



Bangladesh Development Initiative, USA (BDI)



Democracy and Development in Bangladesh Forum (DDBF)



Harvard Kennedy School, The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation

Venue: JFK School of Government
Harvard University
79 John F. Kennedy Street
Cambridge, MA 02138, USA

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

“IDEAS AND INNOVATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BANGLADESH: THE NEXT DECADE”

Following a highly successful conference on BANGLADESH IN THE 21ST CENTURY in 2008, a second conference is being organized jointly by *Bangladesh Development Initiative (BDI)*, *Democracy and Development in Bangladesh Forum (DDBF)*, and *The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance & Innovation, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University*. This two-day conference will be attended by scholars, professionals, development practitioners, activists, government officials, entrepreneurs, and dignitaries from a variety of disciplines, perspectives, and areas of expertise. There will be participants from the US, Bangladesh and other countries as well. A large number of scholarly papers will be presented, policy options will be offered, and different points of view discussed, in the context of contributing to, and perhaps having an impact on, the developmental discourse on Bangladesh. Panel discussions will be organized along different tracks focusing on:

- Governance
- Energy & Environment
- Human Infrastructure
- Investments and Resource Mobilization
- Media & Culture

All papers have been vetted by committees consisting of experts to ensure quality and relevance. The conference is expected to provide a major platform for a serious and meaningful discussion of issues, challenges and opportunities Bangladesh faces at this critical juncture in its history, as it charts new directions towards its future, and nurtures ambitious hopes about its possibilities.

Bangladesh is the seventh largest country in the world in terms of population and is seen as a development success in terms of increased literacy, education and reduced fertility. It has also been listed among the *Next-Eleven* by Goldman Sachs. Although it is well known for its development experiments, with the Nobel Peace Prize being awarded to the Grameen Bank and its founder, Professor Muhammad Yunus, the country faces many challenges such as restoration of democracy, alleviating poverty, provision of education and employment for its growing population, and reducing environmental pressures on its riverine landscape.

Among the dignitaries and key speakers expected at the conference are the following:

- A.K.M. Masihur Rahman (Prime Minister's Adviser for Economic Affairs)
- Syed A. Samad (Executive Chairman, Board of Investment, Prime Minister's Office)
- Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury (Power and Energy Adviser to the Prime Minister)
- Atiur Rahman (Governor, Bangladesh Bank)
- Rasheda Chowdhury (Former Adviser, Caretaker Govt. and Executive Director, CAMPE)
- Hossain Zillur Rahman (Former Adviser, Caretaker Government and Chair, PPRC)
- Iqbal Qadir (Founder and Director, Legatum Center for Development & Entrepreneurship, MIT)
- Shelley Feldman (Cornell University and American Institute of Bangladesh)
- Peter Rogers (Harvard University)
- John Thomas (Harvard University)
- Michael Owen (Deputy Assistant Secretary, US Department of State)
- Elena R. Soderblom (Bangladesh Desk Officer, U.S. Department of State)
- James Moriarty (H.E. the US Ambassador to Bangladesh)
- A.K. Abdul Momen (H.E. Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations)
- Akramul Qader, (H.E. Ambassador of Bangladesh to the United States)

- Manzoor Ahmed (Institute of Educational Development, BRAC University, formerly of UNESCO)
- Mahfuz Anam (Editor, Daily Star)
- Matiur Rahman (Editor, Prothom Alo)
- Shykh Seraj (Channel-I)
- Qazi Kholiquzzaman (Chairman, Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad)
- Mustafizur Rahman (Executive Director, Center for Policy Dialogue)
- Mustafa Mujeri (Director General, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies)
- A. Atiq Rahman (Executive Director, Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies)
- Anu Muhammad (Professor, Jahangirnagar University)

A cultural show is also planned for the evening of 9th October, themed: ***Power Within: Rediscovering the Strength of the Human spirit***. A celebration of power and creativity of the human mind, through music, dance, and poetry, symbolizing humanity's deepest aspiration for peace and harmony.

Details of the conference are available at www.bdiusa.org. It is important for intending attendees to register for the conference, details of which are available at the above web site.

Among the core organizers of the conference are:

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About the Organizers:

Bangladesh Development Initiative (BDI) is a USA-based non-profit organization comprised of independent scholars associated with institutions of higher education in the United States and involved in scholarly exchanges between the United States and Bangladesh through establishing educational programs, publishing an academic journal — *Journal of Bangladesh Studies*, [sustaining a book publication program](#) to archive indigenous knowledge, and organizing conferences that debate policy prerogatives for Bangladesh and its various sectors.

Democracy and Development in Bangladesh Forum (DDBF) is a Boston-based non-profit organization of Bangladeshi-American scholars and professionals residing across the USA. DDBF was formed primarily as a critical forum to enable the Bangladeshi diaspora to develop into a cohesive and resourceful force with a view to contributing to the democratic and socio-economic development of Bangladesh. DDBF also seeks to act as an advocacy group to promote the Bangladesh interest in the U.S. foreign policy.

The Roy and Lila Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University fosters excellence in government around the world in order to generate and strengthen democracy. Through its research, publications, curriculum support, global network, and awards program, the Ash Institute explores critical issues in democratic practice and effective governance. By engaging a broad, global community in which knowledge is shared, by generating and supporting research and curriculum materials, and by highlighting exemplary government programs, the Institute serves as a catalyst for successfully addressing many of the world's most pressing concerns and, in turn, improving the lives of its citizens.

Supporting Organizations:

Support from the following organizations is gratefully acknowledged:



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