

American International University-Bangladesh

Sustainable Development Goals Report



SDG 1: No Poverty

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AIUB's Multilevel Engagement in Poverty Alleviation (SDG 1)

American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) participates actively in both policy-making and program implementation to end poverty in all its dimensions. Its involvement spans local community projects, regional academic collaborations, national policy forums, and global initiatives aligned with **Sustainable Development Goal 1: No Poverty**. Below is a comprehensive overview of AIUB's engagement at each level, including specific projects, partnerships, advisory roles, and forums, with references to institutional reports and announcements.

Local Initiatives and Community Engagement

AIUB works closely with local communities and organizations to reduce poverty through education, entrepreneurship, and direct support programs. Key local-level initiatives include:

- **Community Welfare and Disaster Relief:**

The AIUB Social Welfare Club “Shomoy” leads grassroots projects to support vulnerable communities. For example, Shomoy organized “*Standing with the Flood-Affected 2022*,” a relief initiative for disaster-hit families, demonstrating a holistic approach to poverty alleviation through direct community support aiub.edu. The club also runs campaigns like “*Oder Eid, Amader Khushi*” (sharing festival joy with the needy) and winter clothing drives, mobilizing students in local humanitarian efforts aiub.edu aiub.edu.

AIUB Social Welfare Club – “Shomoy”: “Standing with the Flood-Effectuated 2022”

Natural disasters rob us of our sense of control in the world, rendering us helpless to its chaos and leaving us to pick up the pieces that lie in its wake. But just as rain turn into floods, one drop at a time, while alone, we may be drops of water, but together, we can form an ocean. And it is at times of such tragedy and turmoil, that we re-find hope in mankind.

This year, record-breaking rainfall causing a flash flood in upstream Meghalaya and Assam areas of India, followed by torrential rainfall in the north-eastern districts of Bangladesh lead to more 70% of the Sylhet division being submerged, marooning around 40 lakh people in several upazilas. But within days, various voluntary and charitable organizations came forward to aid in the recovery and restoration of the flood-effectuated regions. From UNICEF, United Kingdom, European Commission, Prime Minister's Office, and several other local organizations and individuals, everyone did whatever they could to lend a helping hand and overcome the unprecedented calamity. And the American International University – Bangladesh (AIUB) takes pride in the fact that the AIUB Social Welfare Club – Shomoy, a voluntary student organization working towards social

development, took an initiative to run a fund-raising campaign to support the cause. After a week-long campaign, donations from students and staff enabled the club to distribute relief packages of flattened rice, puffed rice, molasses, dates, first-aid medication, saline, sanitary pads, candles, lighters, water, and polythene packets, to over 260 households in need, with the help of local authorities, on the 29th of June 2022, across the flood-affected areas of Moghla Bazar in Sylhet.

In such dire circumstances, every bit of contribution plays a valuable role in getting through the calamity, rising above, and persevering to rebuild a better tomorrow, and the university and its student community hopes to continue doing that and serving the greater good.



- **Education for Underprivileged Children:**

AIUB established *Kathpencil Pathshala*, a free school for underprivileged children aged 5–12, run by senior students under university supervision. This program operates “Education Safety Zones” in multiple locations, providing all learning materials and meals to children who cannot attend traditional schools aiub.edu aiub.edu. The curriculum covers primary education along with co-curricular activities and basic vocational skills, helping break the cycle of poverty through early education and life skills development aiub.edu.

Kathpencil Pathshala is initiated by the management of the university and supervised by the senior students. Kathpencil Pathshala is trying to build an Education Safety Zone to educate underprivileged children in career-oriented education. At different locations there are branches of Kathpencil Pathshala which provide education to the underprivileged children aged 5-12 years old. In that school all educational materials are provided along with meals for the students who have no opportunity to attend traditional schools. Not only following the curriculum of the national primary education board but also different types of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities are arranged. Some vocational and technical learnings are also provided so that the young children have some skills for their livelihood. The goals of Kathpencil Pathshala are diversified into four categories: 1. Arts for education, 2. Crafts for Foods and goods, 3. Theatre for sustainable development, 4. Play for grown-up. Kathpencil Pathshala has been able to successfully conduct its operations to provide underprivileged children with a holistic environment for learning through the valuable cooperation and support of the American International University - Bangladesh (AIUB), since 2013.

- **Slum Development Project (Korail):**

In a partnership with the international Magna Charta Observatory, AIUB launched “*The Responsive and Responsible University*” project focusing on Korail – one of Dhaka’s largest slums – to address poverty and related SDGs. This student-led, interdisciplinary project implemented low-cost housing improvements, health and hygiene campaigns, and creative education sessions in the community aiub.edu. A major component was vocational training and a peer-led microfinance program for women in Korail, enabling them to generate income and train others, thereby fostering sustainable livelihoods aiub.edu. Around 40 AIUB students (from Architecture, Business, and Public Health departments, alongside Shomoy club volunteers) worked directly with local residents to ensure community-driven outcomes aiub.edu. This initiative addresses SDG 1 (No Poverty) as well as SDG 3 (Health), SDG 4 (Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities) aiub.edu. *(Related recognition: This project earned AIUB the “Best Sustainable Initiative – University” honor at the SDG Brand Champion Awards 2025, highlighting its impactful community engagement in poverty reduction aiub.edu aiub.edu.)*

This recognition celebrates AIUB's impactful community engagement initiative in collaboration with the Magna Charta Observatory (MCO) under the project titled "The Responsive and Responsible University." The project focused on Korail, one of Dhaka's largest slums, addressing critical Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

Through student-led, interdisciplinary action, the project implemented low-cost housing improvements, adolescent health campaigns, and creative moral education sessions. A major component was the introduction of vocational training and peer-led microfinance support for women, enabling them to generate income and train others. The initiative directly involved local residents, ensuring sustainable, community-driven outcomes. Around 40 AIUB students from Architecture, BBA, and MPH departments along with some Shomoy club members were involved in the project.

- **Local Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Programs:**

AIUB supports local economic empowerment by nurturing entrepreneurship among students and alumni. The university’s Office of Placement & Alumni (OPA) provides mentorship, training, and networking to help students launch sustainable local start-ups – an effort aimed at “empowering economic growth and reducing poverty” in surrounding communities aiub.edu. OPA initiatives include alumni networking events that connect young entrepreneurs with mentors, career development workshops on skills like CV writing and business planning, and annual job fairs that link students with local industry partners aiub.edu. Additionally, the Dr. Anwarul Abedin Institute of Innovation (D2A2I) at AIUB funds community-oriented projects – for instance, it sponsored the *Amateur Experimental Rocketry Dhaka* project to spur innovation with local impact aiub.edu aiub.edu. AIUB also hosts events such as the “*Smart Bangladesh Business Plan Exhibition*” where students present sustainable business ideas addressing social needs, and seminars on entrepreneurship (e.g. on risk management and digital skills for start-ups) – these programs encourage youth entrepreneurship as a path to job creation and poverty reduction at the community level aiub.edu aiub.edu.

AIUB Outreach Program Organized for BAF Shaheen English Medium School both for Students and Faculty



The Outreach Program of the American International University- Bangladesh objectives to convey to the teachers and students of BAF Shaheen English Medium School in Dhaka both technical and practical teaching approaches to the teachers and career orientation to the students. A Team from AIUB (FBA) composed of Dr. Khondaker Sazzadul Karim, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Marketing; Mr Faridul Alam, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Accounting; Mr Ashfaq A. Mohib, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Operations and Supply Chain Management; Mr Stanley Rodrick, Senior Asst. Professor, Department of Marketing; Ms. Anisa Sultana, Senior Asst. Professor, Department of Management & HR; Ms. Yesmin Sultana, Asst. Professor, Department of Marketing; and Ms. Sabrina Rahman, Asst. Professor, Department of Tourism & Hospitality Management. The Principal, Group Captain Ferdous Mannan, psc and some teachers were on hand to receive the team and made arrangement for the planned interventions. Twenty-seven teachers attended the Pedagogy training conducted by Ms. Anisa Sultana, Dr. Khondaker Sazzadul Karim, and Mr. Ashfaq A. Mohib, while the rest of the team members were with 80 senior students to embrace workshop on Career introduction and quizzes on general knowledge. After the activity, the students were given orientation about AIUB and academic program offerings particularly in the Faculty of Business Administration through a power point presentation. The accomplishments of AIUB and its quality and excellent programs were underscored during the orientation. A Certificate of Training was distributed to the teachers after the Pedagogy seminar. The outreach program was very much appreciated because of the nature of the approach and the type of intervention provided to the students and teachers. This is AIUB's method for contacting to the educational institutions whose graduates are potential students in the university.

Empowering Future Entrepreneurs: AIUB's Smart Bangladesh Business Plan Exhibition

AIUB's Smart Bangladesh Business Plan Exhibition, held on April 10, 2023, showcased innovative business ideas developed by final-year students in the Entrepreneurship Development course. This exhibition allowed students to present their business concepts to faculty for feedback on practical implementation. Through posters and models, students proposed socially responsible and sustainable business ideas, enhancing their analytical skills and entrepreneurial mindset. The event promotes local startup assistance by encouraging entrepreneurship, which is essential in reducing poverty and advancing SDG1 through job creation and sustainable business practices.

#SDG1 #AIUBStartups #SmartBangladesh #Entrepreneurship #PovertyReduction

URL: <https://www.aiub.edu/smart-bangladesh-business-plan-exhibition-spring-2022-23>



Agreement Signing Ceremony between Dr. Anwarul Abedin Institute of Innovation, AIUB and Amateur Experimental Rocketry Dhaka

The Dr. Anwarul Abedin Institute of Innovation (D2A2I) at the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) is dedicated to promoting innovation among young researchers, fostering high-quality research aligned with sustainable development goals (SDGs). In furtherance of this mission, the Dr. Anwarul Abedin Institute of Innovation has provided funding to the Amateur Experimental Rocketry Dhaka (AERD) for conducting research activities, thereby contributing to the betterment of the wider community. The official signing ceremony for this collaboration took place at the AIUB premises on August 7, 2023.

Present at the signing ceremony were key individuals including Prof. Dr. Md. Abdur Rahman, Pro Vice Chancellor of AIUB; Chowdhury Akram Hossain, Associate Professor at AIUB; Mr. Szu Hen Baldwin Chen, Principal Investigator of AERD; Mr. Shahzaib Muaz Abedin, Member of AERD; Mr. Liam Oliver Novak, Member of AERD; Mr. Zhaoyan Sam Cui, Member of AERD; and Mr. Ian Michael Meservy, Member of AERD.

AERD is a research group led by high-school students, focusing on the advancement of hybrid rocket engine technology. This collaborative agreement is poised to inspire and empower young researchers to contribute to the nation's progress through innovative ideas, aligning with AIUB's commitment to fostering a culture of innovation and research excellence.



Regional Engagement and Collaboration

At the regional level, AIUB engages with academic networks and development forums across Asia to influence policies and programs on education and poverty. Notable regional involvements include:

- **Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) Conference:**

AIUB hosted the *APQN Academic Conference 2023*, bringing together education leaders and policymakers from 16 countries to discuss policies on quality education and sustainable development aiub.edu. This regional forum emphasized innovative teaching and learning strategies to address socio-economic challenges and improve educational outcomes, directly contributing to poverty reduction by enhancing skills and job prospects across the region aiub.edu. By convening stakeholders from multiple Asian countries, AIUB facilitated knowledge-sharing on how improved educational quality and access can uplift communities out of poverty.

APQN Academic Conference 2023 Inaugurated at AIUB



The Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) Academic Conference 2023 commenced at the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) on Friday, November 3, 2023. AIUB proudly hosts the APQN Academic Conference 2023, marking its debut in Bangladesh.

‘Innovation and Sustainable Development in Higher Education’ is the theme of APQN Academic Conference 2023. This event attracted researchers from 16 countries, both

local and international, and saw the presence of Vice Chancellors, Pro-Vice Chancellors, Treasurers, and other officials from various public and private universities. Representatives from the Bangladesh Accreditation Council (BAC), various local and international agencies, APQN board members, and AIUB's academic and administrative staff also graced the opening ceremony.

In her opening remarks, Prof. Galina Motova, Vice President of APQN, emphasized this year's conference theme. Mr. Ishtiaque Abedin, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of AIUB, provided insights into AIUB's journey toward achieving quality education.

The opening session featured Prof. Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Chairman of the Bangladesh Accreditation Council (BAC), as the Chief Guest and first keynote speaker. He addressed the significance of quality assurance and BAC's role in enhancing the quality of higher education.

Mr. Stephane Lauwick, President of the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR), delivered the second keynote presentation, explaining the quality assurance processes adopted by European universities and the benchmarks they follow.

During the conference's inaugural day, nine papers were presented across three plenary sessions, focusing on the quality of transformative teaching-learning, blended education within the context of the 4th industrial revolution, and the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prof. Dr. Haseena Khan, a Member of the University Grants Commission (UGC), graced the opening session as a special guest. Dr. Jagannath Patil, Advisor of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in India, highlighted the importance of ensuring quality at both the institutional and program levels in accreditation. Prof. Dr. Jianxin shared the 20-year journey of APQN in pursuit of quality assurance in higher education without boundaries.

Prof. Dr. Farheen Hassan, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration, presided over the opening session of the APQN Academic Conference 2023. This year APQN celebrates its 20 years of inception and a cake cutting session was held to celebrate this remarkable milestone.

The first day of the conference concluded with a cultural program presented by the AIUB Performing Arts Club (APAC) and gala dinner at the Hotel Westin. During the dinner, the APQN board presented various awards for activities related to quality assurance to deserving recipients.



- **Regional Academic Coalitions:**

AIUB participates in South Asian and broader regional coalitions focused on social development and poverty alleviation through education. For example, the university's curriculum and research align with regional development priorities (like the Bangladesh National Qualification Framework and accreditation standards) to produce graduates equipped to tackle poverty and inequality aiub.edu aiub.edu. AIUB's *Master of Development Studies (MDS)* program explicitly addresses all SDGs, training professionals to meet regional development challenges including poverty eradication aiub.edu. By aligning academic programs with SDG-driven skills, AIUB contributes to a regional talent pool committed to social and economic development.

Academic Program wise:

Among the 17 programs offered from 4 Faculties of AIUB, there is a program titled 'Masters of Development Studies (MDS)s' is designed to address all the SDGs. The program curriculum of MDS and Syllabus are addressing the ways to achieve the targets and goals mentioned in the manual of SDGs. The graduates of MDS are equipped with the cognitive and psychomotor skills along with the attitude to fulfil the desired goals.

A good number of courses from other programs offered from different faculties are addressing different goals based on the program they offer. The students will be learning the goals and target that need to be achieved through different norms and criteria through the courses they have in their respective programs.

The faculty members teaching the courses that address SDGs are equipped with required skills and knowledge that is shared with the students during the lecture hours and co-curricular activities. Different field trips and assignments are prepared by the students which shows the plans to achieve the respective goals.

[SDGs Mapped courses list for all programs](#)

- **Cross-Border Education Initiatives:**

AIUB extends its influence regionally by positioning Bangladesh as a hub for affordable, quality education. In 2023, AIUB co-organized the *Bangladesh Education Forum in Dubai* (UAE) – in partnership with the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh and others – to promote policies for student scholarships and academic partnerships aiub.edu. This forum showcased Bangladeshi higher education to South Asian and Middle Eastern audiences, with the goal of attracting students from low-income backgrounds in the region. By improving access to education across borders, AIUB helps students from neighboring countries gain opportunities that can lift them out of poverty, aligning with SDG 1's aims of equitable growth through knowledge aiub.edu.

AIUB presents Bangladesh Education Forum 2023 at Dubai



Bangladesh Education Forum 2023, co-organized by the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), was held at the Crown Plaza, Dubai, UAE on October 14-15, 2023. The conference, the second of its kind, aimed to spotlight the achievements of the higher education sector in Bangladesh and promote the country as a high-quality yet cost-effective destination for higher education on a global scale.

Mr. Ishtiaque Abedin, Honorable Chairman of the Board of Trustees of AIUB, led the team from AIUB, including honorable members of the Board of Trustees Dr. Hasanul A Hasan, Dr. Carmen Z Lamagna, Shania Mahia Abedin, and Md Abu Miah Akanda Tuhin, head of Public Relations.

The event saw the presence of several dignitaries, including Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda, Honorable Member of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, Mr. Mohammed Abu Zafar, the Honorable Ambassador of Bangladesh to the UAE, Mr. B M Jamal Hossain, Consul General of the Bangladesh Consulate in the UAE, and Mr. Abu Bakar Hanif, Chairman & CEO of Washington University of Science and Technology. Additionally, chairpersons, vice-chancellors, pro-vice-chancellors, registrars, directors, faculty members, and officials from various universities graced the Bangladesh Education Forum with their presence.

Mr. Ishtiaque Abedin, the Honorable Chairman of the AIUB Board of Trustees, announced scholarships for students enrolling at AIUB from the UAE, emphasizing the university's commitment to providing high-quality education and support to students. He also highlighted AIUB's thriving ecosystem for funding start-up initiatives by its students, fostering innovation, scientific development, technology advancement, and international partnerships. The chairman expressed a keen interest in expanding collaboration with UAE-based universities and authorities, including exchange programs for students and faculty.

Dr. Biswajit Chandra acknowledged the role and contribution of private universities in the growth of the education sector. Ambassador Muhammad Abu Zafar underscored the affordability and quality of education available in Bangladesh, reflecting the government's dedication to enhancing the educational landscape. He also noted the presence of a significant number of Bangladeshi students in the UAE and encouraged them to explore educational opportunities in Bangladesh.

Dr. Carmen Z Lamagna, Member of the AIUB Board of Trustees, expressed her admiration for Bangladesh and encouraged expatriate students and parents to consider the University of Bangladesh as a valuable option for higher education, emphasizing the potential for career development based on merit.

The event featured panel discussions, information sessions, presentations, and valuable interactions among key stakeholders in higher education. Numerous Bangladeshi universities actively participated in the Bangladesh Education Forum 2023.

Bangladesh Education Forum 2023 represents a collaborative effort between the Pan Asian Group (UAE) and Spiral World (BD) and receives support from the University Grants Commission Bangladesh, the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), and the Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh (APUB).



(Note: Through such regional engagements, AIUB not only shares best practices but also builds coalitions for poverty reduction via education. The APQN conference and the Dubai forum exemplify how AIUB influences regional policy dialogues on making education inclusive and affordable as a long-term poverty alleviation strategy.)

National Collaboration and Policy Involvement

Within Bangladesh, AIUB collaborates with government bodies, policy platforms, and industry groups to advance poverty reduction, education access, and economic inclusion:

- **Education Access and Scholarships:**

AIUB works closely with national authorities to widen access to quality education for underprivileged groups. The Bangladesh Education Forum 2023 (co-hosted by AIUB and UGC) underscored making higher education in Bangladesh accessible and affordable, especially for students from low-income families [aiub.edu](https://www.aiub.edu). At the institutional level, AIUB offers extensive scholarships and financial aid to students from disadvantaged backgrounds, helping to “bridge the financial gap” so that talented youth from the bottom economic quintiles can complete university [aiub.edu](https://www.aiub.edu). These efforts align with national policy goals on education and poverty, ensuring that financial hardship does not bar deserving students from obtaining degrees and improving their economic prospects.

AIUB also organized the Bangladesh Education Forum 2023 in Dubai, highlighting Bangladesh as an affordable, high-quality destination for education, and promoted policies for student scholarships and international academic partnerships. This forum, co-organized with the University Grants Commission Bangladesh and other entities, serves to make higher education accessible to students from low-income backgrounds in both Bangladesh and the UAE, contributing to poverty alleviation through education.

Through tailored scholarship programs, American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) helps students from the lowest income bracket overcome financial challenges and successfully pursue their studies.

AIUB offers various scholarships and financial aid options to support students from low-income backgrounds, helping them to overcome financial barriers and complete their studies successfully. These initiatives aim to bridge the financial gap for deserving students, especially those from the bottom 20% of the income distribution.

The support programs include *merit-based scholarships for freshmen*, such as academic awards based on entrance scores and grades, and *need-based tuition waivers* tailored for students from low-income households. Additionally, the *General Need-Based Tuition Fee Waiver* program is available for students with proven financial hardship, requiring a high CGPA and completion of specified academic loads.

AIUB also offers specialized scholarships for female students, students with disabilities, and those from underrepresented groups, including ethnic minorities and low-income backgrounds. These include the *Anwarul Abedin Scholarship* for female undergraduates and the *Hasna Abedin Scholarship* for postgraduate students, both covering 100% of tuition fees for students who meet strict academic and character standards.

Other unique aids include the *Freedom Fighter Waiver* and *Sibling Waiver*, alongside opportunities for part-time on-campus jobs and a volunteer scheme that provides temporary employment and experience for students. These programs, managed by AIUB's Scholarship Committee, allow the university to support students in financial need, offering them a pathway to achieve academic success despite economic challenges.

Link: <https://www.aiub.edu/admission/scholarships>

- **Advisory Forums on Economic Policy:**

AIUB regularly hosts high-profile seminars and dialogues with national policymakers to address poverty through economic reforms. For instance, on December 12, 2023, AIUB's *Dr. Anwarul Abedin Lecture Series* featured **Mr. Abu Hena Md. Rahmatul Muneem**, the Chairman of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), in a seminar titled “Revenue for Development: Addressing Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction.” [aiub.edu](https://www.aiub.edu). In this forum, the NBR Chairman discussed tax policy strategies – such as improving revenue collection, reducing import dependence, and boosting exports – to fund inclusive growth and poverty alleviation in Bangladesh [aiub.edu](https://www.aiub.edu). By convening such discussions, AIUB serves as a bridge between academia and government, contributing to national policy dialogues on sustainable economic development (in line with SDG 1).

AIUB Hosts Lecture on Revenue for Development: Addressing Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction

On December 12, 2023, AIUB hosted a significant seminar under the "Dr. Anwarul Abedin Lecture Series" titled "Revenue for Development." The event, featuring Mr. Abu Hena Md. Rahmatul Muneem, Chairman of Bangladesh's National Board of Revenue, focused on the importance of tax revenue in supporting national economic growth. Mr. Muneem highlighted the necessity of efficient tax collection, reducing import dependency, and promoting exports to foster a self-sufficient Bangladesh. The seminar aligns with SDG1 by addressing sustainable economic policies aimed at poverty reduction and economic empowerment.

#SDG1 #EconomicDevelopment #PovertyReduction #RevenueForDevelopment #AIUBImpact

URL: <https://www.aiub.edu/dr-anwarul-abedin-lecture-series-on-revenue-for-development>



- **National Leadership in Sustainable Development:**

AIUB partners with local industry and civic organizations to shape poverty-focused policy agendas. Notably, AIUB co-organized the *7th Leadership Summit* (Nov 11, 2023) with the **Bangladesh Brand Forum**, centered on transformative leadership for sustainable national growth aiub.edu. The summit gathered industry experts to formulate strategies on “Nation-Building Leadership” and “Sustainability in Business,” producing a roadmap of impactful policies for economic stability and poverty alleviation aiub.edu. Such events demonstrate AIUB’s role in advising and inspiring policy development in Bangladesh, directly supporting SDG 1 by promoting inclusive business practices and resilient economic planning.

7th Leadership Summit by AIUB and Bangladesh Brand Forum Inspires Strategic Policy Development for Sustainable Growth in Bangladesh

The 7th Leadership Summit, organized by AIUB in collaboration with Bangladesh Brand Forum on November 11, 2023, centered on transformative leadership for national and organizational progress. Featuring industry experts and leaders, the summit discussed strategies to address disruptive change, foster resilience, and promote sustainable growth. Through topics like "Nation-Building Leadership" and "Sustainability in Business," the summit provided a roadmap for impactful policies that contribute to economic stability and poverty alleviation, directly supporting SDG1 goals.

#SDG1 #LeadershipForChange #SustainableGrowth #PovertyAlleviation #AIUBLeadership

URL: <https://www.aiub.edu/aiub-presents-the-7th-leadership-summit-by-bangladesh-brand-forum>



- **Research and Policy Input:**

AIUB’s faculty contribute research that informs national poverty-reduction policies. For example, AIUB researchers studied the “*Impact of monthly repayment systems on household*

income and food expenditure of rural women borrowers” – providing valuable insights for microfinance policies aimed at improving the economic conditions of rural communities aiub.edu. Other studies, like analyses of COVID-19’s impact on SDGs in Bangladesh or rural tourism’s role in poverty alleviation, position AIUB as a knowledge partner for government and NGOs formulating poverty-reduction strategies aiub.edu aiub.edu. By sharing these findings at conferences and in policy forums, AIUB helps shape evidence-based national initiatives against poverty.

On the faculty front, AIUB's research, such as "Economic Power Dispatch Solutions" and "COVID-19 and Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh Perspective," demonstrates a commitment to innovative solutions for sustainable economic development. Research on the "Impact of monthly repayment system on the household income and food expenditure of rural women borrowers" contributes valuable insights for policies improving the economic conditions of rural communities. In conclusion, AIUB's comprehensive approach, combining academic prowess, community engagement, and cutting-edge research, solidifies its dedication to SDG 1 and the global pursuit of eradicating poverty.

Global Partnerships and Advocacy

Globally, AIUB engages with international networks and initiatives aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 1, to share best practices and influence broader policy on poverty eradication:

- **International Associations (IAUP and IAU):**

AIUB is an active member of the **International Association of University Presidents (IAUP)** and the **International Association of Universities (IAU)**. Through these global forums, AIUB’s leadership collaborates with universities worldwide on advancing equitable education and intercultural cooperation aiub.edu. This participation strengthens AIUB’s commitment to policies that widen educational accessibility, as quality education is a key driver for poverty reduction aiub.edu. (Notably, AIUB’s Vice-Chancellor Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna has served on the IAUP Board and represented AIUB at international meetings, fostering partnerships on student mobility, joint research, and women’s leadership in higher education aiub.edu aiub.edu – all of which contribute to the global poverty and inclusion agenda by promoting knowledge exchange and capacity building.)

AIUB in the International Association of University Presidents (IAUP)



Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna, AIUB Vice-Chancellor-in Charge with Mr. Ishtiaque Abedin participated in the IAUP Semi-Annual Meeting in Japan, on September 12-15, 2023, hosted by Osaka University of Commerce and The Tanioka Gakuen Educational Foundation.

Dr. Lamagna attended the association's executive board meeting as a member (IAUP Board). She was one of the panelists on A special feature on the launching of the Women's Leadership progress. She had meetings with several university's presidents and discussed possible cooperation on student and staff mobility, joint research and cultural exchange.

- **UN SDG Programs – Responsible Futures:**

AIUB is the **first and only university from Asia** selected for the *Responsible Futures International (RFI) 2024/25* program – a global sustainability initiative co-led by IAU and Students Organising for Sustainability UK (SOS-UK) aiub.edu aiub.edu. Through RFI, AIUB partners with institutions worldwide to **embed sustainability and social responsibility across its curriculum**, ensuring that graduates are prepared to address challenges like poverty and climate justice. The program provides a framework for “mainstreaming education for sustainable development” in teaching, learning, and policy, in collaboration with students aiub.edu. AIUB's involvement in RFI underscores its global leadership in aligning academic practices with the UN SDGs – by fostering ethical leadership and integrating themes such as poverty reduction, equality, and environmental stewardship into student learning aiub.edu aiub.edu.

AIUB Joins “Responsible Futures International 2024/25”



STUDENTS
ORGANISING FOR
SUSTAINABILITY
UNITED KINGDOM



International
Association of
Universities



American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) is proud to announce its participation in Responsible Futures International 2024/25, an initiative led by Students Organising for Sustainability (SOS-UK), and jointly delivered by the International Association of Universities (IAU). This global program partners students with their institutions to embed sustainability in all aspects of student learning, fostering ethical leadership and sustainable practices in academia.

AIUB is honored to be the first and only university from Asia to join this prestigious program, further solidifying its commitment to sustainability on a global scale.

The Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) at AIUB played a pivotal role in arranging, coordinating, and facilitating this significant collaboration. Through this partnership, AIUB commits to integrating holistic sustainability and climate justice across its curriculum, aligning with international best practices.

The program commenced in December 2024, providing AIUB with access to a comprehensive framework developed by pilot institutions and sector bodies. This framework assists partnerships in legitimizing and mainstreaming education for sustainable development, supporting transformative changes in teaching, learning, strategies, and policies in collaboration with students.

Since its commencement in 2013, over 39 institutions and students' unions have participated in Responsible Futures, representing nearly 700,000 students across the UK. The launch of the international pilot has added 6 new universities to the network, reaching over 100,000 students globally.

This partnership underscores AIUB's commitment to academic excellence, ethical leadership, and environmental responsibility. By engaging in this program, AIUB aims to make transformative changes to its educational practices, ensuring that sustainability and climate justice are integral components of the student experience.

- **Global Recognition of AIUB's Poverty Initiatives:**

AIUB's innovative approaches to community development are being showcased on international platforms. The Korail slum project (described above) is set to be published as a case study by the **Magna Charta Observatory at King's College London**, alongside contributions from universities in Europe (e.g. Lithuania, Poland, North Macedonia) aiub.edu aiub.edu. This reflects how AIUB's local poverty-alleviation success is influencing global conversations on the “responsive and responsible” role of universities in society. Moreover, AIUB faculty and students frequently attend and present at international conferences on sustainable development, sharing Bangladesh's perspectives and learning from global best practices. For instance, AIUB representatives participated in the **IAU 2023 International Conference in Doha**, which explored how universities worldwide can promote intercultural dialogue and contribute to the common good aiub.edu aiub.edu – indirectly reinforcing commitments to inclusivity and poverty reduction through global cooperation.

AIUB Wins “Best Sustainable Initiative – University” at SDG Brand Champion Awards 2025



Sustainability is not only about operations and infrastructure - it's about people, purpose, and impact. American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) has exemplified this through its strong commitment to community engagement as a core pillar of its sustainability journey. From empowering underserved communities to mobilizing students and faculty for grassroots projects, AIUB has consistently bridged academia with action - reflecting a deep understanding that universities must drive inclusive development and social transformation.

American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) has been awarded the prestigious “Best Sustainable Initiative-University” at the SDG Brand Champion Awards 2025, hosted by the Bangladesh Brand Forum. The award was presented at a grand ceremony held at Radisson Blu Dhaka, where Ms. Nadia Anwar, Founder Member and Chairman, Board of Trustees and Prof. Dr. Saiful Islam, Vice Chancellor of AIUB, received the award along with Prof. Dr. Manzur H. Khan, Proctor of AIUB, was also present to witness this proud moment.

The SDG Brand Champion Awards is a prestigious recognition program that aims to commend and celebrate the exceptional efforts made by brands in Bangladesh towards

achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Initiated by Bangladesh Innovation Conclave, this award aims to recognize and honor private organizations and brands that have contributed outstandingly to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Bangladesh. Bangladesh Brand Forum and Sustainable Brand Initiative organized the initiative.

This recognition celebrates AIUB's impactful community engagement initiative in collaboration with the Magna Charta Observatory (MCO) under the project titled "The Responsive and Responsible University." The project focused on Korail, one of Dhaka's largest slums, addressing critical Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

Through student-led, interdisciplinary action, the project implemented low-cost housing improvements, adolescent health campaigns, and creative moral education sessions. A major component was the introduction of vocational training and peer-led microfinance support for women, enabling them to generate income and train others. The initiative directly involved local residents, ensuring sustainable, community-driven outcomes. Around 40 AIUB students from Architecture, BBA, and MPH departments along with some Shomoy club members were involved in the project.

The winning initiative is led by Prof. Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna, Member of the AIUB Board of Trustees and Former Vice Chancellor, whose visionary leadership laid the foundation for the project's direction, values, and impact. She was supported by a dedicated team of project members: Prof. Farheen Hassan, Ms. Carlin Z. Lamagna, Dr. Rezbin Nahar, and Ms. Nazia Farhana. This project is also set to be published in a book by the Magna Charta Observatory at King's College London this November, alongside case studies from leading universities including Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania), Wroclaw Medical University (Poland), Donetsk National University (Ukraine), University of Tetova (North Macedonia), and Technological University Dublin (Ireland).

For the SDG Brand Champion Award 2025, the Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) took the lead in compiling, formatting, submitting and presenting the project, highlighting its alignment with the SDGs and its measurable community impact.

This award reflects AIUB's belief that sustainability is not just about infrastructure, but about empowering people, fostering purpose, and creating real impact, where it's needed most.

- **Global Academic and Research Networks:**

Beyond policy forums, AIUB collaborates in international research endeavors addressing poverty. It has academic partnerships across continents (via its Internationalization program and strategic partners) that facilitate joint research on development issues. AIUB's Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) also aligns with global quality standards and SDG indicators, ensuring the university's development initiatives meet international benchmarks aiub.edu. Through its engagement with networks like the **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)** and participation in global rankings/awards on sustainability, AIUB benchmarks its progress on SDG 1 against global peers. These connections amplify AIUB's voice in advocating for policies – such as affordable education, gender equity in education, and community entrepreneurship – at worldwide forums dedicated to ending poverty.

Learning Development Center (LDC)

Excellence in Teaching and Learning (ETL), AIUB-IQAC

Excellence in Teaching and Learning (ETL) unit, mandated by University Grants Commission UGC, Bangladesh, under Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (AIUB-IQAC) organigram with assistance from the four faculties (FASS, FBA, FE and FST) forms the **Learning Development Center** of American International University - Bangladesh (AIUB). The objective of this unit is to bring out and nourish the graduate skill sets of the students; curriculum modification and development of programs with identified knowledge skill and ability; maintaining and implementation of the pre-requisite of Bangladesh National Qualification Framework (BNQF) as well as national accreditation standards by Bangladesh Accreditation Council (BAC).

· The center offers sessions to help students improve their study strategies, time management skills, and goal-setting abilities and other soft skills.

· With the support of AIUB-IQAC and four faculties, ETL organizes workshops and training to help students identify and develop the academic skills they need for success in their studies and future career

· ETL works for the faculty development as well in terms of teaching-learning techniques, outcome-based education, research, student skill assessment and others.

The supports provided by ETL for the students are as follows:

1. **Study Skills Workshops:** Conducting workshops and seminars on effective study techniques, time management, note-taking, and test preparation.
2. **Workshops on Academic Integrity:** Conducting workshops on academic integrity, plagiarism, and ethical practices in academia.
3. **Career Development Workshops:** Organizing workshops and events to help students with career exploration, resume writing, job search strategies, and interview skills.
4. **Research and Assessment:** Conducting research on effective teaching and learning strategies and using data to improve the center's services.
5. **Outreach and Promotion:** Engaging in outreach efforts to raise awareness of the center's services and encourage student participation.

Being one of the leaders among the higher education institutes in Bangladesh, AIUB addresses the national and international challenges and issues through quality changes in the curriculum and syllabus of all the programs offered from 4 Faculties of AIUB.

Currently the academic programs are designed to meet the requirements for 4th Industrial Revolution and sustainable development goals (SDGs). AIUB is preparing the graduates for challenges they will face due to continuous innovation and structural changes. AIUB produces global citizens who are the future leaders in their respective fields. Therefore, curriculum committee consists of different stakeholders thoroughly review the emerging needs and prepare the contents/syllabus which provides theoretical knowledge and practical skills to address the challenges.

Academic Program wise:

Among the 17 programs offered from 4 Faculties of AIUB, there is a program titled 'Masters of Development Studies (MDS)' is designed to address all the SDGs. The program curriculum of MDS and Syllabus are addressing the ways to achieve the targets and goals mentioned in the manual of SDGs. The graduates of MDS are equipped with the cognitive and psychomotor skills along with the attitude to fulfil the desired goals.

A good number of courses from other programs offered from different faculties are addressing different goals based on the program they offer. The students will be learning the goals and target that need to be achieved through different norms and criteria through the courses they have in their respective programs.

The faculty members teaching the courses that address SDGs are equipped with required skills and knowledge that is shared with the students during the lecture hours and co-curricular activities. Different field trips and assignments are prepared by the students which shows the plans to achieve the respective goals.

In summary, AIUB's involvement in ending poverty is multifaceted and far-reaching. Locally, it implements community programs and supports grassroots entrepreneurship to uplift the poor. Regionally, it collaborates with academic and development bodies to promote quality education and inclusive growth. Nationally, it partners with government agencies and forums to influence policies on economic empowerment and educational access for the underprivileged. Globally, it joins forces with international networks and initiatives to advance the SDG agenda, sharing its successes (like the Korail project) as models for others. AIUB's projects, partnerships, and policy engagements – from Dhaka's slums to global university alliances – collectively demonstrate a strong institutional commitment to “No Poverty” (SDG 1) and to shaping a more equitable world.