



Brief Note

Prof. Saleemul Huq Memorial Public Lecture on Promoting Climate Justice: Roles of Courts and Youth

Date: 16th of April 2024, **Time:** 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM,
Venue: Auditorium, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)

Speakers

- **Prof. Dr. César Rodríguez-Garavito**, Professor, New York University School of Law, USA.
- **Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP**, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Context

The concept of Climate Justice is basically rooted in the principle of proportionality and the polluter-pays principle. It stipulates that responsibilities for addressing vulnerabilities, impacts, and responses to climate change should be determined according to historical pollution levels in the atmosphere. Moreover, vulnerable developing countries ought to receive financial, technological, and capacity building support from polluting countries based on their vulnerabilities. However, the concept of Climate Justice is not adequately reflected in policies and practices. Legal communities across various jurisdictions are making efforts to compel polluters to pay for climate-related loss and damage. Concurrently, youth and children have emerged as crucial stakeholders in the multistakeholder governance approach to climate change. This lecture aims to present some innovative, solution-oriented thoughts on climate litigations and meaningful youth engagement to promote climate justice.

Professor Saleemul Huq was a leading advocate for promoting climate justice. Over the past three decades, Professor Saleem has played a pivotal role in cultivating a 'Climate Generation' to respond to climate change, not only in Bangladesh but also worldwide. This emerging generation comprises academics, researchers, students, youth, children, climate negotiators, policymakers, NGOs, UN agencies, and development partners. His passing represents a loss to this continuity of their efforts. Nevertheless, this generation remains committed to continuing their work in the spirit of Prof. Saleem. This public lecture is dedicated to Professor Saleem and aims to educate all relevant stakeholders, particularly youth and children, and launch a campaign titled 'Youth Voice for Climate Justice.'



Lecture-01

Promoting Climate Justice through Litigations by Prof. Dr. César Rodríguez-Garavito

As the climate emergency intensifies, rights-based climate cases – litigation that is based on human rights law – are becoming an increasingly important tool for securing more ambitious climate action. Professor Rodríguez-Garavito’s latest book, [Litigating the Climate Emergency](#), is the first to offer a systematic analysis of the universe of these cases known as human rights and climate change (HRCC) cases. By combining theory, empirical documentation, and strategic debate among preeminent scholars and practitioners from around the world, the book captures the roots, legal innovations, empirical richness, impact, and challenges of this dynamic field of socio legal practice. It looks specifically at the sociolegal origins and trajectory of HRCC cases, the legal innovations of this type of litigation, and the strategies and impacts of these cases. In doing so, this book equips litigators, researchers, practitioners, students, and concerned citizens with an understanding of an important method of holding governments and corporations accountable for climate harms. Professor Rodríguez-Garavito will talk on the findings of his practice and latest book, as well as the role that courts and youth can play in facing the climate crisis.

Biography

César Rodríguez-Garavito is a Professor of Clinical Law and Chair of the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at NYU School of Law. He is the founding director of the Earth Rights Advocacy Clinic, the Future of Rights and Governance (FORGE) Program, the Climate Law Accelerator (CLX), and the More Than Human Rights (MOTH) project at NYU Law. Professor Rodríguez-Garavito is a human rights and environmental justice scholar and attorney whose work focuses on global governance, climate change, socio economic rights, business and human rights, Indigenous peoples' rights, and the human rights movement. As a scholar and practitioner, he has conducted field research and environmental and human rights investigations around the world, including in Brazil, India, South Africa, the Caribbean region, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Kenya, Mexico, Peru, and the United States. He holds degrees from NYU’s Institute for Law and Society (MA), National University of Colombia (MA Philosophy), University of the Andes (JD), and the University of Wisconsin-Madison (MS, PhD in Sociology).

Lecture-02

Promoting Climate Justice through Youth Engagements: Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP

Article 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) stipulates that Parties must guarantee meaningful public participation in addressing climate change impacts and developing responses. The decisions made at COP28 also recognized the pivotal role of children and youth as catalysts for change in combating and responding to climate change. Furthermore, it urged

the designated youth climate champion to facilitate meaningful involvement of children and youth in climate action, including within the UNFCCC process and related activities at local, national, and regional levels. Despite the significant attention garnered by this approach, there has been minimal emphasis on ensuring meaningful youth participation in decision-making and implementation processes concerning climate change. Mr. Chowdhury, a decision-maker at both global and national levels, will discuss the current status of stakeholder engagement strategies on climate change that marginalize youth. He will also explore how stakeholder engagement strategies can be designed and implemented to ensure effective youth involvement in climate change planning processes at local, national, regional, and global levels.

Biography

Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP, currently holds the esteemed position of Minister at the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC). Previously, he served as the Special Envoy to Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, focusing on matters of Environment and Climate Change. Mr. Chowdhury plays a pivotal role not only in Bangladesh but also represents 45 other Least Developing Countries (LDCs) in high-level negotiations under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. His instrumental efforts in establishing the loss and damage fund during COP27 have garnered recognition globally. As an active Member of Parliament (MP) in Bangladesh, Mr. Chowdhury proposed a groundbreaking provision in the Constitution of Bangladesh regarding the protection and enhancement of the environment and biodiversity. This proposal was successfully integrated into the constitution as Article 18A in 2011. Furthermore, during his tenure as the 28th President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) from 2014 to 2017, he played a significant role in rallying parliamentarians worldwide to address environmental and climate change issues collectively. Educated in economics, law, and politics in the UK, Mr. Chowdhury is particularly passionate about fostering youth leadership in response to climate change challenges.

Agenda:

Time	Issues	Speakers
4:00 pm	Registration	
4:30 pm	Introduction to Lectures and recalling Prof. Saleem's Contributions to address Climate Change Impacts	Adv. Hafij Khan , Director, Centre for Climate Justice-Bangladesh (CCJ-B) & Research Fellow, New York University School of Law, USA
<i>Lecture Moderator- Prof. Dr. Borhan Uddin Khan</i> , Department of Law, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)		
4:35 pm	Welcome Remarks	Prof. Dr. Tanweer Hasan , Honorable Vice Chancellor, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)
4:40 pm	Lecture-01: Promoting Climate Justice through Litigation	Prof. Dr. Cesar Rodriguez- Garavito , New York University School of Law, USA
5:00 pm	Lecture-02: Promoting Climate Justice through Youth Engagements	Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP Honorable Minister, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
5:20 pm	Open discussion	Q &A Session
5:40 pm	Vote of thanks	Mr. Saqib Huq , Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)
5.45 to 6pm	Lectures- Meet the Press	



Organizers

- Centre for Climate Justice, Bangladesh (CCJB)
- Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, New York University School of Law (NYU)
- Department of Law, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)
- International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)
- Bangladesh Environment and Development Society (BEDS)
- Friendship
- World Youth for Climate Justice (WY4CJ)

