

Ms. Nihad Kabir, Esq.

Board Member

AirQualityAsia

Nihad Kabir is an advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. She is the Senior Partner of Syed Ishtiaq Ahmad and Associates. After completing her BA and MA in Law at Cambridge University in England, she was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1989. She returned to Bangladesh shortly after, and joined the chambers of Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed and Associates, a leading law firm of the country.

She was the Vice President of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and is a Committee Member of the Bangladesh Employers' Federation. She is a member of the Company Law Reform Committee and the World Bank South Asia Region's Chief Economist's Advisory Council; and was a member of the National Education Policy Committee of Bangladesh. Ms. Kabir is an Independent Director on the Board of BRAC Bank Limited, Apex Adelchi Footwear Limited, and Square Pharmaceuticals Limited. She is on the Board of, among others, South Asia Center for Policy Studies (SACEPS), Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL), Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) and bKash.

Although Kabir's area of expertise has been corporate commercial law, she has used her knowledge of law in a variety of other fields. She has been a consultant at the Asian Development Bank, she is currently a member on the panel of experts for the Padma Bridge Project, a member of the World Bank South Asia Chief Economist's Advisory Council, the Current Secretary General of Ain O Salish Kendra (Law and Mediation Centre), Independent Director at Brac Bank, Director at bKash and Independent Director at Square Pharmaceuticals Limited.

"I think having a profession is important for a woman, and law is a profession that allows you to do many other things using law as a base," she tells us. When Kabir started off as a lawyer, there were only a handful of women working in her profession, but a lot has changed since then. Today, there are dozens of women lawyers are seen in court. "I think women have come a long way since the '71," she says. "Institutions like Grameen, and other NGOs as well as the government have taken a lot of steps to promote the economic and social empowerment of women. From the late 70's and the early 80's the garment industry too, has really changed the economic landscape by giving women paid work," she continues. "For many years now, our prime ministers and leaders of opposition have been women; even our speaker now is a woman."