

# DU holds 8th Urban Dialogue

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The 8th Urban Dialogue, themed 'Resilient Cities towards LDC Graduation', was held on Tuesday at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Building auditorium of Dhaka University.

The day-long event was jointly organised by DU's department of disaster science and climate resilience and the Urban INGO Forum.

DU vice-chancellor professor ASM Maksud Kamal delivered keynote speech at the inaugural function, while Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Atiqul Islam addressed the gathering as chief guest.

In his speech, Maksud Kamal noted that in developed countries, planning preceded urbanisation. However, in Bangladesh, development occurred before planning, posing significant challenges for effective urban management.

He highlighted the severe impact of climate change on developing and poor countries, including Bangladesh.

Mayor Atiqul Islam emphasised the responsibility of developed countries for carbon emissions and climate change, calling for them to provide compensation to affected nations.

He also acknowledged the local contribution to environmental pollution, especially in Dhaka, one of the world's most densely populated cities.

The mayor urged city dwellers to be more conscious of environmental protection and to work collectively to tackle climate change challenges.

The inaugural function was presided over by James Samuel, national director of Habitat for Humanity International Bangladesh. Special guests included Raihan Mahmood Kadery, country manager of Global One, Manish Kumar Agrawal, country director of Concern Worldwide, and Liakath Ali, director of BRAC.

The Urban INGO Forum Bangladesh, a consortium of 20 international non-governmental development organisations established in 2013, aims to facilitate effective coordination among urban development organisations, ensure collaboration through networking among stakeholders at different levels, and promote sustainable development of low-income communities in informal settlements.

The Urban Dialogue has been held annually since 2013 to achieve these objectives.