

Newsletter

WAEPa

Bangladesh



6th Executive Committee





President
Ar.-Plnr. Salma Awwal Shafi
L-552
sas2609@gmail.com



Vice President (Architect)
Ar. Fahmida Sultana
L-561
fahmida2794@yahoo.com



Vice President (Engineer)
Engr. Dr. Masuda Siddique Rozy
L-563
engrozy@gmail.com



Vice President (Planner)
Plnr. Dr Nasim Banu
G-007
nasimbanu411@yahoo.com



General Secretary
Ar.-Urb.Mngr.Tabassum Mahmood
L-545
mahmood.tabassum@gmail.com



Joint Secretary (Architect)
Ar. Rahela Akhter
L-517
degncare@bol-online.com



Joint Secretary (Engineer)
Engr. Dr. Armana Sabiha Huq
L-551
ashuqliva@gmail.com



Joint Secretary (Planner)
Ar.-Plnr. Syeda Jafrina Nancy
L-542
nancy1976bd@yahoo.com



Treasurer
Ar.-Plnr. Farhana Rashid
G-004
farhana.rashid.03@gmail.com

6th Executive Committee

Members



Member (Architect),
Ex-Officio Past President)
Ar. Selina Afroza
L-506
selinaafroza@yahoo.com



Member (Architect)
Ar Siddiqua Nasrin Sultana
Ananna
L-548
snsananna@gmail.com



Member (Architect)
Ar. Syeda Saikha Sudah
L-562
saikha029@gmail.com



Member (Architect)
Ar.-Plnr. Tasnova Iqbal
L-571
tasnova088@gmail.com



Member (Engineer)
Engr. Hasin Jahan
L-553
hasinjahan@wateraid.org



Member (Engineer)
Engr. Nayeema Nazneen Naz
L-558
nayeemalged@gmail.com



Member (Engineer)
Engr. Dr. Kazi Shamima Akter
L-572
shoma_shamima@yahoo.com



Member (Engineer)
Engr. Iftesham Bashar
L-554
rimibashar@gmail.com



Member (Planner)
Plnr. Farhana Khan Lima
G-012
f_khanbd@yahoo.com



Member (Planner)
Plnr. Tahmina Sultana
G-010
tamannatahmina007@gmail.com



Member (Planner)
Plnr. Tahmina Sultana
G-010
tamannatahmina007@gmail.com



Member (Planner)
Plnr. Farzana Bobi
G-024
farzanabby@yahoo.com

6th Advisers of the 6th Executive Committee, WAEPA Bangladesh



Adviser (Architect)
Dr. Zainab Faruqui Ali
G-424
zainab@bracu.ac.bd



Adviser (Engineer)
Engr. Naila Ahmed
G-035
nailaahmednoor@yahoo.com



Advisor (planner)
Dr. Ishrat Islam
L-504
ishratislam.buet@gmail.com
ishratislam@urp.buet.ac.bd



Legal Advisor
Barrister Iffat Gias Arefin

**Editor**

Ar. Syeda Saikha
Sudah

**Co-editor**

Ar. Siddika Nasreen
Ananna

**Member**

Dr. Armana Sabiha Huq

**Member**

Ar. Tasnova Iqbal

Website Address

<http://waepabangladesh.org/>

Social Media

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100065046963043>

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Department of	
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Editor,
Ar. Syeda Saikha Sudah



Co-Editor
Ar. Siddika Nasreen Ananna

Greetings from the 6th Executive Committee of the Women Architects, Engineers, Planners Association Bangladesh (WAEPA). A very warm welcome to the first NEWSLETTER of this year and this committee!

A new year means the start of a new direction, the beginning of new ventures, and facing new challenges that come to our professional as well as personal life. The objective of the NEWSLETTER has always been to foster closer ties among members and to create a greater sense of community and bonding within the professional field. As such, highlights within each segment will remain the anchor of our content but presented in a more cohesive and reader-friendly manner. The current issue covered news of the key events and activities of WAEPA from the months of January to December 2023. Emphasizing the profession's relevance and resilience, the 6th Executive Committee together with different committees newly formed, plays a proactive role in multiple sectors. This issue highlights the oath-taking ceremony of the 6th Executive Committee and the achievements of WAEPA members in their field to inspire young female professionals to join the team for achievement on a bigger platform.

we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the EC members, contributors, and the whole Newsletter Team for their relentless support and contributions.

Lastly, we would like to wrap up this note with condolence for the demise of the great freedom fighter and prominent member and former president of IAB Ar. Mubasshar Hossein and Architect Nargis Tanziman Ara, Chief Urban Architect of the Capital Development Authority (RAJUK), and all the great souls who left us in the past year. That is all from this time. We welcome feedback and new ideas on our social media page and e-mail address.

Website Address

<http://waepabangladesh.org/>

Social Media

<https://www.facebook.com/waepa.bd>



Dear Members of WAEPA,

My heartiest greetings from the 6th Executive Committee of WAEPA Bangladesh. This committee commenced in March 2023, and we have already passed seven months. We are aware that since the end of the COVID period, everyone has been busy trying to make up for the lost time and respond to unfinished work.

WAEPA members are women engaged in their respective professional arenas as Engineers, Architects, and Planners. They balance their time between jobs, and family, which are essential, and keep up with voluntary engagements of which WAEPA is one. Directly or indirectly all professional women have a deep feeling for extending their support to organizations that work for the cause of women's empowerment.

The sixth Executive Committee of WAEPA has EC members dedicated to carrying out their chartered duties. The knowledge and professional experience of individual members are often shared among members and a wider audience through WAEPA Talks, an online platform that has been active since the 5th EC in 2020.

We have also been holding EC meetings at times physically and look forward to outdoor activities in the coming months.

In the future, we as WAEPA members will strengthen our efforts to build the image of WAEPA as a strong women-led institution that represents women in the technical field and a platform to expand goodwill and friendship among all women in the profession.

Ar.-Plnr. Salma Awwal Shafi
President
6th Executive Committee WAEPA Bangladesh

General Secretary Notes

Fellow Members,

I wish you all a Good Day!

We are passing through an unrest time, with a hellscape made by the brutal Israelites in Gaza, where their bombs are murdering uncountable women and children and, in their prisons, they multiplied the torture and abuse of the women of Palestine. I start my speech with deep grief and ask for prayer for the oppressed.

The present and upcoming world challenges should be revisited in our country's policy and, we the women folks of WAEPA Bangladesh should rethink our strategy to sustain, protect ourselves, and strike back. As women technical persons our responsibilities also multiply to build greater resilience at home and at work to protect our loved ones from the grip of the oppressor.

Our members have so many roles to play. As a daughter, care for your parents, inspire your siblings, and be a good example to them. As a mother, build your children with ethics and greater physical and mental tolerance. Built them to be movers and shakers. As a wife, be a motivator and create a restful home. As an employee, work for your employer's best interest, and as a boss, be compassionate.

You also have your own you, you should love yourself most. You now know, that to uphold your respect, you need to build your self-resilience with knowledge and practice soft power.

WAEPA Bangladesh is the platform where we can unite to show our soft power. The 6th Executive Committee is working to bring together you and have a response from you.

Dear Members, believe in yourself, we can bring justice, balance and peace. The number doesn't matter the voice matters.

We the 6th Executive Committee of WAEPA Bangladesh need compassionate and firm steps from you because the "Needs are rising".,



Tabassum Mahmood

General Secretary

6th Executive Committee WAEPA Bangladesh



WAEPA Reception and Oath-taking Ceremony



The installation ceremony for the 6th EC OF WAEPA was held on the 10th of March 2023 at SEL Centre Panthapath. Vice Chancellor of Shanta Marium University Architect, Hosna Ara conducted the oath-taking ceremony, and Architect Planner Salma A. Shafi was declared as President with a 21-member Executive Committee. Architect Selina Afroze President of the 4th and 5th EC was also present and gave her inspiring speech and wished for the success of the 6th EC for the next two years WAEPA members from all professions attended the ceremony.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday conferred the Begum Rokeya Padak 2023 on five women for their outstanding contributions to society, women's education, and empowerment. first female vice-chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) Professor Khaleda Ekram (posthumous) got this prestigious Award. On behalf of her, her daughter received this Award from the Prime Minister. , Khaleda Ekram (died on 24 May 2016) 1st Female BUETIAN who received this honor (Begum Rokeya Padak/বেগম রোকেয়া পদক).



**Professor
Khaleda Ekram**

WAEPA President Ar.-Plnr. Salma Awwal Shafi became a Fellow Member of the Bangladesh Institute of Planners in December 2023. Her BIP membership Number is FBIP-083.

We congratulate her on her prestigious achievement and wish her luck.



Ar.-Plnr. Salma Awwal Shafi

Respected and Important Member of WAEPA Bangladesh Ar. Professor Shamim Ara Hasan is promoted to vice-cancellor of Sonargaom University on 20 December 2023. WAEPA Bangladesh feels proud of her achievements and wishes her the best of luck in her career.



**Professor
Shamim Ara Hasan**

Achievements of WAEPA Members



Professor Dr. Engr. Dil Afroza Begum is a Professor of Chemical Engineering, Chairman of the Technical Committee (ICS), IDCOL; and Adviser to the Women Architects, Engineers and Planners Association, Bangladesh (WAEPA); got a UGC recognition on 26 December 2023. WAEPA Bangladesh is proud of her accomplishments in her field of expertise.

Dr. Engr. Dil Afroza Begum

WAEPA Members in 20th Arcasia 2023

Architect Syeda Saikha Sudah and Architect Tasnova Iqbal participated as members of IAB and WAEPA Bangladesh at the 20th Asian Congress of Architects (ACA 20), theme: “Weaving a Future-Ready Environment” on 19th September 2023. Ar. Tasnova Iqbal presented her paper in the Architecture Education Gearing Up for the Future strand and they both had their research poster exhibited at the congress.





Dr Kazi Shamima Akter,

Associate Professor
Department of Environmental, Water
Resources, and Coastal Engineering
(EWCE), MIST

I graduated from the Dept of CE, BUET in 2007 and joined as a faculty in the Dept of CE of the University of Asia Pacific (UAP). I completed my MSc in Civil and Environmental Engineering from BUET in 2010. I was awarded the prestigious Japan Government scholarship of Monbusho in 2010 and completed my Ph.D. from the University of Tokyo in 2013. I joined the Corps of Engineering of Bangladesh Army in 2015 and currently serving as an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental, Water Resources, and Coastal Engineering (EWCE), MIST.

During my professional career of about 16 years, I have been actively involved in teaching and research at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. I am involved in OBE-based curriculum development, Environmental Engineering Lab Development, Equipment Procurement, etc. I am serving as an environmental expert in various consultancy and national projects, namely Tangail Economic Zone, Sonadia Eco-tourism Park, Lebukhali Cantonment, Sub-soil Investigation in Jahajer Char, Tubewell design in BGB, etc. I have published a book from ITN-BUET and several peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings. I am serving as the executive editor for dept technical periodicals and the section editor for the International Journal from MIST.



Eng. Khaleda Shahriar Kabir (Dora)

Khaleda Shahriar Kabir (Dora) was one of the first female engineers and civil engineers in Bangladesh. Before liberation, the East Pakistan University of Engineering and Technology, or the present Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) did not admit any female students in engineering subjects due to less number of female students interested in pursuing engineering due to extensive fieldwork and a month-long residential semester. Khaleda Shariar Kabir, Manowara Begum, and Shirin Sultana (Chumki) decided to study engineering at the most prominent engineering school of East Pakistan – the EPUET and they succeeded because of their strong endurance and determination. Khaleda Shariar Kabir and Shirin Sultana graduated as the first female Civil Engineers of East Pakistan in 1968.

Khaleda Shariar Kabir was born on 8th November 1946 in the district of Gaibandha. Her father was a professor of the Civil Engineering Department at the Ahsanullah Engineering College. Khaleda Shahriar Kabir (Dora) started her engineering career in an engineering consulting firm Mokbular Rahman and Associates in 1969. In 1970, she joined in East Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority (EWAPDA), now Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), as an Assistant Engineer. At that time, she was the first female engineer from East Pakistan appointed by the Pakistan Government. In 1975, when she earned her Master's degree, she became the first female student from Bangladesh to achieve a postgraduate degree in engineering. She Retired from BWDB in 2004 as an additional director.

Khaleda was a natural leader. She served as the president of the Bangladesh Water and Electricity Engineering Association. She worked hard to ensure rights and to implement fair policies for the engineers at their workplace. After retirement, she worked as the president of the Retired Engineers Association (REA) in BWDB. She was active in different organizations to eliminate gender discrimination and ensure the proper working environment for female engineers. She was also involved in many clubs and social activities. She received many awards for her contributions at the workplace and to society – the Dr. Z H Bhuiyan Foundation Science Award, Lions Club Distinguished Service Award, Women Architects, Engineers, Planners Association (WAEPA) Award, BUET Alumni Award, Awards by the Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB), BWDB – to name a few. Khaleda Shahriar Kabir (Dora) passed away on 20 January 2021. She had been the pioneer of women in engineering in Bangladesh. Her powerful story of determination, perseverance, confidence, and success still inspires many women to study engineering, especially civil engineering.



Nayeema Khatun, Planner

Ex. Vice President(Planner), Ex. Treasurer WAEPA

1. Tell us the story behind choosing this profession.

Many years ago, a French couple was my neighbours in Chittagong. One day, they expressed curiosity about the chaotic and haphazard condition of the city, questioning the city governing authorities, their involvement, and their contributions to urban development, among other concerns. I was initially shocked and bewildered by their questions, as I had no involvement in this discipline.

However, after obtaining a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning, I chose to pursue a career in this field.

2. How many years have you been in this profession and what are your achievements at work?

I have been in this profession for a total of 40 years.

First and foremost, I focused on acquiring in-depth technical knowledge in town and country planning, an expertise I applied extensively in my professional field. This discipline is undoubtedly vast and complex. My professional journey led me to financial solvency, safeguarding me against social and economic adversities. This financial empowerment was pivotal in enabling me to make independent personal decisions with conviction and determination. This aspect is particularly significant in the context of Bangladesh, where women often rely financially on their husbands or other earning members of the family. Moreover, I had to adeptly navigate a male-dominated workplace, an environment where women's rights are not effortlessly recognized or granted. Achieving success in such a challenging setting demanded extraordinary passion and perseverance.

3. What kind of problems have you faced in this profession?

Socially, there is a prevalent belief that men are more skilled than women, a stereotype that negatively impacts women's careers, including mine. I faced challenges such as being deprived of official opportunities, experiencing occupational segregation, and a lack of recognition for superior performance. When promotion opportunities arose, I encountered gender-based discrimination, which underestimated my capabilities. This period was particularly challenging, as it wounded my dignity and pride. However, through the utmost endeavor and consistently good performance, I eventually succeeded in overcoming these obstacles.

4. How do you evaluate this profession as a woman?

I never assumed that my workplace would be devoid of challenges. I embraced these challenges, finding them both demanding and exhilarating, in an environment where rights and positions are not simply handed to you. Consequently, a woman must prepare herself rigorously for a successful career. She needs to develop her skills diligently and express her opinions transparently, which can bolster her confidence in the workplace. Furthermore, she should demonstrate her competency for advanced training, higher education, and promotions to the next level, ensuring that her progress is not hindered by issues of gender dominance or preference. In addition, I would advise, "Equip yourself as a proficient professional and be vigilant about securing your recognition."

5. Where do you want to see yourself in the future?

Over the course of my 30-year career in this challenging profession, I encountered numerous complex factors that often hinder women's efficiency in management and responsibility. Despite these obstacles, I was resolute in applying my professional knowledge from the outset of my career. My unwavering vision was to establish myself as a competent professional in a gender-biased society. Now, as a retiree, I prefer to identify myself as a researcher, committed to pursuing advanced ideas and continuing my education in my discipline.



Significance and Struggles of Heritage Conservation

Sthapattacharjo Muzharul Islam's works in Bangladesh being modern, place-oriented, environment-responsive, and culturally sensitive developed the language of "Tropical Modern Architecture" in the Delta, which also had a universal appeal. His architecture is a new sub-genre of modern architectural language. His work being of the post-colonial era was dictated by local climate, industrially produced materials, and culture; being free of colonial styles and typical regionalism. It caters to optimum space design and respects socio-cultural paradigms. These designs have unique geometric and spatial complexity. Overall, he has established a new architectural language for tropical countries the merit of which echoes to date.

Building 75, located at Azimpur Housing Estate, was designed by Sthapattacharjo Muzharul Islam. It was constructed in 1962 and is claimed to be the first duplex housing in Dhaka. The structure, once a unique building of its time, now is dwarfed by surrounding modern high-rise developments. Locally known as "আজব বাড়ি", which translates as strange building, because of its unique spatial quality of a duplex not seen before in the context. The once intriguing duplex housing recently faced the threat of demolition. Upon site survey by the Heritage and Culture Subcommittee of the Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB), it was observed that the structure was still in use by Samaj Kalliyon Adhidaptar in upper floor and a convenience store on the ground floor. Since the local people developed place attachment to the structure, as the architecture was well integrated socio-culturally as in most cases of Sthapattacharjo Muzharul Islam's designs, it still harnesses activities. The place memory of this site is continuously evolving through these social cohesions.

- The



The agencies involved wanted to make use of the site, disregarding the place attachments present due to the popularity of building 75, by replacing it with a new structure conducting an entirely different function. A thorough negotiation with the agencies continued for months to convince everyone about the significance of Building 75. The structure is under the supervision of the Public Works Department (PWD). The secretary minister of PWD and minister of cultural affairs were approached to request quitting demolition plans as building 75 is an example of Early Bengal Modernism.

The Heritage and Culture Subcommittee functions in three layers comprising advisors, a working committee, and a task force. The structure was measured by them, and the existing drawings were made in phases. Later two different types of design solutions were proposed to reuse the building as accommodation facilities to cater to similar functions it was designed for initially and to substitute for the initial demolition plans by the authorities. A list of Sthapattacharjo Muzharul Islam's works was submitted to UNESCO through the contribution of various agencies in 2023 which was endorsed around May 2023. Building 75 is named on UNESCO's tentative list salvaged from demolition. Despite ongoing challenges, the Heritage and Culture Subcommittee has fulfilled its necessary obligations and has undergone this rigorous attempt to safeguard Building 75 to set an example for future conservation, adaptive reuse, and retrofit efforts. This article is a testament to persistent efforts by the Heritage and Culture Subcommittee to preserve elements contributing to national identity.



1st meeting 18th March 2023

Venue: online

Agenda:

- Increase of members of WAEPA and discussion on how to proceed.
- Holding a seminar in June 2023. Forming a seminar committee for the task.
- EC meetings and schedule, meeting type(Physical/ Zoom) venues, etc.
- Fund generation for WAEPA
- Miscellaneous

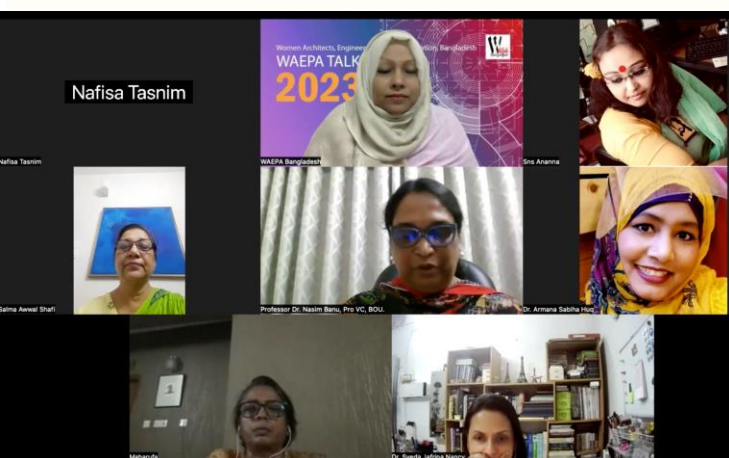


2nd meeting 27th May 2023

Venue: IEB

Agenda:

- Action Plan of the 6th EC
- WAEPA Talks about upcoming sessions and its speakers
- Membership drive4. e-newsletter publication5. Office space and Fund generation
- Seminar- Topic selection and work distribution
- Formation of graphical sub-committee
- Miscellaneous



3rd meeting 26, June 2023

Venue: Online

Agenda

- Action Plan for the tenure of the 6th Executive Committee
- WAEPA Talks about upcoming sessions and the speakers
- Membership drive
- E-newsletter Publication
- Office space and Fund generation
- Seminar-Topic selection and work distribution
- Formation of graphics sub-committee
- Miscellaneous

4th meeting

Venue: online

Agenda

- Welcome Note2. Minutes of 3rd EC3. Treasurer's Report4. Meeting with Presidents of IEB, IAB, BIP
- Progress of Bulletin Committee
- Progress of Seminar Committee
- Fund Raising
- Miscellaneous and



5th meeting 7th September 2023

Venue: WaterAid Office, Banani.

Agenda:

- Generating Funds for WAEPA
- Signatory of WAEPA Bangladesh's Bank Account
- Progress of Seminar Committee
- Progress of E-Newsletter Sub Committee
- Progress of Professional Development Sub-Committee
- Miscellaneous

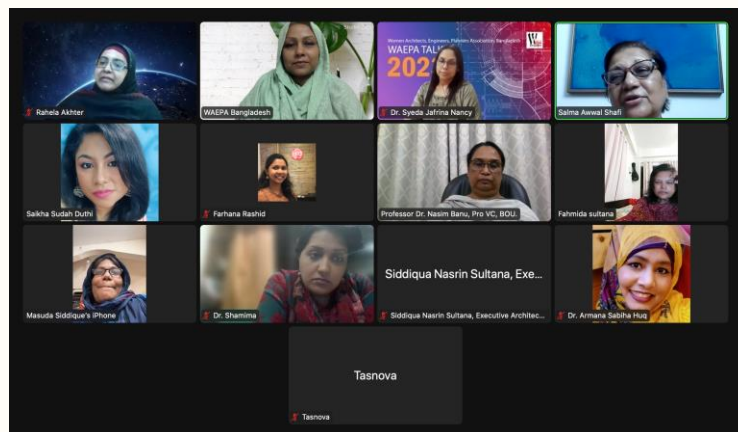


6th meeting 28th October 2023

Venue: Online

Agenda

- Progress of Seminar Committee- Presented by Plnr. Nasim Banu.
- Information on WAEPA Bangladesh's bank account & Financial Report-Presented by Ar- Plnr Farhana Rashid
- Progress on Membership Drive- Presented by Plnr Farhana Khan Lima
- Progress on Fund from SU- Presented by Ar Tasnova Iqbal.
- Presentation of e-newsletter- Engr Armana Sabiha Huq
- Miscellaneous

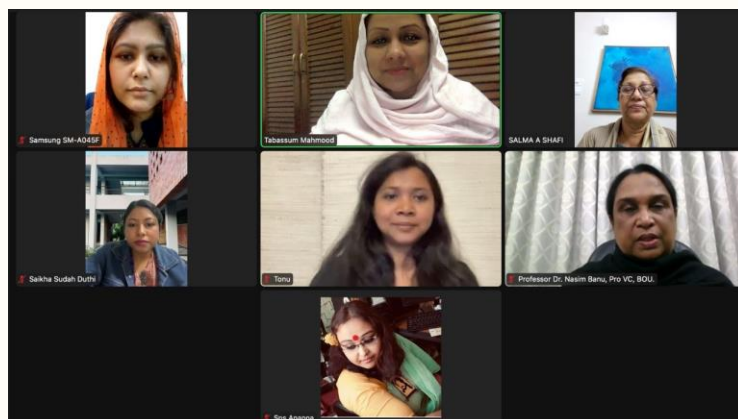


7th meeting 6th Jan 2024

Venue: Online

Agenda

- E-Newsletter: Final Completion and Publishing Date
- Seminar Committee: Update Progress
- Membership Drive
- Fund Situation & Fund Raising Drive
- MISC: Annual Picnic, WAEPA Talks



WAEPA TALKS - 16

2023



Keynote Speaker:
Farhana Rashid
Architect

**A Tale of
Bhoomiz
or Me or
A Woman
Professional !**

গল্পটা ভূমিজর কিংবা আমার অথবা
একজন পেশাজীবী নারীর!

Time: 11th November 2023, (Saturday) 7:30 PM
Meeting ID: 363 243 9747
Passcode: V4pEK7

Women Architects, Engineers, Planners Association, Bangladesh



Ar. Farhara Rashid Tanu shared her journey through the path of growing Bhoomiz under the title “ A Tale of Bhoomiz or Me A Women Professional”. She illustrated her experience in working on an Issue like “Public Toilet” very intrinsically that everyone was touched and related themselves to her position



WAEPA TALKS - 15

2023



Keynote Speaker:
Maharufa Hossain
Urban Planner

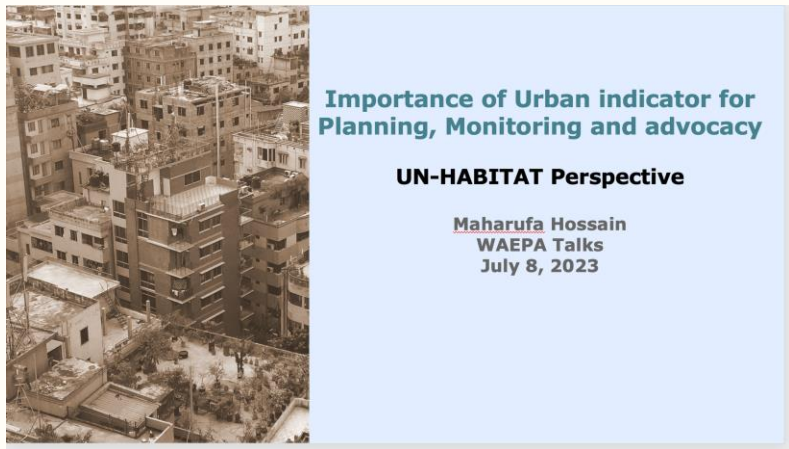
**Smart Indicator
for
Urban Planning
and
monitoring**

Time: 8th July 2023, (Saturday) 7:30 PM
Meeting ID: 363 243 9747
Passcode: V4pEK7

Women Architects, Engineers, Planners Association, Bangladesh



Urban Planner Dr. Maharuha Hossain gave an insightful presentation on the Importance of urban indicators for Planning, Monitoring, and Advocacy on 8th July 2023. Her presentation includes her experience working with several cities around the world and she also shared the difficulties she faced during working locally.



Architect Mubasshar Hussein

We Deeply Mourn the sad demise of Architect Mubasshar Hussein. Prominent architect, valiant freedom fighter, and activist Mubasshar Hussain died at the Bangladesh Specialized Hospital in the capital's Shyamoli around 1:38 am on Monday. He was 79 years old. Mubasshar served as the president of the Institute of Architects Bangladesh. He always promoted women's leadership and recognized WAEPA as a strong committed body for women in the technical field. According to Mubasshar's last wish, his body will be donated to the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital, the Institute of Architects has said.



Architect Nargis Tanziman Ara

IAB Fellow Architect Nargis Tanziman Ara (A-049) passed away on 5 July 2023 at 5:00 PM, in Dhaka (Inna Lillah wa Inna Ilahe Rajeun). The late architect graduated from BUET in 1983. During his career, she retired after serving as the Chief Urban Architect of the Capital Development Authority (RAJUK). In personal life, She was the consort of architect Al Amin Mir Genghis. Late architect Nargis Tanjiman Ara was suffering from kidney disease.

We Deeply Mourn the sad demise of Architect Nargis Tanziman Ara.



