



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

BYLC

Bangladesh
Youth Leadership
Center



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. Conceptualized at Harvard University and MIT in 2008, BYLC has brought the best of global leadership education to Bangladesh. Over the past seven years, BYLC has trained more than 2500 high school, college, and university students, many of whom have taken on leadership roles across Bangladesh.



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.



THE PROBLEMS WE ADDRESS



Challenge 1: Fragmentation

There is a lack of social cohesion in Bangladesh. Educational and ideological disparities are deepening rifts in society.



Our approach: Build compassion

By working at the intersection of English, Bengali, and Madrasa mediums of education, BYLC provides a common platform for students from various backgrounds to develop a strong sense of mutual respect and understanding.



Challenge 2: Skills deficit

The existing educational curriculum based on rote memorization does not foster creativity, critical thinking, and leadership skills. Thus, inadequately preparing the youth to meet the challenges of the 21st century.



Our approach: Build competence

By using a highly experiential curriculum, BYLC's programs cultivate critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills. Consequently, our students develop new competencies that boost their confidence in addressing real world challenges.



Challenge 3: Conflation of leadership with authority

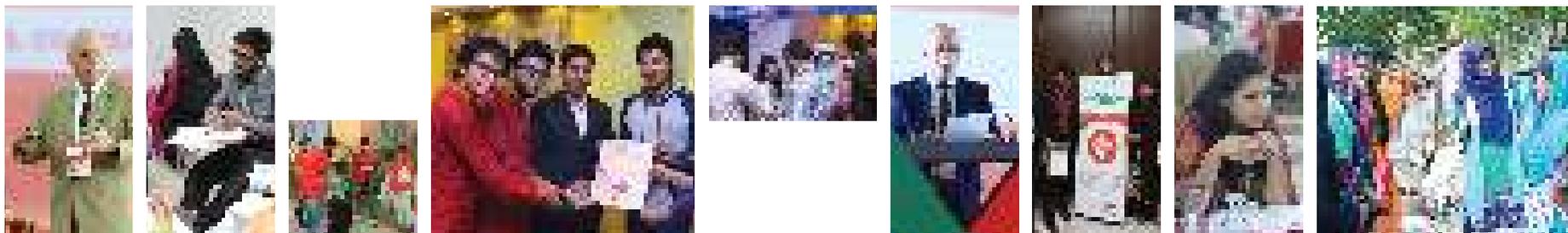
There is a common perception in Bangladesh that leadership can only be exercised by those in authority positions, which leads to citizens constantly looking to those in positions of authority to provide solutions to their problems.



Our approach: Build courage

We emphasize in our curriculum that leadership is work-centric, not person-centric. By teaching participants not to be dependent on authority, we build the courage to step out of their comfort zones, lead without formal authorization, and take initiative on behalf of the issues they care about.

YEAR IN REVIEW



JANUARY

- The opening ceremony of the fourteenth Building Bridges through Leadership Training program was held at BYLC headquarters
- The opening ceremony of the eighth Building Bridges through Leadership Training Junior program was held at BYLC headquarters
- BYLC celebrated its seventh anniversary at BYLC headquarters

FEBRUARY

- BYLC Talks featured UN Resident Coordinator Robert Watkins who spoke about his leadership journey
- Graduation ceremony of the eighth Building Bridges through Leadership Training Junior program held at BYLC headquarters

MARCH

- BYLC Graduate Network celebrated their third anniversary
- BYLC management team went on an annual retreat to the Sundarbans
- Graduation ceremony of the fourteenth Building Bridges through Leadership Training program was held at BYLC headquarters

APRIL

- BYLC Office of Professional Development launched its first workshop

MAY

- BYLC launched new its logo, brand guidelines, and website
- BYLC signed MoU with Jaago Foundation

JUNE

- BYLC signed agreement with Aga Khan Foundation
- The BYLC Graduate Network elected its National Committee

JULY

- Roundtable discussion with experts from different sectors titled 'Closing the Skills Gap: Preparing the Next Generation for Leadership across Multiple Sectors' was held at The Daily Star Center

AUGUST

- The BYLC Youth Leadership Summit was held at the International Convention Center, Bashundhara. 400 participants from 7 countries and over 20 faculty and speakers took part in the Summit

NOVEMBER

- The tenth, eleventh, twelfth, and thirteenth Art and Practice of Leadership workshops were held in Dhaka and Chittagong
- The BYLC Youth Leadership Prize was awarded to ten groups of BYLC graduates to implement social impact projects

DECEMBER

- The opening ceremony of the ninth Building Bridges through Leadership Training Junior program was held at Action Aid's Global Platform center
- The opening ceremony of the fifteenth Building Bridges through Leadership Training program was held at BYLC headquarters
- BYLC, with Office of Professional Development, hosted the first Career Fair for BYLC graduates at Lakeshore Hotel



**BUILDING
BRIDGES** THROUGH
**LEADERSHIP
TRAINING (BBLT)**

Building Bridges through Leadership Training (BBLT) is BYLC's 10-week long signature leadership training program. Designed for H.S.C./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.

Components

Building Bridges

Leadership Training

Leadership in Action

The program seeks to build connections among youth from different backgrounds. By learning and working together, they confront their prejudices and challenge stereotypes to develop a diverse and inclusive network of youth leaders.

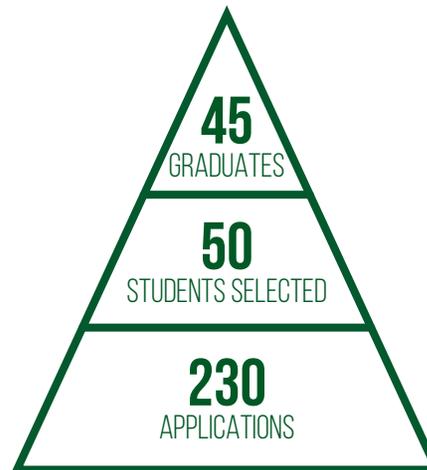
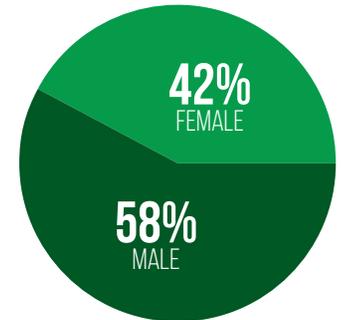
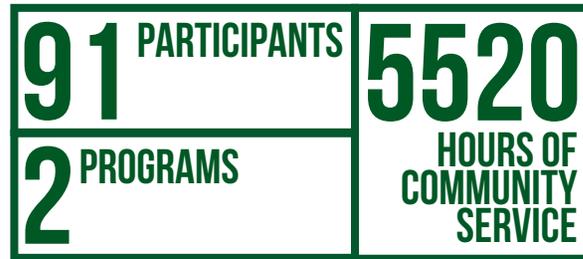
Participants undergo an intensive 6-week training program on leadership theory and skills. The teaching methodology includes lectures, large class discussions, small group peer consultations, structured reflections, and team building exercises.

During the remaining 4 weeks of the program, participants apply their lessons in community service. They design and implement small but realistic, measurable, and results-driven projects to serve impoverished communities.

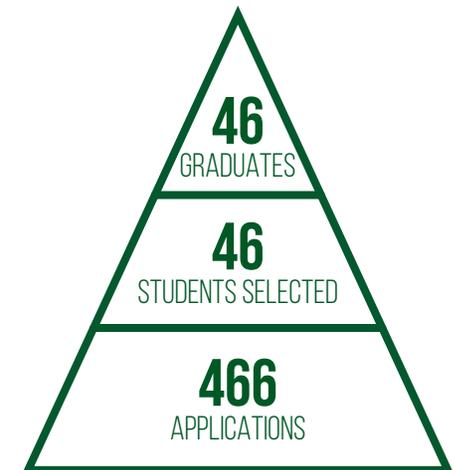
Objectives

- 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 effective teamwork and project management, responsive community service, and active citizenship

BBLT IN 2016



BBLT 14
JANUARY 9 TO MARCH 10, 2016



BBLT 15
DECEMBER 26, 2016 TO MARCH 4, 2017



**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.

Components

Building Bridges

Young people from the three divergent educational systems are united with the intent of challenging the divisiveness perpetuated by the existing structure.

Leadership Training

Participants develop diagnostic and problem-solving skills through large class discussions and small group peer consultations. Additionally, public speaking workshops enable them to strengthen their communication skills.

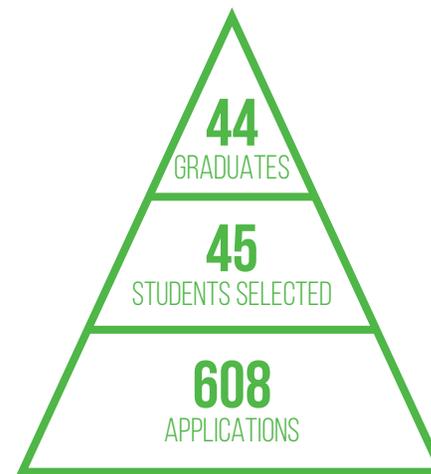
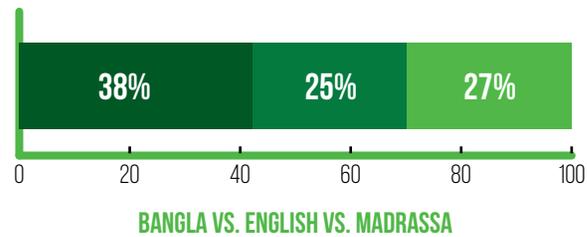
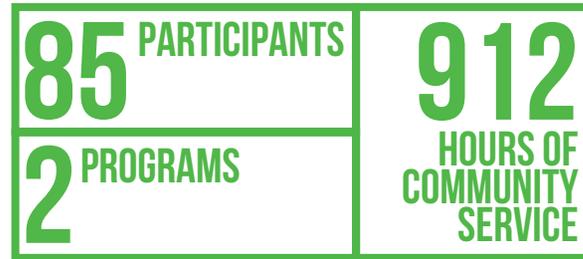
Leadership in Action

Participants apply their skills and knowledge by engaging with underserved communities through service projects.

Objectives

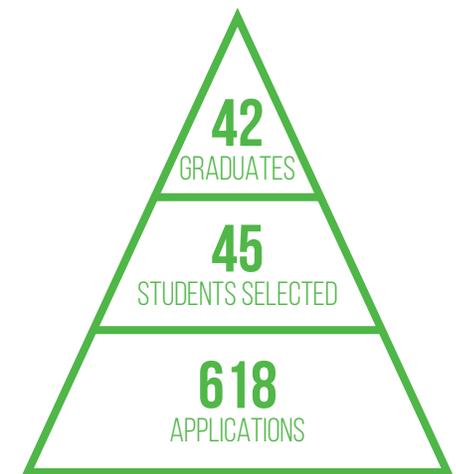
- Promote pluralism by encouraging participants from diverse backgrounds to identify common ground and develop a shared vision for effectuating positive change
- Provide participants with a concrete understanding of the challenges and rewards associated with leadership
- Create opportunities for BBLT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

BBLTJ IN 2016



BBLTJ 8

JANUARY 9, 2016 TO FEBRUARY 4, 2016



BBLTJ 9

DECEMBER 18, 2016 TO JANUARY 22, 2017



THE 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.

Components

Leadership Training

Participants are encouraged to become active and engaged citizens, regardless of their career aspirations. The program uses a combination of lectures, case-in-point teaching, discussions, and reflective exercises to expand participants' capacity to adapt to diverse learning environments and address challenges in the workplace and beyond.

Emphasis on Communication

Effective communication is often the key to resolving conflict and helping others adapt to difficult changes. The workshop features sessions aimed at strengthening participants' communication skills to enable them to perform well in a professional job environment.

Professional Development

Participants receive a practical orientation of the job market and develop professional skills through activities that hone their critical thinking and problem solving methods. The workshop features panels with distinguished guests from diverse sectors to give participants a concrete understanding of potential career paths.

Objectives

- Prepare students for the challenges of a competitive job market in a rapidly changing world
- Encourage participants to step out of their comfort zone and expand their capacity to address complex challenges
- Increase participants' capacity to diagnose a social system and lead courageously in times of uncertainty, change, and conflict

APL IN 2016

151 PARTICIPANTS

4 PROGRAMS

151 FINAL REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS

144 GRADUATED

APL 10 (DHAKA): NOVEMBER 23 – 25, 2016

29 MALE

18 FEMALE

45 GRADUATES

APL 11 (DHAKA): NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 2, 2016

27 MALE

15 FEMALE

33 GRADUATES

APL 12 (DHAKA): DECEMBER 7 – 9, 2016

32 MALE

12 FEMALE

34 GRADUATES

APL 13 (CHITTAGONG): DECEMBER 10 – 12, 2016

28 MALE

10 FEMALE

32 GRADUATES



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 nonprofit sectors for a journey of collective exploration, reflection, and networking. The summit features a mix of plenaries and panels on various topics, and team building activities and reflection sessions to deepen their understanding of effective leadership. Eligible applicants are in college, university, or at the start of their career.

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. Honorable Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament, Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Jane Edmondson, DFID Country Representative, Honorable Prime Minister's International Affairs Advisor, Gowher Rizvi, and Honorable State Minister for Youth and Sports, Dr. Biren Sikder spoke at the opening ceremony. The keynote address was given by Sir Christopher Ball, former Warden of Keble College, Oxford University.

This year's leadership faculty included Ejaj Ahmad, Founder and President of BYLC, 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. Manzoor Hasan OBE, Founding Board Member and former Chairperson, BYLC, chaired the session on **Leadership in an inter-connected world** where Marcia Bernicat, U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh, and Abrar Anwar, CEO of Standard Chartered Bank, also spoke.

Gowher Rizvi chaired the panel on the **Changing landscape of tertiary education in the 21st century**, joined by 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 Annisul Huq, Mayor, Dhaka North City Corporation, chaired the plenary on **Inclusive economy & entrepreneurship**. Discussants included Saima Chowdhury, Board Member, BYLC & CEO, Noi Solutions, David Hasanat, CEO, Viyellatex Group, and Kamran Bakr, Chairman, Unilever.

Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque chaired a plenary on **Investing in the next generation** which featured prominent youth icon such as 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, and Salman Ahmad, President, GADE Foundation, & Winner of Queen's Young Leader Award 2015.

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.

Components

Leadership Training

Participants learn strategies to exercise leadership to address pressing local, national, and global challenges effectively.

Intergenerational Knowledge Sharing

The summit provides participants with the invaluable opportunity to interact with inspiring and distinguished experts and innovators from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

Networking

Participants gain access to a powerful global network of bright, accomplished, and visionary youth leaders.

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





GRADUATE ENGAGEMENT

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Office of Professional Development (OPD) aims to provide BYLC graduates with the best in-class professional development training and placement services. The OPD program will also seek to connect with leading employers across Bangladesh and help them source high potential talent from the BYLC graduate community.

BYLC CAREER FAIR

The OPD organized its first BYLC Career Fair at Lakeshore Hotel on December 21, 2016. The fair connected 305 university students and fresh graduates, who have completed BYLC leadership programs, with 20 of the country's leading private and nonprofit sector employers. The fair worked as a platform for both the demand side (employers) and supply side (BYLC graduates) of the employment market, where HR representatives spoke to the graduates, assessed resumes, and took on-the-spot interviews.

The 20 companies at the career fair included Mutual Trust Bank Ltd, Brac Bank, The City Bank Ltd, Dhaka Bank, Green Delta Insurance Ltd, Adcomm, Brac, ActionAid, Anwar Group, Ananta Group, Energypac Engineering Limited, bKash, US embassy, UNDP, Praava Health, Paragon Group, Renata Pharmaceuticals, Zero Gravity, Apex Footwear Ltd, and Standard Chartered Bank.



185 GRADUATES

8 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

305 GRADUATES ATTENDED THE CAREER FAIR

Graduates have been placed in organisations like Teach for Bangladesh, Jaago, GlaxoSmithKline Bangladesh Ltd, Ananta Group, Scholastica, Unilever, and Oppo.



BYLC GRADUATE NETWORK (BGN)

BYLC Graduate Network (BGN) is an alumni association, governed by an elected board of BYLC graduates. It aims to create an enabling platform for graduates to stay connected and support each other in exercising leadership for individual and community development.

BGN has successfully organized networking events, speaker series, and sport leagues as part of its outreach activities. Additionally, it has also hosted a number of informal learning events for its graduates.

DESH AMAR DAYITTO'O AMAR CAMPAIGN

To celebrate victory day and demonstrate the power of youth in changing society 200 graduates of BYLC programs took part in the "Desh Amar Dayitto'o Amar" campaign at multiple zones in Dhaka, Rajshahi, and Chittagong city on December 16, 2016. The graduates sang the national anthem and provided community service by cleaning roads and pavements in different areas of the city. In the end, graduates took an oath to selflessly serve the nation for a better future.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP PRIZE 2016

With support from UKAid, BYLC launched the BYLC Youth Leadership Prize on August 24, following the Youth Leadership Summit 2016. Graduates of BYLC leadership programs were invited to apply with project ideas that can create significant social impact. By enabling promising young change makers to take on social initiatives, the BYLC Youth Leadership Prize aims to demonstrate the power of youth in leading change in their communities. It is a part of our efforts to nurture and encourage the passion of youth by connecting them to the right tools and networks, and help them grow as catalysts of change.

A thorough assessment process evaluated the applications for potential social impact, innovation in the idea, strategies in project implementation, and the passion demonstrated by the group members. In the last round, groups presented their ideas in front of an external judging panel who chose the final 10 winning groups on the basis of their impact and sustainability.

THE 10 WINNING GROUPS INCLUDE:

- Younifi from Dhaka, who will connect talented volunteers with NGOs and social initiatives
- Green Power from Barisal, who will provide an alternative source of electricity using tidal power
- Waste Free Bangladesh from Dhaka, who will work to change current practices around garbage management to decrease waste
- Ground Zero from Dhaka, who will raise awareness around sexual abuse of children
- Campaign Red from Cox's Bazar, who will raise awareness around menstruation hygiene and management in schools
- LLC for Dropouts from Dhaka, who will provide free tech training and career opportunities to dropout students
- Aqualine from Mymensingh, who will create a social business using fish viscera and waste
- Zhink from Dhaka, who will teach art and designing skills to street children so they can create and sell products
- Aroggo from Dhaka, who will connect underprivileged patients with medical funds through a website and mobile app.



"It's fascinating to learn about the distinct line between leadership and authority that I wasn't familiar with before APL. I look forward to using my newly developed skills to practice leadership effectively."

Sakib Noor
APL 10



"Through this Summit, BYLC has allowed the world to see how dedicated the Bangladeshi youth are towards working for the greater good of the country. This gives me stronger motivation to devote more efforts in my project in Jakarta, where I work to empower children from low income families."

Nur Alisha
Delegate, YLS 2016



"An important lesson from the BBLT course was about embracing diversity. I now believe firmly that if people from different walks of life took a multidimensional approach to solving problems, then we could all work together to move the country forward."

Nafiur Rashid
BBLT 14



Chairperson

Akhter Matin Chaudhury, Managing Director and Chairman, Nuvista Pharma Limited, is also a certified Chartered Accountant.



Member

Homayara Ahmed, Assistant Professor, Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka, is an expert on human resource management.



Founder & President

Ejaj Ahmad is a social entrepreneur with extensive professional and academic training in leadership.



Member

Sara Hossain, a barrister, practices at the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, and is a member of the law firm of Dr. Kamal Hossain & Associates.



Member

Manzoor Hasan OBE, a barrister, is presently the Managing Partner of Manzoor Hasan & Associates, and was previously the Founding Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).



Member

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



Member

Pial Islam, Founder and Managing Partner of pi Strategy Consulting, was previously a Global Leadership Fellow at the World Economic Forum.



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.



Member

Sultana Afroz, career bureaucrat, is presently a Joint Secretary at the Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh.



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



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.



Member

Max Klau, developmental psychologist with an expertise in leadership in complex systems, is presently the Vice President of Leadership Development at City Year, a national service and leadership development program in Boston, Massachusetts.



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.



Member

Late Mijarul Quayes, a former Foreign Secretary, was the Bangladesh Ambassador to Brazil.

In remembrance



We are deeply saddened by the untimely demise of BYLC's international advisory board member Ambassador Mijarul Quayes. He was a committed and competent civil servant, a gifted writer, and a compassionate individual who championed youth leadership development in Bangladesh. The BYLC family will forever be grateful for his contribution to our organization. Our hearts go out to his family as they go through this difficult time.

ηγεσία
Leadership
Johto
قيادة
नेतृत्व
Führung
lederskab
leiderschap
liderazgo
chefia
Leierskap
guida
ръководство
Vedení
ledelse
リーダーシップ