a step forward
Leadership entails moving forward for a shared purpose, regardless of the differences that exist between us. This is what is shown in the puzzle. Without including marginalized groups in society, as represented by the black pieces, this puzzle cannot be completed. Therefore, a leader must reach out to diverse factions in society, listen to their opinions, and understand their values. At the center is the dance floor of life, represented by the Bangladeshi flag that inspires us all to act on behalf of the issues we care about. This is where leadership takes place. A leader must also have the capacity to move away from the dance floor and look at the broader picture of society, which is represented by the different colors. Like BYLC, the goal of the different pieces of the puzzle is to come together to create a cohesive and vibrant community, where individuals from diverse backgrounds work together to build a better Bangladesh.

Md. Nafis Hussain, Mutasim Billah, Nuzhat Khan, Mim Rahman, Maksudul Alam Manik & Osama Bin Noor (BBLT 5)
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DEAR FRIENDS,

When we launched Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC) in 2009, our vision of creating an inclusive, tolerant, and just society focused on a simple but critical concept: the preparation of the next generation of leaders. Today, as we step into our third year and look to the future, we are inspired, humbled, and even more excited at what we have been able to accomplish.

In just two years, we have aided the development of more than 200 high school and college students from diverse educational backgrounds. In 2010 alone, we reached out to more than 150 institutions and recruited 80 bright students who completed more than 6,500 hours of service and served more than 500 families in impoverished communities. Our last Building Bridges through Leadership Training (BBLT) program had an acceptance rate of only 5%, indicating the growing demand for our youth leadership programs in Bangladesh.

During the past year, we introduced new initiatives to enhance the breadth and depth of our activities. The new BBLT Junior program introduces secondary school students to ideas of value-driven leadership and active citizenship at an early age. We also expanded our regular BBLT program to four months to allow for more sustainable and long-term interventions in the community.

While metrics are important, the real result of our work comes from the personal stories of our students. 20-year old Sadek was the first in his family to come to Dhaka to pursue his Alim education. At BYLC, he learned that whatever his mind can conceive it can achieve. He is now the first madrassa student from his village to study abroad. 17-year old Monoshita learned at BYLC that real happiness comes from serving others. She has taken a step forward by hosting training sessions in her home on handicrafts for underprivileged women. Her goal is to create employment opportunities for them. Behind all of our graduates is a similar story of hope, idealism, and personal growth.

We could not have come this far without the support of our friends and partners, the dedicated work of our staff and volunteers, and the commitment of our participants as they continue to demonstrate the impact of youth engagement in communities across Bangladesh. In 2011, we hope to move to our new office with our own training facility. This will help us to take another major step forward by scaling up our activities.

In the pages that follow, I invite you to learn about the issues we are addressing, the approaches we are taking, the results we are delivering, and ultimately the leaders we are developing. I hope you will be inspired to join us in our journey to change the quality of leadership in Bangladesh.

Sincerely,

Ejaj Ahmad
Founder & President
Vision

Our vision is to create a poverty-free Bangladesh driven by the next generation of home-grown leaders.

Mission

BYLC works to bridge gaps in society by uniting youth from diverse backgrounds, equipping them with leadership, problem solving and teamwork skills, and engaging them in community service and active citizenship.
The concept of a youth leadership center was originally developed at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government in January 2008. The proposal for a month-long leadership program, Building Bridges through Leadership Training (BBLT), was jointly developed by Ejaj Ahmad, then a graduate student at Harvard University, and Shammi S. Quddus, then an undergraduate student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The proposal won the 2008 Kathryn Davis Projects for Peace Prize in March 2008.

Ejaj and Shammi ran the BBLT pilot in Chittagong in the summer of 2008 with support from MIT Public Service Center. Building on the success and lessons learned from the pilot, the BBLT program was encapsulated within the framework of a non-profit organization, the Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC). In early 2009, the organization was registered with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms in Bangladesh as a non-partisan social venture.

BBLT, now a four-month long program, is the signature project of BYLC. The first month consists of intensive classroom training on leadership. In the next three months, participants work in teams to organize service projects in underprivileged communities. BBLT Junior (BBLT-J), a new month-long program launched in 2010, creates an opportunity for BBLT graduates to teach leadership to secondary school students. BYLC also conducts executive programs and workshops on leadership for college and university students.

Over the past two years, BYLC’s innovative approach to leadership development has been recognized by, among others, the U.S. State Department, the World Bank Group, the International Youth Foundation, the British High Commission in Dhaka, the Asia Society, the Washington Post and the Daily Star Independence Day Special.
OUR JOURNEY IN 2010

January 9, 2010
Stephen Evans, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh and Dr. Atiur Rahman, Governor of Bangladesh Bank, attend the BBLT 3 Graduation Ceremony.

February 21, 2010
BYLC launches the Young Scholars Program (YSP) for underprivileged secondary school students.

March 6, 2010
BYLC holds its first AGM at the Lake Shore Hotel in Dhaka.

March 24, 2010
BYLC students participate in a roundtable discussion with Joshua DuBois, Director of Faith Based Initiatives for President Barack Obama.

March 26, 2010
BYLC organizes Independence of Thought, an inter-school art competition, to celebrate Bangladesh’s 39th Independence Day.

March 28, 2010
BYLC organizes a public lecture on “Leadership for the 21st Century” at East West University.

June 26, 2010
BYLC launches BBLT Junior 1 - the first leadership training program for secondary school students in Dhaka.

July 10, 2010
BYLC inaugurates the first four-month long youth leadership program in Chittagong.

July 22, 2010
BYLC Junior 1 graduates receive certificates at the Graduation Ceremony in Dhaka.

August 12, 2010
BYLC and Star Campus organize a roundtable on youth leadership to celebrate International Youth Day.

November 4, 2010
James F. Moriarty, the U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh, speaks at the BBLT 5 Inaugural Ceremony in Dhaka.

December 16, 2010
BBLT 4 graduates organize a health camp in Satkania, Chittagong, to serve over 200 underprivileged people.
The picture above symbolizes our sense of nationalism. People from all walks of life, irrespective of color, religion, and gender commemorate our nation’s sovereignty in front of the national mausoleum. The touch of blue horizon, the green trees, the imposing structure in the middle, and the unity of people come together to portray a picture of our true identity. This picture also exhibits the core values of BYLC - patriotism, gender equality, tolerance, teamwork and respect - all critical for the progress of a society.

*Munia Akhter, Class VI, Siddeshwari Girls’ High School (BBLT 5 Fundraising Art Competition)*
Bridging gaps in society

"The future of Bangladesh does not just belong to English medium students, or Bengali medium students, or Madrassa students. It belongs to all of you. BYLC’s work is important because all of you together will decide what you want the future to hold."

JAMES F. MORIARTY
U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh
Bridging gaps in society is at the heart of BYLC’s mission to create a tolerant and inclusive society. Bangladeshi youth have become divided by the country’s separate educational systems - namely English medium, Bengali medium and Madrassa. Students from these three backgrounds rarely interact with each other, and this divisiveness in society is a threat to peace and progress in our country.

One objective of our work, therefore, is to unite youth from diverse backgrounds and bring them to a common platform where they can develop open channels of communication. To exercise leadership in a complex environment, it is also essential for young people to understand the voices and values of different factions in society.

BYLC creates a learning environment in which youth from diverse backgrounds come together and engage in an open dialogue. Our participants are encouraged to respect opposing views and to pursue common goals based on shared values.

"Pursuing an undergraduate degree in engineering has taught me the value of developing technical expertise to solve problems. However, it was at BYLC that I learned that not all problems can be solved through technical competence - some require a shift in mindset and behavior. BYLC also taught me the value of giving back to my community. Working with a diverse group of participants and facilitating their learning and leadership has had a profound impact on what a meaningful career means to me now."

DEENI FATIHA
BBLT 4 Project Coordinator & Class of 2013, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
So far, our efforts to bridge gaps in society have yielded positive results. Many of our graduates have reported that one of the highlights of our program for them was the opportunity to forge friendships with students from other educational backgrounds.

Even after graduation from the BBLT program, many of our graduates from different educational systems continue to work together in the community.

"BYLC heralds a new promise for a positive future by paving the way forward for our young people to become responsible citizens and leaders. BYLC’s work in developing the leadership capacity of the young generation will certainly serve Bangladesh very well."

DR. ATIUR RAHMAN
Governor, Bangladesh Bank
"BYLC opened my eyes to the world. At BYLC, I got to know students from three different educational backgrounds and met students and facilitators who shared their experiences of pursuing higher studies outside Bangladesh. This gave me the courage to explore my possibility of studying abroad. I would have never understood the value of this had I not joined BYLC. Today, I feel proud to be the first madrassa student from my village to study at Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt."

SADEKUR RAHMAN
BBLT 3 Graduate
& Class of 2014, Al-Azhar University

One lesson I learned from the BBLT program is that exercising leadership may require disappointing others. I come from a conservative, religious background and was educated in a Quomi madrassa. Unlike more liberal Alia madrassas, Quomi madrassas emphasize Arabic and Islamic studies rather than English, Bengali and Science. I had applied to the BBLT program because I wanted to meet young people from different backgrounds. At BYLC, I learned about the values and perspectives of students from English and Bengali medium students.

Once during the program when I visited my village, my parents discouraged me to return to Dhaka for a BYLC assignment. Using the communication tools I learned in class, I explained the importance of the leadership program to my parents. They eventually agreed to let me come to Dhaka and fulfill the requirements of the program. BYLC has strengthened my capacity to think analytically. On a personal level, I have become more confident and I feel comfortable talking to people whose viewpoints and beliefs are quite different from mine.

I’m grateful to BYLC for providing me with this opportunity. If it were not for the full scholarship, I would not have been able to participate in such a program. After completing my Alim studies, I intend to start a similar youth leadership program in my village.
Learning to respect others is the first step towards progress. The picture above shows two girls from different backgrounds sitting beside each other and engaging in a dialogue. Unfortunately, in today’s world, this type of open communication does not occur often enough, and much of the hatred and intolerance that exist can be attributed to a failure to engage with one another. This art conveys the importance of bridging gaps in society by respecting the values and viewpoints of others.

*Mayeesha Ahmed, Class X, Sunbeams School (BBLT 5 Fundraising Art Competition)*
“BYLC taught me that leadership is about mobilizing a group to make a positive difference in the lives of others. I also learned to appreciate the importance of compassion and patriotism in becoming an active citizen.”

PAPIA TANCHANGYA
BBLT 4 Graduate
& Class of 2013, Asian University for Women
The concept of leadership, although much discussed in Bangladesh, is heavily misunderstood. Perhaps the main reason for this confusion lies in the lack of a universal theory of leadership. At BYLC, a clear line is drawn between people with formal authority and the activity of leadership. We believe that leadership is much more than a person. Leadership is about mobilizing a group to face common challenges and make progress. If leadership is perceived in this way then it opens up new possibilities for ordinary citizens to also play an active role in the developmental process of a country.

To exercise leadership effectively, one needs to develop two core competencies. The first is an awareness of the social context in which leadership needs to be exercised. To this end, we equip our participants with diagnostic skills to observe and analyze social systems and group dynamics. Leaders today must also have an awareness of self because the inspiration of leadership often comes from one’s own life experiences. Through reflective exercises we help our participants develop a deeper understanding of their values and loyalties. We believe that if young people begin thinking about the purpose of their leadership from an early age, it is likely to impact their future engagement in our country’s development.
BYLC makes a crucial distinction between authority and leadership - the former is about position, and the latter is about an activity that helps improve the human condition.

"The most valuable lesson I got from BBLT was that it’s okay to make mistakes, because if you don’t make mistakes then you don’t learn. Before joining BBLT, my idea of a leader was flawed. I thought that only leaders have the responsibility of providing solutions, but at BYLC I learned that each one of us must share this responsibility."

MUNZERIN SHAHID
BBLT 4 Graduate
& Advanced Level Candidate

The leadership program intrigued me because it was a new concept in Bangladesh. When I applied, I didn’t realize what a huge impact the program would have on me. Once it began I looked forward to each class as much as I feared it because we were forced to face our fears. Initially, I avoided participating in the discussions. Eventually, my humble achievements in the public speaking workshop were enough to boost my confidence and help me step out of my shell.

The workshop, which remains my favorite part of the program, was a life-changing experience. Just a month ago, I stood in front of an entire class as a facilitator and spoke about leadership. With the knowledge I gained from the BBLT program, I have taught confidently both in and outside of BYLC. I would love to teach again and now I have the courage to do so.

A key lesson I learned from the course is that challenging authority is not necessarily a bad thing. This has been invaluable because pursuing my passions will require me to stand up to people. This is only one example of how the BBLT program has strengthened my character. At BYLC, I see examples of courage and innovation at every step and this inspires me to continue to push myself harder.
BBLT graduates catalyze change in their communities by teaching leadership to secondary school students in BBLT Junior program.

“I believe that BYLC has great potential to create a more tolerant and inclusive society by uniting youth from diverse backgrounds and equipping them with leadership skills. I was also impressed to see students from different educational systems come together and work together on a common platform to bring about positive changes in Bangladesh.”

JUDITH A. MCHALE
U.S. Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs

BBLT Junior was created to motivate young people to think about Bangladesh’s major development challenges and to give them the tools to mobilize others for issues that affect them. We raised funds for the initiative ourselves, and despite tight deadlines and budget constraints, we pulled off a terrific program. We organized two public speaking workshops, a discussion with a freedom fighter, and a community service project for underprivileged children.

Implementing BBLT Junior was a new experience for me. Besides coordinating the project, I also worked as the main instructor during the course. My BBLT experience helped me to face the different obstacles that came my way. Moreover, the understanding that I gained about two other educational systems in Bangladesh as a BBLT participant in 2009 helped me to work with a diverse group of young people.

It was a very inspiring experience for both the participants and the instructors. BYLC created an opportunity for me to make a difference, and instilled in me the confidence to step out of my comfort zone. BBLT Junior is an excellent program to teach secondary school students how to design community service projects, interact with people from different backgrounds, and work on issues that are important to them.

SPOTLIGHT | TONIMA TASNIM ANANNYA [BBLT 2 Graduate, BBLT Junior 1 Project Coordinator & Class of 2013, Bryn Mawr College]
"Through BYLC’s leadership training program, Bangladeshi youth are not only learning to become ethical and compassionate citizens, but also they are developing important teamwork and communication skills that will undoubtedly be useful for them in their professional careers."

HOMAYARA AHMED
Member, Governing Board of BYLC
& Assistant Professor, Institute of Business Administration,
University of Dhaka

BBLT expanded to four months

To deepen our participants’ understanding of leadership and active citizenship, this year we extended our signature BBLT program from one to four months. With three more months dedicated to community service, BBLT participants are able to plan, fundraise, and implement projects with greater impact and sustainability.

In addition to improving the quality of community service programs, the expansion has helped instill values of discipline, focus and persistence in our participants. By the end of the program, they are better prepared for real-world challenges.

Our BBLT graduates have produced excellent results from this new format. Besides the creative projects initiated by BBLT 4 and BBLT 5 participants, extensive time and effort went into fundraising to support these ambitious projects. Spending three months at a time in the community has also created a close bond between the participants and the residents.
At the four corners of the picture, we see multicolored lines converging. These represent the different loyalties and voices inside us. They are varied, and are pulling us in different directions. Moving inwards, we see a ring of fire. This represents the difficulties of making choices in life. Just inside the flames we see a black void highlighting the loss that one has to accept to pursue higher ideals in life. The fear of loss is one of the biggest obstacles to achieving enlightenment, which is represented by the white circle in the center. This summarizes our learning at BYLC: to have a meaningful life sometimes we have to step out of our comfort zone and endure painful moments.

Md. Yazdani ul Islam, Adnin Mourin, Tahmida Zaman, Atish Saha, Rosi Ranan & Abdullah Al Mamun (BBLT 5)
"I learned at BYLC that real leadership must come from the heart. We only exercise leadership when we deeply care about something."

MOHAMMAD AFAZ UDDIN SHAKIL
BBLT 4 Graduate & Class of 2013, University of Chittagong

Promoting a spirit of service
In 2010, BBLT participants implemented 12 community projects in Dhaka and Chittagong, and two educational campaigns for underprivileged children through the new BBLT Junior program.

Authorities and mainstream institutions in Bangladesh alone cannot provide the answers to our country's most pressing challenges. This makes it necessary for those without authority to also engage in the development process. Over the past decade, more and more young people have become involved in social service; they are collaborating with development organizations, and building sophisticated networks to address the needs of the underprivileged. BYLC is working to mobilize young people through volunteer activities. Our community service projects play an integral role in BYLC's mission to nurture the youth's passion for public service.

The three additional months of service in our BBLT programs allow young people to implement projects with a lasting impact and to work more closely with members of the local community. The projects expose them to the hardships of slum life and develop their empathy.
Growing income disparities in Bangladesh have pushed millions of families to the margins of poverty. And unfortunately, many families in our country still struggle to gather the financial resources required to send their children to school. The drop out rate after primary education in the Korail community in Dhaka is alarmingly high as parents prefer to send their children to work and support the family. BBLT graduates launched the Young Scholars Program (YSP) in 2010 to support secondary education for 17 promising students. The academic performance of scholarship recipients has been positive and BBLT graduates are continuing to raise funds through small community campaigns to support talented students faced with financial hardship.

“Even after completing the program, we couldn’t get over how tough life was for the underprivileged people we met. We were determined to find a way to help. So we developed a sustainable social business that trains women from the slums to make crafts out of newspapers and waste packets. The group then helps the women to market their products in the city. We are now working on product development in collaboration with Jatra, a popular fair-trade store in Dhaka.”

MONOSHITA AYRUANI
BBLT Junior 1 Graduate
& Ordinary Level Candidate
To be honest, I did not think about problems in society very much before coming to BYLC. I thought that my responsibilities were to study, find a good job, and then lead a secure life. After joining BYLC, I realized that serving others provides more meaning to life.

The BBLT program instilled in me the value of active citizenship and highlighted the need in Bangladesh for people to exercise leadership through small community focused activities. After graduating from BBLT 4, I began teaching basic communicative English in a slum near my university once a week. The class hosts about 20 children. It is fascinating to see the children interact with foreign visitors in English.

I am also working as a volunteer at Anondolok, an education and recreation center for female domestic workers between the ages of eight and sixteen. The girls do not have access to schools due to their working hours and job responsibilities. The center provides vocational training and primary education. It also runs cultural activities such as singing and art classes.

Utilizing the skills I developed at BYLC, I am now designing my own project with a group of friends. Starting this summer, we plan to work with transgenders to address the socio-economic problems they face. Transgenders are an extremely marginalized group in Bangladesh and are often victims of abuse. We hope to draw public attention to their daily struggles and make a difference in their lives.

"It takes good leadership to achieve results in the drive to reduce poverty and improve lives. That is why leadership development must be supported. Instead of looking at the question of leadership from a grandiose angle, BYLC encourages young people to believe that they can change the course of their own lives by their own efforts. It is a much needed attitude in the search for lasting development results."

ELLEN GOLDSSTEIN
World Bank Country Director, Bangladesh
BBLT 5 Community Service Projects in Korail, Dhaka

**Team Nobojatra** conducted classes on MS Office applications and Windows Operating System for 60 underprivileged students.

**Team Antohin** developed entrepreneurial skills of eight women by teaching them basics of glass painting production and marketing.

**Team Ahom** conducted an environmental cleanliness campaign for 30 families. They repaired a water system, cleared garbage, and raised awareness on basic hygiene.

**Team Shekor** organized two health camps to serve the medical needs of 500 people. They also conducted sessions on the importance of healthy diet and fire safety.

**Team Agrani** organized awareness campaigns on arsenic poisoning for 50 families. They also provided six large water filters to the community.

**Team Onuronon** held discussions with 40 families and successfully persuaded 25 families to send their children to primary school.

BBLT 4 Community Service Projects in Motijharna, Chittagong

**Team Obhijaatri** repaired nine existing latrines and built two new ones to improve sanitary conditions in the community.

**Team Durnibar** organized health awareness campaigns for 300 families.

**Team Aamra Pari** worked with 85 families and trained 15 women to make bamboo products. One of the women is now a trainer.

**Team Aunirbaan** taught methods of water purification. They distributed chlorine tablets to 60 families and provided four families with water filters.

**Team Kandaari** taught a group of 30 individuals the importance of proper hygiene. They built a large brick garbage bin at the slum.

**Team Obhinoshor** reached out to 100 families in a campaign on basic education. They set up a learning center for 40 impoverished women.
We live in an increasingly materialistic society. In our pursuit for individual success we often overlook the hardship of people around us. As responsible citizens we have an obligation: not just to ourselves but also to others. The picture above captures this spirit of service. It depicts a few young people organizing a free medical camp for the needy. By mobilizing a group of nurses, the youth are exercising leadership to make a difference. Their motivation for this activity is best expressed in the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson: ‘To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.’

Chowdhury Jemeem Abrar, Class VI, St. Joseph Higher Secondary School (BBLT 5 Fundraising Art Competition)
Financial Statements
Auditors’ Report to the Governing Board of Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center

We have audited the accompanying balance sheet of Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center as at 31 December 2010 and the related income and expenditure account and receipts and payments account for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and explanatory notes thereto. These statements of accounts are the responsibility of the Center’s management. Our responsibility is to express an independent opinion on these statements of accounts based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with procedures we considered appropriate for this purpose. In such procedures we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the information is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the statements of accounts. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall statements of accounts presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the statements of accounts prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as practised in similar sectors of operations in Bangladesh give a true and fair view of the state of the Center’s affairs as at 31 December 2010 and of the results of its operations for the year then ended.

Dhaka, April 25, 2011

[Signature]

[Signature]
## Extract from Balance Sheet

**as at December 31, 2010**

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<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<td>Current Assets</td>
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<td>Advance rent paid for Annual Summit</td>
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<td>2,620,239</td>
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<td>FUND AND LIABILITIES</td>
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<td>Excess of income over expenditure</td>
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**TAKA**

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<td>316,050</td>
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<td>551,945</td>
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**Extract from Income and Expenditure Account**

**for the year ended December 31, 2010**

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<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
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<td>Donations from individuals and organizations</td>
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<td>Donations - others</td>
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<td>Total income</td>
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<table>
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<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
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<td>Program service expenses</td>
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<td>General and administrative expenses</td>
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<td>Preliminary expenses</td>
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<td>Excess of income over expenditure</td>
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<td>2,356,448</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenditure</td>
<td>5,155,435</td>
<td>6,015,412</td>
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**Annual Report 2010**

Dhaka, April 25, 2011

Rahman Rahman Huq
Chartered Accountants
INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Mohaned Rizvi, Honorary Advisor to the 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.

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, 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.

Mijarul Quayes, career diplomat and homme de lettres; presently the Bangladesh Foreign Secretary.

Sultana Afroz, career bureaucrat; presently the Economic Counselor in Bangladesh Embassy, Rome.

Max Klau, developmental psychologist with an expertise in leadership in complex systems; presently the Director of Leadership Development at City Year, a national service and leadership development program headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts.
Dear Readers,

I hope you were pleased with our continued effort to change the quality of youth leadership in Bangladesh. Today, although we celebrate the completion of yet another eventful year, it is time we prepare to take on bigger challenges. In 2011, in addition to organizing our established programs in Dhaka and Chittagong, we are in the middle of launching a landmark leadership summit and planning to launch executive leadership programs for young professionals. Our work largely depends on generous contributions from individuals like you, and I would request you to consider getting involved. You could either contribute to our endowment fund to ensure BYLC’s long-term sustainability, or you could fund a specific program. If you share our vision of preparing the next generation of leaders in Bangladesh, then please email me at ivdad@bylc.org and I will tell you more about our upcoming programs.

Sincerely,

Ivdad Ahmed Khan Mojlish
Director, Youth Leadership Programs

Ejaj Ahmad, president of BYLC, receives the 2010 International Youth Foundation Global Fellowship Award from Nobel Laureate Martti Ahtisaari at the Finnish Embassy in Washington, D.C. on October 6, 2010.
Every day, thousands of Bangladeshis dream of a better Bangladesh. Some envision it as greener, some as more literate, others simply wish for happier lives for its citizens. However, in this society the courage required to act on aspirations and to materialize dreams is rare. And hence we see the dark side in our society where a boy is subjected to child labor and deprived from education, and a mother is struggling to feed her four children. The sunnier side of the picture is where we aspire to be, and as the next generation of leaders we are prepared to make tough choices and work hard to achieve our goals.

Sameera Hussain Wadood, Papia Tanchangya, Umer Aiman Khan, Sad Uddin Mohammad Anas, Muhammad Mahmudur Rahman Meraj, Golam Rabbani (BBLT 4)