

# ...quality education

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population, do indicate to the high correlation of quality universities with GDP. The same is true for UK, Germany, Japan, France, Canada, Sweden and other advanced countries.

#### Our prospects for inclusion into the world ranking

As the Shanghai JiaoTong University criteria stand, for us to proceed realistically we can only depend on increasing our score on research output, in particular strengthening our score in SCI. For a country of 150 million people, about 2.5% of the Earth this should not be a prohibitively difficult task, provided we set our target fixed and move forward to achieving it with mission. Even universities of Malaysia and Thailand have made into the top 500. I am sure only 50 years back these countries were not placed above us in education. It is evident that for us to be ranked, the ranking authority must have our data, and with as less effort as possible. These data can be obtained only from us.

Unless we make these data available to them, it will be extremely difficult for them to consider our case. This is why a very good homepage enriched with relevant data is an absolute necessity. In fact, recently webometrics ranking was published based on the presence of universities in the web. However, creating a homepage of the university is not good enough unless we can enrich it with a commendable list of our achievement in science and technology, in particular with respect to research, which is so important for scoring in all criteria. So in order for us to break into the rank list we must find a way of inspiring research works in the university. With an excellent quality intake in particular BUET and DU should be able to enter into the list of 500 in spite of the fact that webometrics ranking put us way behind.

#### Conclusion

For us to participate in the creation of knowledge-based society we must ascribe adequate importance to education, build a good knowledge base, create knowledge work-

ers, increase our know-how in ICT. This cannot be done simply by signing declarations, declaring ICT as thrust sector, or shouting that education has been given the largest budgetary allocation. We must mean business, should bring education to the topmost priority. Unless we are able to create knowledge commendably, be skilled in the technology necessary for creation of a knowledge-based society our dream of being part of a knowledge-based society will not be materialized.

At the moment we know investment in education does not actually have any effective priority in the agenda of our Government for many years. In a country where education is no longer attractive, introduction of grading system has further reduced interest of our young kids to earn excellence in education. But it is also true that 2.5% population of the Earth live in this land. We need to create a stimulating environment in which our intellectual capability will thrive in presence of competition as a reagent. People of this land have proven their

excellence in creative works, especially in science and technology, even when we were under the colonial rule. Jagdish Chandra Bose, Satyen Bose and Meghnad Saha, all sons of our soil, have proved their quality as researchers. Even now, many of our graduates have established themselves and earned enviable success living in advanced countries. However, very unfortunately none of our institutions, be it academic, research or industrial, could establish itself as world class. I am sure, this is not only the insufficient budget that is responsible for our lack luster performance in education and research, our missionlessness is also contributing to this poor show. I am sure achievement of performance of Jadavpur University per unit fund utilized will be much higher than ours. Special allocation for funds for research by MOSICT will reveal a baffling picture of wastage of fund in the name of research in our country. This had been happening due to absence of transparency. For us to earn success, it is not lack of merit rather lack of mission is the issue. We must call a spade a spade, ensure transparency and reward those who achieve. We should not fall short of making profiles of our faculty members available to the public through our own home page, and ensure transparency. In KAIST through monthly magazine KAIST Herald faculty members are being reminded of the achievements of faculty members of prestigious foreign academic institutions like MIT, Princeton, Stanford and local competitors like Seoul National University or POSTECH developing a healthy competition and urge for achieving excellence. IITs keep in their homepage a long list of faculty members and students achieving honours and awards thus inspiring the IIT family to achieve similar glory. We should follow these famous institutions, publish monthly news bulletins staffed with inspiring information, enrich our homepage with achievements of our faculty members, students and alumni. We must create avenues for healthy competition among

students, and faculty members alike. We should make all-out efforts, take all possible administrative measures to inspire the brilliant community of faculty members and students to engage themselves in jobs they are best suited for, exploit their potential and excel. We should inspire our brilliant students participate in international events to enable them raise our technological flags high. Participation of our students in the recent past in different international competitions does indicate that given opportunities our students are able to match with the best. Participation of CSE students in the World Finals of ACM ICPC Contest for 11 years in a row and excellent performance of EEE students in different competitions are some of the examples to support the view. Achievements of FR Khan as a world class architect, Fazle Hussain as a forerunner of his field, becoming an IEEE fellow by Muhammed Ashraful Alam at a young age, are some of the examples that can inspire our community earn excellence and build self confidence for achieving these feats. Let these glowing examples capture the minds of our young students and forbid them to run after trivial pursuits, ruin their potential, and academic discipline of our institution. As in cases of IITs our university can be immensely benefitted out of such close ties with alumni. As representatives of the meritorious class of the country we have to shoulder the important responsibility of bringing confidence of our people back by excelling in our fields as Technion has done in Israel, IITs and IISc in India, KAIST in Korea. Let us commit ourselves to contributing to the nation building by solving problems of national interest and by creating a healthier technological image of the country in the world community, and finally make Bangladesh a proud member of the knowledge-based society in being.

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