



BYLC Bangladesh
Youth Leadership
Center
**ANNUAL
REPORT
2019**

LEADERS ARE MADE NOT BORN



-  - Skills
 -  - Values
 -  - Jobs
 -  - Ventures
-    

Table of contents

01.	About us	02
02.	Impact of the year	04
03.	Year in review	05
04.	Outreach and Admission	08
05.	Leadership Development and Teaching	09
06.	Office of Professional Development	14
07.	BYLCx	18
08.	BYLC Ventures	19
09.	Youth Engagement Events	21
10.	Board Members	29



About BYLC

Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC), the country's first leadership institute, exists to build leadership skills in youth from diverse backgrounds, instill values of empathy, tolerance, and inclusiveness in them, and connect them to jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities. Our goal is to enable our alumni to have high impact in public, private, and civil sectors.

A cornerstone of BYLC's approach involves uniting youth from diverse socio-economic and educational backgrounds because effective leadership requires the capacity to embrace diversity and pluralism. Through this process of empowering young people to act on behalf of issues they care about deeply, BYLC aims to strengthen prosperity, justice, and inclusiveness in society.



Our mission

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 vision

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

Impact for the year

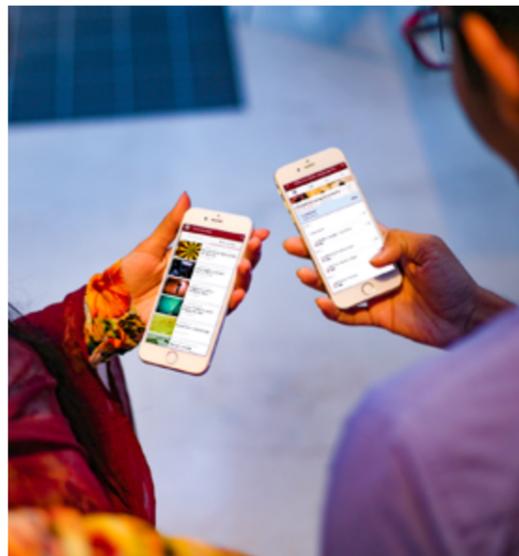
Youth trained

5,572



Number of startups supported by BYLC Ventures

4



BYLCx course enrolments

27,634



2019 Year in review

January

- BYLC celebrated its 10th anniversary
- Building Bridges through Leadership Training Junior (BBLT J) 15 commenced



March

- Building Bridges through Leadership Training (BBLT) 21 commenced in Dhaka
- BBLT 22 started in Chattogram
- BYLC organized its first International Women's Day symposium with 600 youth participants
- International Women's Day symposium organized, hosting 600 youth
- A team of BYLC staff attended the Tenth Bangladesh & Third Saanso Scout Jamboree 2019
- 116 campus ambassadors from 63 institutes onboarded



February

- Third cycle of Monon completed by BYLC Chattogram
- Career fair organized by BYLC Office of Professional Development (OPD)
- BBLTJ 16 commenced in Chattogram



April

- Social Leadership Hackathon organized by BYLC Chattogram
- BYLC annual staff potluck held in our headquarters



2019 Year in review

May

- BYLC's annual Alumni Iftar and Awards event held in Dhaka. Six graduates were awarded for putting their BYLC leadership education to use and making a contribution to their communities and professions
- BYLC Annual Alumni Iftar held in Chattogram
- First batch of BYLC volunteers onboarded



July

- BYLC Youth Leadership Summit 2019 was organized in Dhaka with 343 participants from all over the world
- Press conference held to launch the four-year project on Creating a Sustainable and Prosperous Future for Bangladeshi Youth by BYLC in collaboration with IKEA Foundation and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- Employers' roundtable organized by BYLC Office of Professional Development at The Daily Star with representatives from 16 companies
- Third batch of ACE completed the program
- BYLC Ventures launched



June

- Acquiring Competencies for Employment (ACE) a professional development program for national university students launched
- Second batch of ACE completed the program
- Fourth cycle of Monon organized by BYLC Chattogram
- Teachers' roundtable on Reimagining education for a rapidly changing world organized in Dhaka by BYLC with representatives from 20 institutes
- Teachers' roundtable on 21st-century skills: expectations, current perspectives, and future steps organized in Chattogram by BYLC with representatives from 16 institutes



August

- Fourth batch of ACE completed the program
- BYLC Running with Purpose 2019 held in Dhaka with 518 participants
- BYLC Running with Purpose 2019 held in Chattogram with 172 participants
- The first Youth for Youth session organized with Bijon Islam as speaker



2019 Year in review

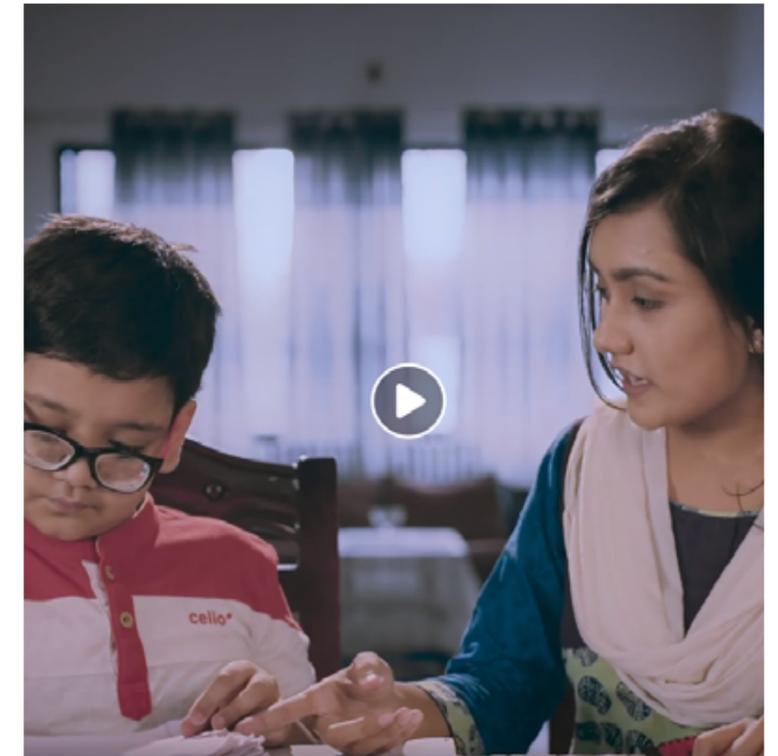
September

- Fifth batch of ACE completed the program
- BBLT 23 commenced in Dhaka
- The first residential Youth Entrepreneurship Bootcamp held with 189 participants
- BBLT 24 commenced in Chattogram
- BBLTJ meet organized in Dhaka and Chattogram
- Second session of Youth for Youth organized with Shammi Shawkat Quddus as speaker
- BYLC hosted Vivek Singh, head of portfolio, employment and entrepreneurship, at IKEA Foundation
- Third session of Youth for Youth organized with Sakib Hasan Sauro as speaker



November

- Fourth batch of ACE completed the program
- Mentoring and counselling session held for graduates by OPD
- BYLC Observed 16 days of activism by hosting an online campaign on *Equality through Dignity*
- Fifth Youth for Youth held with Ejaj Ahmad as speaker



October

- Sixth batch of ACE completed the program
- BYLC staff retreat held in Srimongol, Sylhet
- Mentoring and counselling session held for graduates by OPD
- Fourth Youth for Youth was held with Katerina Don as speaker



December

- BBLTJ 17 commenced in Dhaka
- Sixth Youth for Youth held with Ilmul Haque Sajib as speaker
- Mentoring and counselling session held for graduates by OPD
- BBLTJ 18 commenced in Chattogram
- The first BYLC Youth Carnival organized with 3,221 participants

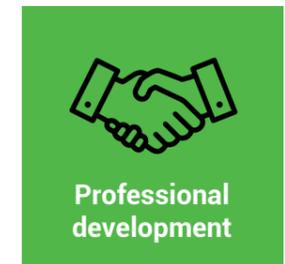




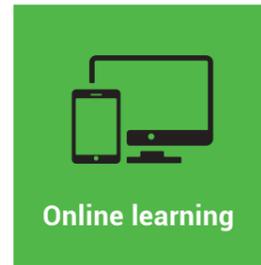
Our focus



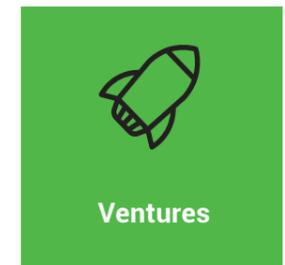
Leadership education



Professional development



Online learning



Ventures

Outreach and admission

BYLC maintains an inclusive and robust marketing and admissions process to attract high quality applications to our leadership programs. To ensure diversity and high quality applications, we reach out to young people of different ages through various channels, including workshops in school and university campuses. Applicants are then put through a rigorous admissions process, which evaluates them on their existing skills and leadership potential.



Social media followers (till December 2019)

-  **395,308**
-  **3,209**
-  **3,072**
-  **47,502**

116 Campus ambassadors operating in
63 institutes





5,662 applications checked 

2,848 number of people interviewed 

1,144 number of people admitted 

Number of subscribers

 **4,499**
 **7,014**

Press releases

 **126**





Leadership development and teaching

Our leadership training programs create changemakers by providing necessary 21st century skills to the youth of Bangladesh and instilling values of tolerance, compassion, empathy, and inclusiveness in them.

BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

BYLC's ten-week long signature leadership training program is designed for H.S.C./Alim/A levels and first and second year university students. Our BBLT program uses a competitive selection process to enroll 42 students from the three different educational systems, namely English medium, Bangla medium, and madrasa, 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 various community service projects.

Objectives

- Create a space for students from diverse educational backgrounds to engage in meaningful dialogue and action to foster cross-cutting connections, pluralism, and inclusive leadership
- Expand participants' leadership capacity by sharpening their critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills
- Provide participants with concrete experience in teamwork and project management, community service, and active citizenship

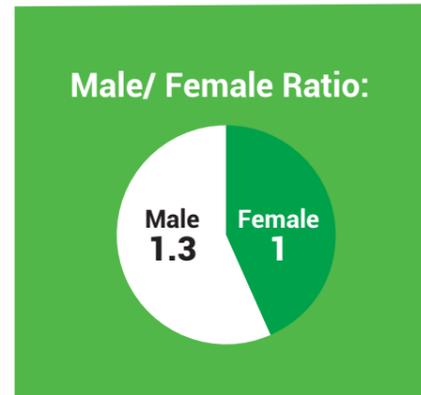


Number of programs: **4**
 Number of applicants: **1,338**
 Number of graduate: **164**

Bangla medium: **116**
 English medium: **16**
 Madrasa medium: **35**



Hours of community service: **2,619** HOURS



BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH LEADERSHIP TRAINING JUNIOR

BYLC's month-long leadership training program is 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 BYLC graduates, the program specifically targets students in secondary school to instill positive values during their formative years, so that these lessons of leadership and



Objectives

- Promote pluralism by encouraging participants from diverse backgrounds to identify common ground and develop a shared vision for effectuating positive change
- Provide participants with a concrete understanding of the challenges and rewards associated with leadership
- Create opportunities for BBLTJ graduates to further develop their leadership skills by teaching leadership to secondary school students



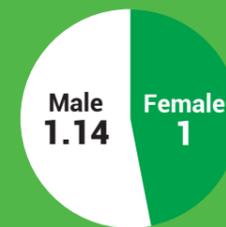
Number of programs: **4**
 Number of applicants: **1,315**
 Number of graduate: **158**

Bangla medium: **97**
 English medium: **38**
 Madrassa medium: **23**



Hours of community service: **2,619** HOURS

Male/ Female Ratio:



YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

The three-day long Youth Leadership Summit (YLS) focused on the core challenges encountered by youth leaders, and took them on a journey of collective exploration, reflection, and networking. Through a competitive screening process, YLS brought together a diverse group of young delegates from around the world for an inter-generational dialogue with distinguished experts, innovators, and leaders in the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

The summit featured a mix of plenaries and panels on entrepreneurship, global citizenship, education and career, gender and leadership, politics, and innovation. Team-building activities and reflection sessions gave delegates opportunities to deepen their understanding of effective, meaningful, and inclusive leadership.

Objectives

- Understand the concerns and perspectives of youth regarding pressing national and global issues
- Create a common space for an inter-generational dialogue and knowledge sharing
- Facilitate leadership training for youth and enable them to take ownership of problems and exercise leadership in uncertain times
- Create a safe space for young people to engage in productive debates and discussions on current issues



Number of applications

1,767



Number of graduates

343



MASTERCLASS ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Masterclass for Leadership Development (MLD) is a five-day long executive course designed for mid-level professionals, and focuses on managing authority, adaptive leadership, social innovation, influence, and group dynamics.

MLD prepares aspiring young professionals for advanced level problem-solving both in their organization and personal life. The entire learning process takes them into a journey of self discovery by analyzing past experiences, learning to adopt and apply the tools and techniques of mobilizing a group, and participating in an active team-building process.



Number of graduates
26





OPD

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our professional development programs, led by BYLC Office of Professional Development (OPD), connect youth to jobs and employment opportunities. OPD also offers career guidance services for university students and young professionals. In addition, we provide placement services for BYLC graduates via partnership with renowned employers of the country.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

The signature two-day long OPD workshop prepares BYLC graduates to better compete in the current job market and equips them with critical thinking, professional etiquette, workplace orientation, and effective communication skills.

Number of programs

3

Number of participants

119



ACQUIRING COMPETENCIES FOR EMPLOYMENT

ACE is a career development program designed for national university students who are pursuing their bachelor's or master's at university. The program is a gateway for graduating students to build the competencies required in the current job market. Taught via a blended module of instructor-led virtual and online interventions, the program aims to equip its participants with the necessary leadership and professional skills required to thrive in a 21st-century workplace.



Number of programs

8

Number of participants

371



YOUTH for YOUTH

Youth for Youth (Y4Y) is a program exclusively for BYLC graduates to interact, network, and learn various skills from young changemakers, experts, and industry leaders.

The program aims to empower graduates with capacity building skills as well as motivate them to build proficiency in their areas of interest with the help of our expert speakers. Each Y4Y session features a different topic and is conducted by a reputed expert.



Number of programs
6



Number of participants
163



EMPLOYERS' ROUNDTABLE

Every year OPD arranges a roundtable discussion featuring top employers and educators of the country.

In 2019, the roundtable, organized in association with The Daily Star, addressed pertinent issues on youth skills development. Speakers also focussed on how different stakeholders can come together to bridge the gap between employers' needs and skills taught at universities.

Employers from 16 organizations took part in the discussion.

Employers from **16** organizations



BYLC CAREER FAIR

BYLC Career Fair 2019 organized by OPD aimed to connect university students and fresh graduates with leading private and non-profit institutions.

The day-long event includes a series of career panels featuring distinguished industry professionals, as well as personal networking opportunities with human resource personnel of the participating organizations.



Number of organizations **26**



Number of participants **371**

More than **100** spot interviews



BYLCx

BYLCx, the online academy of Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center, aims to make meaningful learning experiences available for the youth from anywhere, at any time.

Designed in consultation with industry experts, BYLCx curriculum covers a wide range of topics, including communication, critical thinking, professional development, entrepreneurship, and much more.

Total number of courses

40

100% SCHOLARSHIP FOR FIRST 1000 STUDENTS

POWERPOINT BASICS FOR PRESENTATION



EVENT PLAN

Event Planning

Effective BODY LANGUAGE



Art of PUBLIC SPEAKING



Effective Teamwork

Online Certificate Course



Number of course enrollments

17,472

Number of registrations

6,193

ACING INTERVIEW



INTRODUCTION TO RESUME WRITING



● BANGLA VIDEO LECTURE

AN INTRODUCTION TO JOB SEARCHING TECHNIQUES

SIGN UP



How to write a POWERFUL SPEECH



Skills and Strategies for Negotiation

Enroll now



BYLC ventures

Launched in July 2019, BYLC Ventures, funds the most promising founders of Bangladesh, hone their leadership capabilities, strengthen their business acumen, and help validate their big ideas as they transition into investable business. Apart from seed funding and technical support, BYLC Ventures also offers a range of acceleration support including a plug-and-play commercial space to work from, customized business training led by successful CEO-turned-mentors, and a suit of professional support such as legal, accounting, and corporate governance.



Seed funding
8,00,000



Networking and mentoring opportunities for
six months

Winners of
BYLC Ventures: cohort 1
4



Co-working space for
one year





BYLC Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge (YEC) 2019 was part of BYLC Ventures: cohort 1, was a part of BYLC's efforts to nurture and encourage the passion of young entrepreneurs by connecting them to the right tools and networks and help them grow as catalysts of change.

We received over 500 applications for YEC 2019 and selected 109 teams to attend an intensive residential bootcamp. The top four winning teams of BYLC Ventures: cohort 1 were selected from this pool of aspiring entrepreneurs.



YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP bootcamp

Participants of the Youth Entrepreneurship Bootcamp 2019 underwent intensive training on design thinking, project management, financial planning, team management, product market fit, and other necessary skills required for designing a detailed business proposal, and effective project implementation.



Number of applications for cohort 1
515



Number of Youth Entrepreneurship Bootcamp teams
108





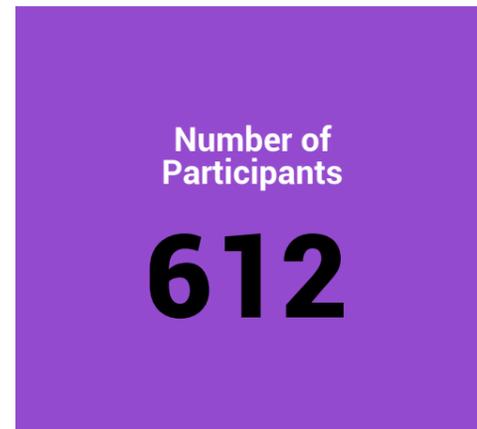
Youth Engagement Events

Apart from our regular programs, BYLC has always been active in engaging the youth through activities that contribute to their intellectual as well as physical well-being.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY SYMPOSIUM

BYLC organized the half-day long symposium সমূহির পথে, একসাথে, with support from Manusher Jonno Foundation and UK aid, to commemorate International Women's Day 2019. The symposium, held on March 13, 2019, was aligned with the year's UN International Women's Day theme, Balance for Better .

সমূহির পথে, একসাথে featured multigenerational dialogues, panel discussions, and TED-style talks, comprising of leading women and men from diverse socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. Speakers focused on the importance of allyship and shared responsibility for driving a gender-balanced world.





BYLC Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center
YOUTH
CARNIVAL 2019

BYLC Youth Carnival 2019, held in partnership with the Ministry of Youth & Sports and the NGO Affairs Bureau, was a two-day-long celebration of the youth of Bangladesh. The event consisted of sessions, panel discussions, workshops, and short talks featuring youth leaders and respected dignitaries of the country.

The carnival also hosted various stalls where participants gained access to free career guidance and mentoring support, availed information on higher education and scholarship opportunities, and engaged in games, quizzes, and exhibitions. The carnival was organized in support with MJF and UK aid.



Number of Participants
3,221



BYLC RUNNING WITH PURPOSE

To observe the International Youth Day 2019, BYLC organized its Running with Purpose event in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The 7.5k run was held in Dhaka on August 2, 2019 and in Chattogram the very next day.

The run was aligned with the year's UN International Youth Day's theme: Transforming Education. BYLC believes that to transform education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, it is critical to prioritize the mental and physical well-being of students. By bringing hundreds of youth and adults to run through part of the city, the run aimed to draw attention to the necessity of physical activity in transforming education to be more enjoyable, equitable, and inclusive.



Number of
Participants
684



ALUMNI IFTAR AND AWARDS

BYLC's annual iftar is a way to bring together our alumni under one roof and offer them the opportunity to network with their fellow batchmates and instructors. At the 2019 Alumni Iftar and Awards night, BYLC honored six alumni, who are emerging leaders in their respective fields, for putting to use their BYLC leadership education to make a contribution to their communities and professions.

The 2019 BYLC alumni award winners are Mohammad Nakib, recipient of the Prime Minister's Gold Medal 2016, in the category of Excellence in Education; Rubina Akter, co-founder of Campaign RED, in the category of Social Impact; Lieutenant Sumaiya Afreen of the Bangladesh Navy for Professional Excellence; photographer Kazi Md. Jahirul Islam and filmmaker Sadia Tabassum in the category of Art and Culture; and Abu Sayed Al Sagor, co-founder of BD Assistant Limited, in the category of Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Hosted 570 Attendees



EQUALITY THROUGH DIGNITY

In observance of 16 days of activism in November, BYLC launched a digital campaign under the Equality through Dignity program initiated by our partner organization Manusher Jonno Foundation.

Through this campaign, BYLC aimed to highlight the contribution of women's unaccounted work to the family, society, and economy.

The digital campaign was organized to change social mindsets regarding women's contribution and to raise awareness on the recognition of their invisible work, thereby boosting their social, political, and economic status.



Reach
8,274,514

HOW DO WOMEN'S UNACCOUNTED WORK CONTRIBUTE TO THE FAMILY, SOCIETY, AND ECONOMY?

Total Video Views
3,314,203



Engagement
631,767



TEACHERS' ROUNDTABLES

To facilitate a broader conversation on issues that matter to youth, BYLC organized a Youth Leadership Summit in 2018, where 350 university students and young professionals co-created a youth manifesto outlining youth's priorities for the future. The findings of the manifesto, which focused on the quality of education and development of relevant skills for a changing world, were presented at a roundtable discussion on *Reimagining Education for a Rapidly Changing World* that involved teachers from 20 institutes.

To address the lack of skills education in schools and universities, a roundtable discussion on *21st century skills: expectations, current perspective, and future steps* was also organized in Chattogram with teachers from 16 institutes.



Number of institutes represented in Chattogram
16



Number of institutes represented in Dhaka
20



ANNUAL RETREATS

Volunteer retreat



BYLC staff retreat



CA retreat



GOVERNING BOARD



Akhter Matin Chaudhury
Chairperson

Akhter Matin Chaudhury 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.



Homayara Ahmed
Member

Homayara Ahmed, assistant professor at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka, is an expert on human resource management. She is an external consultant of Monower Associates, and a member of University & Industry Alliance, a non-profit management and educational consulting center under University of Dhaka.



Ejaj Ahmad
Founder and President

Ejaj Ahmad is a social entrepreneur with extensive professional and academic training in leadership. He is the recipient of the Ashoka Fellowship, Eisenhower Fellowship, and Harvard Kennedy School's Rising Star Award. Currently, he serves as an honorary fellow at the School of Management at University of St. Andrews.



Manzoor Hasan OBE
Member

Manzoor Hasan OBE, a barrister, is currently the Executive Director of the Centre for Peace and Justice, BRAC University (Bangladesh), and Chair of the United Nation Convention Against Corruption Coalition (Germany). He was previously the Founding Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).



Pjal Islam
Member

Pjal Islam, founder and managing partner of pi Strategy Consulting, was previously a Global Leadership Fellow at the World Economic Forum.



Zafar Sobhan
Member

Zafar Sobhan, editor of Dhaka Tribune, is a 2009 Yale World Fellow and a 2005 Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum.



Saima Chowdhury
Member

Saima Chowdhury is the founder and CEO of Noi Solutions LLC, a global apparel sourcing company based out of New York. Noi Solutions ranked 300 in the 2014 Inc. 500 list of the fastest growing private companies in the US.

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD



Sultana Afroz
Member

Sultana Afroz, a career bureaucrat, is presently an additional secretary at the Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh.



Barbara Kellerman
Member

Barbara Kellerman, James McGregor Burns Lecturer in Public Leadership at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, was the Founding Executive Director of the Kennedy School's Center for Public Leadership.



Ronald Heifetz
Member

Ronald Heifetz, King Hussein bin Talal Senior Lecturer in Public Leadership at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, was the founding director of the Kennedy School's Center for Public Leadership.



Gowher Rizvi
Member

Gowher Rizvi, advisor to the Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh, is the immediate past director of the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.



Max Klau
Member

Max Klau, a developmental psychologist with an experience in leadership in complex systems, is presently the chief program officer at New Politics Leadership Academy, an organization dedicated to recruiting and training alumni of service programs (the military, AmeriCorps, TFA, City Year, Peace Corps, and related experiences) for a career in public service.

OUR SUPPORTERS



Kingdom of the Netherlands

IKEA Foundation 

