

Dr. Ijaz Hossain speaks on Energy Supply Challenges Confronting Bangladesh at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh

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The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh and the university's newly created research center, the Center for Enterprise and Society, inaugurated their monthly Business and Economics Talk Series today. The talk series will profile important issues impacting entrepreneurship and enterprise development in Bangladesh. The inaugural speaker was Dr. Ijaz Hossain from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, who spoke on Energy Supply Challenges Confronting Bangladesh. Dr. Hossain has emerged as one of Bangladesh's leading experts on energy. He earned his PhD in chemical engineering from University College London and has published extensively in national and international journals. Prof. Hossain has distinguished himself as an advisor to governmental and international agencies and as director of Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company Limited (BAPEX).



Dr. Ijaz Hossain presents on Bangladesh's energy challenges at ULAB

Dr. Hossain offered a dynamic and compelling presentation on the country's complicated energy problems, which was helpful to both students new to the topic and for the many experts that attended, such as Dr. Mohammad Tamin, former head of the Power and Energy Ministry.

Dr. Hossain initiated his talk with an overview of the world's energy situation, noting that China and the United States alone consume more energy today than the entire world did in 1971. On a per

capita basis Bangladesh only consumes 1/48th of what the

United States consumes. While the country's low consumption might be good for the global environment, demand for energy currently outstrips supply. At most Bangladesh produces 5,500 megawatts (MW) of electricity per day, but the country needs at least 6,500 MW. In fact, Dr. Hossain estimates that there is probably another 1,000 MW of suppressed demand. Currently, load shedding occurs around the clock and will only increase as we head into the summer months.



ULAB Vice-Chancellor Imran Rahman introduces Dr. Hossain

The government has attempted to meet the country's immediate energy needs by importing oil for use in generators. Unfortunately, this solution costs far more than what is recovered through billing, placing considerable pressure on the budget and the country's foreign exchange reserves. Furthermore, many other potential solutions will also cost considerably more than the low rates that Bangladeshis are accustomed to paying for energy. Dr. Hossain argued that liquefied natural gas (LNG) is far too expensive and that the government's projections for producing nuclear power woefully underestimate the cost of building a nuclear power plant. Greater domestic gas production offers one potential solution to the problem; however, Dr. Hossain contends that Bangladesh should be drilling at least ten

exploratory wells each year. By contrast, the country has only drilled five in the last three years. Energy can be imported from India, Bhutan or Nepal, but this will also entail a higher price tag and transmission from Nepal and Bhutan must pass through a part of Indian territory where there is considerable unrest.

As a result, Dr. Hossain considers domestic coal to be the best, lowest cost solution to the country's energy problems, despite vehement opposition from environmentalists in the coal producing region of the country. Imported coal offers the next best option; however, at a higher cost and with continued impact on foreign exchange. In either case, Bangladeshis need to arrive at the conclusion that era of cheap energy is over and that individuals have a responsibility to moderate their energy use as much as possible.



Dr. Hossain receives a crest of appreciation from CES director Daniel Sabet

প্রেস বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইউনিভার্সিটি অব লিবারেল আর্টস বাংলাদেশ (ইউল্যাব) এর নতুন গবেষণা কেন্দ্র “সেন্টার ফর এন্টারপ্রাইজ অ্যান্ড সোসাইটি” (সিইএস) ১৪ই মার্চ একটি সেমিনারের আয়োজন করে। এই সেমিনার এর বিষয়বস্তু ছিল “এনার্জি সাপ্লাই চ্যালেঞ্জস কনফ্রন্টিং বাংলাদেশ”। এতে বক্তব্য রাখেন বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় বুয়েট এর বিশিষ্ট অধ্যক্ষ ড. ইজাজ হোসেইন। এতে আরও অংশগ্রহন করেন ইউল্যাব এর ভারপ্রাপ্ত ভিসি প্রফেসর ইমরান রহমান, সেন্টার ফর এন্টারপ্রাইজ অ্যান্ড সোসাইটি (সিইএস) এর পরিচালক ড. ড্যানিয়েল এম সাবেত।