



BRAC University 1st Convocation

Saturday, January 28, 2006

Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center, Dhaka - 1217

President's Message



It gives me immense pleasure to know that BRAC University is going to celebrate its first convocation in January, 2006. On this august moment I congratulate all the graduates, teachers and faculty.

Convocation is a milestone for a university as it reflects the achievements of the students, teachers and the founders of the university. Education remains the driving engine for growth and the social development of the country. It is believed that through education one can realize one's capabilities and make oneself a competent citizen. I hope, the graduates will be able to meet global needs through their talents and will come forward to serve mankind.

I wish the convocation a grand success.

Allah Hafez, Bangladesh Zindabad.

Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed

Minister's Message



It is my pleasure to felicitate BRAC University on its first convocation in January 2006. Education over the years has undergone many transformations, especially in the twenty first century with technological advances and globalization. I am happy to see that universities are adapting to these changes especially in their technological features. I am happy to know that BRAC University has focused on adapting to these needs by offering programs like Master in Development Studies, Master in Public Health, Master in Governance & Development and Master in Disaster Management.

Education is a lifelong pursuit, a pursuit that will always demand further enhancement. A good degree is a basis for a strong foundation. What you take away on this occasion is not just a piece of paper, but your four years of hard work, your passport to the future and you as an aware and a responsible citizen.

I wish the convocation ceremony a great success and congratulate the graduates.

M. Osman Farruk, MP

BRAC University: A Profile

Introduction

BRAC University (BU) was established by BRAC in 2001. Since then, it has expanded to over 2000 students and has two schools, six academic departments, one centre and an institute, and a residential campus at Savar.

From BRAC to BRAC University

The rationale behind BRAC University's establishment can be in every respect appreciated by understanding BRAC's vision. For years BRAC has been promoting the socio-economic development of the country. From the time of its modest inception in 1972, BRAC recognized the importance of empowering people through various programs in the areas of Health, Education and Social Development. In line with BRAC's continued support to education as a force of change and development, BRAC University has been established to provide a high quality of education to meet the demands of the modern age. BRAC University is accredited by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and approved by the Ministry of Education, Government of Bangladesh.

Mission and Goal

The mission of BRAC University is to foster the national development process through the creation of a centre of excellence in higher education that is responsive to society's needs, is able to develop creative leaders and actively contribute to learning and the creation of knowledge.

The goal of the university is to provide an excellent broad based education with a focus on professional development for students, in order to equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary for leading the country in its quest for development. Along with this, the university provides an environment for faculty development in order to ensure a dynamic teaching environment.

Academic Programs

Currently BRAC university is offering the following programs:

Undergraduate programs

- Bachelor of Architecture
- Bachelor of Arts in English
- Bachelor of Business Administration
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Engineering
- Bachelor in Computer Science
- Bachelor of Science in Electronics and Communication Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Physics
- Bachelor of Social Science in Economics
- Bachelor of Law

Graduate programs

- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Development Studies
- Master in Disaster Management
- Master of Arts in Governance and Development
- Master of Public Health

Post Graduate Diploma and Certificate Programs

- Post Graduate Diploma in Bank Management and IT
- Post Graduate Diploma in South Asian Development and Cooperation Studies
- Post Graduate Diploma in Disaster Management
- CISCO Certified Network Associate

Students enter the university in September, or in some cases, in January or June. An undergraduate degree normally takes four years to complete, a Master's takes from a year-and-a-half to three depending upon the student's status. Post graduate diplomas and certificates programs usually take no longer than a year-and-a-half to complete.

Campus and Facilities

The main campus is situated in Mohakhali, Dhaka in a six-storied Building owned by BRAC University, while the residential campus is located at TARC, Savar. Over the span of four years the campus has expanded to four different buildings within close proximity.

BU remains committed to providing the most efficient and up-to-date computer facilities for its students, teachers and administrative staff. There are eleven labs, a cyber library, a digital lab and a language lab. All eleven labs and the cyber library have internet connectivity.

BU Ayesha Abed Library has more than 9,000 square feet of space with a collection of 13,000 books and it subscribes to 20 Journals/Magazines. The library also includes discussion rooms, silent study rooms, CD corner, newspaper stands and workstations.



Prime Minister's Message



I am pleased to know that the First Convocation Ceremony of BRAC University will be held on 28 January 2006. I extend my felicitations and best wishes to the students, staff and management of BRAC University on this auspicious occasion.

In any society, the pursuit of education enhances and broadens the intellectual horizons of the citizenry. Higher institutes of learning like the universities help advance new ideas, promote enduring knowledge, assist in inculcation of appropriate moral and ethical values among the students, and sponsor academic excellence and perfection. It is also important that the students are taught and groomed properly to become responsible, conscious and proactive citizens. I am sure BRAC university has been maintaining a high standard in its academic undertakings at par with the best in South Asia.

I congratulate the graduating students who will be receiving degrees at this First Convocation of BRAC University and wish them all success in their future undertakings and professional careers.

Allah Hafez, Bangladesh Zindabad.

Khaleda Zia

Convocation Speaker's Message



I am delighted to serve as commencement speaker for the BRAC University graduation. From the very beginning, one of the hallmarks of BRAC's work has been education and in particular girls' education. The organization's commitment to women's rights and overall dedication to education as a human right are vital. The formation of BRAC University in 2001 marked an exciting expansion into higher education. The James P. Grant

School of Public Health, launched in 2004, holds a special place in my heart. It builds on BRAC's remarkable track record of improving health outcomes for the people of Bangladesh, in particular the poor and women. I have followed closely all of their initiatives and have the greatest admiration for BRAC's impact.

BRAC is one of the world's most successful non-governmental organizations and its founder, Fazle Hasan Abed, is the quintessential leader. Over the last three decades, Mr. Abed's approach for rapidly scaling up effective programs has created a can-do culture in BRAC. In addition, what makes their works so unique is the creativity and passion to identify solutions that empower people and communities to engage in transformative work. This work has dramatically improved the well being of Bangladeshis and the region. The University's inaugural graduating class, over 120 strong, is another shining example of BRAC's extraordinary accomplishments. I applaud the hard work of students, parents, faculty, and the BRAC University leadership for making this day a reality. In particular, I want to acknowledge my esteemed colleague and friend Mushtaque Chowdhury, founding dean of the BRAC School of Public Health. As graduates of BRAC University, I encourage you to continue to embody in your personal and professional lives the vision and accomplishments that represent BRAC.

Allan Rosenfield, MD
Dean, Mailman School of Public Health,
Professor of Population and Family Health
DeLamar Professor of Public Health Practice
Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics, College of Physicians and Surgeons
Columbia University, USA



Jimmy Carter's Message

It is with great pleasure that I both visualize a future that you will create and congratulate you on such important moment in your lives. The world has been waiting for you. It's a world battered by disease reminding us daily that if you are poor you may not get the same benefits from science, education, knowledge and governments that you would get if you would get if you are rich.

It's a world groaning under the burden of injustice and crying out for people who are willing to dedicate their lives to correcting these inequities. It's a world waiting for people who are willing to make the science available to everyone, willing to understand the needs of the poor and willing to learn from the poor in order to help rather than to impose. At this very moment you appear on the scene. You declared your interest by preparing to work in public health. You will carry the legacy of James P. Grant, one of my personal heroes, into the hard fatiguing yet exhilarating world to share health knowledge.

I feel a direct connection as nation to you because I nominated Jim Grant for his position as head of UNICEF. I had the opportunity to immunize children with Jim Grant in poor parts of the world. He became the champion of the poor and specially poor children. He harnessed an entire global agency to improve immunizations, oral rehydration, a technique that was brought to the world's attention by Bangladesh, growth monitoring and breast feeding rates. He made micro nutrient malnutrition a priority in the world and he mastered the art of getting politicians interested in health. You also carry the legacy of Fazle Abed, another hero of mine and BRAC which has demonstrated the importance of grassroots mobilization. You are now part of this movement, showing the world the power of motivated people to find their own solutions to the problems of the poor countries.

I was deeply impressed to learn that you 25 pioneering students came from 10 different countries to the James P Grant School of Public Health, that your faculty involves Bangladesh, Europe and the United States and that your curriculum has allowed you to live in both rural and urban areas for practical experience as you hone your skills.

It's a model that other schools would want to emulate. You not only represent the world, but you also provide hope. In a 100 years people will still be talking about the odds that they have overcome to start this school and the impacts you graduates had in changing the world.

Thank you for allowing me to share this moment. Thank you for what you have done and thank you for what you will do in the future.
Transcribed from Video Message

Valedictorian's Message

I am delighted to be amongst the first graduating batch of BU. It seems like only yesterday when we were fretting over what subjects to take during our advising, and now we are fretting over what careers are best for us. There was a time we all could not wait for this day to come and now it is hard to believe it is here so soon. Today BU has more than 2000 students; there were only a very small number of students when I first set foot here. Being part of such a small group has been a very special experience. Not only did we students get to know each other at close quarters, we also had close relationships with all our teachers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the teachers. I feel we are better equipped and well prepared to undertake any challenges that we may encounter while working to achieve our goals. To my fellow classmates, we all have shared many memories together. The experiences I have shared with you are priceless and will forever remain alive in my heart. Finally, I thank my parents for helping me come this far.

Nahleen Zahra, Class of 2006
Bachelor of Social Science in Economics, Department of Economics and Social Science

BRAC University Governing Board President's Message



My heartfelt congratulations to the first graduating class of BRAC University. This convocation not only signifies the success and achievements of our students, but also marks an important milestone in the history of this institution. It is a time for reflection, for renewing our commitment to the future of our country and of following generations. This momentous occasion marks an end and a beginning - an opportunity to push back the boundaries and set sights on higher goals. I would like to take this opportunity to remind the graduating class that you are a very special batch indeed, being the first of BRAC University. As such, you may have missed out on much of the facilities and advancements that BRAC University plans for the future. However, we have done our best to make your experience at BRAC University a rewarding one.

As you step away from this university ready to face the world, let me caution you about the great challenges that may come your way, but remember what you have taken away from BRAC University. You have taken more than a piece of paper - I trust that each of you have emerged from its gates a leader, a thinker, a citizen entrusted with responsibilities to your people, your society and your country. Your degree represents more than knowledge. It represents courage, character, and your commitment to making a difference in the world. I trust that you will do justice to what you have received from this institution and what you have received from your country. I believe that you will rise to all the challenges that come your way and that you will overcome them.

As our very first alumni, I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors. We are all proud of you today and hope that you will continue to make BRAC University proud through your creativity, enterprise, determination and, most importantly, hard work.

Fazle Hasan Abed
President, Governing Board

Vice Chancellor's Message



The first convocation marks an important milestone for a university and I am very happy to share this moment with you. I congratulate the proud parents and guardians who reposed their confidence in us and would like to thank all teachers, management staff, members of the Governing Board and the Academic Council for providing us with all their support.

Our country faces myriad of development challenges and I am confident that our graduates will play important roles in solving these problems, leading the socio-economic development efforts of the country. Besides, with the knowledge, skill and the spirit of enquiry along with the zeal for acquiring new knowledge, which we have tried to inculcate among our graduates, I hope they will be able to prove their worth and provide leadership in various fields, not only in Bangladesh, but also in other parts of the world.

In order to accomplish this, we were dedicated to improving the pedagogical practices, promoting a student-centred learning environment and being technologically driven. I hope that our commitments and efforts will be reflected in the quality of our graduates.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all our graduates who have successfully crossed one of the most difficult academic hurdles in their lives.

I wish all the graduates success in life.

Professor Dr. Jamilur Reza Choudhury

UGC Chairman's Message



It gives me an immense pleasure to know that the BRAC University is holding its 1st Convocation ceremony. As everywhere, convocation is the fruit of hard work and the Ultimate symbol of the achievement of students. It also bears testimony to the accomplishment of the students, their parents, the faculty and the management of the university as a whole

Education promotes quality of life. It enlightens us and promotes tolerance and democratic spirit. Private University emerged out of a pragmatic necessity of ensuring access to the large number of students in higher education for transferring them as efficient manpower for the socio-economic development of the country. I am glad to know that BRAC University is providing quality education. I congratulate the leaders of this University for their endeavors.

I extend my heartfelt thanks and congratulations to the BRAC University family on this auspicious occasion. May the onward march for the University for excellence in education continue forever.

I wish the teachers and students of the university all the best.

Prof. Dr. M. Asaduzzaman
University Grants Commission
Of Bangladesh

Distinctions

Chancellor's Gold Medal

- Nahleen Zahra (02105002) CGPA: 3.96
- Victoria Nankabiwa (05167017) CGPA: 3.93

Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal

- Naushad Uzaman (01201019) CGPA: 3.89
- Shah Mohammad Azlan (01204027) CGPA: 3.68
- Nahleen Zahra (02105002) CGPA: 3.96
- Munshi Sulaiman (03162006) CGPA: 3.83
- Mehrun Nesa (02164006) CGPA: 3.76
- Victoria Nankabiwa (05167017) CGPA: 3.93

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