BUFT Faculty Member attend International Confluence, “What’s next: Future of Design Education”

Afroza Akter Rita, Lecturer of BGMEA University of Fashion and Technology has recently attend an innovative event in “World Cafe’ Style Confluence”, ‘what’s Next: Future of Design Education’, which was held on 19th & 20th December 2014 at New Delhi, India. Well-known design institute Pearl Academy hosted this discussion with design academicians from around the world on the ‘Future of Design Education.’ The two-day confluence was aimed at stimulating and inspiring participants to foster innovation and creativity in their learning environments. In this event Pearl is inviting International Design faculty as participants, senior Faculty as mentors & global design thought leaders as Keynote Speaker to discuss and debate on key issues in Design education that are changing constantly.

The Theme of The Conference is Future of Design Education and four subthemes are, Macro & Micro Trends sweeping education landscape, Pedagogy of the future, Curriculum of the Future & Learner of the Future. The Keynote speakers are John Thackara, founder/director of Doors of Perception, MP Ranjan, design thinker; Aditya Dev Sood, founder and CEO of Center for Knowledge Societies; Prof. Vijaya Kumar, Professor, Illinois Institute of Technology; Satish Gokhale, Industrial product designer and Colin Renfrew, pro-VC and Dean; Manchester Metropolitan University (UK), along with budding professionals from the design world.

Participants of what’s next: Future of Design Education In New Delhi, India.

Appreciating the academy’s initiative ‘What’s Next’, Claudio Moderini, director, design, Domus Academy, Milan, said, “This is a great initiative as the creative economy needs design thinkers. A discourse around the future of the learner and the pedagogy of tomorrow is truly the need of the hour."

Sharad Mehra, CEO, Pearl Academy, said, "Design education in India has matured to a point where it can imagine and contribute within a wider scope and take on complex problems. Design faculty needs to be introduced to a variety of backgrounds and exposure to innovate and new-age tools and methods to provide effective solutions to issues of the society. Through this two-day World Cafe Style Confluence, we are investing our efforts into sensitizing and informing the design educators about these sweeping changes. With four keynote speakers, eight mentors, 96 participants and eight conversation tables, the confluence concluded with powerful and game-changing ideas with the potential to transform design education going forward."

I am pleased to attend this innovative event in “World Cafe’ Style Confluence”, ‘what’s Next: Future of Design Education.’ This two day round table confluence conducted using the World Cafe format is a great way to sensitize and inform a group of design teachers to several of these sweeping changes and get them to meet colleagues’ mentors and Design thought leaders to share insights that can help transform design education going forward. Key issues in design education are in constant change and need to be monitored and mapped into current and ongoing courses for the curriculum. Design faculty needs to be introduced to a variety of teaching methods and since they come from a variety of backgrounds, they may need exposure to innovative / new-age tools and methods.

Afroza Akter Rita
Lecturer, Fashion Design Dept,
BUFT.