

Session 1 - Harnessing digital transformation



Mr. Mominul Islam

Managing Director & CEO, IPDC Finance Limited

Mr. Islam joined IPDC in the year 2006 as head of operations. During his tenure at IPDC, he has played a pivotal role in reshaping the organization through strategic planning, rebranding, organizational restructuring, automation, process reengineering and control and compliance. Prior to joining IPDC he worked at American Express Bank (AEB) and Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) for more than 7 years covering general banking, risk management and business contingency planning etc. During his tenure at aeb he went through the six sigma black belt training at brighton, uk and managed several six sigma projects for AEB Bangladesh, Singapore, UK, Hong Kong, India and USA.



Mr. Md Arfan Ali

President & Managing Director, Bank Asia Limited

Mr. Ali is a career banker, having more than 26 years of diverse experience in banking profession to his credit. He started his career with Arab Bangladesh Bank Limited as a Probationary Officer in 1991. He joined Bank Asia in 1999 as Assistant Vice President before it started its operation and played a vital role to launch Bank Asia's formal operations. Mr. Ali pioneered Agent Banking operations in Bangladesh. He is also a member of "Academic Advisory Board, School of Business", Independent University (IUB), Bangladesh and current Advisor of Bangladesh Money Market Dealers Association (BAMDA). Recently, he has been elected as the Secretary General of Association of Bankers, Bangladesh (ABB).



Ms. Luna Shamsuddoha

Chairman, Dohatec New Media

Ms. Shamsuddoha is the founder and chairman of Dohatec New Media. Starting the company in 1992 along with a core team of engineering academics and professionals, she aggressively led the firm to become one of the leading IT companies producing quality software operating out of Bangladesh. Earlier she became the first woman to head any state-owned company in Bangladesh. She served as the chairman for Janata Bank from 2018-2019. Ms Shamsuddoha is also the President of Bangladesh Women in Technology (BWIT), Director of SME Foundation, Member of Council Global Thought Leaders on Inclusive Growth and a Board Member of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) and Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs (UCEP) Bangladesh.



Vincent Parr

General Manager, Asia Pasific, Tiaxa

Mr. Vince has been living in Asia for thirty-two years. He has managed businesses in the Philippines, Hong Kong and China and joined Tiaxa in 2012 as General Manager for Asia Pacific. Reporting to the CEO & Founder. Vince is responsible for all aspects of Tiaxa business in the region, which includes airtime credit services for mobile operators in the Philippines, Bangladesh, Nepal, Vietnam, Cambodia and Malaysia. Recently Tiaxa has begun offering Data Analytics consulting services leveraging the knowledge gained through a decade of credit scoring prepaid mobile subscribers. Prior to joining Tiaxa, Vince worked in Telecommunications for six years in senior management positions and twelve years in the music industry. He has a strong sales and marketing background and is able to work in extremely challenging environments.

Session 2- Adoption of omni channel distribution model



Kamal S. Quadir

CEO, bKash limited

Mr. Quadir is a Bangladeshi American entrepreneur, currently heading bKash, one of the fastest growing and largest mobile financial services company in the world. He was also the founder of CellBazaar, an electronic marketplace with 4 million users. Cellbazaar was acquired by Norwegian telecommunications operator Telenor in 2010. Mr. Quadir is a founding member of Open World Initiatives, a Lausanne, Switzerland-based organization of young thinkers. He is involved with Anwarul Quadir Foundation which recognises innovations in developing countries. He is a First Mover Fellow of The Aspen Institute. In 2009, TED selected Quadir a TED Fellow and the World Economic Forum recognised him as a Young Global Leader.



Farzanah Chowdhury

Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Green Delta Insurance Company Limited

Ms. Chowdhury is ACII (UK), Chartered Insurer, and the first female Managing Director and CEO in the financial sector of Bangladesh. She has recently been recognized as a Local SDG Pioneer 2016 by The UN Global Compact in the Global Leaders' Summit announced by H.E. Ban Ki-moon. She is one of only 10 outstanding individuals from across the world to have received the accolade for her work in achieving SDG 5 for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment. She was instrumental in launching 'Nibedita' - the first comprehensive insurance scheme for women in South Asia. She is also a member of various apex business bodies like Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry, CACCI and many more. Ms. Chowdhury is a member of the Board Member of Talent Nomics India.



Dr. Hasan Imam

Chairman, Bangladesh SME Corporation Limited

Mr. Imam, is the founder and chairman of Bangladesh SME Corporation Limited (BSCL), an FinTech company bringing innovative alternative financing and technology solutions to promote the socio-economic development of Bangladesh. Dr. Imam has served on Government of Bangladesh's Advisory Board for the Bangladesh Infrastructure Financing Fund, on Bangladesh Bank's Monetary Policy Committee and on SEC's Capital Market Advisory Board. He is the current President of the Association of Asset Management Companies and Mutual Funds. Before Bangladesh, Dr. Imam spent over a decade on Wall Street as Vice President and Managing Director at some of the world's leading investment banks, including Credit Suisse and Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette.



Mashrur Arefin

Managing Director, City Bank

Mr. Arefin was appointed as MD & CEO of the Bank in January 2019. His diverse experience at City Bank is showcased in the fact that he worked as Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Bank and also served as its Business Head of SME, Retail Banking, Cards, Agent Banking and Digital Financial Services (DFS). From 2007 to 2018, he was also the Chief Communications Officer (CCO) of the Bank. started his career in 1995 with ANZ Grindlays Bank, Bangladesh, as a Management Trainee. The last position he held at ANZ was as Head of Consumer Finance, Bangladesh. He also worked in Standard Chartered Bank, Qatar and ANZ Banking Group in Melbourne, Australia. Later, he held the position of Director for American Express Bank, Bangladesh and also worked in Citibank N.A. for a brief period as its Resident VP, Bangladesh.

Session 3- Creating a blended finance architecture for catalysing impact investment in Bangladesh



Arif Khan

CEO and Managing Director, IDLC Finance Limited

Mr. Khan brings more than 25 years of management experience to IDLC having served in various prestigious local, multinational and government organizations in the financial service sector. Mr. Khan most recently served as a Commissioner of Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) in a 5 year stint and has been widely acclaimed for his role in the development of the capital market of Bangladesh. Prior to this, he served IDLC Finance for 15 years before leaving as the Deputy Managing Director. Mr. Khan is a Fellow Member (FCMA) of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB), where he occupied the role of the president until recently. He also holds the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Charter and is a member of the CFA Institute, USA. He was the Founding President of Bangladesh CFA Society and Bangladesh Merchant Bankers' Association (BMBA).



Azad Chowdhury

CEO & Managing Partner, AIM STEPs

Mr. Azad Chowdhury is the CEO & Managing Partner of AIM STEPs, a licensed alternative investment management firm. He oversees all aspects of company management including investor outreach and regulatory affairs. A seasoned financial services professional with broad international experience gained across North America and Asia spanning 20+ years, he has worked at top tier firms on Wall Street including Salomon Smith Barney, Deutsche Bank and Royal Bank of Scotland. Mr. Chowdhury has lived internationally for 30 years and has a global network of investment professionals.



Sharawat Islam

Managing Director, Truvalu, Bangladesh

Ms. Islam is a finance and investment professional with over 17 years of experience. She has been engaged with Truvalu's SME development efforts in Bangladesh for the last 2 years. She also represents Truvalu in the Boards of investee companies. Before joining Truvalu, she worked as an investment banker for 10 years. Her expertise involves origination, structuring and execution of equity, fixed income, M&A and advisory transactions. She worked on equity placements, corporate bond issues, cross-border syndications, initial public offerings (ipos), preference share issues, tier – ii capital raising for banks, rights issues, M&A, commercial paper issues, underwriting, and corporate advisory. At the beginning of her career, she worked in different local and multinational banks in the areas of financial reporting, trade payments, asset - liability management, and market risk.



Shameem Ahsan

Chairman of Venture Capital & Private Equity Association of Bangladesh (VCPEAB)

Mr. Ahsan is an ICT entrepreneur, venture capital investor & policy maker widely recognized for his work to improve the reputation of the Bangladeshi ICT industry in the global space. He is also a General Partner of Fenox Venture Capital, a US\$ 1.5 billion fund head quartered in Silicon Valley and the co-founder & Chairman of BAGDOOM.com. He is the Chairman of Venture Capital & Private Equity Association of Bangladesh (VCPEAB). He has received the "Best Young Entrepreneur of Bangladesh" award from the Prime Minister of Bangladesh at Dhaka Chamber of Commerce Business Award. He is a member of the Prime Ministers Digital Bangladesh Task Force from the private sector, which is the highest policy making body to monitor and implement the vision of building Digital Bangladesh.

Session 4- Role of market facilitators



Mr. Arijit Chowdhury

Additional Secretary, Financial Institutions Division, Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh Secretariat.

Mr. Chowdhury has been serving Financial Institutions Division of Ministry of Finance for 12 consecutive years as Deputy Secretary, Joint Secretary and Additional Secretary respectively. During his long administrative career, Mr. Chowdhury has served in different capacities in state owned and supported institutions and in Bangladesh Secretariat. He currently serves as a Director of the Social Development Foundation and Bangladesh Municipal Development Fund. He is also a member of the General Body, SME foundation, Bangladesh Administrative Service Association, British Alumni and Financial Inclusion Strategies peer Learning Group (FISPLG) and Alliance for financial Inclusion (AFI). He holds an M.A, History, Dhaka university and MSc, Development Finance, Birmingham University.



Anir Chowdhury

Policy Advisor, a2i.

As the a2i policy advisor, Mr. Chowdhury ensures the implementation of the Government of Bangladesh's digital Bangladesh agenda. Under his leadership, a2i has been transformed from a project to the 'World's first Innovation Lab+' nurturing a nationwide ecosystem and proved its capacity as the key driver of the government agenda of public service innovation. His current focus is on the whole-of-government approach, innovation lab+, digital financial inclusion, civil registry and vital statistics- keeping everyone in the 'Big Picture', e-service delivery from crucial ministries and South-South cooperation. He is also facilitating the transformation of a2i to a state-owned authority under the Prime Minister's Office. Mr. Chowdhury has been working in a2i since 2007.



Afsana Islam

Deputy Team Leader,
Growth and Private Sector Development at UK Department for International Development (DFID)

Afsana Islam leads on DFID Bangladesh's financial sector development work and interventions in workplace safety and labour rights conditions in the RMG sector. She is responsible for policy influencing at the high level of the Government on issues related to financial sector policies, capital market development, impact investments, labour rights conditions and trade diplomacy. Afsana represents DFID at the Board of British Business Group. She comes with an experience of working in the private sector of Bangladesh, in leading multinationals like Standard Chartered and HSBC.



Manfred Fernholz

First Secretary and Head of the Food & Nutrition Security and Sustainable Development Section Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh

Mr. Fernholz started his career in the European Commission in 2005 as an expert on food and nutrition security and has been working in different assignments dealing with Development Cooperation strategies/policies and implementation. Prior to his role in Bangladesh in 2013, he worked for the European Commission in Yemen and Bolivia. Before joining the European Commission he worked as Chief of Cabinet of the Ministry of Agriculture for three different governments in Bolivia and as an international consultant in several countries in Latin America. He is an Agronomist and has a master's degree in Business Administration from the Harvard Institute for International Development.