



Two-day International Conference
on
“**Bangladesh in International Peacebuilding: Experience from Japan**”
12-13 August, 2018

Press Release

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) in collaboration with the Japan Foundation organised a two-day International Conference on **Bangladesh in International Peacebuilding: Experience from Japan** on 12-13 August 2018 at BIISS auditorium. The Conference was divided into six sessions. **Dr Dipu Moni, MP**, Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has graced the occasion as the Chief Guest while, **H E Mr Hiroyasu Izumi**, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh was the Special Guest at the inaugural session of the Conference. **Major General A K M Abdur Rahman, ndc, psc**, Director General, BIISS, delivered the Welcome Address. **Ambassador Munshi Faiz Ahmad**, Chairman, Board of Governors, BIISS, chaired the inaugural session. Other session Chairs are **Mr Md Shahidul Haque**, Foreign Secretary, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, **Ms Mia Seppo**, UN Resident Coordinator, **Mr Truls Julian Jaeger-Synnevaag**, Deputy Head of Mission, The Royal Norwegian Embassy, **Lt Gen (Retd) Md Mainul Islam** Former Chief of General Staff, Bangladesh Army and **Ambassador Muhammad Zamir**, Commissioner, OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission and Former Chief Information Commissioner of Bangladesh.

Eleven presentations were delivered in different sessions of the International Conference. The presenters are **Professor Dr Hideaki Shinoda**, Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center, Japan, **Professor Dr Mari Katayanagi**, Hiroshima University, Japan, **Mr Shahab Enam Khan**, Associate Professor, Department of International Relations, Jahangirnagar University, **Dr Zahid ul Arefin Choudhury**, Associate Professor, Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Dhaka, **Professor Dr Imtiaz Ahmed**, Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka, **Dr Peter Wallensteen**, Senior Professor, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, **Mr Nazmul Arifeen**, Research Fellow, BIISS and **Mr A S M Tarek Hassan Semul**, Research Officer, BIISS, **Professor Dr Rashed Uz Zaman**, Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka, **Mr Monirul Islam, BPM, PPM**, Additional Commissioner, Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime, Director General of BIISS **Major General A K M Abdur Rahman, ndc, psc**, and **Lt Gen (Retd) Sabbir Ahmed** Former Chief of General Staff, Bangladesh Army.

In different sessions of the two-day conference distinguished speakers noted that Bangladesh remains one of the top contributors to the UN peacebuilding efforts, and the country's peace-related activities have expanded over the years to include civilian participation facilitating institution building in the post-conflict states. Given the depth and breadth of the problem, peacebuilding has been included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Target of SDG 16 calls for promoting “peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development”. Achieving this target is a massive undertaking that demands close cooperation between nations. As a peace-loving and responsible international actor, Japan contributes enormously to international peacebuilding endeavours. It has actively engaged in addressing various issues and challenges confronting the global community. As the country has played an instrumental role in international peacebuilding, speakers opined that both Bangladesh and Japan will immensely benefit from sharing experience.

Senior officials from different ministries of Bangladesh, representatives from different organisations, ambassadors and high commissioners, media, academia, researchers, teachers and students from various universities participated in the open discussion sessions and raised their valuable questions, opinions and observations on the topic.