



BYLC Bangladesh
Youth Leadership
Center

**YOUTH
LEADERSHIP
SUMMIT 2016**

CONNECT. COLLABORATE. CO-CREATE



About BYLC

Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC), the country's first leadership institute, exists to build connections among youth from diverse backgrounds, equip them with leadership skills, and enable them to have high impact in public, private, and civil sectors. All our efforts aim to strengthen prosperity, justice, and inclusiveness in societies worldwide.

Vision

A prosperous, just, and inclusive world driven by courageous, compassionate, and competent leaders.

Mission

Our mission is to build connections among youth from diverse backgrounds, equip them with leadership skills, and enable them to have high impact in public, private, and civil sectors.

Our approach to teaching leadership

At BYLC, we believe that leadership is distinct from authority. It is a process, not a position. We understand leadership as the process of mobilizing a group of people to bring about positive change in society. This is especially relevant to a country like Bangladesh where the median age is 24, and where most young people do not hold formal positions of authority. We equip youth with relevant skills and instill in them the competence, compassion, and courage that is required for effective leadership in society.

Our main strength lies in our program design and teaching methodology. Using a combination of large class discussions, small group peer consultations, and reflection and team-building exercises, we push students out of their comfort zones and make them think more deeply about what it means to exercise leadership. The experiential environment in the classroom ensures that our students develop self-awareness and the ability to actively step out of their comfort zone to take initiative.

We begin by conducting reflection exercises which help students develop a deeper understanding of their own values, priorities, and motivation. If young people begin thinking about their purpose in life from an early age, they will be able to see their purpose extend beyond their personal ambitions to solving national and communal problems. However, making progress on this front often requires a renegotiation of existing and conflicting priorities. This kind of change in behavior, habits, and values is central to our approach to leadership development.

A cornerstone of BYLC's approach involves uniting youth from diverse socio-economic and educational backgrounds. In Bangladesh, there are three types of educational mediums, namely English medium, Bengali medium, and Madrasa (Arabic) medium. It is largely because of this systemic divide that students from divergent backgrounds fail to build a bridge of communication between each other. To mend this gap, BYLC works at the intersection of these three mediums by providing a common platform for students from different backgrounds to come and work together.

We believe that the youth of Bangladesh will shape our collective future. Our programs equip participants with necessary leadership skills, promote inclusiveness and tolerance, and provide them with a platform to connect and share ideas with like-minded peers, making them uniquely qualified to lead us towards a world that is just, inclusive, and prosperous.





Youth Leadership Summit

The 3-day Youth Leadership Summit focuses on the core challenges encountered by youth leaders. Through a competitive screening process, YLS brings a diverse group of young delegates from around the world together with distinguished experts, innovators, and leaders in the public, private, and non-profit sectors for a journey of collective exploration, reflection, and networking. The summit features a mix of plenaries and panels on entrepreneurship, global citizenship, education and career, gender and leadership, politics, and innovation. Teambuilding activities and reflection sessions give delegates opportunities to deepen their understanding of effective, meaningful, and inclusive leadership. Eligible applicants are in college, university, or at the start of their career.

Objectives

- Create a common space for an inter-generational dialogue and knowledge sharing on pressing local, national, and global challenges
- Facilitate leadership training for youth and enable them to make informed decisions about their career
- Foster connections among youth determined to engage in courageous, compassionate, and competent leadership around the world



Youth Leadership Summit 2016 was held in International Convention City, Bashundhara, Dhaka from August 18 to August 20, 2016. It centered around the theme *Connect, Collaborate, Co-create*. The rigorous admissions process competitively selected 400 students from over 2700 applications from all over Bangladesh and 60 countries around the world. With financial support from UKAid, YLS 2016, brought together university students and young professionals from seven countries for three days of exploration, leadership training, and networking.

This year's leadership faculty included Ejaj Ahmad, Founder and President of BYLC, former Warden of Keble College, Oxford University, Sir Christopher Ball, and Harvard professors, Dr. Dean Williams and Dr. Hugh O'Doherty. The leadership sessions centered on examining the opportunities and dangers of exercising leadership in an uncertain world and collectively exploring creative solutions to society's most urgent challenges.

Experts from different sectors participated in thematic plenaries on globalization, education, and entrepreneurship to explore the nuances of leadership within different contexts. Plenaries included '*Leadership in an inter-connected world*', '*Changing landscape of tertiary education in the 21st century*', '*Inclusive economy & entrepreneurship*', and '*Investing in the next generation*'.

The Summit aimed to provide Bangladesh's youth a platform to be inspired, exchange ideas, and implement their learning in the real world. Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Elite Force, Renata Limited, Adcomm Limited, Majumder Group, Abdul Monem Limited, F-commerce platform Shop Up, and Aamra Limited were valuable partners.

24
speakers

19 national
5 international

4
**leadership
faculty**

400 DELEGATES

76 educational
institutions

25 different
cities

of
BANGLADESH

- **388 national**
- **12 international**

Young professionals from **12** public, private, civil
and nonprofit
establishments

7 countries

Thursday,
August 18, 2016

DAY 1

8:00 am–9:00 am	Arrival and registration	4:45 pm–5:15 pm	Tea break
9:30 am–10:30 am	Opening ceremony <i>Welcoming remarks</i> <i>Akhter Matin Chaudhury , Chairperson, BYLC</i> <i>Introductory remarks</i> <i>Gowher Rizvi, International Advisory Board Member, BYLC</i> <i>Special remarks</i> <i>Jane Edmondson, DFID Country Representative</i> <i>Special remarks</i> <i>Biren Sikder, Honorable State Minister for Youth and Sports</i> <i>Keynote address</i> <i>Sir Christopher Ball, former Warden of Keble College, Oxford University</i> <i>Remarks by the chair of the ceremony</i> <i>Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Honorable Speaker of the Parliament</i> Tea break	5:15 pm–5:45 pm 6:00 pm–6:15 pm	Reflection and debrief Music by Palki Ahmad
10:30 am–11:00 am			
11:00 am–12:30 pm	Leadership session I: Leadership in an uncertain world <i>Led by Ejaj Ahmad, Founder & President, BYLC</i>		
12:30 pm–1:45 pm	Lunch, and prayer		
2:00 pm–3:15 pm	Leadership session II: Immunity to change <i>Led by Hugh O'Doherty, Harvard faculty</i>		
3:30 pm–4:45 pm	Plenary: Leadership in an interconnected world <i>Chaired by Manzoor Hasan OBE , Founding Board Member and former Chairperson, BYLC</i> <i>Panel includes</i> <i>Abrar A. Anwar , CEO, Standard Chartered Bangladesh</i> <i>Marcia Bernicat , U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh</i> <i>Sara Hossain , Founding Board Member, BYLC & Honorary Director, BLAST</i> <i>Pauline Tamesis , UNDP Country Director</i>		

Friday,
August 19, 2016

DAY 2

8:00 am–9:00 am

Arrival

9:30 am–10:45 am

Debrief and Leadership session III: Designing effective interventions

Led by Ejaj Ahmad , Founder and President, BYLC

Presentation by DFID

10:45 am–11:15 am

Tea break

11:15 am–12:30 pm

Plenary: The changing landscape of tertiary education in the 21st century

Chaired by Gowher Rizvi, Member, International Advisory Board, BYLC

Panel includes

Pradeep Singh, Deputy Dean and CEO, Mohali Campus of the Indian School of Business (ISB)

Kazi Anis Ahmed, Director and Chief Strategy Officer, Gemcon Group

Omar Rahman, Vice Chancellor, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)

Maimuna Ahmad Founder & CEO, Teach for Bangladesh

2:00 pm–3:15 pm

Plenary: Inclusive economy & entrepreneurship

Chaired by Annisul Huq, Mayor, Dhaka North City Corporation

Panel includes

Saima Chowdhury, Board Member, BYLC & CEO, Noi Solutions

David Hasanat, CEO, Viyellatex Group

Ivy Huq Russell, CEO, Maya.com.bd

Kamran Bakr, Chairman, Unilever

3:30 pm–4:45 pm

Leadership session IV: Leadership and purpose

Led by Hugh O'Doherty, Harvard faculty

4:45 pm–5:15 pm

Tea break

Saturday,
August 20, 2016

DAY 3

8:00 am–9:00 am	Arrival	4:00 pm–5:15 pm	Plenary: Being a change agent in a chaotic world: the dangers and opportunities for leadership <i>Chaired by Ejaj Ahmad</i>
9:30 am–10:45 am	Leadership session V: Leadership for a fractured world <i>Led by Dean Williams , Harvard faculty</i>		<i>Panel includes</i> Sir Christopher Ball Hugh O'Doherty Dean Williams
10:45 am–11:15 am	Tea break	5:15 pm–6:00 pm	Oneness of global community
11:15 am–12:15 pm	Plenary: Investing in the next generation: Acts of leadership <i>Chaired by Md. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary</i> <i>Panel includes</i> Anjali Sarker, Team Leader, Social Innovation Lab, BRAC Shehab Shamir, Founder & President, Bangladesh Youth Environmental Initiative & Winner of Queen's Young Leader Award 2015 Korvi Rakshand, Founder & Chairman, Jaago Foundation Salman Ahmad, President, GADE Foundation & Winner of Queen's Young Leader Award 2015		
12:30 pm–1:30 pm	Lunch and prayer		
1:45 pm–2:45 pm	Personal Action Plan & Project Planning Session		
2:45 pm–3:30 pm	Office of Professional Development (OPD) & BYLC Graduate Network (BGN)		
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Tea break		

Ejaj Ahmad

Founder and President, BYLC

Ejaj Ahmad, Founder and President of BYLC, is a consultant, practitioner, and instructor of leadership. He developed the idea of BYLC while he was a graduate student, and established the nonprofit in Bangladesh in January 2009 with the vision of creating a more just, prosperous, and inclusive society by training the next generation of leaders. Ejaj frequently speaks on leadership and large scale adaptation to senior professionals in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors in Bangladesh and abroad. Currently, he serves as an honorary fellow at the School of Management at University of St. Andrews. In his former career, Ejaj worked as an economist and entrepreneur in Bangladesh. He worked in several World Bank, UNDP, and Bangladesh Government projects pertaining to banking, international trade, sustainable environment management, and private sector development. Ejaj holds a Master's in Public Policy from Harvard University and an MA with Honors in Economics from St. Andrews University.



Faculty profile

Dean Williams

Harvard Faculty

Originally from Geelong, Australia, Dean Williams has been a faculty member at Harvard University's Kennedy School since 1999, where he ran the World Leaders Project at the Center for Public Leadership. He also chairs the annual Harvard executive education program, The Global Change Agent. Dr. Williams has been involved in major change processes in various countries, and led leadership development initiatives for several large companies, government organizations, and social institutions around the world. He has spearheaded several long-term change initiatives in companies in Australia, United States, and Asia, and conducted extensive research on leadership and social change in Japan, Madagascar, and Borneo. In recent years, he has developed and led the Social Leadership Singapore program, which trains hundreds of social and political leaders on the principles of leadership and change.



Sir Christopher Ball

Former Warden of Keble College, Oxford University

Sir Christopher Ball is the former Warden of Keble College, Oxford University. He has been on many government advisory committees and has held several prestigious positions in higher education, including chancellor of Derby University and warden of Keble College, Oxford. As a government adviser on education policy to Prime Minister John Major, he drew attention to the importance of early learning. Sir Christopher's services to education earned him knighthood in 1988. He is also passionate about hands-on charitable work and advising charities on how to successfully fundraise. He was the joint founding editor of the Toronto Dictionary of Old English and has written various works on education and linguistics.



Faculty profile

Hugh O' Doherty

Harvard faculty

Hugh O'Doherty teaches leadership at Harvard's John F Kennedy School of Government and is a Senior Associate with Cambridge Leadership Associates. Hugh has taught leadership and conflict resolution at the Jepson School of Leadership Studies, the McGregor Burns Academy of Leadership, and the University of Maryland, where he directed the Ireland-US Public Leadership Program for "emerging" leaders from all the political parties in Ireland. He also directed the Inter-Group Relations Project, an initiative bringing together political and community leaders in Ireland. He consults extensively with a wide variety of clients across different sectors. Dr. Doherty earned his Master's and Doctorate in Education from Harvard University.





“Leaders they said are born, not made. I definitely don’t agree with that. I think leadership, like anything else, is learnable, and should be learned.”

Sir Christopher Ball



Leadership in an uncertain world

This session focused on the two elements of societal problems– technical and adaptive. The purpose was to acclimatize the delegates with the idea that they are a part of the solution they seek. Relying on the authority might bring an instant fix which addresses the technical element, but this does not bring about a long term solution. On following the leadership model, delegates were made to realize that an adaptive approach is crucial in finding the solution to a problem, and that they must take ownership of the issue in order to create meaningful change. Delegates analyzed some of their past problems, examine the roles of each stakeholder, and dissect the rationale behind their assumptions. Consequently, they were able to recognize errors and rethink appropriate solutions to the problems.



“In the practice of leadership it is important to meet people where they are; not to bring people to you.”

Ejaj Ahmad





Immunity to change

Led by Hugh O'Doherty, this session focused on people's immunity to change. This immunity deters a person from recognizing their weaknesses or working to improve them. Using the example of a 'shy girl' who's intimidated by public speaking, the session introduced a self-reflective exercise where delegates worked in groups to identify their improvement goals, assess their actions, and discover their hidden competing goals. The activity helped delegates discern the factors that made them resistant to change.





Designing effective intervention

People often rush to take action without taking the time to analyze the issue first. Building on this idea, Ejaj Ahmad explained effective leadership as a three-step process which necessitates observation, interpretation, and intervention. Observation allows an individual to collect information and evaluate how a system operates. Interpretation involves using a diagnostic framework to assess what kind of intervention would be congruous and effective for that particular system. An effective intervention, thus, confirms a productive problem analysis.





“In leading, not everybody will listen to you and that is because of a change they either resist or are immune to. One, thus, has to identify the cause.”

Hugh O'Doherty



Leadership and Purpose

This session aimed to teach the delegates about establishing a clear purpose for their goal. Hugh O'Doherty urged the future leaders to not be blinded by emotions that are likely to make them overlook important details. He spoke about 4 principles that he acquired through his teaching experience. The principles highlighted the following-

- A leader can act as an authoritative figure by taking small risks without having to impose decisions on team members.
- A person has to take responsibility for what he creates.
- It is natural for human beings to be emotionally attached to a cause, but it is essential for them to control their emotions so that they don't miss the big picture.
- Strength lies in the ability of being tolerant throughout uncertainty. It prepares the leader to adapt to the multiple possibilities in the real world.





Leadership for a fractured world

Dean Williams used examples from his extensive experience to demonstrate that the world, today, is a fractured, complex and unpredictable one and to exercise effective leadership, one has to learn how to transcend boundaries. He also stressed that the ability to mobilize others does not define a leader, but more their efficiency at preparing teams to face reality, address interdependent problems, and help them adapt to change. The session concluded by defining a changemaker as someone who crosses boundaries, builds bridges, thinks like an artist who can connect rationality and emotions, and keeps the work real and authentic.





“Real leadership is not about being the dominant authority. It is about being the change agent that makes the difference through your actions and interventions.”

Dean Williams



Leadership in an interconnected world

Chaired by *Manzoor Hasan OBE*, Founding Board Member and former Chairperson, BYLC

Panelists:

Abrar A. Anwar , CEO, Standard Chartered Bangladesh

Marcia Bernicat , U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh

Sara Hossain , Founding Board Member, BYLC & Honorary Director, BLAST

Pauline Tamesis , UNDP Country Director

The panelists defined leadership as the process that involved the collaboration of everyone in a system, and aims to give back to the community. They also spoke about some critical qualities that a leader should possess, and what the delegates should strive to develop. These include a collaborative attitude, critical thinking ability, communication skills, network building capacity, and self-awareness. Marcia Bernicat stressed, "The real important part of leadership is to listen". Listening can give one a better understanding of their associates and the working environment. Pauline Tamesis shared that having a role model is important for the leader to set the goals and aspirations. In the question and answer session, panelists answered the delegates' queries regarding volunteerism and active youth participation in the country's economy.

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Changing landscape of tertiary education in the 21st century

Chaired by Dr. Gowher Rizvi, Member, International Advisory Board, BYLC, and Advisor to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh

Panelists:

Pradeep Singh, Deputy Dean and CEO Mohali Campus of the Indian School of Business (ISB)

Kazi Anis Ahmed, Director and Chief Strategy Officer, Gemcon Group

Omar Rahman, Vice Chancellor, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB),

Maimuna Ahmad, Founder & CEO, Teach For Bangladesh

This session discussed the existing limitations and the potential of tertiary education in contributing to youth development in the 21st century. Even though there has been great advancements made in technology and other facilities, the global education system falls short from adding real value for the students. The discussants spoke about the areas that need to be improved on to ensure the adequate transfer of knowledge and skills from universities. These are the challenges that the young generation need to overcome as leaders. The panelists encouraged the delegates to take initiative and actively work to develop themselves and transform the current education system.

Inclusive economy & entrepreneurship

Chaired by *Annisul Huq*, Mayor, Dhaka North City Corporation,

Panelists:

Saima Chowdhury, Board Member, BYLC & CEO, Noi Solutions

David Hasanat, CEO, Viyellatex Group

Ivy Huq Russell, CEO, Maya.com.bd

Kamran Bakr, Chairman, Unilever

Panelists shared the stories of the journey of their organizations that began as just an idea. Their stories gave the delegates the confidence that any idea can be given life if backed by appropriate skills and action. Perseverance, passion, and humility are integral to staying active and sticking to the goal. The panelists encouraged the delegates to continually improve through taking part in training programs, and maintaining personal relations and strong networks. Annisul Huq, through his moving words, "You are our future. We live through you, we live in you," sparked a sense of responsibility in the aspiring young leaders. The panelists urged the youth to dream big and fully commit themselves to changing their dreams to reality.

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Investing in the next generation: Acts of leadership

Chaired by *Md. Shahidul Haque*, Foreign Secretary

Panelists:

Anjali Sarker, Team Leader, Social Innovation Lab, BRAC

Shehab Shamir, Founder & President, Bangladesh Youth Environmental Initiative & Winner of Queen's Young Leader Award 2015

Korvi Rakshand, Founder & Chairman, Jaago Foundation

Salman Ahmad, President, GADE Foundation, & Winner of Queen's Young Leader Award 2015

Referring to their own stories, the speakers stressed that everyone can practice leadership regardless of the challenges. "The fear in yourself is your biggest barrier. If you can conquer that, then you have conquered everything," assured Anjali Sarker. One of the major difficulties that was intensively discussed was discouragement from family and friends. Korvi Rakshand, who also faced similar complications, said that his actions and respect towards others convinced his parents and friends to trust his work and offer support. In this regard, communication skill was referred as a key attribute to persuade stakeholders and get the job done. "The generation today is most connected but least related," said Md. Shahidul Haque as he spoke about interpersonal connections over social media. He urged the youth to engage personally to build empathy. Delegates asked insightful questions about staying on track. "It's not about focusing on one thing, it's about saying no to a thousand different things," said Anjali Sarker when she spoke about ways to avoid distractions.





Being a change agent in a chaotic world: the dangers and opportunities for leadership

Chaired by *Ejaj Ahmad*, Founder and President, BYLC

Panelists:

Sir Christopher Ball, Former Warden of Keble College, Oxford University

Hugh O'Doherty, Harvard Faculty

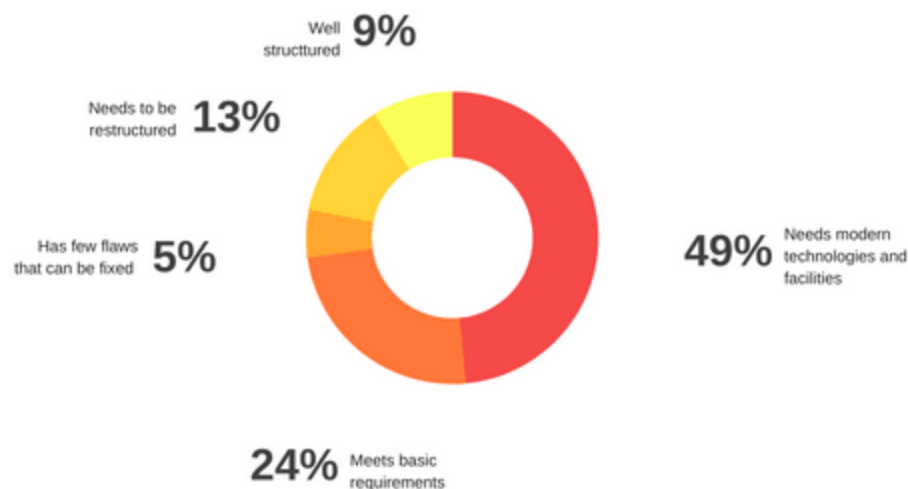
Dean Williams, Harvard Faculty

This final plenary allowed the delegates to delve deeper into the dangers and opportunities of leadership with lessons from the leadership experts. Sir Christopher advised the young leaders to lead by example, persuasion, incentive, and once there is a social agreement, by compulsion. Resistance, disappointment, and change are all part of the territory, and the right way to deal with them is to diagnose the system first and then intervene. Hugh O'Doherty reassured that leadership can be practiced in any situation, but in a strategic manner, and Dean Williams encouraged the delegates by saying, "Great leadership is about posing provocative questions that stimulate thinking, and that thinking leads to creative responses. So keep the questions alive."

Delegate voices

This year, short surveys were conducted to understand the perspectives of our delegates and assess how the Youth Leadership Summit impacted their thinking. The results shared below are based on answers given by our 400 university students and young professionals.

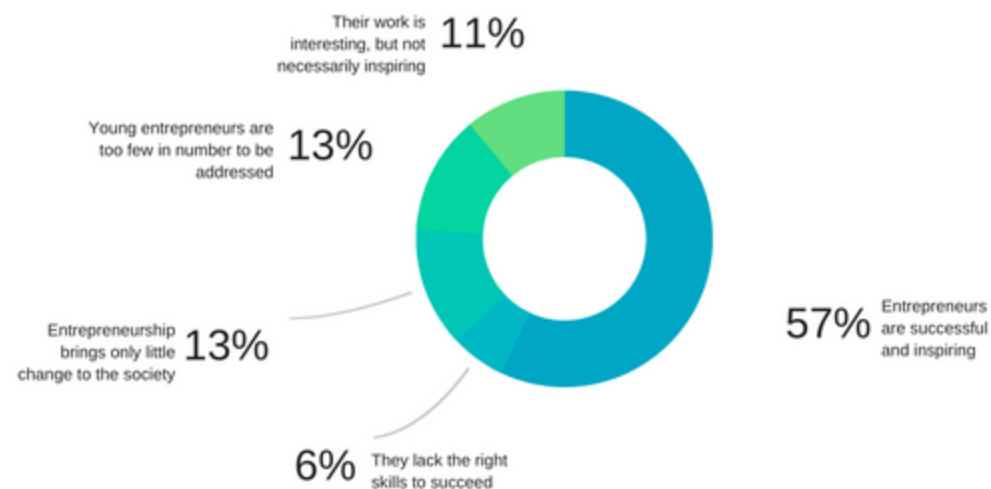
What do you think about the tertiary education system of Bangladesh?



62%

of the delegates feel that the tertiary education system of Bangladesh needs to be restructured, and requires modern technology and facilities

What are your views on young entrepreneurs?



57%

of the delegates aspire to become an entrepreneur because they find their work inspiring

DELEGATES



"Before attending the Summit I had an abstract idea about leadership, but the sessions and plenaries at the Summit gave me better understanding of the core concepts of leadership and made me more aware of the skills I need to develop to practice it well."

*Zeba Fariba,
National Delegate*



"I believe I will be able to make good use of the precious experience from the Summit, to help my nation when I get back after my graduation."

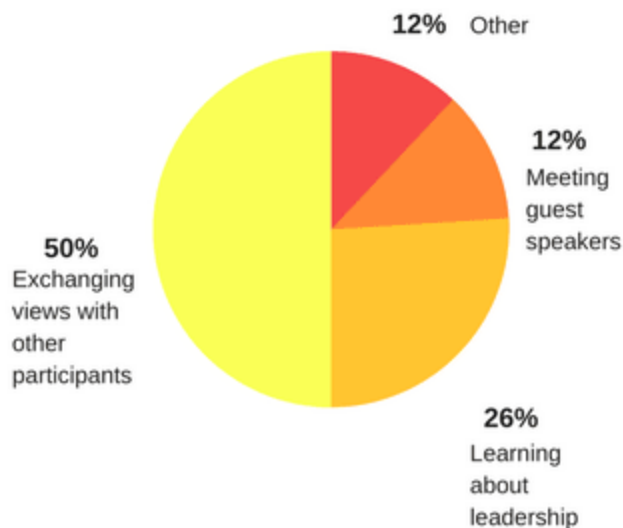
*Abdel Salam Abbo,
International Delegate from
Cameroon*



"When you are in a room full of 400 delegates who care about social issues with the same zeal and empathy as you, it feels amazing. The Summit is a great platform to meet such people and be assured that you can all join hands for the greater good of Bangladesh and the world."

*Rafa Mahzabeen,
National Delegate*

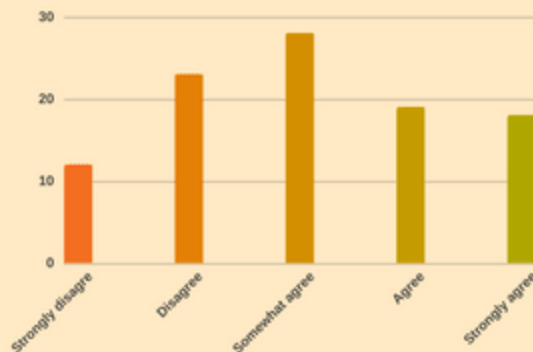
What did you like best about the Summit?



50% of the delegates found the opportunity to exchange views with other participants to be the best feature of the summit

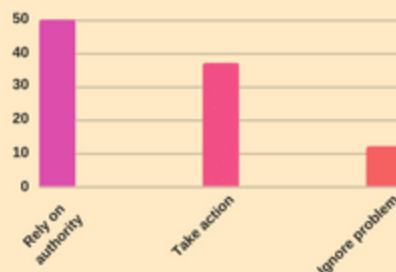
Views before the Summit

Leadership can only be practiced from the position of authority. Do you agree?



65% of the delegates believed that one needs to be in the position of authority to exercise leadership

How do you think social problems should be addressed?

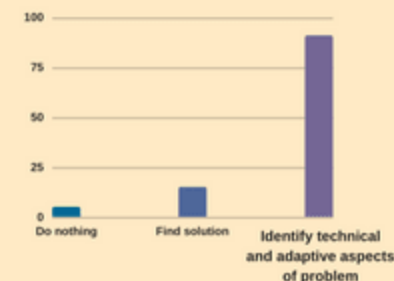


62% of the delegates would wait for the responsible authority to solve problems

Views after the Summit



98% believe that they can bring about social change without being in a position of authority



91% agreed that identifying the technical and adaptive aspects of a problem will help to solve it

DELEGATES



"I was most amazed by the people at the Summit, be it the delegates, the facilitators or the speakers. They were extremely welcoming and encouraging which made it easier for me to blend in with them, making the Summit a worthwhile experience for me."

*Atandra Abrar Ahmed,
National Delegate*



"Through this Summit, I think BYLC has allowed the world to see how dedicated the Bangladeshi youth is towards the greater good of their country. This motivates me further to devote more effort in my project in Jakarta, where I work to empower children from low-income families."

*Rekha Nur Alisha,
International Delegate from Indonesia*



"Being Nepali myself, I could relate to the Bangladeshi youth very well because I believe we bear the same passion for the causes we care for. So when a Bangladeshi expresses concern for an issue, I feel that he/she is speaking for me and my country as well."

*Samrat Singh Silwal,
International Delegate from Nepal*

Speaker profile



Akhter Matin Chaudhury

Governing Board Member, BYLC, & Managing Director & Chairman, Nuvista Pharma Ltd.

Akhter Matin Chaudhury, a Governing Board Member of BYLC, is the Managing Director and Chairman of Nuvista Pharma Ltd. He is also the Chairman of Nuvista Consumer Healthcare Ltd., Nuvista AnimalHealth, and CropCare Ltd. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh, and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries of Bangladesh. He lived and worked for various organizations in the UK as a Chartered Accountant for 15 years. He returned to Bangladesh in 1987 to join BOC Bangladesh Ltd., a multinational industrial gas company, where he served in various capacities.



Jane Edmondson

Country Representative, DFID Bangladesh

Jane Edmondson is the Country Representative for DFID Bangladesh. Formerly, Ms. Edmondson worked as the Head of the Human Development Department in DFID's Policy Division which focused on education, health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene. Jane has also worked as the Deputy Head in DFID's office in Pakistan, and as Head of its Governance, Conflict, and Humanitarian Group. She has worked as a health adviser for DFID in Asia and Africa, as a malaria consultant for the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and as a health research manager for the NHS and the UK Medical Research Council. She has degrees in biochemistry and demography.



Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury

Honorable Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh

Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury is the Honorable Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh. Prior to this, she had 15 years of experience in teaching and as an advocate in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. She was awarded Asia Society's Humanitarian Service Award in recognition of her role as a leader in advocating the elimination of violence against women and mainstreaming women's empowerment and employment in Bangladesh. She completed her LLB (Hons) and LLM from the University of Dhaka and a PhD in Law from University of Essex as a Commonwealth Scholar.

Speaker profile

**Manzoor Hasan OBE**

Governing Board Member, BYLC & Executive Director, SAILS, BRAC University

Mr. Manzoor Hasan is presently the Executive Director of the South Asian Institute of Advanced Legal & Human Rights Studies, BRAC University. Prior to that, he was the Director of the Institute of Governance Studies (2006-2012), BRAC University, and the Deputy Executive Director of BRAC (2004-2006). Mr. Hasan was the founding Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh (1996 to 2003) and then the Regional Director (Asia-Pacific) of TI in Berlin. In 2003, he was awarded the Honor of the Officer of the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II for his service to TIB. Mr. Hasan graduated from the London School of Economics and was then called to the English Bar from the Honorable Society of Lincoln's Inn. He practiced civil law in England and Bangladesh.

**Abrar A. Anwar**

CEO, Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh

Abrar A. Anwar is the Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh. He joined the Bank in 2011 as Head of Corporate & Institutional Clients. Abrar has more than 24 years' experience in international banking in Bangladesh, India, and the UK. His achievements include setting up of the first "Syndication & Structured Finance" business in Bangladesh (for the then ANZ Grindlays Bank), along with successful closure of milestone transactions in the Energy & Power, Infrastructure, Telecom, Aviation, Domestic, and Export-oriented industries. He has diverse banking experience in Retail Banking, Corporate, and Investment Banking over the course of his banking career. Prior to joining Standard Chartered Bangladesh, he was the Managing Director and Head of Global Corporate and Commercial Banking, Citibank NA, Bangladesh, and Head of Specialist Finance & Advisory Services, ANZ Grindlays Bank. Abrar holds an MBA degree from the Institute of Business Management (IBA).

**Marcia Bernicat**

US Ambassador to Bangladesh

Ambassador Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat has been the Ambassador to Bangladesh since January 2015. The Ambassador previously served in a number of senior leadership positions, most recently as the Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Human Resources at the Department of State. She has previously served as Ambassador to Senegal and Guinea-Bissau, and in the Department of State as Office Director for India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Bhutan in the Bureau of South Asian Affairs. Earlier in her career, she was Special Assistant to Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead, Consular Officer in Marseille, France, and Political/Consular Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Bamako, Mali. Ambassador Bernicat received a B.A. from Lafayette College and an M.S. from Georgetown University.

Speaker profile



Sara Hossain

Governing Board Member, BYLC & Partner, Dr. Kamal Hossain & Associates

Sara Hossain, a founding Governing Board Member of BYLC, is a barrister practicing in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, mainly in the areas of constitutional law, human rights law, and family law. She is a partner at the law firm of Dr. Kamal Hossain and Associates, and currently serves pro bono as the Honorary Executive Director of the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust. She is a member of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), the Human Rights Committee of the International Law Association (ILA), the Advisory Committee of the Women's International Coalition on Gender Justice (WICG) and a Commissioner of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ). Sara was educated at Oxford University, called to the Bar from Middle Temple in 1989, enrolled as an Advocate of the Dhaka Bar in 1990, and then in the Appellate Division in 2008. She has received awards from the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, and Ananya, and has been selected as a World Economic Forum Fellow, and as an Asia 21 Fellow.



Pauline Tamesis

Country Director, UNDP

Pauline Tamesis has been serving as Country Director, UNDP Bangladesh, since February 2013. She has two decades of diverse experience in policy advisory and management, capacity development, partnership building, resource mobilization, human resources and financial management, and knowledge networking. Prior to arriving in Bangladesh, Pauline was the regional Democratic Governance Practice Leader for the UNDP Asia Pacific Regional Center. Pauline's previous assignments include serving as Democratic Governance Practice Manager of the Bureau for Development Policy in UNDP Headquarters. She also served as the Policy Adviser on Anti-Corruption, Accountability and Transparency of the UNDP Bureau for Development Policy/Democratic Governance Group in New York. Pauline holds an MBA from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.



Gowher Rizvi

International Advisory Board Member, BYLC & International Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh

Gowher Rizvi, Member, International Advisory Board, BYLC, is the International Affairs Advisor and Special Representative of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. Earlier he served as the Vice Provost for International Programs at the University of Virginia. Prior to that, he was the Director of the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard Kennedy School and Ford Foundation's Representative to New Delhi. Dr. Rizvi has also taught in the UK for over two decades at the University of Oxford and the University of Warwick. He was a MacArthur Scholar & Fellow in Politics and International Relations at Nuffield College, Oxford; and the Pro-Director of Queen Elizabeth House Oxford, the University's Center for International Development. Dr. Rizvi earned his PhD from Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar.

Speaker profile



Pradeep Singh

Deputy Dean and CEO, Mohali Campus of the Indian School of Business (ISB)

Pradeep Singh is the Deputy Dean and CEO of the Mohali Campus of the Indian School of Business (ISB). He is also responsible for operationalizing the four recently launched Institutes at ISB dedicated respectively to Infrastructure, Manufacturing, Healthcare, and Public Policy. In his previous roles, Pradeep Singh served as the Vice Chairman & CEO of IDFC Projects Ltd. and was the founding CEO of IL&FS Infrastructure Development Corporation (IIDC). From 1978 to 1995, Pradeep Singh was a member of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and later also served as the Assistant Country Director at CARE India. He has been a visiting faculty member at the Harvard Kennedy School and has consulted for the World Bank and the ADB. Mr. Singh holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration (MPA) from Harvard University and was a Rotary International Graduate Fellow at Stanford University USA. He also holds the MBA and M.Sc (Physics) degrees from Punjab and Punjabi University respectively.



Kazi Anis Ahmed

Director, Gemcon Group

Dr. Kazi Anis Ahmed is a Director of the Gemcon Group, which operates in a wide range of sectors in Bangladesh, including engineering, jute, seafood, retail, and organic tea. He is also a founder and Vice-President of the non-profit University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. Ahmed runs Kazi & Kazi Tea Estate, the country's first internationally certified organic tea garden. As Co-Founder and President of the international tea brand Teatulia, Ahmed has helped to create the only premium tea available from Bangladesh. He is the author of three works of fiction: *The World in My Hands* (novel), *Good Night, Mr. Kissinger* (stories), and *Forty Steps* (novella). Ahmed studied at Brown, Washington and New York Universities, taking respectively a BA in Economics, an MFA in Creative Writing and a PhD in Comparative Literature.



Omar Rahman

Vice Chancellor, Independent University, Bangladesh

Omar Rahman is the Vice Chancellor of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB). He is also a Professor of Demography and the Executive Director of the Center for Health, Population, and Development at IUB. Omar has been the principal investigator on several large data collection and analysis projects funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), UNFPA, and the Global Health Forum. Prior to joining IUB in 2003, Omar was an Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Demography at Harvard University, and a Research Fellow in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. His current research interests include higher education policy in the developing world. He received his MD from Northwestern University Medical School and both his MPH in Health Policy and Management and his D.Sc. in Epidemiology from Harvard University.

Speaker profile



Maimuna Ahmad

Founder & CEO, Teach for Bangladesh

Maimuna is the founder and CEO of Teach For Bangladesh. As a 2009 Teach For America corps member, Maimuna taught secondary school math at a public charter school in southeast Washington, D.C. Prior to starting Teach For Bangladesh, she worked at a human rights organization in Dhaka, leading research projects on children's and indigenous women's rights in Bangladesh. Maimuna holds a BA in International Relations from Mount Holyoke College and an MA in Teaching from American University.



Annisul Huq

Mayor, Dhaka North City Corporation (Status Cabinet Minister)

Annisul Huq has been elected as the mayor of the Dhaka North City Corporation in April 2015. He is also the President of Independent Power Producers Association (an organization of all companies who owns power plants in the country and supplies to the national grid). Mr. Huq established his own business in 1986 and is the Chairperson of nine export-oriented organizations under the trade name of "Mohammadi Group" that operates multiple divisions including RMG export, real estate, IT companies, and a power generation company. Mr. Huq has served as President of the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the President of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), and the President of the Federation of the Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Ivy Huq Russell

Founder & CEO, Maya

Ivy Huq Russell, a former investment management & hedge fund professional, founded Maya with a vision to empower women by giving them access to information and a shared community. Maya, the first and foremost women-focused and women-led technology company, works with the sole purpose of improving the lives and livelihoods of women and young girls in Bangladesh. She graduated from Warwick Business School in Finance and Economics.

Speaker profile



Korvi Rakshand

Founder and Chairman, JAAGO Foundation

Korvi Rakshand is the Founder and Chairman of Jaago Foundation. He attained a Diploma in Law from the University of London (2004-2005) and a subsequent L.L.B. Honors (2005-2007). Along with a group of associates, Korvi founded the JAAGO Foundation in 2007. The JAAGO Foundation is dedicated to the betterment of underprivileged and poverty-stricken communities of Bangladesh. Korvi is an alumnus of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) and have received the Mosaic International Award. He was listed as a catalyst in the "Top 99 under 33 Influential Foreign Policy Leaders" by The Diplomatic Courier, and was also a finalist for the Commonwealth Youth Awards in 2013. He has been recognized as one of the top 10 globally most inspirational Bangladeshis around the world.



Salman Ahmed

President, GADE Foundation

Salman Ahmad co-founded the GADE Foundation in 2011 which aims to encourage and support entrepreneurship among young people and alleviate poverty. It has so far established groups at 26 universities to organize its activities at a grassroots level. He received the Queen's Young Leaders Award in 2015 and is the recipient of several international awards, including Commonwealth Scholarship and was nominated for Commonwealth Youth Award for Excellence in Development Work. He has also received College of Social Sciences Scholarship from University of Glasgow to start his PhD in Adam Smith Business School from October, 2015. Salman Ahmad has obtained his MSc. International Business degree in 2014 from University of Liverpool Management School on Commonwealth Shared Scholarship and received Student of the Year Award for securing highest grades in master program.



Dr. Shri Biren Sikder

State Minister for Youth and Sports, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh

Dr. Shri Biren Sikder is the current State Minister for Youth and Sports, Bangladesh. He has formerly served in the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Ministry of Commerce, and Ministry of Education & Public Undertaking Committee. He has also served as the Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee for Ministry of Jute and Textiles. He founded the Swarasati Sikder School and College and Bihari Lal Sikder Degree College in his home town, as well as the Arpara Degree College in Magura, and Shri Biren Sikder Ideal School and College in Mohammadpur Sadar Upazilla. For his significant contributions to education and social services, Dr. Sikder has been awarded the 'BR Ambedkar Award' from Calcutta University and 'Lord Buddha International Peace Award 2015' from the India-Bangladesh co-ordination committee, All India Vikkhu Sangh. Dr. Sikder completed his post-graduation from Rajshahi University and is a lawyer by profession.

Speaker profile



Md. Shahidul Haque

Foreign Secretary, Government of Bangladesh

Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque has been serving as Foreign Secretary of the Government of Bangladesh since January 2013. Currently, he is the chair-in-office of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). He is serving as an Independent Expert to the Committee on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW) for the term 2014-2017. He is also a member of the Migration Advisory Board of International Organization for Migration (IOM). From 2001 to 2012, Mr. Haque served at the IOM from the Government of Bangladesh, occupying several senior positions in field offices and the Headquarters in Geneva. In recognition of his outstanding and committed services to IOM, Mr. Haque received IOM Director General's award in 2005. Mr. Haque obtained an M A (International Relations) from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in USA (1988) and was awarded Honorable Mention for Robert B. Steward Prize for high academic achievement. He stood First Class First, both in Masters and Honors, in Social Welfare from the University of Dhaka.



Anjali Sarker

Team Leader, Social Innovation Lab, BRAC

Anjali Sarker is a Team Leader at BRAC Social Innovation Lab. She is also a co-founder and Executive Editor of Campus2Career. Previously she was the launch leader of Ashoka and relaunched its operations in Bangladesh. Her entrepreneurial journey started at the age of twenty when she co-founded a startup —Toilet+, which was later featured in Forbes for its innovative business model. She is a Global Shaper at the World Economic Forum and has been recognized as one of the Top 99 leaders under the age of 33, by Young Professionals in Foreign Policy and Diplomatic Courier magazine. She is a New Voices Fellow with the Aspen Institute in a one-year fellowship sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. UNICEF and Goi-Peace Foundation in Japan awarded her "Minister of Education" title for her award-winning essay "Counting the Uncountable." She did her Bachelors in Business Administration from Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka and a Diploma in Social Innovation from Lund University.



Shamir Shehab

Founder, Bangladesh Youth Environmental Initiative (BYEI)

Shamir Shehab is a social entrepreneur, environmental activist, and policy advocate. He studied public policy, management, and leadership at Cornell University. Shamir teaches leadership, mentors young changers-makers, and lectures to build awareness on climate change and environment issues. Shamir has been recognized with a number of awards including the Queen's Young Leaders Award from Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II for his exceptional leadership in creating a positive change in the society. Shamir has recently been selected as a Yenching Scholar to study Politics and International Relations at Peking University to better understand China's current and future roles in the world. He hopes to leverage his knowledge of China's economic, political, and governance system, and to become a mediator between China and the rest of the world by facilitating dialogue and negotiation around climate change and global environmental governance.

Speaker profile



Saima Chowdhury

Governing Board Member, BYLC & Founder and CEO, Noi Solutions LLC

Saima Chowdhury is the founder and CEO of Noi Solutions LLC, a global apparel sourcing company based out of New York. Prior to founding Noi Solutions, Saima worked with the Victoria's Secret Strategy group focusing on customer and market insights. She started her tenure at Limited Brands as the Business and Procurement Manager for Victoria's Secret Direct Production, where she managed production budgets of \$400 million. Saima also worked with the Supply Chain Strategy group at Nike, where she evaluated the benefits and challenges of upstream supply chain partnership to recommend strategies for apparel source base alignment. Before business school, Saima served as the Corporate Manager of New Asia Limited in Bangladesh. Saima started her career at Ernst & Young LLP, where she was a Senior Consultant with the Economic and Quantitative Analysis Group. Saima holds an MBA in Finance from the Wharton School and a BA in Economics and Political Science from Swarthmore College.



David Hasanat

CEO, Viyellatex Group

David Hasanat is the Chairman and CEO of Viyellatex Group. Under his leadership, Viyellatex Group came into existence in 2002 and has become one of the fastest growing business conglomerates in Bangladesh. He has been a pioneer in his industry in implementing numerous green initiatives, which has led him to be elected President of United Nations Global Compact Bangladesh Network in 2012. He is also on the Advisory Board of the UNIDO Green Industry Platform. He has received numerous recognitions namely Business Person of the Year in 2007, CSR Award in 2008, Climate Award in 2010 among many others. In 2014, he was awarded the esteemed Centenary Award by the Dhaka Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry for his outstanding contribution in "Green Business".



Kamran Bakr

Chairman, Unilever

Mr. Kamran Bakr has been Managing Director of Unilever Bangladesh Limited since February 1, 2012. Mr. Bakr joined Unilever Bangladesh in 1990. He served as Technical Director of Unilever since 1997. He served as Supply Chain Director of Unilever since 2002 where his role was expanded to include planning, procurement, and distribution aspects of the business. He moved to Nepal as Managing Director, Unilever Nepal - becoming the first Bangladeshi national to head a Unilever business. He has been Chairman and Director of Unilever Bangladesh Limited since February 1, 2012. Mr. Bakr holds a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka as well as an MBA from McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University, Washington DC. He also attended the Advanced Management Program at INSEAD, Fontainebleau.

BYLC Programs

Building Bridges through Leadership Training (BBLT)

Building Bridges through Leadership Training (BBLT) is BYLC's 10-week long signature leadership training program. Designed for HSC/Alim/A Levels and first and second year university students, the BBLT program uses a competitive selection process to enroll 42 students from the three different educational tracks, namely English medium, Bengali medium, and Madrassa, in equal numbers.

The curriculum for the program draws heavily from leadership courses taught at Harvard University. The intensive training program, coupled with an experiential learning model, challenges students to critically think about leadership and apply their skills to effectuate positive change in society. In the first phase of the program, students conduct experiments, take risks, and question deeply held assumptions in the classroom. In the second phase, students have the opportunity to translate their learning into action by implementing community service projects in underprivileged communities.

Building Bridges through Leadership Training Junior (BBLTJ)

Building Bridges through Leadership Training Junior (BBLTJ) is a month-long program designed for secondary school students in grades 6 to 10. The program, adapted to suit the learning needs of students aged between 12 and 16, focuses on sensitizing a younger audience to the values of leadership, teamwork, community service, and active citizenship. Taught by BBLT graduates, the program specifically targets students in secondary school to instill positive values during their formative years, so that these lessons of leadership and building bridges remain influential throughout their lives.

Art and Practice of Leadership (APL)

The Art and Practice of Leadership (APL) is a 3-day national workshop for third and fourth year university students. This workshop provides participants with an exceptional opportunity to learn about leadership, communication, and career development. The participants embark on a stimulating personal journey that develops their leadership potential and helps them gain new competencies to better compete in the job market. Employers today look for more than just a degree. They look for individuals who will not only excel in their professional capacity, but will also lead, inspire, and mobilize people around them. Participants are drawn from all over Bangladesh and become part of a powerful network of youth leaders.

Youth Leadership Bootcamp (YLB)

The Youth Leadership Bootcamp (YLB) is a 4-day residential workshop for undergraduate students. The workshop is designed to deliver a transformative personal experience for the participants, build their leadership capabilities, and help them generate innovative thinking. Through a highly competitive application and interview-based screening process, we select 100 bright and passionate students who are committed to making a positive difference in the lives of others. Bootcamp participants not only develop tangible skills to make them more competitive in their careers, but also gain valuable insights into the workplace through exposure visits.

Youth Leadership Summit (YLS)

The 3-day Youth Leadership Summit focuses on the core challenges encountered by youth leaders. Through a competitive screening process, YLS brings a diverse group of young delegates from around the world together with distinguished experts, innovators, and leaders in the public, private, and non-profit sectors for a journey of collective exploration, reflection, and networking. The summit features a mix of plenaries and panels on entrepreneurship, global citizenship, education and career, gender and leadership, politics, and innovation. Teambuilding activities and reflection sessions give delegates opportunities to deepen their understanding of effective, meaningful, and inclusive leadership. Eligible applicants are in college, university, or at the start of their career.

Connect, collaborate and co-create

By Sir Christopher Ball

*Listen and learn, before it is too late,
lead lives of purpose; use both heart and head;
connect, collaborate and co-create.*

*Be mindful and reflective, meditate -
for fools rush in where angels fear to tread.
Listen and learn, before it is too late.*

*Study the way the wise communicate.
Speak kindly – listen closely to what's said,
connect, collaborate and co-create.*

*Do what needs doing – don't just sit and wait.
Ensure you won't regret the life you've led,
listen and learn, before it is too late.*

*We all must learn that love can conquer hate.
To see the wounded healed, the hungry fed,
connect, collaborate and co-create.*

*Never reject the stranger at your gate,
nor fail to welcome difference – instead,
listen and learn, before it is too late.*

*Leaders makes plans, act wisely, delegate,
nurture a vision, never lose the thread,
connect, collaborate and co-create.*

*Both right and wrong are learned – they're not innate.
Bring love and bandages where blood is shed.
Listen and learn, before it is too late.*

*Who knows their date of death or pending fate?
Our value's spent, roles ended, once we're dead.
Connect, collaborate and co-create.*

*Listen and learn! Before it's too late,
connect, collaborate and co-create.*



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