



## IACSS Bangladesh edition ends

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A two-day international conference titled ‘Cultural Transformations: Development Initiatives and Social Movements’ organised by English and Humanities Department and BRAC Development Institute of BRAC University concluded on Sunday.

The conference was attended by members of the Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Society (IACSS) including National University of Singapore, Lingnan University in Hong Kong, Tokyo University, Sungkonghoe University in Seoul, University of Jakarta, Centre for the Study of Culture and Society of Bangalore and representatives from other relevant networks, especially from Africa, Europe and North America.

Prof. Firdous Azim, Chairperson of English and Humanities, BRAC University delivered the welcome address on the first day of the conference. She said that the conference provided an alternative space for the production of intellectual knowledge. Prof. A.K. Azad Chowdhury, Chairman, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, graced the occasion as the chief guest and delivered his valuable speech. Prof. Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University also

gave his speech. Finally, Prof. Syed Hashemi, Director, BRAC Development Institute and Acting Chairperson, Department of Economics and Social Sciences delivered the vote of thanks.

Issues like identity, regional and national development, fluid borders, climate change and disaster management, economic and cultural globalisation were discussed in the conference. Besides, music, dance, film and theatre were also discussed from different perspectives. The conference provided a crucial platform for national and international researchers and scholars to critically explore the relationship between culture and socio, political and economic changes.

In the two-day programme, there were also presentations, film shows, dance, photographs and posters exhibition by the participating universities.

IACSS is a consortium of universities in the South, East and South East Asia. Past editions of the conference have been organised by Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (2009), Shanghai University (2007), Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore (2004). BRAC University hosted the biannual conference this year. IACSS has a lofty aim at exploring development as a social phenomenon and defining the interface between culture, collective values and development in Asia.

The writer is PRO, BRAC University.