

COMMUNIQUÉ

NDB AND BANGLADESH CONCLUDE SUCCESSFUL SEMINAR ON

“Transforming Development: Building a culture of accountability through evaluation, auditing and ethics”

DHAKA, BANGLADESH • MAY 26, 2025



From L-R: Ms. Mirana Mahrukh, Additional Secretary and Wing Chief, Asia, JEC and F&F, ERD; Mr. Ashwani K. Muthoo, DG, IEO; H.E. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Hon'ble Adviser, Ministry of Finance; Mr. Md. Shahriar Kader Siddiky, Secretary, ERD; Mr. Iqbal Abdullah Harun, Secretary, Planning Division, Ministry of Planning; and Mr. Md. Kamal Uddin, Secretary, Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Ministry of Planning.

On Monday, May 26 2025, the NDB Independent Evaluation Office and the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance of Bangladesh joined up to organise a day-long seminar titled, “*Transforming Development: Building a culture of accountability through evaluation, auditing and ethics*”.

The event, held in Dhaka, was the first knowledge-sharing and capacity-building event of this magnitude held by NDB in Bangladesh since the country became a member of NDB back in 2021. Close to 150 participants attended, including senior level policymakers from Bangladesh, development practitioners and experts, private sector leaders and others—to hear and share experiences in embedding accountability, evaluation and integrity at the heart of development projects and how these could be applicable to Bangladesh and in other NDB member countries as they chart their development trajectory.



Chief amongst the high-level speakers at the event were *His Excellency Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, the Honorable Adviser of the Ministry of Finance* who saluted the great development strides that Bangladesh has made over the recent years but noted that growth also brings with it expectations for greater trust, accountability and transparency to make sure that economic growth is sustainable and spread as much as possible across all sectors of the society. He was followed by two special guests at the seminar: *Dr. Abhijit Banerjee, Nobel Laureate (2019), Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology*, who gave a keynote lecture on the role of impact evaluation in economics transformation; and *Honourable Minister Dr. Rania A. Al-Mashat, Minister of Planning, Economic Development, and International Cooperation, Egypt*, who shared the example of how the Government of Egypt is strengthening project transparency through digital monitoring platforms, offering insights relevant to fast-growing economies like Bangladesh.

NDB's operations in Bangladesh and its approach to strengthening impact, transparency and accountability were also centre stage during the event, with participants hearing about lessons taken from independent evaluations on the role of private sector engagement in development interventions, improving risk and governance oversight and control through the "combined assurance" approach, and how Uniform Principles and Guidelines For Investigations can streamline and provide consistency in conducting investigative activities by participating organisations. These sessions were led by senior officials from NDB, including the Director General (DG) of the Indian Regional Office, the DG of the Internal Audit Department and the Chief of the Ethics and Investigations Division, and enriched by perspectives from international partners such as the Asian Development Bank, the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation of South Africa, the Ministry of Finance, Brazil, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

The success of the event served to highlight the alignment of development principles between the Government of Bangladesh and NDB's approach working within country systems for greater development impact.

For more information on the event,
please visit the [event page](#)

