

Distinguished Speaker

Prof. Gautam Basu



Prof. Gautam Basu is a Biophysicist and a former Professor and Chairman of the Biophysics Department of Bose Institute, Kolkata, where he served as the Dean (Students Affairs) and the Professor-in-charge of the J.C Bose Museum. He was educated at Presidency College (Kolkata), IT Kanpur and Cornell University (USA). Beyond scientific research, he is actively involved in science communication and has interest in History of Science. Currently he is an Adjunct Professor at IISER Kolkata and a Visiting Professor at NIPER Kolkata. Prof. Basu has made fundamental contributions, both theoretical and experimental, in Computational and Structural Biology. By using simple definitions of Art and Science and focusing on the "process" of science and art, rather than the final product, Dr. Basu will try to connect the two. Using a number of examples where new concepts were developed in science, the talk will attempt to identify cases where scientific discoveries could not have happened without art. The talk will end with a thank-you activity by all persons present in the audience.

Title of the talk:
Art in Science on 11th of July, 2024
Friends of Foes of Molecules on 16th of July, 2024
Venue: Rumi Library

R. Hasan Moinuddin



Dr. Hasan Moinuddin is an International Climate Change and Institutional Development Planner and Practitioner working currently on a freelance basis with multilateral and bilateral development agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. He did his PhD in International Relations/Public International Law from Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany, in 1984. He has been working in the field of development cooperation since 36 years and has field experience from countries in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and Central America. He has been involved in projects requiring mediation and is a certified mediator receiving his certification from the Supreme Court of Florida. Dr. Hasan Moinuddin's talk covers the Bangladeshi experience in coping with climate change by increasing resilience in planning, financing, institutional preparedness, and challenges of the burden of rapid response to natural catastrophes, rescue and recovery year on year. The talk will refer inter alia to the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 and the National Adaptation Plan, Perspective Plan of Bangladesh 2021-2041, and Climate Financing for Sustainable Development - Budget Report 2024-25 published by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) as well as the Bangladesh Climate Change and Development Report (CCDR) published by the World Bank and the Climate Change Institutional Assessment (ICA).

Title of the Talk: Climate Change and Development: The Bangladeshi Experience
Date: 24th of July, 2024
Time: 02:00pm to 03:30pm
Venue: Rumi Library

Dr. Zeba Farooq



Dr. Zeba Farooq Alam is working as Associate Professor and Head Environmental Biomonitoring Research Unit (EBRU), Center for Natural Sciences and Environmental Research (CENSER), College of Science, De la Salle University, Manila, Philippines. Worked as "Visiting Faculty/Lecturer" at Spectrum Institute of Science and Technology, Colombo, Sri Lanka. She was engaged in teaching Cell Biology, Genetics, Biotechnology, and other topics of Life sciences to the graduate students of Biotechnology, Life Sciences and Biochemistry. She was also involved in the management team of the Institute as well as in policy making decisions. Professor Alam's talks will focus will be of special interest to faculty and thesis advisors, research scholars and students.

Title of the talk: Integrated approach to research in environmental biomonitoring with respect to e-Waste and SARS-CoV-2 in the Philippines
Date: 31st of July, 2024 **Time:** 10:00am to 11:30am
Venue: Rumi Library

Dr. Ki Hee Ryu



Dr. Ki Hee Ryu, Secretary General of the Asia Pacific Agricultural Policy Forum and Board Member for the World Toilet Association, will introduce the challenges of SDG 6, performance of the global major players, and how to overcome the barriers to achieving global targets in water supply, sanitation and hygiene space. Dr. Ryu will also discuss the challenges in agricultural policies in Indonesia and the Asia and Pacific with special focus on how to enhance water use efficiency in irrigation for better agricultural productivity and increased total income through the value addition of agricultural products. Dr. Ki Hee Ryu, Author of the Higher Education Contributing to Korean Economic Development, will also introduce the Seoul National University's new Triple Partnership model between University, Research Institute and Private Sector in the bio-science and technology sector. Dr. Ryu will focus on how to overcome the challenges faced by the Korean bio-science industry for enhanced contribution to national development through innovations in the bio-science and technology sector.

Title of the Talk:
SDG 6: Flood and Irrigation Management under Climate Change in Indonesia

Dr. Pradeep Tharakan



Dr. Pradeep Tharakan is Director, Energy Transition at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and is based in ADB's offices in New Delhi. He has nearly 20 years of experience working on global energy and environmental issues across South and Southeast Asia, Africa, and North America. His primary expertise is in the design, financing, and delivery of large clean energy investment programs for the public sector; policy analysis; fostering inter-governmental and public-private partnerships for effective development action; and development research. Pradeep has worked for ADB since 2010, where he has led the origination, implementation, and close-out of energy projects and programs totaling USD 3.0 billion. Pradeep has a PhD in Environmental Science, and master's degrees in business administration and public policy, and his academic research has been published in Science, Energy Policy and Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews.

Title of the Talk:
Just Energy Sector Transition in Asia: Challenges and Opportunities

Prof. Brij Kothari



Prof. Brij Kothari is a social entrepreneur and an Adjunct Professor at the School of Public Policy, IIT Delhi. He leads the Billion Readers (BR) Initiative and is the founder of Planet Read.org and Book Box.com. Brij conceived of Same Language Subtitling (SLS) on mainstream entertainment content on films, TV and streaming platforms for mass reading literacy in 1996, while pursuing his Ph.D. in Education at Cornell University. Since then, he has researched and pushed for SLS as national broadcast policy on the faculty of IIM Kozhikode (1998-2002) and IIT Delhi. He is an Anchoa Fellow, a Schwab Social Entrepreneur and the recipient of the International Literacy Prize from the US Library of Congress. Brij will focus on the system change strategy that BRD has pursued with government, civil society, academia and media companies, spanning 28 years, including a mix of evidence-based policymaking, advocacy, coalition-building with disability rights groups, design thinking, technology development, and legal tools. Brij is looking for collaboration to scale SLS in Jammu and Kashmir in Dogri, Kashmiri and other regional languages to improve reading and language skills.

Title of the talk:
System Change Strategy of BRD

Dr. Ornsaran Pomme Manuamorn



Dr. Ornsaran Pomme Manuamorn is Senior Financial Sector Specialist at the World Bank (based in Thailand). Her current work program supports sustainable finance and financial sector development in Thailand and regionally. An accomplished development practitioner and researcher, she specialized in climate change, sustainable development, and sustainable finance, with over 20 years of work experience with international development organizations with project experience from Southeast and South Asia. Between 2021-2024, she was senior consultant to the Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI), working on sustainable finance and climate transition in ASEAN. Collaborating with the Thai financial sector and regulators, she played an active role in delivering Thailand's first green economy. Concurrently, she served as a senior climate finance consultant to the World Bank between 2017-2024, advising more than 50 lending operations in Indonesia and Timor-Leste (based in Jakarta) and South Asia (based in Bangkok) to maximize co-benefits. She also supported World Bank technical assistance to the Government of Indonesia on sustainable landscape management. Between 2021-2024, Dr. Manuamorn also advised Thailand's Fiscal Policy Research Institute, which conducted technical assessments for LNDP on financing for SDGs and biodiversity. Between 2010-2016, she served as Climate Change Specialist for USAID and ADB regional programs in Asia, covering climate change, climate policy, transboundary environmental cooperation, and access-to-climate finance. She holds a PhD in Governance and Policy Analysis (Climate Change Adaptation Finance) from Massachusetts University. Her talk will discuss key concepts in sustainable finance, including green finance and climate finance. It will provide a global and regional overview of the growth of sustainable finance markets, drawing from the experience of Southeast Asia.

Title of the talk:
Sustainable Finance: Concepts and Practices

Mr. Rana Hassan



Rana Hassan is Regional Lead Economist for South Asia in Asian Development Bank's Economic Research and Development Impact Department. His research areas and interests include industrial development, labor economics, urban economics, and poverty and inequality. He has previously served as a director in ADB's research department and as Fellow at the East-West Center (USA). Rana has published in various journals, including the Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, and World Development. He has co-edited two volumes on trade and labor-related issues. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Maryland and a Masters degree in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. The urbanization process unfolding in India holds much promise for the country's economic aspirations. This presentation discusses bottlenecks that could prevent cities from realizing their economic potential and outlines strategies to overcome these. With its urban population expected to increase by 400 million people by 2050, it explains why India should diversify city-level economic planning, undertake master planning that is integrated with economic goals, and ensure a regulatory environment conducive to business growth. Taking notes from global cities, it recommends comprehensive steps that include applying a multisector approach to planning and building capacity to help create jobs, increase incomes, and drive economic growth.

Title of the talk:
Harnessing the Economic Potential of India's Cities

Dr. Herath Gunatilake



Dr. Gunatilake has a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture (Sri Lanka), Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Agriculture (Norway), Masters in Natural Resources Management (Norway), and PhD in Resource Economics (United States), and served at the University of Peradeniya (1988-2004) in various positions including Professor and the Head, Department of Agricultural Economics. He notable training he has undergone includes training in Environmental Economics and Policy Analysis at Harvard University, USA, in 1990, and a Programme on Leadership for Sustainable Development, Cambridge University, UK, in 2011. He joined ADB as an environment specialist and served as natural resource economist, economist, and energy economist in different departments. He was also Director of the Environment and Safeguards Division in the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department of ADB. He has published more than 50 journal articles, about 25 ADB publications. Dr. Gunatilake was a former member of the Board of South Asia Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE). He is a Fellow of the Institute of Policy Studies Colombo, Visiting Professor at Kelaniya and Peradeniya Universities, Member of Agricultural Economists Association, and Member of Research and Training Committee in Vector Kotte-Balawara Research and Training Institute. Dr. Gunatilake currently serves as the executive director in the Center for Policy Analysis (CEPA) in Sri Lanka.

His lecture focuses on the economic crisis in Sri Lanka. It will describe the type of macroeconomic imbalances that plague the economy over two decades that eventually resulted in the collapse of the economy. It will further explain how the post-18 through the crisis, which anyway would have happened after a few years. The impact of the crisis in terms of shortage on essential fuel, food and medicine and how people suffer during 2022 will be further described.

Title of the talk:
Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka, its evolution, impacts and the way forward