



B A N G L A D E S H
Youth Leadership Center

Foreword from President

January 11, 2012



Dear Friends,

With the beginning of the new year, BYLC marked its third year of founding on January 5. It has been quite a remarkable journey for us in this short span of time, and I am personally grateful to you for being with us.

You will be pleased to know that we have moved to our new 5200 sq. ft. training facility in Baridhara. This transition will enable us to scale up our activities and have a greater impact in society by educating more young leaders.

In the final quarter of 2011, we completed our seventh BBLT program in Chittagong and launched the eighth BBLT program in Dhaka, the latter of which had an acceptance rate of less than 6%. This is a robust indicator of the rising popularity of our leadership programs among the young generation. In addition, five graduates of the seventh BBLT program are currently teaching leadership to 45 bright and energetic secondary school students in our BBLT Junior program.

Looking ahead, April will be an exciting month for us as we host the second BYLC Youth Leadership Summit. This year we will bring together 450 delegates from all over Bangladesh to network and exchange ideas with 50 distinguished speakers from home and abroad. To maximize the learning of the delegates, our knowledge team is working with a systems modeler from MIT Sloan School of Management and a developmental psychologist trained at Harvard to design the overall structure of the Summit. The Summit will feature a mix of plenaries and concurrent panels interspersed with reflection and teambuilding exercises.

Let me again take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. May 2012 bring good health and happiness to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Ejaj Ahmad
Founder and President

BYLC LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

BYLC Youth Leadership Summit 2012

The second Youth Leadership Summit will be organized by BYLC on April 26-28, 2012 at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) in

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YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2012

April 26-28, 2012
Bangabandhu International
Conference Center

450 DELEGATES
50 SPEAKERS
3 DAYS OF INSPIRATION

Title Sponsor
U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT



BYLC BUZZ

Md. Salahuddin, a BBLT 3 graduate and student at Dhaka University, represents Bangladesh at the Global Youth Summit 2011 in London as a British Council Changemaker.

Joynul Abedin, a BBLT 5 graduate and student at Dhaka University, attends the 4th Annual Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in Doha, Qatar as a youth delegate.

Md. Ali Haider, a BBLT 6 graduate and student at Dhaka University, participates in the U.S. State Department supported Near East and South Asia Undergraduate Exchange (NESA) program.

Dhaka. The theme of this year's Summit is 'Leading Bangladesh into the Future: A Journey of Exploration'. The Summit is expected to draw approximately 450 youth delegates, comprising of BBLT graduates as well as university students outside of the BYLC network. The Summit will provide a platform for young people to network, enhance their knowledge and voice their thoughts on pressing national issues. The delegates will also have the opportunity to interact with 50 nationally and internationally renowned speakers, including senior government officials, academicians, diplomats, entrepreneurs and civil society leaders. The title sponsor for this year's Summit is the U.S. State Department.

PROGRAM UPDATE

BBLT 7 students wrap up projects in Chittagong

BYLC completed its seventh Building Bridges through Leadership Training (BBLT) program on October 29, 2011 in Chittagong. Thirty-six participants took part in the program, where they received an intensive month-long training on leadership, followed by three months of community service. Participants successfully executed five projects in the Tulatuli community in Khulshi, each dedicating 120 hours of service. The team *Ogrophathik* carried out a project to increase employment of community members by providing them training on embroidery and bamboo artistry. Team *Protttoy* conducted a health camp, while team *Shoptorshi's* project involved a hygiene campaign in the community. The projects have served more than 450 residents of Tulatuli. Five BBLT 7 graduates are currently catalyzing change in the community by teaching leadership to secondary school students in the BBLT Junior 3 program in Chittagong.

BBLT 8 students work with SAJIDA Foundation



Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, the Honorable State Minister for Women and Children's Affairs, addresses students at the opening ceremony of BBLT 8 in Dhaka.

The eighth signature leadership training program Building Bridges through Leadership Training (BBLT) commenced with an inaugural ceremony held at the Lakeshore Hotel in Dhaka on November 12, 2011. The event was attended by Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, the Honorable State Minister for Women and Children's Affairs, as the chief guest and Ms. Lauren Lovelace, the director of the American Center, as a special guest.



Forty-three students from 27 different institutions were selected to participate in the program through a rigorous recruitment process involving 835 applications from over 100 institutions. The participants, who are the first batch to train in the new center, have completed a month of classroom training and have begun their community service projects for the next three months.

The projects will be conducted in collaboration with SAJIDA Foundation at their three major centers in Kamalapur, Kawran Bazar and Mouchak areas of Dhaka city. SAJIDA Foundation is a development organization that works to improve the living standards of poor people through sustainable and effective interventions.

"BYLC is playing an instrumental role in changing the quality of leadership in Bangladesh. I feel optimistic about the future of the country after speaking to the graduates of the Center."

Ronan Farrow, Special Adviser to the U.S. Secretary of State

VOLUNTEERISM REPORT 2011



UN Resident Coordinator Neil Walker with Ejaj Ahmad at the launch of the State of World's Volunteerism Report 2011. The media launch of the report in Bangladesh was organized by UNDP in partnership with BYLC.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1

Admission opens for the BYLC Youth Leadership Summit 2012

March 17

Graduation Ceremony of BBLT Junior 3 in Chittagong

LECTURE ON YOUTH LEADERSHIP



Ronan Farrow delivers a lecture on global youth leadership at the BYLC Headquarters in Dhaka.

WORKSHOP ON DESIGN THINKING



Spotlight: Sharmin Rumpa, BBLT 7 Graduate



Sharmin Rumpa, a BBLT 7 graduate, is currently an undergraduate student of Business Administration at the International Islamic University, Chittagong. After completing the BBLT 7 program, Rumpa continued her community service project with underprivileged women in the Tulatuli community in Chittagong. She shares her experience with us.

What motivated you to continue your community service project after completion of the BBLT program?

For the BBLT 7 program, my team and I had developed a project to create employment opportunities for underprivileged women by providing them training on embroidery. The success of our work raised interest among other women in the community to take the training. Their enthusiasm gave me and two of my peers confidence to continue the project beyond the formal three-month service commitment to BYLC.

How has the response from the project been?

In our project, we trained five women, who have now become adept at crafting basic embroidery work. Presently, they are trying to experiment with new techniques and ideas. Moreover, 14 new participants have joined our project in the last two months. We are working with them to identify potential buyers in the local market for their products.

Have you worked on any other projects?

Yes, I have just completed another project. My fellow BBLT 7 graduates and I wanted to do something special for the Tulatuli community on December 16, Bangladesh's Victory Day. With winter approaching, we decided to distribute sweaters and blankets among people in the poor community. We are grateful to Every Gift & Fashion, a local clothing store, and Bangladesh Steel Re-Rolling Mills (BSRM) for giving us 800 sweaters and 150 blankets. This helped us to celebrate our Victory Day by distributing the collected materials among 300 community members.

Tell us about your experiences with the warm clothes distribution project.

The experience has been wonderful! Initially, we were worried whether we would be able to reach as many people as targeted. But I was pleasantly surprised to see the large turnout on the day of the event. Although at first it was getting a bit difficult to manage the large crowd, our volunteers did a great job at maintaining order. Their effort helped us to distribute most of the clothes to children and elderly people, who are most vulnerable to the winter cold.

How has the BBLT training helped you to execute these projects?

I always had a strong desire to work for the betterment of my community. However, up until now, I lacked the required knowledge and courage to organize a project. Through the BBLT program, I gained experience in problem solving, project planning, proposal writing and budgeting. Most importantly, BBLT has taught me to communicate with others with clarity and confidence. These skills are proving to be quite effective as I continue to organize such service projects.



Shan Riku, MPA/MBA candidate at Harvard/Stanford, founder of the See-D program and lead instructor of the workshop, shares her design and systems thinking insights for entrepreneurs with the participants at the workshop.

FACILITATOR TRAINING



A new cohort of leadership facilitators attend the workshop on the Art of Teaching Leadership at BYLC's new training facility.

BYLC IN THE MEDIA

View a short documentary on BBLT 6 [here](#).

Read about Ronan Farrow's visit to BYLC [here](#).

Read about the launch of BBLT 8 [here](#).

Read about BYLC in the French media [here](#).

Read press clippings on BYLC [here](#).



Plot 3, Road 20, Block J, Baridhara, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh
Phone: (02) 883 3519 Email: info@bylc.org | www.bylc.org