



A report on
“Celebration of International Day of Women and Girls in Science”
11th February, 2019

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“Celebration of International Day of Women and Girls in Science”
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Keynote Speaker: Prof. Dr. Hasin Anupama Azhari
EC, Asia & Pacific, OIBSD, IOMP-IF, Founder President, BMPS, Director iHub, Dean, Faculty of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, Professor & Chairman, Dept. of Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering (MPBME), GB.

Chief Guest: Monsur Musa
 Dean, Arts and Social Sciences, GB. Advisory Member, iHub-GB

Special Guest: Prof. M. Nazrul Islam
 Professor & Head, Department of Politics and Governance

Special Guest: Ms. Farah Iqbal
 Senior Lecturer, Department of Law, GB. ECM, iHub-GB

Chair: Monirul Hasan Masum
 Head, Department of Business Administration, & Deputy Director, iHub-GB

Organized by
Dept. of Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering & iHub-GB

Venue: A- 417, Academic Building Gono Bishwabidyalay **Date: 25.2.2019**
Time: 2.00 p.m.

Organized by



Held on 25th February, 2019 at 2:00 pm
 In the Academic Building, Room No.:417, Gono Bishwabidyalay, Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

History of Celebrating 11 February: International Day of Women and Girls in Science

Since 1968, Royal Academy of Science International Trust (RASIT) has been working on Empowering Women in Science through Education, Employment and Recognition. RASIT's work focused on sustainable development programs in education, science, economy, environment and gender equality as well as the support of the marginalized and most vulnerable. Through its scholarship program, RASIT served and well prepared more than 10,500 female students from developing countries, and established the First International League for Women in Science in 1998. Further, in 2015, RASIT brought an international recognition for women and girls in science, and turned a dream into reality. In fact, in 2015, RASIT started writing the future's history for Women and Girls in Science.

The idea for an International Day of Women and Girls in Science was generated during the first High-Level World Women's Health and Development Forum organized by RASIT and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), and it was held on 10-11 February 2015 at the United Nations Headquarters, with the participation of government, Ministers and representatives, UNESCO, UN-Women, WHO, UNRWA, UNICEF, UNFPA, Every Woman Every Child Initiative, etc.

In order to achieve full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls, and further achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution/RES/70/212 declaring 11 February as the International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

Aims of this celebration

- To spread the background of 'International Day of Women and Girls in Science'
- To join the international community worldwide in celebrating the biggest day for women and girls in science.
- To make public awareness (Schools & Youth; Companies & Organizations; Universities & Institutions; Communities & Cities) about Women in Science
- To learn about the role of Women in Science in Sustainable Development
- To mobilize your networks! Message your friends about the International Day of Women and Girls in Science
- To promote female participation in Science & Technology professions.
- To increase the number of membership of women in science related organization e.g., OWSD

Organizers

- Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD), Bangladesh Chapter.
- Dept. of Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering, Gono Bishwabidyalay.
- iHub EC, Gono Bishwabidyalay
- Bangladesh Medical Physics Society (BMPS)
- International Organization for Medical Physics (IOMP) “IOMP Women Subcommittee” (IOMP-W)

Program details

The Program was conducted by Ms. Tania Ahmed (Lecturer, Dept. of Pharmacy, GB). At first the introductory speech on the background of 11 February celebration was delivered by program coordinator Ms. Nupur Karmaker, (Lecturer, Dept. of Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering (MPBME), GB; ECM: iHub; Joint Secretary: OWSDBD; Treasurer: BMPS). After that the following invited speakers presented their views on Int'l Day of Women and Girls in Science with reference to the role model of their respective field of expertise.

Ms. Tania Akter (Senior Lecturer, Department of Computer Science & Engineering (CSE), GB; ECM: iHub, GB) discussed about the historical development and contribution of women in Computer Science & Engineering in Bangladesh.

Dilruba Akter Pansi (Lecturer, Department of Applied Mathematics, GB) presented a comparative views on the Past, Present and Future Status of Applied Mathematics in respect to the participation of women and also showed some women role models in Bangladesh from her related field.

Kazi Mahfuza Haque (Senior Lecturer, Ethics and Equity) focused on the increased participation of women in different sectors of Bangladesh and also welcomed male counterparts to take part in this progress.

Najmun Nahar (Lecturer, Department of Microbiology, GB) presented her views on microbiological research and acknowledge the efforts and contributions of female faculty members in the department of Microbiology, DU during her study.

Masuka Nasrin (Student, EEE, GB) and Kakoli Azad (Student, MPBME, GB) shared their feeling about the importance of female students to join this type of programs.

Ms. Farah Iqbal (Senior Lecturer, Department of Law, GB. ECM, iHub-GB) as a Special Guest mentioned about the movement of women in science to form BAWS, the first association for women scientists and encourage young researchers and graduates to be motivated.

Keynote Speaker: Prof. Dr. Hasin Anupama Azhari (EC, Asia & Pacific, OWSD; Member: IOMP-W, Founder President: BMPS; Director: iHub; Dean, Faculty of Physical

and Mathematical Sciences; Chairman, Dept. of Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering (MPBME)), GB inspired all students, faculty members and other participants by her excellent presentation. She has successfully addressed that the statistics of women in STEM in Bangladesh is unsatisfactory. The main reason is that after secondary education female students are reluctant to grab the opportunities for continuing the STEM education in tertiary level. She also emphasized that many organizations are providing opportunities to the female scientists for early carriers like OWSD, iHub GB. These ideas would be helpful for bringing the female students in the pathway of women empowerment. In specific subject area women are also trying to organize through different women organizations in their related fields for equal access in gender balance like IOMP-W.

Md. Karam Newaz (Chairman, CSE, GB) appreciated keynote speaker for giving a clear picture of the status of our women and showing the direction needed to move for the betterment of the current situation.

Prof. Dr. M. Nazrul Islam, Special Guest (Head, Department of Politics and Governance, GB) showed his own point of view that every human being should be considered as a component of politics. So equal participation of female and male citizens in casting vote for example can make a big impact on the nation. Bangladesh is heading towards developed countries and in order to achieve that gender equity and women empowerments are key factors for the success.

Participation of Dr. Tabassum Mumtaz, Principal Scientific Officer, IFRB, BAEC and 2019 OWSD-ELSEVIER Award winner from Bangladesh increased the core motivation of the program. She shared her experience about her research career and explained how she had been able to get the position with the support from OWSD.

Prof. Monsur Musa, Chief Guest (Dean, Arts and Social Sciences, GB. Advisory Member, iHub-GB) delivered valuable speeches on this program. He also instructed to document all the discussions and views being presented in this program.

Chair: Assistant Prof. Monirul Hasan Masum (Head, Department of Business Administration, &Deputy Director, iHub-GB) shared his experiences about the arrangement of this program. He also requested all the participants to give their valuable opinions regarding this program. At last, He thanked all the guests for their valuable time and making the program a successful one.

Through this program the participants agreed that women participation in STEM research is necessary for increasing the women contribution in science which will ultimately lead to ensure the women empowerment and gender balance in STEM fields.



Program highlights; Inaugural lecture by Nupur Karmaker (Top); keynote lecture by Prof Anupama (middle left), part of audience (middle right) and photos of closing ceremony (bottom)

