, Bangladesh

**Dr. Mohammad Abdur Razzaque MP**  
Minister of Agriculture, Bangladesh

10:10 – 11:00  
Grand Ballroom

**PLENARY SESSION**

### Curated Growth: The Role of ODA and PTA in Shaping South Asian Economies

In terms of receiving Official Development Assistance (ODA) from the largest donors in the world, the South Asia region has persistently remained among the top. Perhaps due to this foreign economic interest, the region is developing rapidly in terms of infrastructure and other mega projects. Despite this, the per capita GDP in South Asia is still lagging behind. What are the ramifications of such foreign investment among the nations of South Asia? What could be the possible strategies being pursued on the part of the different parties stemming from this economic aid focus? What exactly is the nature of the financial aid being poured into South Asia? And how effective is ODA in reducing the wealth gap between nations?

**Charles Whiteley**, Ambassador of  
European Union Delegation to Bangladesh

**Yoshikazu Kato**, Research Fellow  
Rakuten Securities Economic Research Institute  
Japan

**Dr. Jamaluddin Ahmed**, Former General Secretary  
Bangladesh Economic Association

**Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury**, Former Commerce Minister  
Bangladesh

**Dr. Nazneen Ahmed**, Country Economist  
UNDP Bangladesh

**Parvez Karim Abbasi**, Assistant Professor of Economics  
East West University, Bangladesh (Moderator)

**DAY THREE**

11:00 – 11:10

Grand Ballroom

**CLOSING**

**Zillur Rahman**, Executive Director  
Centre for Governance Studies and  
Chair, Bay of Bengal Conversation

11:10 – 11:30

Ballroom Foyer

**TEA/COFFEE**



# SPEAKERS



**Aamna Khan**

Researcher and Social Activist, Pakistan



**Ambassador Waliur Rahman**

Former Special Envoy to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh



**Abdullah Hil Rakib**

Director, Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association



**Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury**

Former Commerce Minister, Bangladesh



**Achim Tröster**

German Ambassador to Bangladesh



**Andrés Ernesto Chiriboga Zumarraga**

Vice Minister of Education, Ecuador



**Air Commodore Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury (Retd.)**

Security Specialist, Bangladesh



**Anil Kumar Trigunayat**

Distinguished Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation, and Former Ambassador, India



**Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhury**

Former Foreign Secretary and Ambassador, Pakistan



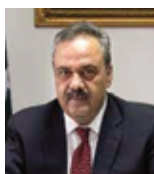
**Asaduzzaman Khan MP**

Minister of Home Affairs, Bangladesh



**Ali Aslan**

International TV Presenter, Moderator and Journalist, Germany



**Asif Durrani**

Former Diplomat, Pakistan



**Asif Saleh**

Executive Director,  
BRAC



**Conl. Zaheed Farooque  
(Retd.) MP**

State Minister for Water  
Recourses, Bangladesh



**Ayesha Kabir**

Head of English Web,  
Prothom Alo, Bangladesh



**Dana L. Olds**

Chief of Party, Democracy  
International, Bangladesh



**Boris Tadic**

Former President, Serbia,  
Full Member, Club de Madrid



**Dilruba Haider**

Program Specialist, Climate  
Change Adaptation,  
UN Women, Bangladesh



**Brig. Gen. (Retd.) Dr. M  
Sakhawat Hussain**

Former Election  
Commissioner, and Advisor,  
CGS, Bangladesh



**Dr. A K Abdul Momen MP**

Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
Bangladesh



**Charles Whiteley**

Ambassador of European  
Union Delegation to  
Bangladesh



**Dr. Abdulla Rasheed Ahmed**

State Minister of Education,  
Maldives



**Clement Kanamugire**

Policy Analyst, National  
Health Service, United  
Kingdom



**Dr. Ahsan H Mansur**

Executive Director, Policy  
Research Institute,  
Bangladesh



**Dr. Ali Riaz**

Distinguished Professor,  
Illinois State University, USA



**Dr. Erin Watson**

Managing Director, Baker & York,  
and Board Director, Council on  
Australia and Latin America  
Relations, Department of Foreign  
Affairs and Trade, Australia

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**Dr. Asif Nazrul**

Bangladeshi Writer, Novelist,  
and Academician



**Dr. Fahmida Khatun**

Executive Director,  
Centre for Policy Dialogue,  
Bangladesh

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**Dr. Asif Shahan**

Associate Professor,  
Development Studies,  
University of Dhaka and Senior  
Fellow, CGS, Bangladesh



**Dr. Habibul Haque  
Khandoker**

Professor of Sociology,  
Zayed University, UAE

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**Dr. Badiul Alam Majumdar**

Secretary, SHUJAN,  
Bangladesh



**Dr. Ijaz Hossain**

Professor, Department of  
Chemical Engineering,  
Bangladesh University of  
Engineering and Technology

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**Dr. C Christine Fair**

Professor, Securities Studies  
Program, Edmund A. Walsh  
School of Foreign Service,  
Georgetown University, USA



**Dr. Jamaluddin Ahmed**

Former General Secretary,  
Bangladesh Economic  
Association

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**Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya**

Distinguished Fellow,  
Centre for Policy Dialogue,  
Bangladesh



**Dr. Karori Singh**

Emeritus Fellow, South Asia  
Studies Centre, University of  
Rajasthan, India

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**Dr. Lt. Gen. M. Aminul Karim  
(Retd.)**

Former Professor, University  
of Malaya



**Dr. Md. Nuruzzaman**

Director, Research and  
Publications, National  
Academy for Planning and  
Development, Bangladesh



**Dr. M Abu Eusuf**

Professor of Development  
Studies, University of Dhaka,  
Bangladesh



**Dr. Mohammad Abdur  
Razzaque MP**

Minister of Agriculture,  
Bangladesh



**Dr. Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury**

Chairman, National River  
Conservation Commission,  
and Chairman, CGS,  
Bangladesh



**Dr. Mohammad Mahboob  
Rahman**

Professor and Adviser for  
Business and Executive  
Programs, BRAC University,  
Bangladesh



**Dr. Matiul Alam**

Faculty of Education,  
University of British Columbia,  
Canada



**Dr. Mohammad Mainul Islam**

Professor of Population  
Sciences, University of  
Dhaka, Bangladesh



**Dr. Md. Jalilur Rahman  
Scientist**

ECOFISH II WorldFish  
Bangladesh



**Dr. Mustafizur Rahman**

Distinguished Fellow, Centre  
for Policy Dialogue,  
Bangladesh



**Dr. Md. Nahiduzzaman  
Scientist**

ECOFISH II WorldFish  
Bangladesh



**Dr. Nancy Snow**

Communication Strategist  
and Global Influence Expert,  
USA



**Dr. Nazneen Ahmed**

Chief Economist  
UNDP Bangladesh



**Dr. Sanjay Kumar Bhardwaj**

Professor of South Asian  
Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru  
University, India

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**Dr. Nizam Uddin Ahmed**

Vice Chairman, GAVI CSO  
Steering Committee



**Dr. Satoru Nagao**

Director, International  
Security Industry Council,  
Japan

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**Dr. Pramod Jaiswal**

Research Director, Nepal  
Institute for International  
Cooperation and  
Engagement



**Dr. Sayema Haque Bidisha**

Professor of Economics,  
University of Dhaka,  
Bangladesh

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**Dr. Rashed Al Mahmud  
Titumir**

Chairman and Professor,  
Department of Development  
Studies, University of Dhaka



**Dr. Sebastinan Groh**

Associate Professor, BRAC  
Business School, Bangladesh

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**Dr. Sadeka Halim**

Professor of Sociology,  
University of Dhaka,  
Bangladesh



**Dr. Siegfried O Wolf**

Research Director, South Asia  
Democratic Forum, Belgium

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**Dr. Saira Khan**

International Relations and  
International Security Expert,  
Canada



**Dr. Stefania Petruzzelli**

Contemporary Culture  
Expert, Italy

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**Dr. Suthikorn Kingkaew**

Director of Research,  
Future Innovative Thailand  
Institute



**Greg Simons**

Associate Professor, Institute  
for Russian and Eurasian  
Studies, Uppsala University,  
Sweden

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**Edward L. Vargo**

Professor and Endowed  
Chair, Urban and Structural  
Entomology,  
Texas A&M University, USA



**Gwyn Lewis**

UN Resident Coordinator in  
Bangladesh

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**Emmanuel Antwi Akoto**

Project Manager, BSW –  
Bundesverband  
Solarwirtschaft e.V., Ghana



**Hadza Min Fadhli Robby**

Assistant Professor,  
Department of International  
Relations, Islamic University  
of Indonesia

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**Eng. Ghulam Mohammed  
Alomgir**

Chairman, Max Group, and  
Director, FBCCI, Bangladesh



**Irfan Yar**

Founder, Afghanistan  
Security Institute

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**Faris Hadrovic**

Business Development and  
Government Relations  
Professional, Bosnia and  
Herzegovina



**Ito Naoki**

Japanese Ambassador to  
Bangladesh

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**Faruq Faisel**

Regional Director for  
Bangladesh and South Asia,  
Article 19



**Jeremy Bruer**

Australian High  
Commissioner to  
Bangladesh

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**Jovan Ratkovic**

Former Foreign Policy  
Adviser to the President of  
Serbia



**Leo Wigger**

Editor, Zenith Magazine,  
Germany

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**JP Singh**

Software Engineer,  
Entrepreneur, and Activist,  
India



**Leonardo Paz Neves**

International Intelligence  
Analyst, International  
Intelligence Unit,  
Getulio Vargas Foundation,  
Brazil

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**Justin Green**

International Programs, US  
Forest Service



**Lt.Gen.Arun Kumar Sahni  
(Retd.)**

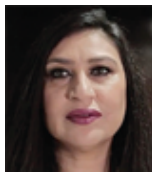
Former General Officer  
Commanding in Chief, Indian  
Army

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**Kamakshi Wason**

Vice President and Director,  
Academy Programs,  
Tillotoma Foundation, India



**Mahjabeen Khaled**

Former Member of  
Parliament, Bangladesh

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**Kazi Faisal Bin Seraj**

Country Representative, The  
Asia Foundation,  
Bangladesh



**Mamun Rashid**

Managing Partner, PwC,  
Bangladesh

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**Lee Jang-Keun**

South Korean Ambassador to  
Bangladesh



**Marc Saxer**

Head of Asia Regional  
Project, Friedrich – Ebert –  
Stiftung, Germany

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**Mario De Pinto**

Consultant in Strategy Public Policy and Communication, Italy



**Mir Nasir Hossain**

Former President, Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries

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**Mariyam Nasir**

Director General of Quality Assurance, Ministry of Education, Maldives



**Mozammel Babu**

Chief Editor, Ekattor TV

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**Masud Bin Momen**

Foreign Secretary, Bangladesh (Senior Secretary)



**Muhammad Amir Rana**

Director, Pak Institute of Peace Studies, Pakistan

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**Matlub Ahmad**

Chairman, India Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bangladesh



**Muhammad Aziz Khan**

Chairman, Summit Group, and Honorary Consul General of Finland

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**Md. Tajul Islam MP**

Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Bangladesh



**Munshi Faiz Ahmad**

Former Bangladesh Ambassador to China

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**Mehreen**

Singer, Bangladesh



**Mustafa Osman Turan**

Turkish Ambassador to Bangladesh

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**Nathalie Chuard**

Switzerland Ambassador to Bangladesh



**Peter D Hass**

US Ambassador to Bangladesh



**Nayeemul Islam Khan**

Emeritus Editor  
Amader Notun Shomoy  
Bangladesh



**Rani Yan Yan**

Adviser, Chakma Circle, and  
Indigenous Peoples Human  
Rights Defender, Bangladesh



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Director (Finance & Commercial)  
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Head of Editorial & Research Department  
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# TEAM

 Bay of Bengal  
Conversation

Abdul Awal Shabuz



Abdullah Al Mamun



.....

Abdullah Al Zafori



Abu Al Sayeed



.....

Ahsan Habib Bhuiyan



Apon Zahir



.....

Arman Miah



Ayanangsha Maitra



.....

Bahauddin Ahmed



Dola Das



.....

Emil Michael Botlero



Fahmida Haq



.....

Farzana Awlad Mridula



Fatima Tanjim



.....

Mahbubur Rahman



Mahtab Uddin Chowdhury



.....

Manjur A. Chowdhury



Mukhlesur Rahman



.....

Prodip kumar Shil



Roman Uddin



.....

Sadia Tasneem



Sanjoy Debnath



.....

Shrabony Akter (Nisheeth)



Shurat Rana Rushmi



.....

Subir Das



Thain Shewe Kyaw



.....

Zillur Rahman



.....



# CODE of CONDUCT

## Code of Conduct for Participation at the Bay of Bengal Conversation

The Bay of Bengal Conversation is an impartial and diverse platform with participants from all walks of life. We prioritise making the conference an inclusive and comfortable environment for all attendees, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, nationality, race, religion, or impairment. We ask that everyone involved with the Bay of Bengal Conversation, including participants, organisers, and hotel staff, obey our Participation Code of Conduct and understand the consequences of any infractions.

Throughout the conference, our team will also release house rules and updates, which we ask all stakeholders to observe.

The Code of Conduct is neither legal nor prescriptive. It enhances and does not supersede the implementation of any relevant policies, regulations, rules, and laws, including legislation governing the venue of the conference and any applicable host country agreements.

Participants agree to abide by the Code of Conduct as well as all relevant event rules and procedures, including health standards.

### VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

During the conference, we expect everyone to follow our anticipated behaviour rules and to respect our anti-harassment policy. This covers conference-related social gatherings as well as online social media participation. If conference organisers request that you stop engaging in banned behaviour, you must do so promptly. If unacceptable behaviour continues, the conference organisers may take any necessary action, including immediate ejection from the conference and/or reporting to appropriate authorities.

### RESOURCES

#### Reporting Inappropriate Conduct

Please notify a conference organizer if you are subjected to harassment or other unacceptable behaviour. Event organisers will be accessible and present throughout the conference. If you witness or have a grievance and prefer to remain anonymous, please fill out and submit a handwritten/typed complaint and submit it to a member of the organising team.

#### Law Enforcement

If an emergency arises, please first proceed to notify a conference organiser of the issue. If then the need arises, participants should contact the Dhaka Police by dialling 999 (Emergency Number).

#### Medical Station

We have a doctor on call and at the station throughout the conference. In the event you need medical attention, please seek out our medical station.

#### Attendance and Dress Code

We restrict access to the Bay of Bengal Conversation to participants with valid confirmation cards. All participants must attend the conference in formal attire (business formal /national/uniform).

### Conference Participation

Please respect fellow participants. You should frame conversations openly and inclusively. Profanity or slurs are prohibited. If you choose to attend a panel discussion, we request you stay seated for the duration.

### Drugs and Alcohol

We abide by and enforce all local, state, and central laws and regulations surrounding the possession and/or use of illegal substances. In addition, please limit tobacco use to permitted areas and consume alcohol in moderation.

### Safety

We hope our participants accept a shared responsibility for conference safety and notify conference organisers of any danger or misconduct they may witness. The possession of weapons or violence in any form is not permitted.

To ensure order throughout the conference, we do not permit organised demonstrations or disruptions of any kind.

## ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

We do not tolerate any form of harassment at the Bay of Bengal Conversation. Our zero-tolerance policy prohibits all forms of harassment, including, but not limited to:

- Making derogatory or demeaning comments about someone's sexual orientation or gender identity;
- Name-calling or using slurs with a gender/sexual connotation;
- Making sexual comments about appearance, clothing, or body parts;
- Rating a person's sexuality;
- Repeatedly asking a person for dates or asking for sex;
- Staring in a sexually suggestive manner;
- Unwelcome touching, including pinching, patting, rubbing, or purposefully brushing up against a person;
- Making inappropriate sexual gestures, such as pelvic thrusts;
- Sharing sexual or lewd anecdotes or jokes;
- Sending sexually suggestive communications in any format;
- Sharing or displaying sexually inappropriate images or videos in any format;
- Attempted or actual sexual assault, including rape.

A participant should never knowingly make a false or misleading claim about prohibited conduct.

## PROHIBITION OF RETALIATION

Threats, intimidation, or any other form of retaliation against a participant who has made a complaint or provided information in support of a complaint are prohibited.

The organisers will take any reasonable and appropriate action needed to prevent and respond to retaliation in accordance with its applicable policy, regulations, and rules.

# MEDIA ADVISORY

## ELIGIBILITY

All accredited members of the media, as well as senior journalists, columnists, and commentators who are not accredited, are eligible for participation as long as they are registered.

A COVID-19 vaccination certificate is mandatory for everyone attending the event.

## VENUE AND AGENDA

The "Bay of Bengal Conversation" Dialogue will be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from November 21-23, 2022, at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon, 107 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh.

The full agenda is available at <https://bayofbengalconversation.cgs-bd.com/>

Please bear in mind that session timings are subject to change.

## CONFERENCE ACCESS

Media will have access to all public sessions.

Public sessions can also be viewed live on CGS's web platform or our Twitter and Facebook handle.

You can also visit our website for various updates on the conference.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Find us on Twitter (@CGSbangladesh) and Instagram (@centreforgovernancestudiesbd), YouTube (/c/CGSBD), Facebook (/cgs.org), and follow all conference updates with the hashtag <#BoBC2022>.

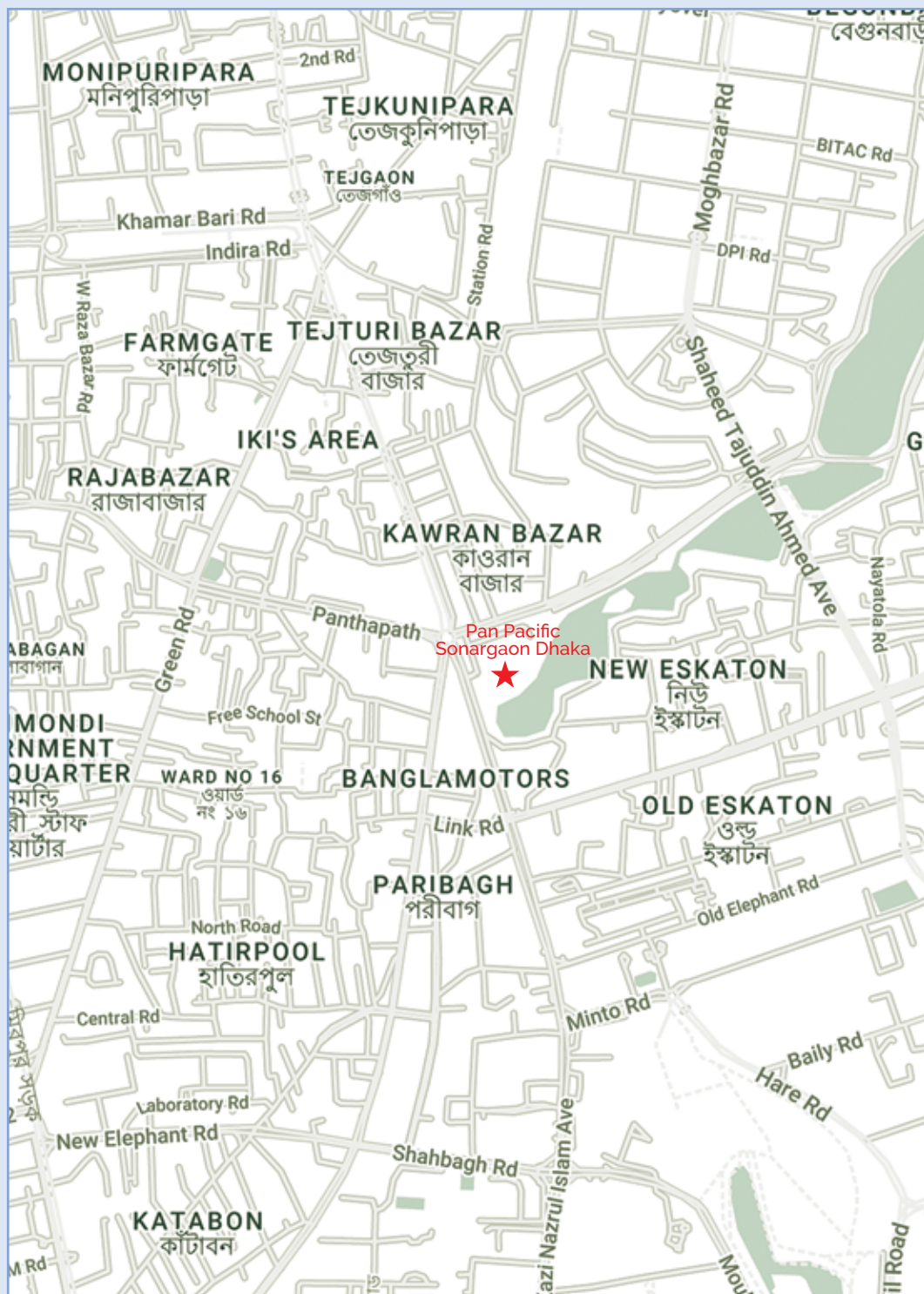
We encourage you to use <#BoBC2022> so that we can identify your message on our social media platforms.

## MEDIA CODE OF CONDUCT

The Bay of Bengal Conversation Charter of Participation applies to all members of the media. If any media members are found to be in violation of conference rules, their access may be revoked. We expect that the media will be transparent and accurate in its coverage of conference events. "The Bay of Bengal Conversation" and its hosts, "The Centre for Governance Studies," must be fully acknowledged in all media coverage during and after the conference, including off-stage interactions with speakers and participants. Only active sessions and discussions, as well as mutually agreed-upon interviews, are expected to be covered by the media.

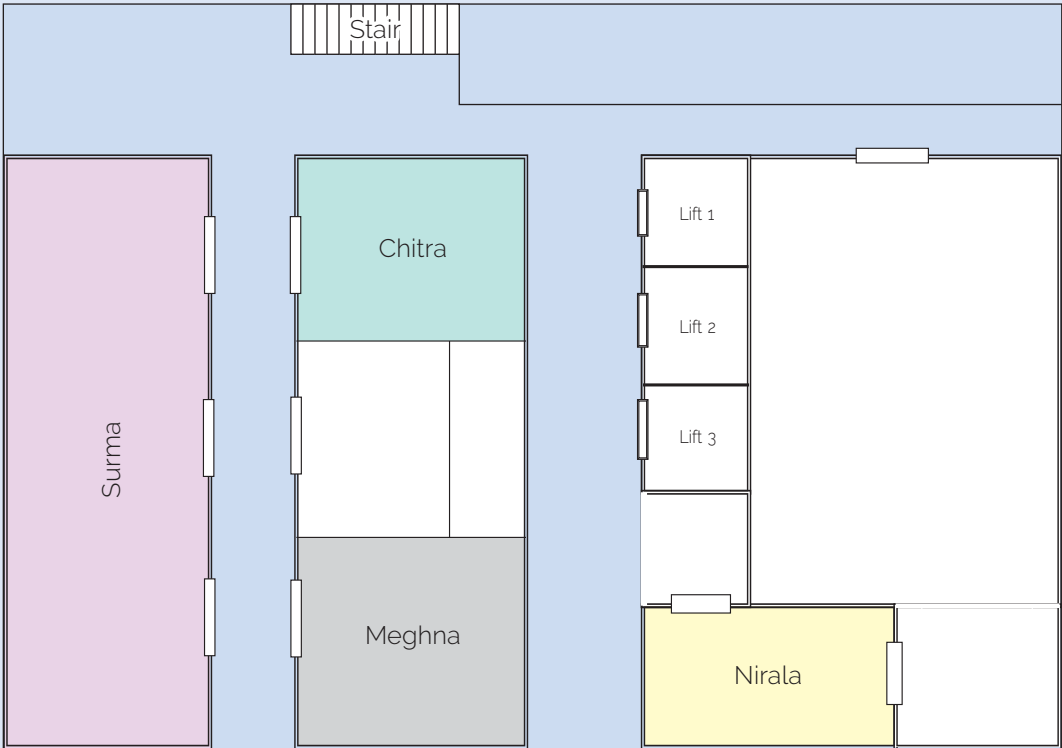
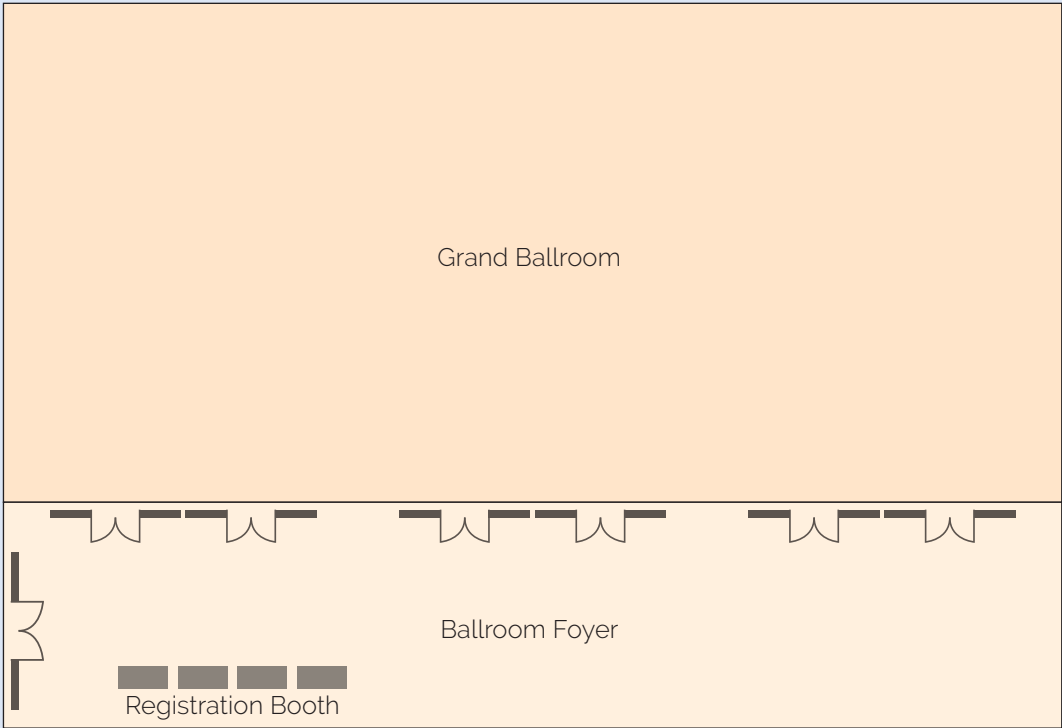
## CONTACT

For any queries or assistance, please write to Sanjoy Debnath ([sanjoy@cgs-bd.com](mailto:sanjoy@cgs-bd.com))



Location: DHAKA

Legend: ★ CONVERSATION VENUE



# Bay of Bengal Conversation 2022

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