

Brief Biography of Saima Wazed Hossain

Saima Wazed Hossain, appointed as WHO's Goodwill Ambassador for Autism in South-East Asia region in 2017, is a licensed school psychologist. She has been involved in advocacy for supporting the needs of people with disabilities since 2009. She is an expert on neurodevelopmental disorders and mental health, and an accomplished speaker and author. Her relentless effort has led to adoption of an International Declaration on Autism, 3 international resolutions on autism adopted by WHO-SEAR (SEA/RC65/R8), the United Nations General Assembly (67/82), and World Health Assembly (WHA67.8). In 2013, she was the designated Speaker for the Government of Bangladesh at the Special High Level Event on Disabilities at the United Nations General Assembly, New York. In 2014 she was the first recipient of Excellence in Public Health Award by WHO-SEARO, and in 2015, she was made WHO-SEARO's Regional Champion for Autism. Prior to that she was a member of WHO's Expert Advisory Panel on Mental Health.

She is currently the Chairperson of the Bangladesh National Advisory Committee for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders, Chairperson of Shuchona Foundation (a not-for-profit advocacy, research, and capacity-building organization based in Dhaka), and the International Focal Point of the Advisory Group on Disability and Disaster Risk Management of Ministry of Disaster Management.