

Bangladesh Development Initiative

5541 Bondy Drive, Erie, PA 16509, USA

15160 SE 54th Place, Bellevue, WA 98006, USA

EIN: 25-1587450

www.bdiusa.org

Press Release

December 18, 2012

2012 BDI Lifetime Achievement Award

The Bangladesh Development Initiative (BDI), a non-partisan research and advocacy group based in the United States, is pleased to announce that Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), is the recipient of the *2012 BDI Lifetime Achievement Award*.

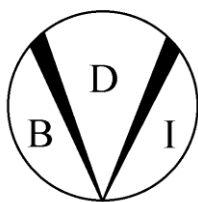
The award established in 2012 is designed to “*honor outstanding individuals who, through their scholarly and/or policy and civic engagements, have contributed significantly to understanding the challenges, and pursuing the ideals that would lead to the development of Bangladesh and improving the quality of life for its citizens.*”

Through the award, the Executive Committee of the BDI would like to recognize and celebrate the work of a scholar of high reputation and integrity, but also inspire others to develop ideas through rigorous research and apply these for the betterment of common Bangladeshis.

Throughout his long and distinguished career as an economist, researcher, political scientist and public intellectual, Professor Sobhan has worked to uphold the welfare and interests of the average Bangladeshi, especially the poor. Through his many books, articles and speeches, he has contributed to the body of knowledge that has improved our understanding of poverty, the process of economic growth, and the role of power in a society. His most recent book, *Challenging the Injustice of Poverty: Agendas for Inclusive Development in South Asia*,” published in 2010 draws upon “studies across various South Asian countries, (the book) redefines poverty as a process where certain sections of the society are excluded from equal participation in development opportunities as well as decision-making. It further identifies a variety of operational ideas for policymakers, political activists and civil society advocacy groups committed to build a more just and poverty free society in South Asia.”

Professor Sobhan has played an active advocacy role and made many contributions outside the world of academe, including serving as Envoy Extraordinary with special responsibility for Economic Affairs (1971), Member Bangladesh Planning Commission (1972-74), Member of the Advisory Council of the President of Bangladesh in charge of the Ministry of Planning and Economics Relations Division (1991), Founding Chairman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) since 1993, and as Chairman of the Board of the Grameen Bank (1996-2002).

For his distinguished service to the economics profession and to the nation, Professor Sobhan has received a number of awards including, the *Bangladesh Bank Purushkar* (2000) for services to



Bangladesh Development Initiative

5541 Bondy Drive, Erie, PA 16509, USA

15160 SE 54th Place, Bellevue, WA 98006, USA

EIN: 25-1587450

www.bdiusa.org

the economics profession in Bangladesh, and the *Bangladesh Shadinata Purushkar* (2008), the highest civil award in Bangladesh.

The award will be formally presented at BDI's International Conference organized with the Center for South Asia Studies on the UC Berkeley campus, scheduled for February 22-24, 2013. As the winner of the award, Professor Sobhan will have the opportunity to present a lecture on a subject of his choice. For more information on the BDI conference, please visit, www.bidusa.org, or contact, Dr. Munir Quddus, President BDI; muquddus@pvamu.edu.