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IUB celebrated the life and work of Dr. Saleemul Haq

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Climate change expert Saleemul Huq receives a crest during a reception hosted by Independent University, Bangladesh, on its campus in Dhaka's Bashundhara Residential Area on Sunday on his receiving the Order of the British Empire title from the British government. — Press release

Country specific content

Independent University, Bangladesh hosted a reception programme on Sunday on its campus in Dhaka's Bashundhara area in honour of renowned climate change expert Saleemul Huq's recent recognition as an officer of the Order of the British Empire by the British government.

Huq, who teaches Environmental Science and Management and is founder-director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development at IUB, was named in the British government's New Year's Honours List earlier this year for the OBE honour.

State minister for planning Shamsul Alam who attended the programme as chief guest, said: 'Bangladesh is the only country in this century to have prepared a 100-year Delta Plan to face the climate adversaries that will be upon us very soon. I worked together with Prof. Huq while making that plan had a very important role to play in formulating that plan.'

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British high commissioner Robert Chatterton Dickson said that the order and the honours system was a way for the wider UK community to provide recognition for extraordinary work and that was what the UK had done by awarding the OBE honour to Huq.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, chair of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, said: 'The way Professor Huq perseveres is something that I have always found quite remarkable, especially when it comes to the matter of loss and damage for developing countries.'

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Abul Kalam Azad, former principal secretary to the prime minister and currently a special envoy of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, A Matin Chowdhury, former chair of the IUB Board of Trustees, IUB vice-chancellor Tanweer Hasan and others spoke in the programme,

Saleemul Huq said: 'I truly believe that Bangladesh has the ability to be a global leader on the impacts of climate change. We're not just victims anymore. We are not just facing the problem, but now we are in the mindset of solving the problem as well.'

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IUB pro-vice-chancellor Niaz Ahmed Khan delivered the vote of thanks at the event. Family members of Huq were present during the ceremony.

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