



International Conference on Road Safety in Developing Countries



22-24 August, 2006

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka

Organized By : **Accident Research Centre, BUET**

Supported By : **Ministry of Communications, GOB**



PRESIDENT
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA

22 August 2006

Message

I am very happy to know that the International Conference on "Road safety in Developing Countries" organised by the Accident Research Centre (ARC) of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), is being held during 22-24 August, 2006 at BUET.

There is substantial evidence that road traffic accidents and injuries are a major public health problem throughout the world. The challenge of combating this ever growing enormous global crisis requires urgent and concerted efforts from all sectors and society at large. I believe this conference will provide the transport professionals, researchers, academicians and various stakeholders a common platform to share their thoughts and views and find our pragmatic ways to reverse the constantly aggravating trends of road traffic accidents and injuries in many developing countries, Bangladesh in particular.

I wish the International Conference all success.

Allah Hafez, Bangladesh Zindabad.

Allah Hafez
Professor Dr Iajuddin Ahmed

THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "ROAD SAFETY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES"

Professor Dr. Md. Mazharul Hoque
Project Director, Accident Research Centre and
Head, Department of Civil Engineering, BUET.

Developing countries are now experiencing a serious road safety crisis and are predicted to worsen in the coming years unless the critical problem of epidemic nature is seriously addressed with significant improvements in the relevant sectors. Latest studies revealed that around 88 percent of the 1.2 million deaths from road traffic injuries occur in the developing world. For every death, there are far greater numbers of injuries- four persons with severe/permanent disabilities, ten persons requiring hospital admission, and thirty persons requiring emergency room treatment. The economic costs of this epidemic are enormous, ranging from 1 to 3 percent of GDP for every nation. And it is estimated that road traffic injuries will be the third leading cause of life years lost by 2020. The road safety in low and middle income countries thus emerges clearly a critical and major public health issue.

Like many other developing countries, Bangladesh is experiencing a very severe road safety problem and the situation has been deteriorating with increasing number of road accident deaths, largely as direct consequences of rapid growth in population, motorization, unplanned urbanization and lack of legitimate investment in road safety. Societal and economic impact and burden of road traffic injuries in terms of pain, grief and sufferings are enormous. Achieving safety on our roads depends greatly on the commitment and efforts of the government, communities, organizations, families and individuals throughout Bangladesh and indeed everyone in the society has a part to play in combating the problem.

In response to the growing accident problem in Bangladesh, the concerned authorities have started to realize the need for scientific study and research regarding the causes of accidents and commensurate remedial measures. The highest level of commitment in this regard came from the Honourable Prime Minister to establish an independent Accident Research Centre within her 100 days Priority Program. The Accident Research Center (ARC) has been formally established at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in 2002 to carry out scientific research for clear understanding of the road safety problems and ascertaining the underlying causative factors which contribute to accidents on roads, railways and waterways. In addition, ARC has major role to develop pragmatic, cost-effective scientific solutions and bring about significant improvements in the capability of the professionals and workers in the field of transportation to a meaningful level of expertise for accident prevention and injury control and thereby contribute to the safer environment for all users and operators.

It should be noted that road traffic safety professionals can only prevent accidents and injuries if they understand what causes them. Traditionally this understanding is achieved through systematic investigation and scientific research on road traffic accident which results from failure in the interaction of human, the vehicle and the road environment- the three elements which produce the road traffic system. Importantly, accident remedial and preventive measures should by and large be implemented based on local research on road safety issues in a specific country of concern. Indeed, safety is one of our major responsibilities. As an organization of transportation professionals and as individual, we have our own duty:

- Be aware of the road traffic accident problem and its adverse societal and economic impacts and consequent health burden;
- Promote road safety and make it our priority through widespread education and publicity;
- Bring about changes in attitudes of drivers towards safe operations through strict enforcement and sanctions;
- Seek solutions of accident problems through correct procedures, standards, safety conscious planning and design and good practices;
- Make available requisite funding and resources for safety improvements;
- Work cooperatively and aggressively with educators and enforcement personnel;
- Provide appropriate training and education on accident prevention, injury control and safety technology;
- Foster safety research excellence through exchange and linkage with institutions at regional and international levels.

As a part of ARC's ongoing activities, we have planned to hold an International conference on Road Safety in Developing Countries at BUET, Dhaka during 22-24 August 2006. This International Conference aims to bring together leading international and local experts, researchers, academicians, practitioners and policy makers in a common platform to develop a befitting forum for sharing and exchanging the latest advances and experiences in addressing road safety challenges of developing countries. Participants from Bangladesh, policy makers and professionals in particular will benefit immensely by enhancing and updating their knowledge from the presentations and discussions of the conference. Furthermore, the conference outcome will lead to creating greater road safety awareness among the public in general and drivers, operators and other road-users in particular. We are eagerly looking forward to the successful outcome of the conference.



PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

25 Sraon 1413
09 August 2006

Message

I am pleased to know that the Accident Research Centre (ARC) of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, supported by the Ministry of Communications, is organizing an international conference on 'Road Safety in Developing Countries' on 22-24 August 2006.

There is an urgent need for pragmatic and sustained efforts to significantly improve the road safety situation in the country. Our government is firmly committed to deal effectively with this critical problem. We have already taken some measures for the purpose, including the establishment of National Road Safety Council (NSRC) as well as the ARC. The Government of Bangladesh intends to implement additional measures in the foreseeable future in order to reduce and prevent road accidents in the country.

I welcome the initiative of ARC to organize an international conference on the subject. I am confident that the occasion will provide opportunities for learning and sharing latest developments in the field, which in turn will help tackle road safety challenges in Bangladesh.

I wish the International Conference on 'Road Safety in Developing Countries' all success.

Allah Hafez, Bangladesh Zindabad.

Allah Hafez
Khaleda Zia



Barrister Nazmul Huda
MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

D. O. No.

Dated, Dhaka, the.....

Message

The terrible losses of lives, injuries and properties on our roads affect us personally, socially and economically. The fatalities, injuries and damages caused by road traffic accidents are colossal in magnitude. The Government of Bangladesh is firmly committed to reduce such devastating losses and enhance safe travel on our roads. In view of this, the Ministry of Communications has established the Accident Research Centre (ARC) at BUET under the commitment of the Honourable Prime Minister, Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh with the aim of being developed as a centre of excellence in scientific research and investigations on problems of road safety. Accident Research Centre (ARC) is currently carrying out in depth research and investigations on road traffic accidents as well as conducting appropriate training programs and workshops to develop qualified human resources and for creating mass awareness on road safety.

I am very glad to know that an International Conference on "Road Safety in Developing Countries" has been organized by the Accident Research Centre (ARC) which I believe would be a significant event in formulating pragmatic programs in achieving road safety in Bangladesh.

I wish this Conference a complete success.

Nazmul Huda
(Barrister) Nazmul Huda, (MP)



Dr. M. Osman Farruk, M.P.
Minister
Ministry of Education
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Message

I am glad to know that the Accident Research Centre (ARC) at Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (BUET) is organising an International Conference on Road Safety in Developing Countries on 22-24 August 2006.

This international conference would indeed be a befitting forum to bring together the world's leading experts to discuss the latest and prevalent good practices and possible solutions on all aspects of road safety. I believe that the outcome of the Conference will help for combating the serious and growing road safety problems. Undoubtedly the event will result into a continuing process for the exchange of information on the latest works and researches being carried out in different countries around the world.

I congratulate the organisers for arranging such an important event.

M. Osman Farruk
(M. Osman Farruk, MP)



Salahuddin Ahmed M.P.
State Minister
Ministry of Communications
Govt. of The People's Republic of Bangladesh

Message

Safe and Efficient road transport system plays a key role in national economic development and contributing multi dimensionally for the people of Bangladesh. With the increasing growth in road transport, however, has unfortunately resulted in higher number of road accident incidences and mortality. The road safety situation is now a matter of great concern to all of us and the Government is therefore seriously committed to improve the situation.

I am pleased to know that the Accident Research Centre (ARC) of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) is organizing an international Conference on Road Safety in Developing Countries which I believe is a very urgent and timely event to discuss a range of issues and options to fight against the road trauma and address the road safety challenges.

I congratulate the Accident Research Centre for organizing such an important Conference and wish the Conference all the success.

Allah Hafez
Bangladesh Zindabad
Salahuddin Ahmed
(Salahuddin Ahmed, MP)



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Professor Dr. M. Asaduzzaman
Chairman

Message

I am very happy to know that the Accident Research Centre (ARC) at Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (BUET) is organising an International Conference on Road Safety in Developing Countries during 22-24 August 2006. This International Conference would indeed be a befitting forum to bring together the world's leading experts to discuss the latest and prevalent good practices and possible solutions on all aspects of road safety arising from the presentations of papers and scholarly discussions at the Conference. I strongly believe that the outcome of the Conference will provide invaluable input and strengthen our national efforts of combating the serious and growing road safety problems. Undoubtedly the event will result into a continuing process for the exchange of information on the latest works and researches being carried out in different countries around the world.

I commend BUET for its initiatives and sincerely congratulate the organisers for their hard working endeavor in arranging such an important event. I also extend my congratulations to all the participants in the Conference for their valuable contributions and thus making the event a successful and fruitful one.

I wish all the best for the Conference.

Dr. M. Asaduzzaman
Prof. Dr. M. Asaduzzaman
Chairman
University Grants Commission



MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION
Government of the
People's Republic of Bangladesh.

D. O. No.

Message

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We all are seriously concerned with the deaths, injuries and property damages caused by road traffic accidents both locally and globally. In recent years, road traffic accidents and injuries have been increasing at an alarming rate causing enormous toll in lives and sufferings as well as huge economic losses in many developing countries like Bangladesh. Many of the developed and developing countries have been highly successful to reduce traffic accidents through engineering practices, research, implementation and concerted efforts from multi-sectoral entities. In order to be able to accelerate progress to address the road safety problem in Bangladesh, significant improvements are needed in each of the elements of traffic system viz. Roadway, Vehicle and the Road Users.

I am extremely happy to know that the newly established Accident Research Centre (ARC) at BUET supported by Ministry of Communications has organized the International Conference on Road Safety in Developing Countries during 22-24 August, 2006 at BUET, Dhaka. The conference will immensely benefit us in devising effective countermeasures in the relevant sectors.

The policy makers, researchers, practitioners, law enforcement officials, medical professionals, vehicle operators and the members of public at large in Bangladesh will be highly benefited by sharing knowledge and experiences with local and internationally renowned experts.

I wish the Conference a grand success.

Md. Shaifiqu Islam
Md. Shaifiqu Islam
Secretary



Vice Chancellor
Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka-1000

Message

It is my immense pleasure to learn that all preparations for holding the International Conference on Road Safety in Developing Countries at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) have been finalized. I thank and congratulate all participants and the members of different committees of the Conference for their sincere efforts and hard works. Indeed BUET is proud to host this important Conference which is the first of its kind in Bangladesh.

The Conference is bringing together many local and international experts, researchers and professionals involved in accident prevention and injury control. I believe that holding of this international Conference in Bangladesh is particularly significant and timely for the nation as we are currently consolidating our efforts in dealing with road safety crisis with the establishment of the Accident Research Centre (ARC) at BUET under the top priority programs of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

I firmly believe that the presentations, discussions and exchange of information in the Conference on best practices on road safety will provide an excellent opportunity in devising pragmatic and cost effective solutions to reduce the number and severity of accidents and injuries and thus enhance safe travel on roads in Bangladesh.

I look forward to the outcome of this valuable exchange of knowledge and expertise.

Best wishes for a successful and productive Conference.

Dr. Md. Ateeq Murtaza
Professor Dr. Md. Ateeq Murtaza



Message

UNICEF congratulates the organisers of Bangladesh's first International Conference on Road Safety in Developing Countries. It is time we focused attention on the issue of deaths and injuries caused by road accidents. Through increased knowledge and information we can raise awareness and hopefully stem the tide of people killed and injured on our roads.

Road accidents are now a great concern in developing countries, and particularly in Bangladesh. Many children die and many more become disabled every year due to road accidents. The Bangladesh Health and Injury Survey (BHIS) sponsored by UNICEF and The Alliance for Safe Children (TASC) and conducted by the Institute of Child and Mother Health reveals that road accidents are the leading cause of death among children aged 10-14 years.

Apart from the loss of these young lives, the effect of road accidents on children is not limited to the injuries they alone may suffer - the death, injury and disability to a parent or other family member can also alter their lives forever.

The International Conference on Road Safety in Developing Countries will bring this serious issue to the attention of policy makers who can then, in turn, make road safety a central theme of public health and other development programs.

UNICEF is committed to supporting the Government in reducing childhood deaths and disabilities. Road safety activities must be undertaken on a massive scale if we are to save our children.

UNICEF wishes the conference every success.

Louis-Georges Arsenauff
Louis-Georges Arsenauff
Representative
UNICEF-Bangladesh



accident research centre
(Committed to Safer Transportation)

www.buet.ac.bd/arc