




18 March 2009



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Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs (UCEP)-Bangladesh Inauguration of UCEP-Jatrabari Technical School

President
PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA

04 Chitra 1413
18 March 2009

Message

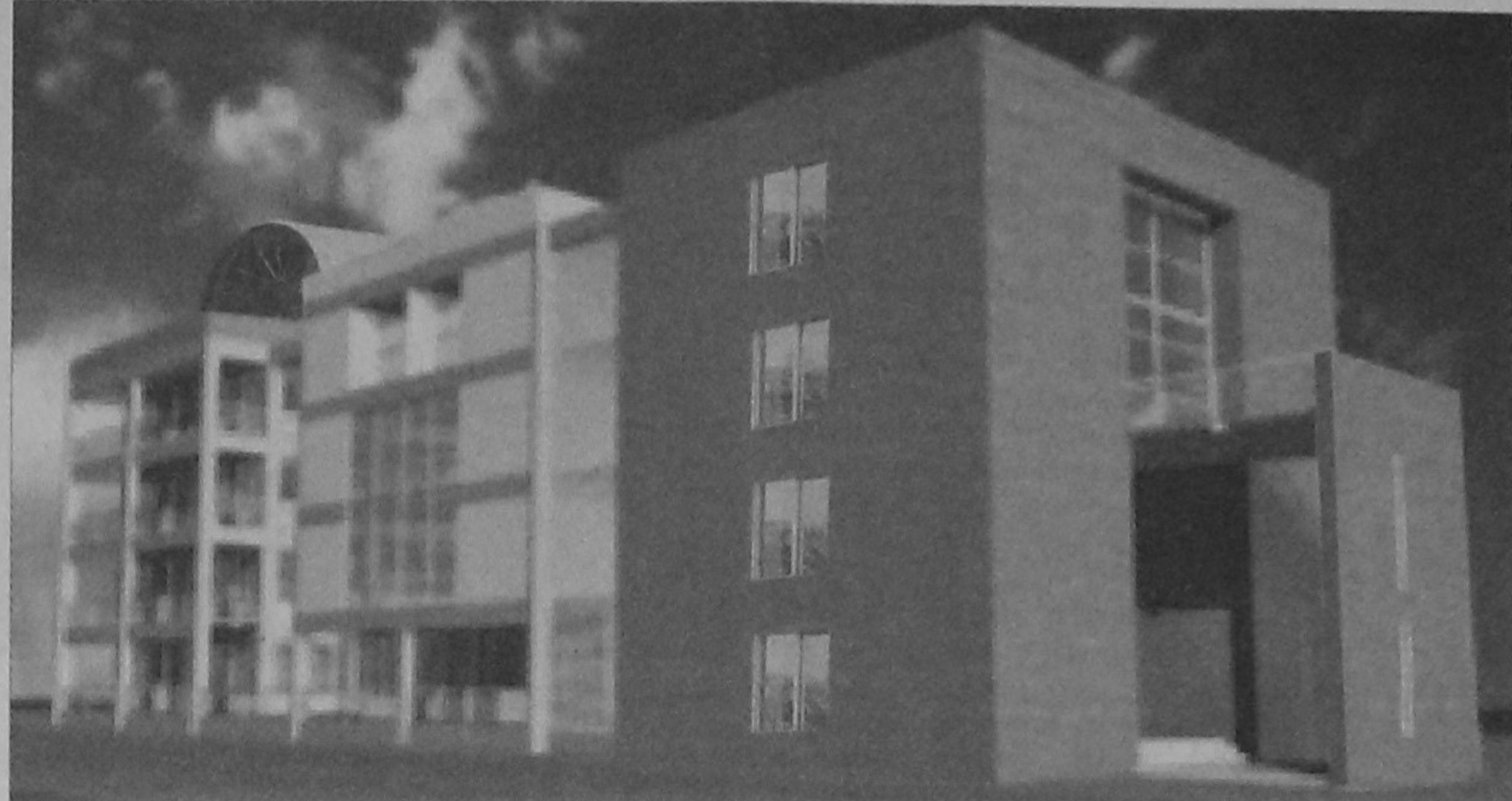

I am happy to learn that Underprivileged Children's Education Programs, UCEP-Bangladesh is going to inaugurate UCEP-Jatrabari Technical School in Dhaka on 18 March 2009. On this occasion, I convey my heartfelt felicitations to all stakeholders of UCEP.

I have been informed that UCEP is working to provide general education, vocational training and job placement support for the socio-economic uplift of the underprivileged working children since its inception. I wish UCEP would continue its noble endeavour of transforming the underprivileged children into skilled labour force and to change their socio-economic status.

I wish the UCEP-Bangladesh a success.

Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever

Zillur Rahman
Md. Zillur Rahman

Nurul Islam Nahid M.P.
Minister
Ministry of Education
And
Ministry of Primary & Mass Education
Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh

Message

Bangladesh needs people with technical knowledge in order to attract investment and to place them in jobs at home and abroad. UCEP is doing that job in supplementing government efforts for human resources development. Its approach to human resource development through general education combined with quality vocational training and job placement is commendable.

I am happy to learn that in line with its commitments to the society, UCEP is going to inaugurate a new technical school in the outskirts of Dhaka at Jatrabari. With this opening UCEP will go one step further in serving the cause of the poor and needy.

I wish UCEP all success.

Nurul Islam Nahid M.P.
Minister



UCEP-Bangladesh

Message

Ubaldur Rob Ph.D.
Chairperson
UCEP Board of Governors

The opening of the newly built complex of UCEP-Jatrabari Technical School is a historic event for UCEP. The underprivileged children residing in the eastern part of Dhaka will now have better access to technical education and skill development training as well as job placement support of UCEP. I am confident that the graduates of this technical school like the graduates of other UCEP technical schools will play a vital role in the industrial growth of the country.

UCEP has come a long way from its modest start with only 60 students in 1972. The enrolment of students now stands at over 34,000 in 48 Integrated General and Vocational (IGV) schools and 8 technical schools under UCEP mainstream programs. Our plan to increase the total number of IGV schools to 52 and technical schools to 10 with an enrolment of about 37,000 children by the end of 2010 is being implemented as per schedule.

The Government of Bangladesh has given top priority to skill development training as a means of alleviating poverty and gradual elimination of child labour in the country. UCEP has been working in this direction from the very start and has been successful in changing the fate of thousands of underprivileged children and affecting the lives of over a million.

I would like to thank the Government of Bangladesh, our Development Partners and local philanthropists for the generous support to UCEP programs and hope it will continue.

We thank DFID for the special grant for the establishment of this new UCEP-Jatrabari Technical School which has created new opportunities for thousands of working children of the area.


Ubaldur Rob Ph.D.
Ubaldur Rob Ph.D.

UCEP-Jatrabari Technical School

The new complex of UCEP-Jatrabari Technical School is located at Matuall beside the Dhaka-Chittagong highway 5 kilometer far from the Jatrabari crossing of Dhaka city. The total land for the project is 0.90 acre of which 28,000 square feet has been used for construction of the picturesque school building. The building has the option for vertical extension to accommodate large number of students and open more trades in future.

The capacity of the technical school is 425 students in two shifts a day in 6 trades. A Divisional Coordinator along with the Divisional Office staff and 29 trainers are dedicated to ensure quality technical education. The trades are: 1) Welding and Fabrication, 2) Plumbing and Pipe Fitting, 3) Machinist, 4) Electronic Technology, 5) Industrial Electrical and Electronic Control & 6) Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning.

The trades have been selected following a market need assessment. The "UCEP-Jatrabari Technical School" is the second technical school of its type in Dhaka. It started functioning from July 2006 in a rented building in Jurain with an admission capacity of 220 students in six trades. Thereafter from 01 March 2009, the school has been shifted to the newly built own complex. The complex has a total area of 28,000 square feet with four floors of 7000 square feet each including a basement. Apart from the workshops class rooms and canteen the complex accommodates offices of the Divisional Coordinators of the UCEP-Jatrabari Technical School Division and Dhaka Feeder Schools Division-II, Employment and Field Service Dhaka Unit II, UCEP SME/ME Credit Program and an IT center.



Einar H. Jensen
Ambassador
Embassy of Denmark, Dhaka

Message

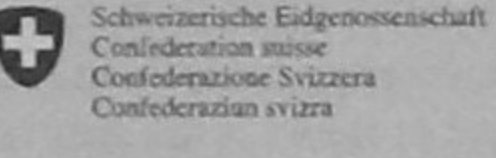
It gives me great pleasure to congratulate UCEP-Bangladesh for increasing the technical education capacity in Jatrabari, Dhaka city. It makes another stride in the field of technical education for the underprivileged children by establishing a state-of-the-art technical school in the periphery of Dhaka.

The Embassy of Denmark is happy to be associated with UCEP in its efforts to improve the socio-economic condition of the working children and their families.

I trust that this additional technical school in Jatrabari will be able to absorb the students from the existing general schools of UCEP in Dhaka city. I am confident that the new technical school and the general schools of Dhaka will continue to uphold the rich tradition of UCEP and be a center of excellence in education like all other schools of UCEP across the country. I believe that it will not only benefit the students and their families but will also cater to the needs of skilled human resources to the industries of the Dhaka city.

We wish it all success.

Einar H. Jensen
Einar H. Jensen



Embassy of Switzerland
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC
Swiss Cooperation Office Bangladesh

Message

It is my privilege to congratulate UCEP on the inauguration of its new technical school at Jatrabari within Dhaka district. I believe that this initiative will greatly contribute to the significant increase of income and employment opportunities for the underprivileged children and adolescents and contribute to reduce poverty in the region.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is proud to have supported UCEP since 1980 and to see its gradual growth and contribution to the issues of child rights and poverty reduction. Starting its program with only 60 students in the early 70ies, UCEP is now a hub of thousands of working children striving to provide marketable skills and employment support services through general education and vocational training in close collaboration with industries and employers throughout Bangladesh. Catering to the needs of about 34,000 children and adolescents, UCEP now has 48 general schools and 8 technical schools in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal, Sylhet Divisions and in Gazipur district.

I consider UCEP a role model for pro-poor skills development I wish UCEP continuing success in its endeavours.

Dora Rapold
Dora Rapold
Ambassador

UCEP- Creating Miracles for the Working Children

Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs, UCEP-Bangladesh is a leading national NGO working with the distressed urban working children. Starting in 1972 at the Dhaka University premises with only 60 students, it is now a hub of about 34 thousand working children striving to inculcate marketable skills and provide employment support service through general education and vocational training in close collaboration with industries and employers throughout Bangladesh.

The main objective of UCEP programs is to ensure human rights and good governance with a view to improve the socio-economic status of the urban poor and support industrial growth by generating skilled manpower. UCEP has global reputation for its unique model of human resource development. UCEP's success has enabled it to get listed twice in the UN ESCAP's "Compendium of Centers of Excellence in HRD Research and Training".

UCEP Programs:
UCEP operates 48 Integrated General & Vocational (IGV) Schools and 8 Technical Schools in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal and Sylhet Metropolitan Cities and in Gazipur District with an enrolment of about 34 thousand distressed working children with equal gender ratio. UCEP also runs 2 technical schools in Dhaka in partnership with PLAN-Bangladesh and 1 technical school at Fatulla, Narayanganj in partnership with the Directorate of Primary Education, Government of Bangladesh. UCEP model of education is well recognized at home and abroad and UCEP is the largest NGO in the country producing skilled manpower for the nation.

Integrated General & Vocational (IGV) Education:
UCEP IGV schools follow the national curriculum in an abridged form alongwith basics of technical education and complete each grade in 6 months instead of 1 year the usual time required in a formal school. UCEP schools use the textbooks prescribed by the Bangladesh School Text Book Board and also use its own complete basic education books up to grade VIII before they go to the technical schools. The student attendance and dropout rates in UCEP general schools were 94.46% and 3% respectively in 2008. UCEP Integrated General & Vocational (IGV) Education Component launched SSC program under Bangladesh Open University (BOU) in 2005.

Technical Education:
Upon completion of general school education, UCEP students pursue skills training in the technical schools. UCEP provides technical education in 16 trades through 8 technical schools in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal and Sylhet. The trades of technical schools are based on the demand of the existing employment market. Attendance and dropout rates in the technical schools were 95.81% and 2.48% respectively in the year 2008. UCEP introduced SSC (Vocational) program under Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB) in January 2005. UCEP has also launched Diploma in Engineering Sponsorship program for its graduates who successfully complete SSC (Vocational) and are willing to go for higher studies.

Employment and Field Service:
Employment and Field Services (EFS) Component of UCEP arranges on the job training for its technical school students and places its graduates in gainful jobs. EFS operates through labor market survey, linkage with employers, observance of the employer's day, meeting with the employers, observance of job hunting days/ weeks and follow-up visits to the employers and employed graduates.

Program on Advocacy of child rights:
UCEP is implementing a unique mainstream program on "Advocacy of Child Rights" named "Let Children Speak (LCS)". The main objective of the program is to raise the voice of the children against all sorts of abuse, exploration and discrimination affecting their lives. The program is being implemented in 10 districts through 24 partner NGOs.

Overseas Employment Scheme:
UCEP launched its overseas employment scheme under the EFS Component in 2003 and has already placed 116 of its graduates in overseas employment. Overseas employment is the prioritized area of UCEP programs and the number is expected to increase manifold within the next couple of years.

UCEP SME /ME Credit Program:
UCEP introduced SME /ME Credit Program in June 2005 for self employment of UCEP graduates. About 522 UCEP graduates are enjoying loan facilities under this program. The progress of the program and the recovery rate is highly satisfactory.

UCEP Associates Multipurpose Co-operative Society
UCEP introduced Multipurpose Co-operative Society for its stakeholders in March 2006. The main objective of the Cooperative Society is to foster bondage and responsiveness to UCEP programs. The society is also becoming a potential source of personal and business loan for UCEP students and others concerned.

Achievement at a Glance:

Children Admitted in UCEP	: 1,60,469
Technical Training Completed (since 1983)	: 34,220
Placement in Jobs (Since 1991)	: 32,505
Overseas Employment (Since 2003)	: 116

Future Plan:

- Expand its operations gradually at the district level.
- Establishing a Textile Institute.
- Establishing a Welding Institute.
- Establishing a Nursing Institute and Hospital.
- Introduction of Computer classes from grade I from 2009.

Impact of UCEP Education:

- Breaking the vicious cycle of poverty of the urban poor.
- Children of UCEP graduates study in normal schools.
- Promotion of female education and women empowerment
- Replication of UCEP model by GOs and NGOs
- Contributing to achieve MDGs
- Change of attitude of employers towards working children
- Enhancing the level of technical workmanship in our industries.
- Children participating in national and international forums
- Protection of the Rights of the Child.
- Increasing Community awareness of health and hygiene
- UCEP students proving to be Agents of Change in the society


How UCEP is funded:
UCEP programs are funded by Department for International Development (DFID), The Royal Danish Embassy (DANIDA), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Save the Children Sweden-Denmark (SCSD). From the very beginning, UCEP is privileged to get a huge response from people of all walks of the society. A number of UCEP schools are established on lands donated by local donors. UCEP also gets support from the Government and the City Corporations of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, pourashavas of Tongi and Rangpur mainly through allotment of lands for establishing schools and training centers.

An Appeal to the Society

UCEP believes that a strong sense of social responsibility by the privileged class towards the noble cause of elimination of child labor would further strengthen the endeavour of UCEP. To supplement UCEP efforts, a fundraising drive "UCEP Children Sponsorship Program" has been launched to motivate support and assistance from individual/business/corporate bodies. Under the sponsorship program, one can sponsor the education costs of a general school student for Tk. 5,000 per year and for a technical student at Tk. 30,000 per year. UCEP regularly forwards to the sponsors the dossiers and academic progress reports of the sponsored children.

For further information please contact:

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DFID
Department for International Development

Message

Chris Austin
Country Representative
DFID Bangladesh

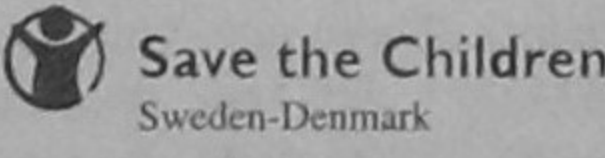
I congratulate the Underprivileged Children's Education programme (UCEP) on the inauguration of the second Dhaka Technical School.

The UK and Bangladesh's relationship is strong and deep, and the UK is proud to be associated with the remarkable progress Bangladesh has made in recent years. There are still many development challenges ahead. But at the same time Bangladesh has led the way on many development issues. UCEP is a leading provider of skills education and a model of excellence which the UK has been happy to support including through special grants to ensure the building of new technical schools.

The skills young people will acquire in the Dhaka Technical School are relevant to the local and national labour needs. Students here will increase their opportunities to get better jobs, will raise the incomes of their families, and will contribute to overall economic growth and social confidence.

As a long standing partner of UCEP, the UK applauds the contribution it continues to make to the human development in Bangladesh. We send good wishes to those who teach here and to the young people who will study here. All of you will have an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to making Bangladesh an even more stable, prosperous and democratic country.

Chris Austin
Chris Austin



Save the Children
Sweden-Denmark

Message

Niels Bentsen
Country Representative
Save the Children Sweden - Denmark

Save the Children Sweden-Denmark works for a world which respects and values each child and where all children have hopes and opportunities. Our vision is a world where all children's rights are respected.

UCEP Bangladesh is one development partners of our Child Labour Thematic Program. UCEP is working at National level and advocating for relevant education for developing skilled manpower and hazardous child labour. UCEP also support children in finding alternatives to non hazardous jobs through job placement and continuously assess the quality of skills training and children's self-employment opportunities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank UCEP Bangladesh for its efforts that helps children to enjoy their rights.

I congratulate UCEP on the opening of the Jatrabari Technical School (DTS-II) which will create further opportunities for underprivileged children to get Technical Education and a better life in Dhaka. I wish that UCEP Bangladesh will be successful in its important work.

Niels Bentsen
Niels Bentsen



UCEP-Bangladesh

Message

Brig. Gen. Aftab Uddin Ahmad (Retd.)
Executive Director
UCEP-Bangladesh

UCEP-Bangladesh opens up a new front for elimination of child labour with the formal inauguration of the picturesque complex of UCEP-Jatrabari Technical School at Matuall at the outskirts of bustling Dhaka city. UCEP-Jatrabari Technical School is the second technical school of its type in Dhaka. Though the school started functioning from July 2006 on a small scale in a rented building at Jurain, the actual site was selected at Jatrabari.

With the formal inauguration today UCEP-Jatrabari Technical School will have its own full-fledged campus with all facilities for providing skill development training to the students. The newly built complex will fulfil the needs of the growing industrial belt of the eastern side of Dhaka and will be a beacon of hope for a better life for the poor underprivileged children of the area and their families.

With the generous financial support of our Development Partners, UCEP has expanded its programs rapidly in the recent years and it now covers all the divisions of Bangladesh and the district of Gazipur. From July 2009, it will be starting its operations in the district of Rangpur.

UCEP aims at gradual elimination of the child labour through imparting of general education and skill development training to working children with subsequent job-placement support. The UCEP educational model has been very successful since its inception in 1972 and it acclaimed at home and abroad as a replicable model and a means of poverty alleviation. The model is transforming the teeming millions of distressed children into productive human resources for the development of the country.

We appeal to the Government of Bangladesh and the Development Partners to support the replication of the model throughout Bangladesh as a supplement of the efforts of the government to eradicate poverty.

We thank the Government of Bangladesh, our Development Partners and local philanthropists for the continuous support to UCEP. We hope this support will continue in future for the success of our combined efforts to transfer the country into poverty free beautiful Bangladesh.

Brig. Gen. Aftab Uddin Ahmad (Retd.)
Brig. Gen. Aftab Uddin Ahmad (Retd.)

Courtesy:

We congratulate UCEP on this great occasion



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